



Palos Verdes/South Bay Chapter

Newsletter - August 2020

*Finding Friendship
and Harmony through Music*

From Darlene Vlasek, Co-President

Although the world seems in many ways to be at a standstill and the voices of music have been greatly reduced, we can and should rejoice that the many efforts to continue bringing the joys of music to our lives, are persistent in their determination to keep music alive. For so many of us, life without music is unthinkable. Please send out notices of your own performance or of other performances you know will be mutually appreciated. If you wish, you can send me the notice, in complete format, and I can send it out.

Our Mu Phi Chapter is gratefully one of the voices of music here and now, alive and well, determined to bring to each of you a year of music-making of the highest quality. Our two wonderful VPs of Programs, Mika Yamamoto and Jennifer Cannon, are making arrangements for upcoming programs that are sure to delight and inspire, even though the rules remain in place that we must enjoy the programs as virtual presentations.

Since it is very important during this period of isolation to remain engaged and connected to people and events, if you have any suggestions for prospective members, please contact Anli Tong, our dedicated Membership Chair. Let's try to think of those musicians we know who would benefit from the uplifting, satisfying associations and fellowship our chapter provides.

Please be thinking of people whom you could invite to become Patrons. With the loss of income for so many people, scholarships for college students will be more welcomed and needed than ever before. Please remember it is our Patrons' dues (actually donations) that fund the college students' scholarships and the more we can collect, the more we can help some of the struggling young musicians striving to obtain an education, often under stressful conditions.

Please remember this is our dues-paying period for Mu Phi. Please send your dues promptly to our outstanding treasurer, David Champion.

There will be a Board Meeting on Tuesday, Aug. 18, starting at 9:30 AM. It will be a Zoom meeting unless you are otherwise notified. It is highly important for all Board members to attend the meeting and be ready with ideas to assist our Programs VPs, to consider plans for Young Performers Showcase, Musical Mosaic, and for the Benefit Concert honoring David Champion and Annette Smith.

With the love of music in my heart, love for each of you, and strength and determination in my spirit,

Darlene

Chapter News

Member Dues and Patron Dues, it's that time again! You should have received an email recently from treasurer extraordinaire **David Champion**, explaining the structure of this year's member dues. Total due is \$91.17. (Regular Chapter Dues \$20, International Fraternity Dues \$70, Founders Day Donation \$1.17) Send by Sept. 1st to David at this address: 229 15th St., Manhattan Beach, CA. 90266-4603. Patron dues may also be sent to David, with "patron dues" in the memo line.

Mary Au has been having Zoom meetings with the new Gamma Sigma Board. They are committed to the success of the chapter during Covid-19 time. She sends greetings "Looking forward to seeing all of you again. In the meantime, please stay safe."

Mika Yamamoto and **Jennifer Cannon** are working on a new theme for this year. Mika sent several quotes for inspiration. Here's one of them: "*Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination and life to everything*" - Plato, Greek philosopher. Stay tuned!

Yearbook News: The yearbook that contains all our pertinent data and dates will be now be printed in October. Since there are so many uncertainties regarding Covid-19 guidelines, the board decided that we should wait to make arrangements for our usual events for a little while longer. Please do keep sending information about your own events/concerts to **LaVerne** and **Darlene** so we can share with the membership.

Musical Offerings from Our Members

Shanice Aaron recently performed for the UCLA Mindful Music channel, dedicated to healthcare workers. You can watch the virtual performance of Chopin Nocturne E Flat Major Op. 9 No. 2 (Piano and Double Bass) at this link:



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NZhakCNMLc8>

Deborah Aitken Longtime member pianist Deborah Aitken is attempting to help alleviate the depression, frustration or just general ennui with a "Tune of the Week." These are generally posted each Monday morning on her Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/deborahaitkenrealtor. Each one is short and has an even shorter introduction. This will continue until either interest lags, something wonderfully dramatic happens in our country's daily life or she runs out of repertoire! So far the postings have been a Scarlatti sonata, "Danza de la mosa donosa" by Ginastera, a Spanish Dance by Granados, "Girl with the flaxen hair" by Debussy and the E-flat Nocturne, Op. 9, No. 2 by Chopin. Next should be a sonata by Soler. If you enjoy it, and Deborah hopes you will, she'd appreciate it if you would leave a comment. Best wishes and good health to all!

Lenita McCallum Witherspoon neighborhood concert

On an evening in July about 40 people gathered at the foot of the Witherspoon's staircase and another 20 or so people on zoom enjoyed a one hour concert of students from Lenita's studio. Lots of fun for all.



From left to right: Alison Cool, Emma Cool, Joyce Balajadia, Allegra Dittmann, Lenita Witherspoon, missing was Shirley Ho who sang remotely from West LA.





The TLC Singers, led by **Debra Shrader** with participation by MPE PV/SB Co-President **LaVerne M. McCoy**, sang in a couple of socially distant backyards for friends who are home-bound. It's hard to sing with a mask on, but entirely necessary during this pandemic. Their offerings were well-appreciated.

Member and Patron News

- **Shirley Kline**, longtime patron of our chapter, passed away recently after several years of declining health. She and her husband Frank were very good friends of Pearl Kim and generous patrons of our chapter.
- **Maureen Engelhard**, patron, is recovering from surgery.



DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

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

August 18th 9:30 AM– Summer board meeting by Zoom

Stay safe!