



Palos Verdes/South Bay Chapter

Newsletter - February 2021

*Discovering Ways to Connect through
Making Music*

From the keyboard of the Co-President:

It actually happened!! After months of planning, work, and forced expansion of skills and knowledge, our virtual **Musical Mosaic** was launched successfully. All reports so far have been full of lavish praise, admiration and thorough enjoyment. In all humility, I must say that I knew the program would be terrific. How could it be a modicum or miniscule less than spectacular since we were privileged to present the marvelous performances of extremely talented and accomplished musicians?! How gratifying that each individual I invited eagerly accepted the invitation! **Sean Chen, Aaron Blake** and **Anli Lin Tong's Trio**, which included **Roberto Cani** and **Udi Bar-David**, all prepared videos especially for our concert. The **Angel City Chorale** and **Ken Dake** submitted previously recorded videos.

Those to whom special thanks are owed are our hard-working treasurer, **David Champion**; our always devoted member **Anli Lin Tong** who put me in touch with **Sean Chen** and **Ken Dake** and assisted in many ways to market the concert; **Cynthia Tong**, Anli's daughter, who advised us, established a marketing plan, and prepared templates for the communications with our musicians; **Jennifer Holly Cannon** and **Lorna Katz** for their technology expertise, **Mika Yamamoto** who offered many helpful suggestions until she was absorbed in responsibilities for a major MTAC competition; **LaVerne McCoy** who handled publicity; **Scott Kim**, son of **Pearl Kim**, who masterfully assembled our program booklet; **Pearl Kim** who solicited ads for the program booklet, video editor **Jeremy Brunson** who patiently "stitched" all the videos together to create the concert's seamless flow and **Debra Shrader** who co-hosted the virtual reception following the concert. I especially express my gratitude to **David Champion** who worked side-by-side with me for the last 2 ½ months as we designed and sent out the invitations to our contacts lists and discussed and handled the many questions that arose as we explored this new road of virtual presentations.

We thank our members and patrons who agreed to "sponsor" our musicians by donating funds for their honoraria. They are: **Anne and Ray Destabelle, Sandy Behrens, Tricia and Tom Paulsen, Linda Cohen, Teddy Greenwald, John Cuccia, Shirley Ho** and **Virginia Heinrich**. We

know the concert was an artistic success and when more of the financial figures are known, we will learn how much of a financial success it was.

To all those of you who donated, contributed, invited, shared via social media, THANK YOU!!

For the love of music,

Darlene Vlasek, NCTM

Musical Mosaic Chair

Member and Patron News

- If you haven't already done so, please look carefully at this month's Triangle Magazine. Our own **Charles Dickerson** and his ICYOLA orchestra are featured on the cover page. Don't miss reading **Mary Au**'s article inside the magazine, too! For an electronic version, look at https://issuu.com/muphiepsilon/docs/trianglewinter114032021_web_copy/s/11635376.
- On Saturday, February 20, 2021, **Charles** and one of his cellists were interviewed by Scott Simon on NPR's Weekend Edition. The link is available at: <https://www.npr.org/2021/02/20/969703425/how-the-inner-city-youth-orchestra-of-los-angeles-is-diversifying-music?ft=nprml&f=>. Congratulations, Chuck, for the success of spreading the news of your musicians!
- **Julio Sequira** was recognized in the Triangle magazine for his graduate work in Music Education and on the Immigrant Student. As we had reported in an earlier version of this newsletter, he presented his work in a session of the Pacific Southwest California Music Education Association conference. Fantastic, Julio!
- **Carla Noel Sedlacek** and her release of the CD recording "Birdsong in a Greenwood Tree" was included in this month's Triangle, too. Kudos, Carla!

Musical Mosaic follow-up

If you missed the **Musical Mosaic** concert on February 6th, you may still want to go to the Youtube link (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pSTKAS8jR-k>) and watch the event. So far, the event has had 730 views! Not all of the views happened on the day of the premiere! This amazing virtual event was assembled by the artists themselves, sharing in their talents for the sake of school grants. If you look at the program (generously assembled by **Scott Kim**), you'll notice the ads by our sponsors and notes about the honorarium sponsorships by our members and patrons. That link is <G:\My Drive\Mu Phi Epsilon\Musical Mosaic program items\Musical mosaic program 2021.pdf>.



The Zoom “reception,” by invitation to people who bought tickets in advance, was a satisfying culmination to the afternoon. We did, however, miss the cookies!



Debra Shrader’s comments about the concert:

After watching the Musical Mosaic concert, I looked at the quick written comments I made. The beautiful opening segments by the **Angel City Chorale** were recorded virtually by

the individual members. One can only imagine how much work it required to blend the entire ensemble together in a single piece. I enjoyed the individual character of each, as some recorded in their homes with the things around them (like our frequent zooms!). During the post-concert reception, **Sue Fink** shared the challenges of the effort. Wonderfully, we can all go back and see those firsthand on YouTube. Angel City has their own channel, so you can catch up with all their pieces.

Sean Chen gave a beautiful concert from his home piano. My written comment says “achingly beautiful” which may not be a sophisticated response but described my emotional response to the Ravel and Schubert numbers.

Anli Lin Tong and her friends **Roberto Cani** (violin) and **Ubi Bar-David** (cello) brought us a charming experience of the trio. Roberto and Anli played together in one room and then Ubi played from Hawaii! With this masterful use of technology, we all got to experience their blend. They performed a meditative Ernest Bloch “Nocturne” and a lively tango-inspired Astor Piazzola “Spring.”

Aaron Blake and his accompanist performed several songs in Spanish. Aaron’s powerful voice rang through my household as his voice soared! Thank you to the accompanist who beautifully supported his talents.

To complete the concert, **Ken Dake** brought us incredible organ music from the Marble Collegiate Church. His skills on the 100-rank organ were professionally highlighted by marvelous videography. The “front-row seat” we all received was a highlight for me!

THANK YOU, ARTISTS!

Cooperative Ventures

The Long Beach chapter of Sigma Alpha Iota has invited us to participate in a new series on Women in Music. Go to www.sailongbeach.com. The workshops are on Feb. 27th, March 27th, and April 17th.

K-12 Education Grants

Members: K-12 Education grants. If you know of a deserving teacher/program, please send Pat Harpole (g.harpole@verizon.net) the name and contact information for that person. She will send them an invitation letter and application. Grants of up to \$600 are available to distribute among schools in the Palos Verdes-South Bay Area school districts. Grants are given for materials/services that support teachers for direct use with students. To see pictures showing the recipients of previous grants, please check our website at:

<https://www.muhipvsouthbay.org> (click on “in the community”).

Please limit your recommendations to 2 names, as this message is going out to everyone. Personal email contacts are typically more useful than school email addresses, especially in our current pandemic circumstances where teachers are working from home.



DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

March 2, 2021 – Newsletter article deadline

March 16, 2021, 9:30 AM – Virtual Board Meeting

March 21, 2021, 3:00 PM – Regular Meeting

March 31, 2021, noon – Deadline for Mu Phi Epsilon School Grant applications to Pat Harpole.

Items Offered



Waldorf upright – for the price of a piano mover, this piano can come to a needy home. It will need to be tuned, although it is otherwise in good condition. The needlepoint (beautiful) on the bench is not included. Contact Donna Day at 310-351-6643.

Baldwin Acrosonic piano -- free to a good home. Contact **Lenita McCallum** at (310) 530-1468.



And one more – as Lenita said “’Tis the season!”



Anne Destabelle is helping Steve Moore’s family selling Steve’s stunning baby grand. It is in mint condition. Many of you know he taught piano and was still teaching until a month ago but he is now permanently living in a nursing home. If interested, please contact his brother Jack at 714-337-2193. The piano is at Steve’s apartment in Redondo Beach and needs to be moved by month end if possible. It is a 2004 Steinway Boston Baby Grand. My understanding is that it is valued somewhere around \$10,000 to \$12,000 but I am sure Jack would be happy to negotiate.