



Palos Verdes/South Bay Chapter

Newsletter - April 2020

*Finding Friendship
and Harmony through Music*

FROM THE PRESIDENT, Lenita McCallum

Even though our activities are suspended for the time being and probably will be through the end of May, it seems appropriate to send what news we do have out to you, that you may be apprised of our doings pre, during and post corona time (pdapct).

Rather obviously: There will be no alumni activities that require gathering in April and probably going into May also. Stay tuned for the final word on May.

We may have a virtual board meeting on April 21st if there is anything to discuss. PV/SB board please let me know if you have anything we need to make decisions about. Luckily, we practiced this mode of meeting before we had to do it and have had two productive board meetings via zoom, ably hosted by David Champion.

Scholarship audition plans are on hold. El Camino is moving forward with their auditions via recorded entries. Jeannie Cobb and Pat Maki are deliberating if we can join them without putting the entries from CSUDH at a disadvantage. A decision will be made within a couple of days. The meeting on April 19th where we were to hear the heart felt music of Carla Sedlacek is cancelled with a reschedule planned for ???. The Patron Potluck is likely not to occur. One item still on our agenda is the proposed Benefit Concert scheduled for June 6th. Since we cannot reliably plan my guess is that we will postpone it to the summer time or fall. We should all be ready for a big party by then.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find the names of the newly elected board. Thank you to the almost 40 people who voted for them. Their official duties begin July 1st, but we will probably do some online planning between now and then. Maybe our June Installation meeting can come about with both outgoing and incoming board members and as many other members as possible attending. But stay tuned for further information about that. We all know that the loss of musical performances, the difficulty of continuing musical studies and the fellowship we experience makes life definitely less satisfying. I trust that you have ways of tempering these losses. Writing this to you reinforces the bond of friendship we share and brings to mind many of you with whom I miss seeing and working. Stay well, my friends.

Chapter News

ELECTION RESULTS: With gratitude to the Nominating Committee (Lois Tai, Ramona Gifford, Jennifer Holly Cannon and Carla Sedlacek) and thanks for 37 who voted....

Here is your newly elected board for 2020-2021*

President	LaVerne M. McCoy
Co-President	Darlene Vlasek
Vice President	Mika Yamamoto
Co-Vice President	Jennifer Holly Cannon
Treasurer	David Champion, Assistant Lois Tai
Recording Secretary	Carla Sedlacek
Newsletter Editor	Debra Shrader, Assistant Ramona Gifford
Steward	Debra Aitken
Chorister	Lorna Katz
Past President	Lenita McCallum

*The position of assistant steward remains unfilled due to a late withdrawal for personal reasons. It will be filled in the summer some time.

Member and Patron News

From Darlene Vlasek:

Kudos and congratulations to all you wonderful members of our chapter for your assistance in presenting this year's Musical Mosaic. Its success was dependent upon the dedication, enthusiasm, cooperation and labor of many. Thank you, each and every one for your contributions, large and small. I hope you feel, as do I, that it was a labor of love. However, if your only "job" was selling tickets, it too, was essential to the evening's success because no matter how terrific the performers, how delectable the reception goodies, how beautiful the printed programs, if there is no audience, there isn't much of a concert.

Lenita had previously sent a message specifically thanking people for their efforts. I, too, wish to express my appreciation to my wonderful support and co-chair Beth Howell. Also immense gratitude to Pearl Kim and Ramona Gifford, advertising; Debra Shrader, programs; Gordon Goldberg, flyers; Kris Basua and committee, reception; Noriko Sato, performers' reception; Lenita, Carla, Ramona and LaVerne,

mailing helpers; David Champion, tickets and treasurer and Beth Howell and Pat Maki, student volunteers.

We are so very grateful to Rolling Hills United Methodist Church for once again allowing us to present our concert in their beautiful sanctuary with its excellent acoustics, warm ambiance, easy access to restrooms, spacious “green” room, reception area and plenty of close parking. We are grateful for the able assistance of church members, Jan Bunker and Kathy Kerstein who helped tremendously with logistics, lighting A/C and anything and everything else we needed at the church.

All in all, due to the efforts of many, a full house of music lovers, and top notch performers, we had a very successful event. Thanks, to you, the grand and wonderful members of our Palos Verdes/South Bay Alumni Chapter!!!!

With music in our heads and a song in our hearts,

Darlene

In the studio, and busier than ever -- When art calls, no one sleeps on the job

by Bondo Wyszpolski (from the Easy Reader website, 4/1/2020)

Anli Lin Tong is not a painter or sculptor, but rather a concert pianist and teacher who resides in Palos Verdes, so we're injecting a little variety into this story as well. And what is Anli doing that might be a little different than usual? First of all, she teaching lessons on FaceTime Skype, and, second, she's judging a piano competition of online video submissions in lieu of live auditions.



Concert pianist and piano instructor Anli Lin Tong gracing the Malaga Cove Fountain.
JamesKaoFoto

She's also taking a big “leap of faith” by releasing live performance recordings. Until now, she's been quite ambivalent about this. However, she says, “as we're seeing in the past week, people are posting live or recorded performances of every genre online. Some of my friends, likewise, have asked me for my performances to share, to ‘uplift’ their spirit.”

Despite some hesitation, “It finally feels right to do this... I've decided to share a couple of ‘shorter’ pieces for starters, to see how people may react. Thus far, the feedback has been positive.” Anli explains that the footage is unedited, and adds that one day she may upload better quality sound recordings.” Locally, she has been featured several times with the Beach Cities Symphony. And, personally, I think she is a wonderful performer.

One of the clips she is sharing is of George Gershwin's “Embraceable You,” which, she says, is “a reminder to hold close those who are dear to your heart.”

You can find it at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kln_WWxqtac.

Anli Lin Tong also plays the Rachmaninoff-Wild composition, “O Do Not Grieve.”

Listen to it at <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=5wp4hmm-3jw>.



DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

April 19, 2020, Sedlacek performance – Canceled.

April 21, 2020, Time TBD – Board Meeting, virtual.

All events from the 2019-2020 Yearbook Calendar will be postponed until further notice.

Local News

Photo from Opera League Event presented at the Witherspoon's on February 29. Singers from El Camino prepared by member Victoria Muto, accompanied by Kenner Bailey (also a Mu Phi) presented a program of arias and songs enthusiastically received by all in attendance. Tenor Jose Torres (a previous Patron scholarship winner on the flute), Sopranos Cassiddy Feskowitz (who also performed at our Young Performer's Showcase in December) and Brenda Osorio



Photo from our January Service Project held at Sunrise of Palos Verdes. Members Pat Maki and Mie Shirai join their students for a post performance picture.

How Life Has Changed...

I have asked the board to share what they are doing to occupy their time since we have been asked to shelter in place. Here are some interesting replies. -- **Lenita** (*Please consider writing a short note for sharing in the next newsletter. Ed.*)

From **Pat Maki**: I hope you and your entire family are surviving this. Walt and I have been fairly careful. This week we are really stocking up with non-perishables and setting up delivery with Ralph's (I guess). I prefer Whole Foods, but it appears that the RH Plaza one does not do pick up or delivery. I am going to make certain of that. I have 5 weeks of toilet paper and 4 to 5 weeks of your coveted paper towels. I have not been greedy - I had bought paper towels at Costco months ago and discovered a couple rolls left. I am teaching my ECC student and my 3 intermediate school students via zoom.

Just started. I was so happy to see those 13 year olds. 😊

What I have done to survive this is to do domestic trivia in the AM, attack a project that I have put off for years (there are many) and I practice a bit. Having a schedule of some sort really has helped me. Please let me know if there is anything I can do for you - if I can I will. -- Pat.

PS - just ordered 4 cases of my favorite inexpensive wine from Trader Joe's!!!!

From **Carla Sedlacek**: Using the time to work on new composition...so far, pretty much completed my take on 'The Swing,' by Robert Louis Stevenson.



From **Mika Yamamoto**: Starting mid-March, all lessons have been shifted to online lessons. It has been a very interesting time. I think of students who at a young age have to adapt this norm of their generation, their parents who have to manage many aspects of life and stay balanced. I can only be a small part, but I hope to continue providing the comfort of bringing something consistent and progressive in my students' lives.

It is a unique time where everyone's artistic perspective informs one's imagination. We have the opportunity to be aware of what we are thinking in this moment, and where we want to go in a few months and in a few years specifically. Despite a wealth of information, it is up to me personally to find what I think is true.

I hope we continue to find a chance to unfold the reflection of life positively in each music lesson. Hopefully this opportunity will invite students to put aside the uncertainty, using the gifts of music and art for introspection.

From **Debra Shrader**: Suddenly thrust into the online-teaching world, I've spent countless hours putting together videos of lessons, directed at specific groups of students in my elementary school. The technical challenges of connection are a huge obstacle to those teachers who've "never thought of that!" I feel fortunate to have always been interested in using technology both to teach and to connect with friends and family. I now have a YouTube channel to collect all of my offerings. It makes it easier for students (and others) to see my lessons on demand. Who would've thought? I started with the school song which the principal immediately posted to the front page of our school website. "Sing a song with Mrs. Shrader" is there with weekly updates. (<https://www.youtube.com/user/teach2play>) This past week, I changed it to a springtime song about seeds growing. –Debra



From **Lenita McCallum**: These orchids grace my front porch at this point. Note that they are sort of in fraternity colors of purple and white. Their beauty reminds me that nature has a beautiful side that we often race by, paying little attention. This year I've had more time to appreciate their special uplifting gift. Other than digging in the garden and madly learning how to give voice lessons online, I've been catching up on several projects that have been put aside for about a year including putting together a book of my poetry and re-writing my will. Assuming that I will out-live the current crisis, I'm working on the book first. 😊

Reminders

Our treasurer, **David Champion** recommends the following link to tax tips for musicians.
<https://internationalmusician.org/tax-tips-for-american-musicians/#respond>

Reminder: Keep your records for SERV hours to submit soon!

Thank you, Mika!