



# Palos Verdes/South Bay Chapter

## Newsletter - December 2020

*Discovering Ways to Connect through  
Making Music*

From the keyboard of the Co-President:

*LaVerne M. McCoy*

Happy Holidays, Season's Greetings, Happy Hanukkah, Feliz Navidad, Merry Christmas,

We've entered the season of gathering and celebrating with families and dear friends. We accept the challenge of isolation and quarantining to preserve and maintain the health of our communities. We can find joy in nature's glory, the falling leaves of autumn in a myriad of color. We wave at neighbors from across the street and wish them well. We find that we have much more time to spend on Christmas decorations and long for the time we will once again sing the carols of the season.

We pursue our love of music at the monthly Music Programming through our Technology team, **Jennifer Holly Cannon** and **Mika Yamamoto**. They have provided performers via digital productions that are presented to the membership on Zoom. Our general meetings are open to everyone and the zoom invite is emailed every month. The caliber of the talent has included professionals as well as loyal members. The tech team assisted **Kristal Basua** with the production of the Young Performers Showcase which aired on December 5, 2020. *(See the end of the newsletter for links for you to watch the recording)* The performances will be saved on thumb drives to be presented at Assisted Living facilities. Our Zoom form of communication and meeting has become vital and the members are becoming very proficient at logging on and participating in the meetings.

We (I) miss the face to face and hand to hand meetings and eagerly await the opportunity to be with you again. Christmas is such a joyous time when all the musicians are booked for performances. So the next page is a message to musicians.



## A Christmas poem just for musicians

'Twas THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS  
(somewhat revised by Sterling Howard)

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all  
through the venue,  
Not a creature was stirring, as I looked thru the  
menu,  
The decorations were hung on the stage with care,  
In hopes that the band members would soon be  
there!

My friends and I had been royally fed,  
While visions of a good show danced in our  
heads,  
And I in my new suit and the date I just met,  
Had just settled in to watch a three hour set!

When out in a parking lot, there rose such a  
clatter,  
I sprang from my seat to see what was the matter,  
Away to the door I flew like a flash,  
To see a drummer and bassist, completely  
smashed!

They were unloading the equipment in the new-  
fallen snow,  
From the van, which had traveled all the way  
from Fargo,  
When, what to my wondering eyes should appear,  
But the rest of the band, all swilling beers!

With a little old manager, so angry and quick,  
I knew in a moment it must be Nasty Nick,  
More rapid than eagles his curses they came,  
And he bitched, and shouted, and called them all  
names!

"Now, DRUMMER! now, BASSIST! now  
KEYBORDS!

and TRUMPET! on GUITARIST! on SAX! on  
TROMBONE!

and VOCALIST!

To the top of the loading ramp! To the top of the  
wall!

Get the equipment inside before you all fall!",

And then, in a twinkling, I heard at the door,  
The slipping and sliding as they fell to the floor,  
As I gave them a hand and was turning around,  
I had to wonder at how they might sound!

The lead singer was dressed in leather, from his  
head to his feet,  
And his clothes looked very slept in, not at all  
neat,  
A bundle of microphones he had flung on his  
back,  
And he looked like a peddler just opening his  
pack!

His eyes - how they twinkled! I was becoming  
quite wary,  
His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry,  
His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow,  
As he took another swing from his bottle of Old  
Crow!

He was staggering around as the band tuned up,  
off key,  
I laughed when I saw him, in spite of me,  
With a wink of his eye and a flick of his hand,  
The group blasted into a tune by an obscure band!

He sang not a word, but went straight to his mic,  
Hoping he had picked a song the audience would  
like,  
Then STOPPED the music just as it was getting  
noisy,  
And announced "Sorry, we're in the wrong club,

we're supposed to be in Boise!"

They jumped back in their van, amidst jeers and  
whistles,  
And away they all flew like the down of a thistle,  
But I heard them exclaim, ere they drove out of  
sight,

"HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL, AND  
TO ALL A GOOD-NIGHT!"

From the keyboard of the Co-President:

*Darlene Masels*

It seems so strange that this year is almost over, that time has passed so quickly, and yet has seemed to stand still due to the endless days of staying home, keeping apart from family and friends, cancelling our normal activities, staying safe. Yet, as our beloved chapter and other organizations and individuals are striving to remain viable, productive, engaged and engaging, we have had to race to adapt to new processes, learn new skills, invent new methods, seek new opportunities. Last spring when we were first sequestered, it seemed very inconvenient, but we felt we could endure for just a few weeks or couple of months. As summer came and passed, we have longingly looked back on all those past years of what now seem like bliss and contentment or energized with enthusiasm and productivity. Hopefully, the news is indicating there is a light at the end of the tunnel and not too far off in the distant future.

Meanwhile, at this thankful time of year, my hope is that everyone has been able to genuinely ponder their blessings and share their gratitude for all the good they already have in abundance. As the Holiday Season approaches, perhaps these stay-at-home restrictions will cause us to reflect more earnestly on the reason for the season, whatever religious beliefs we have or don't have. Certainly these Holidays are celebrations of life, of goodness, of brotherly kindness, of benevolence and selfless love.

Soon after the Holidays, we will be in high gear marketing our amazing, first time ever virtual Musical Mosaic. You will soon receive a letter with details of the concert and a huge push to send the information far and wide, to friends, family, acquaintances, near and far, all around the globe. There is no space or time limit to those who can be invited to watch. The income this concert can potentially generate is enormous. However, it depends on our members and patrons to be the primary dispensers of information, advertisers, and ticket sellers. By the way, when I referred to MM recently to a friend, she was very excited to learn that we are presenting this fabulous virtual concert. She has attended in the past, so she knows the quality of our performers. She was so thrilled, and she immediately purchased two tickets, one for herself and one for her son and family. She remarked that **we should encourage people to purchase the tickets as gifts or stocking stuffers**. So here is your encouragement!

Best wishes for a peaceful and happy Holiday Season. Find your joy in the good you are able to do for others. 'Tis the season!!

With love for you and for music shining in my heart,  
Darlene



## Member and Patron News

- The Inner City Youth Orchestra of Los Angeles recently received a call to assist in the production of a short animated movie entitled "If Anything Happens, I Love You." This 12-minute video tells the story of two parents who are grieving after having lost their 10 year old daughter to gun violence at school. ICYOLA was asked to perform a portion of the song "Beautiful Dreamer" which appears about half way through the movie. There is a flute solo by **Christine Kivi**, an oboe and clarinet duet by **Jessica Wilkins** and **Jesus Flores**, a horn solo by **David Dickerson**, and a violin solo by **Amber Daughtry**, all members of the orchestra. **Charles Dickerson** did the orchestration for the song, and an ICYOLA ensemble performed the orchestral background to this song. Their part lasts only about 45 seconds. It's available to watch on Netflix. If you have Netflix, please watch it and share it with your friends!
- Scholarship winners are now shown on our chapter website:  
<https://www.muphipvsouthbay.org/fall-2020-scholarship-winners.html>



### DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

**January 3, 2021** – The Board decided to **cancel the Holiday Party** at the home of the **Witherspoons**. We all look forward to resuming our social gatherings when the end of the pandemic is near.

**January 5, 2021** – Newsletter deadline (send items to **LaVerne** or **Darlene** or **Debra**).

**January 18, 2021** – Service projects to be announced soon.

**January 19, 2021, 9:30 AM** – Virtual Board Meeting

**February 6, 2021, 4:00 PM** – **Musical Mosaic Virtual Concert** (tickets required, see elsewhere in newsletter)

Tickets to our virtual live-streamed Musical Mosaic make great gifts at this gift-giving time of year. You may pre-order your tickets now, by sending your name and number of tickets to **Darlene Vlasek** at [vlasek912@gmail.com](mailto:vlasek912@gmail.com). I already have a list started and will send the appropriate information closer to the concert date. The ticket price is \$25 per person or \$50 for more than one viewer. Remember the date: Feb. 6, 2021 at 4:00 PM PST. Please include email addresses for all who will view the concert.

## Recording of Last Meeting and Showcase (also known as the technical page)

On **November 15<sup>th</sup>**. Our annual **Founder's Day meeting** included some wonderful demonstrations and interviews with the following members and friends of Mu Phi Epsilon Palos Verdes/SouthBay. With the theme "envision with music" the presenters shared performances from recent recordings.

**Charles Dickerson III**, with the Inner City Youth Orchestra Los Angeles

**Shanice Aaron**, classical pianist

**Victoria Theodore**, a pianist, singer-songwriter, composer

Here are links to the program and zoom recording:

Program/Timeline: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/10X9oXUqcmiMV-FS8KNr08e0f3o2ngbtp>

Meeting Recording : [https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/play/ympNE-UdFOQmn3JtL6FaNPoLze4VsEiBT0N32Vwq75cp9UT7EWd37N\\_fyvomZzZ3sk6NcWA4b3xRiCL8.k4sw3WmdjrEGUwok](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/play/ympNE-UdFOQmn3JtL6FaNPoLze4VsEiBT0N32Vwq75cp9UT7EWd37N_fyvomZzZ3sk6NcWA4b3xRiCL8.k4sw3WmdjrEGUwok) (Access Passcode: Nov2020!)



On **December 5<sup>th</sup>**, **Kris Basua** presented the first **VIRTUAL YOUNG PERFORMERS SHOWCASE**. To watch the performances and see the program, go to these links:

Program: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1-3UD0Uc-lIpJMTsNygmaU1SOTLeZxsK7>

Youtube List from the **Young Performers Showcase / December 2020**:

<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLHpluQym1zw4Rcs4Qabhpr2595B-RiawT>

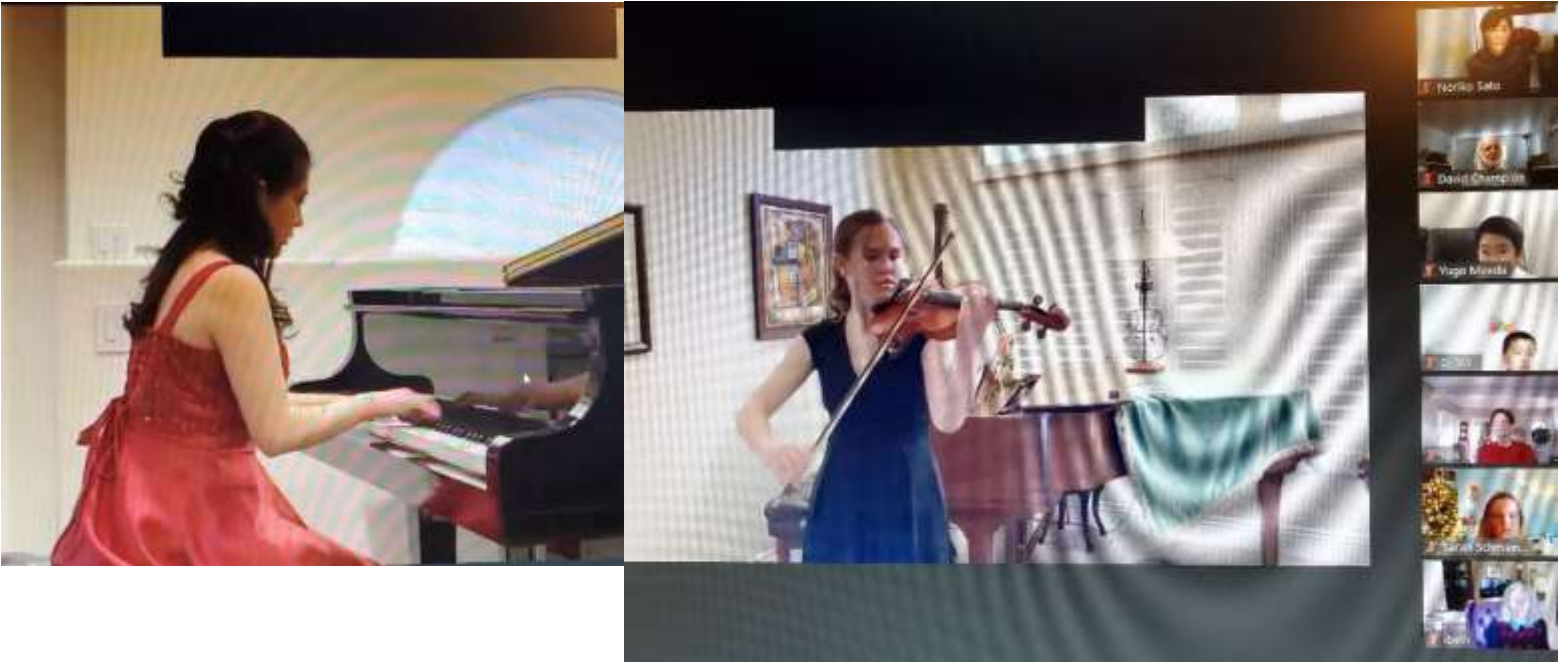
Zoom Recording from two different views:

1. Speaker View:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/play/iSW5FSJB0Do4yxLhRkz-8q\\_nuxAjNwuMon6duriodrUayHXqWWO3-L5Xfo7Ao0AXfuV9JeoShtXy3Ye5.AgPox8tBAaGvVSZK](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/play/iSW5FSJB0Do4yxLhRkz-8q_nuxAjNwuMon6duriodrUayHXqWWO3-L5Xfo7Ao0AXfuV9JeoShtXy3Ye5.AgPox8tBAaGvVSZK)

with Access Passcode: YPS2020!

2. Gallery View:



<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/play/x2rh8VTQMqXiIBNMZPXCx-ekFGMG-rTimdeVV2d81PgjowjZXh-FcxoDyg7akGJt3B68S2ecRN4fQxLN.YEta8fJTHUUKRLLh> with Access Passcode: YPS2020!



Pictures are from the Zoom performance. It was wonderful seeing the students watching their own videos of performances. Likewise, seeing the proud teachers!



SAVE  
THE DATE

**MU PHI EPSILON**  
PALOS VERDES/SOUTH BAY ALUMNI CHAPTER

PRESENTS  
**A MUSICAL MOSAIC**

A VIRTUAL EXTRAVAGANZA OF WORLD-WIDE ARTISTRY  
SUPPORTING MUSIC IN OUR SCHOOLS



**AARON BLAKE**

CRITICALLY ACCLAIMED TENOR ON INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC OPERA STAGES, STAR OF THE METROPOLITAN OPERA AND NEW YORK CITY OPERA.



**SEAN CHEN**

CONCERT PIANIST, COMPOSER, ARRANGER  
WINNER AMERICAN PIANISTS AWARD 2013, WINNER 2013 VAN CLIBURN INTERNATIONAL PIANO COMPETITION.



ANLI LIN TONG



ROBERTO CANI



UDI BAR-DAVID

**ANLI LIN TONG AND FRIENDS**

**ANLI LIN TONG**, INTERNATIONAL CONCERT PIANIST, CHAMBER MUSICIAN, CONCERTO SOLOIST, MASTER TEACHER

**ROBERTO CANI**, INTERNATIONALLY RENOWNED VIOLIN SOLOIST, CONCERTMASTER LOS ANGELES OPERA ORCHESTRA, CHAMBER MUSICIAN

**UDI BAR-DAVID**, CELLIST, ARTTOLERANCE FOUNDER AND ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, MEMBER PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA, COLLABORATOR OF CLASSICAL AND ETHNIC MUSIC



**ANGEL CITY CHORALE**

AWARD WINNING LOS ANGELES CHOIR FOUNDED AND DIRECTED BY SUE FINK, VERSATILE PERFORMANCES OF CLASSICAL, JAZZ, GOSPEL, POP, WORLD MUSIC



**KENNETH DAKE**

ORGANIST, CONDUCTOR, COMPOSER  
ORGANIST AND DIRECTOR OF MUSIC  
NEW YORK'S HISTORIC MARBLE COLLEGIATE CHURCH

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2021 AT 4:00PM**

ALL PERTINENT DETAILS REGARDING TICKETS AND HOW TO "ATTEND"  
WILL BE COMMUNICATED AT A LATER DATE.

# MU PHI EPSILON

Palos Verdes/South Bay Alumni Chapter  
Fall 2020 Scholarship Awards



## **Carlos Rodriguez, Guitar \$1,000.00 Patron Scholarship**

**Carlos Hugo Rodriguez** is a full-time musician and graduate of California State University Dominguez Hills who studied under the direction of guitarist Julian Coryell. He has played in numerous clubs and venues around the Los Angeles Area (including the Slide Bar, Chain Reaction, and Malone's concert venue) with his band Lydian Arrow. As well as performed for local school events (such South Torrance High School) and has been the musical director and performer in Cal State Dominguez Hills' theatre department in the play "Seven Guitars" (directed by Jozben Barrett). Carlos would like to continue his music career by improving his abilities on his instrument, play with other talented musicians, write and produce music for himself and his clients and to teach private students and guide them through their musical journey.



## **De Ana Abinante, Jazz Vocal \$1,000.00 Ruth Cuccia Memorial Scholarship**

**De Ana Abinante** is a 23-year-old, passionate, singer/songwriter/musician, and youth advocate, currently pursuing a degree in Jazz Vocal Performance at El Camino College. As an artist, she carries a particular emphasis in her message to inspire young people towards their dreams and to uplift them to fight through the challenges that they face in their lives. De Ana has performed all over the L.A. area and around the West Coast, including performing and hosting her own live and virtual home concert series, Freedom Cry, in 2018, and Heart Cries in 2019 - 2020. In September 2017, she released her debut, 5 song EP, War Cry, and is currently working on her next album Heart Cries, with plans to release it in early 2021. De Ana also teaches music at Cal Heights Music School in Long Beach and started her own online music academy, Young Song Learners.

## **Aaron Greer, Tenor \$500.00 Patron Scholarship**



**Aaron Greer** is a transfer student from El Camino College where he studied classical voice under Dr. Kevin Blickfeldt. He is now a senior majoring in music education with an emphasis in voice at Cal State Dominguez Hills where he studies under Professor Kendra Vuk. He was named a Presidential Scholar and received the Presidential Scholarship, which is a full-tuition academic scholarship that is awarded to very few high-achieving incoming freshmen and transfer students. It is one of the highest honors at California State University Dominguez Hills. Aaron is planning to graduate in the Spring of 2021, and to earn a Bachelor of Arts in Music Education. He looks forward to either pursuing a master's degree in Performance or to continuing his studies in Music Education beginning the process to obtain his teaching credentials.





### **Cassidy Feskowetz, Soprano \$500.00 Patron Scholarship**

**Cassidy Feskowetz** is an undergrad in her Junior year at CSU Northridge. She recently transferred from El Camino College and has been involved in the Opera Workshop program every single semester she has been there, portraying a lengthy catalogue of roles in scenes, including Zerlina in "Don Giovanni," Maria in "West Side Story," and Mabel in "Pirates of Penzance". She has also been involved in the ECC Chorale and the Concert Choir, achieving soprano solos for Mozart's "Requiem" and John Rutter's "Gloria." She will be performing with the ECC Orchestra in their 2021 season. Cassidy has been awarded Honors in Jury Performance for four semesters in the Applied music program at El Camino College, and has performed in master classes for Pamela Blanc and Daryl Taylor. She has also performed for the L.A. Opera League. Cassidy would like to thank her teachers, Vicki Muto (ECC) and Shigemi Matsumoto (CSU Northridge).



### **I-Chun Kuo, Piano \$250.00 Pearl Kim Award**

Born in Taipei, Taiwan, **I-Chun Kuo** began her piano studies at the age of four. She won first place in the Taipei Piano Competition and was awarded Honorable Mention in the final round in the Taiwan Piano Competition. After studying with Dr. Karen Follingstad at San Diego State University, she continued her studies with Prof. Lois Roberts at El Camino College. At El Camino, I-Chun was awarded the Norma Kayser Memorial Endowment for the Arts Scholarship. She also received applied music juries honors and was selected to perform in the master class for Kenny Broberg, the 2017 Cliburn Silver Medalist. Her performance experience includes college recitals and as a soloist in the concert choir concert. She plays chamber music and is currently a church accompanist in Torrance. She is also a Yamaha certified teacher. She would like to continue her passion for piano performance, as well as being a chamber musician and a piano teacher.



### **Brenda Osorio, Soprano \$250.00 Memorial Scholarship**

**Brenda Osorio** is a 19-year-old classical voice major. She just completed her second year studying with Dr. Muto at El Camino college. She has received three scholarships including: Phyllis Hausman Loeb Scholarship, Norma Kayser Memorial Endowment for the Arts Scholarship, and a Mu Phi Epsilon Scholarship. She has participated in musicals all throughout her life and recently had the opportunity to perform for the LA opera league in February 2020. She plans to transfer to a conservatory as soon as possible so she can continue her training to be a professional opera singer. Brenda is extremely thankful for organizations such as Mu Phi Epsilon for providing support to young singers such as herself.