



Palos Verdes/South Bay Chapter

Newsletter - March 2021

*Discovering Ways to Connect through
Making Music*

From the keyboard of the Co-President:

February was an event filled month. We celebrated all the presidents, became eligible for vaccinations, and watched legislation enacted to help the average American survive during the protracted pandemic. Most notable was the production and performance of our Annual **Musical Mosaic**. We are still (March) hearing accolades and receiving donations for the 2021 performance. Again, I extend much gratitude to **Darlene Vlasek, Lorna Katz, Mika Yamamoto, Jennifer Holly-Cannon** and all of those who assisted in this wonderful production. I want to extend a personal "Thank You" to **David Champion**. He has become the "David of everything." He is an invaluable member and an indispensable resource.

So now we are in the month of March (Women's Month), a time to acknowledge, honor, and recall all their accomplishments. We have found women who have made major contributions to music. All the women in our chapter have made sacrifices to keep music a priority and perpetuate it for the sake of the children, the nation, the world. Think of those many members of our chapter who have provided significant contributions to the musical world! Some of them are right around us and some are far away.

LaVerne M. McCoy

Member and Patron News

- On February 17th, the California Music Educator's Association awarded **Dr. Emily Lacina** the Audrey Penman Retired Music Teacher of the Year award. Coming ten years after Emily's retirement from Long Beach USD, it honored her efforts and continued influence in developing teachers. (**Debra Shrader** can attest that she was a great mentor in LBUUSD.) Congratulations, Emily!
- **Pearl Kim** had a fall last month. She is at home, after a period of time spent in the hospital and rehab.
- **SERV (Service, Education, Resource, Volunteer)** hours can be continuously collected to make it easy to report at the end of the year. This year's records are due to **Mika**



Yamamoto (mika.y.voice@gmail.com) on **June 1st**. Patrons and members may submit hours for three categories:

- Service and Education
 - Resource and Volunteering
 - Financial or In-Kind Gifts
- **Amanda Chavez's** students at Cabrillo High School in Long Beach have been creating shared projects that are posted on their school website: <https://sites.google.com/lbschools.net/cabrillo-music-dept/home> Her students did all the production! Amanda is a former Gamma Sigma and PV/SB Alumni member. She was a recipient of one of our school grants last year.
 - Teacher **Laura Savitz** received one of our school grants last year to purchase music for the **Riviera, Hickory and Carr Elementary Schools**. She shared their online performance of the elementary school choir. The song comes from the music subscription that our chapter funded last year: <https://youtu.be/0WTcsd9biHk>
 - In preparation for Music in Our Schools Month (March), **Debra Shrader** was interviewed for the Winter 2020 issue of the California Music Educator's Association. The article appears in the General Music Education section and Debra shared how music teaching has changed during this year of online classes.
 - **Charles Dickerson** reports that ICYOLA member Hannah Innis played on the Grammy Show this past weekend.
 - **Charles Dickerson** reports that ICYOLA was called to play a piece of music on an animated short movie entitled - *If Anything Happens, I Love You*. It is a 10-11 minute piece about gun violence in schools. The movie is one of the five nominations for an Oscar in the Animated Short category.
 - Former chapter member **Rachel Payne** will be performing a benefit chamber concert in New Zealand on Friday, March 26th at 8:00 pm (USA Pacific Time) and can be streamed at <https://jxlive.tv/music-for-hope/>. Her performance, with friends, is a fundraiser, in a special afternoon (evening for us!) very special afternoon of opera, song and cabaret, with proceeds benefiting KidsCan and helping create a brighter future for Kiwi kids in need.



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 remaining workshops are on March 27th and April 17th.

Upcoming MPE Meetings

Mika Yamamoto and **Jennifer Holly Cannon** announce the program for the **March 21st meeting, 3:00 PM**, again presented on Zoom:

"Music and Stories"

Ms. Lenita McCallum will present her poems and compare music to the spoken word.

Mr. Julio Sequeira will present topics in music education with cultural diversity.

To join the Zoom Meeting, click on this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81737290884?pwd=bnpBbmFaYzZWdlZPamo0bURWeGkwdz09>

or enter this meeting ID and password into the Zoom application on your device:

Meeting ID: 817 3729 0884

Passcode: 504221



DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

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

March 21, 2021, 3:00 PM – “**Music and Stories**” presentation by **Lenita McCallum** and **Julio Sequiera**. See Zoom link in this newsletter.

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

April 6, 2021 – Newsletter deadline

April 6, 2021, 9:30 AM – Special Board Meeting

Memories of Alumni and Patrons

Clayton Cobb

We were all saddened to learn of the sudden death of the husband of member **Jeannie Cobb** on January 2, 2021. Clayton, a pastor in the Presbyterian Church USA, was well beloved by many for his deep faith and leadership in several churches, including St. Peters by the Sea in Rancho Palos Verdes. Clayton brought compassion and love to all who interacted with him. A passionate musician all his life, he offered his skills on guitar, mandolin and ukulele and his voice for worship services, informal musical events and for plain personal enjoyment. He and his wife Jeannie were great supporters of our Musica Primavera offering dishes that delighted our palates and contributed much to the success of these events. We send our deepest sympathy to his wife, Jeannie, and to their family. We truly miss this man who brought so much joy to so many.



Linnea Eades

We are sad to announce that longtime member Linnea Eades passed away on January 13, 2021.

Linnea Eades began studying violin at the age of five with a group of seven boys, one of whom always brought his pet snake to class.

Her degree from UCLA was in Home Economics, with a minor in music. While at UCLA she played principal second violin with the UCLA Symphony under Lucas Foss and Opera orchestra under Jan Popper and Natalie Limonick. Many other orchestras kept her busy; San Fernando Valley, West Valley, Conejo and Burbank Symphonies and she performed for Mu Phi Epsilon with Phyllis Loeb, Lorraine Kimball and Olga Freeark.

Linnea was a junior high/middle school teacher for 30 years - 27 at Mount Gleason Middle school in Sunland. She taught Home Economics for 10 years, English and ESL for another 10 and math for the last 10 years. An occasional music class was sprinkled throughout.

In 1984 she performed the Bach Double Violin Concerto with the Van Nuys Civic orchestra. Between 1985 and 2003 she played with Ralph Kessler, pianist, composer and a Mu Phi, for parties, meetings, weddings and other programs.





After moving to the South Bay in January of 2004 she played with the Doctors' Symphony Orchestra, the Peninsula Symphony (2006-2014+) and Palos Verdes Regional Symphony (viola-2009). She also studied ukulele and singing in the Torrance civic Chorale as well as her church choir (Pacific Unitarian Church).

An active member of Mu Phi she was a member of three alumni chapters and held many offices, including president of the San Fernando Valley chapter. She was a dedicated member of our Palos Verdes/South Bay chapter until her move to Phoenix two years ago. She moved into a retirement home "The Beatitudes" and sang in their choir.

She loved to dress in purple and surrounded herself with purple objects, notebooks, pens, scarves etc. She received her 60-year membership award in 2020.

Linnea's daughter is Carole Strauch and her address is 232 W. Krista Way, Tempe, AZ. 85284.

And, an addendum:

Instead of March Madness, we're featuring a **March (Female) Musician.**

From the keyboard of Co-President LaVerne M. McCoy:

February was an event filled month. We celebrated all of the presidents, became eligible for vaccinations, and watched legislation enacted to help the average American survive during the protracted pandemic.

So now we are in the month of March (Women's History Month), a time to acknowledge, honor, and recall all of their accomplishments. We have found Women who have made major contributions to music. All of the women in our chapter have made sacrifices to keep music a priority and perpetuate it for the sake of the children, the nation, the world. Most of the women are known for their contributions. None-the-less, I have chosen to focus on one who is far away but near to our hearts. Please continue reading about this talent and world-renowned performer.



DEBORAH AITKEN

Our Alumni Chapter member Deborah Aitken, pianist has captivated audiences throughout America and abroad. Describing her as "an artist who lives to communicate," critics have praised her as "authoritative with phenomenal technique, musically sensual and abandoned, a sound which is extremely pure, perfect and incredibly precise, extraordinarily intense sonorous vitality," and exciting, among others, her "beautiful Chopin, sensitive Ravel and Debussy and infallible technical polish and vibrancy, painting with the colors of a fantastic realm."

Ms. Aitken began her studies at an early age in the United States, and at age fourteen she moved to Milan, where she studied on scholarship as the youngest pupil of Alberto Mozzati, the great pianist and teacher of the Conservatorio Verdi. In the United States she received B.M. and M.A. degrees

from the University of Southern California and California State University, Northridge in piano performance and accompanying, studying with Bernardo Segall, Jacob Gimpel and Françoise Regnat. Besides coaching with other noted pianists such as Andre Watts, Daniel Pollack, Jerome Lowenthal and Gabriel Tacchino (of the Paris Conservatory), Ms. Aitken indulged her passion for Baroque music by studying with the celebrated harpsichordist, Malcolm Hamilton. Additionally, her expertise in the music of the French and Spanish styles was acknowledged with the award of the prestigious Mu Phi Epsilon Memorial Foundation Grant for study in Paris with Françoise Labroquere, longtime protege of Marguerite Long.

Ms. Aitken's concert work as soloist and chamber musician has taken her throughout the United States and to Europe, Mexico and Asia; in June of 2019 she returned to Japan for the 21st year to perform the Mozart Double Concerto and solo repertoire, and to conduct master classes and coach wonderful professional pianists. In addition to concerts, she has performed for film, on Los Angeles television stations, and on radio, including a recital on Vatican Radio, broadcast throughout Europe.

With a repertoire which includes all periods and styles, Ms. Aitken also has performed and premiered the works of many contemporary composers. After hearing her recital at a private Salon in Paris, composer Jacques Casterede of the Paris Conservatory asked her to perform several of his piano compositions. Following a performance of his works, American composer Fred Katz praised her ability to "weave a magic spell, which revealed my music to myself."

Formerly a college professor for over 25 years, Ms. Aitken conducts Master Classes in the US and abroad, and is in demand for recitals and lecture-recitals for professional organizations, appearing at, among others, annual conventions of the Music Teachers Association of California and CAPMT (MTNA in California). Known for her sensitive and expressive touch, she is



to
her
for

nearing completion of a teaching DVD on "Piano Technique and Tone Color," and has a CD, "Piano Recital," in general release.



Indulging her lifelong passion for all animals, Ms. Aitken trained her dog, Maurice, to be a therapy dog (he visits convalescent homes and libraries, where children read to him!), and lends her talents to various wildlife causes. She "adopted" a baby elephant staying at the Sheldrick elephant orphanage in Nairobi and donates a share of every real estate transaction to conservation efforts.

Performances:

Santa Cecilia Orchestra, Rome Italy, Beethoven Concerto no. 1 (earliest concerto appearance age 14)

Later appearances with Orchestra include:

Beethoven no. 1

Gershwin Concerto in F

Prokofiev First Concerto

Solo performance for the ambassador of Italy in Washington D. C.

Tokyo: recitals and lecture recitals sponsored by Yamaha Corp.

Concert tour through Mexico recurring solo concerts twice a year for four years

Triennial Pianist at Mu Phi Epsilon Convention in the 1980's

YAPMF music festival; resident pianist/accompanist 8 years for prize winners coming from abroad

Performed premier works by composers: Adrienne Alpert, Fred Katz. Carol Worthy

Lecture- recitals in Japan, US, etc. including Baroque style, French style