



# Palos Verdes/South Bay Chapter

Newsletter - September 2021

*Discovering Ways to Connect through Making Music*

## September 2021

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### From the keyboard of the President:

*LaVerne M. McCoy*

August is rapidly approaching the end and July seems so long ago when we had the Mu Phi Epsilon convention. We had a wonderful virtual (for the first time), convention and it was praise worthy. Our alumni chapter provided two presentations. The opening ceremony included our prestigious youth orchestra leader and choral director, Charles Dickerson. Charles Dickerson virtually shared portions of performances by the youth group, Inner City Youth Orchestra of Los Angeles, (ICYOLA). We are so honored to have such an artistic progressive futuristic talented member in the Palos Verdes South Bay Alumni Chapter of Mu Phi Epsilon. Charles Dickerson was also inducted into ACME

Our (PVSB) second contribution was in the third business section. Thanks to our very dedicated and committed members of the Musical Mosaic team, the entire membership from coast-to-coast got to sample our famous and popular “Musical Mosaic.” We can be very proud of these accomplishments. There were numerous

inquiries in the chat box, including the question could the presentations be made available for additional viewings. As soon as Jess LaNore secured permission from all of the presenters to post presentations on the convention platform they were uploaded. This allows the presentations to be viewed again by registered attendees. They will remain posted on the MPE site until May 2022.

PVSB was well represented at the convention; some attended the open sessions and others attended the business sessions as well. We were awarded the International Chapter of the Year! The hard work of our members is evident and recognized throughout the membership. The awards will be mailed to us by the end of August. The chat rooms remained open and members from the different chapters were able to converse and exchange ideas.

We are a close-knit group and when one suffers or is stressed out we all share empathy. We’re joined by music that creates a true happy life that forms friendships. Our dear friend and member Carla Sedlacek is struggling with many of life’s trials. She grieves for her brother who passed away on July 1, 2021. And yet she strives to conquer the obstacles that confront her.

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## Save the Date

The board has set up a schedule for the 2021-2022 meetings. We are scheduling General meetings (in person) on the third Sunday of each month and board meetings on the third Tuesday. The first general meeting has been scheduled as a front porch concert by all six of the scholarship winners. We will have to monitor very carefully how the Covid-19 will /or will not affect our final decision.

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## Benefit Concert

The concert is on the planning board and progressing with a contingency. The covid-19 and the deviant could determine if it will be an indoor/outdoor or virtual concert or gathering. The honorees are in practice mode. Regardless of the pandemic PVSB will continue to perform at an efficient and thorough level. Therefore, under the direction of Lenita Witherspoon, the chair of **the Benefit Concert will be on October 16, 2021.**

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## Musical Mosaic

The big news is that Darlene Vlasek has been successful in booking David Benoit for the February, 2022 concert.

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## Member News

**Elizabeth Kerstein** is the cantorial soloist at Temple Ahavat Shalom in Northridge and will be entering cantorial studies at the Academy For Jewish Religion CA.

**Shanice Aaron** will be taking some time off from her participation in our chapter while she continues her studies in the graduate program at the University of Southern California.

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## September Meeting

**Sunday, September 19, 2021 @ 3:00pm**

*Welcome Back General Meeting -*  
Presentation of Spring 2021 Scholarship Winners

Location : 28 Aurora Drive, Rolling Hills Estates, CA 90274

Location Contact : Ms.

Lenita McCallum (310) 530-1468, (310) 200-1424 (cell)

Email : witherspoonlenita624@gmail.com

2021-2022 Theme

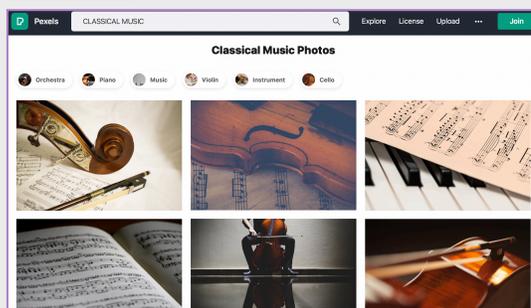
“Together, Our Music Begins Again.”

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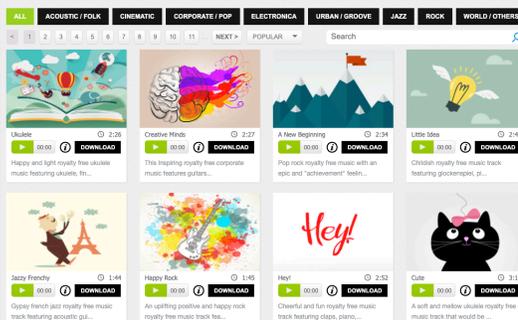
## Royalty-Free Media

Online content developers may be interested in finding royalty-free or inexpensive music/ and or images when creating materials for the web. Here is an interesting blog that recommends several links that offer such content.

[Click Here](#) to access the link.



ROYALTY FREE MUSIC by BENSOUND



## BOARD MEETINGS INVITATION

The board is very grateful for the interest so many members express regarding the plans and activities of our chapter. We encourage your continued interest! Please know that all members are welcome to attend our board meetings, but we very much encourage all chairpersons and others in leadership positions to attend as many Board meetings as possible. Particularly your attendance is essential during those meetings which pertain to your area of involvement. Officers are expected to attend all the board meetings.

Also, for non-board members and chairs, it is not necessary for you to attend the entire meeting. You are welcome to attend as much of the meeting as you wish, or your time allows.

Our board meetings are generally held the third Tuesday morning of every month, starting at 9:30. They will primarily be conducted via Zoom for most of the upcoming year.

Looking forward to another interesting, inspiring, informative year of music, friendship, and harmony.

With gratitude and love,

*Darlene Vlazek*

# ALUMNI DUES

Dues are due in August!

**The deadline for Alumni Dues to the chapter is August 31st.** Respond promptly to the invoice sent to you by our treasurer David Champion so he can report the roster of active members to the International Fraternity Office by the deadline of September 1st and your name can be included in the revised chapter yearbook. (If paying in August is a hardship for you, send him a request for an extension and ask him to keep you on the roster).

Included in your dues are member dues forwarded to the International Mu Phi Epsilon office in September. Late payment of dues creates extra paperwork for both the local chapter and the international office, so please don't be late!

Make your check to Mu Phi Epsilon and send it to our treasurer as soon as possible.

His address is:

*David Champion*

*229 15th Street*

*Manhattan Beach CA 90266*

The International portion of your dues has increased to \$75.00. Emeritus members who are 80+ years of age and have applied for emeritus status do not pay international dues. Our local chapter dues are \$20.00 (\$25.00 for emeritus members). It is also traditional to donate to the International Fraternity of a penny for every year since its founding. A Founders Day donation of \$1.18 is included in your dues. Total dues will be \$96.18 for most active members, \$26.18 for emeritus members. (One member has a lifetime subscription to The Triangle. Her dues are \$10.00 less). Members are encouraged to round-up the amounts to make an additional chapter donation.

Dues may be tax-deductible as a business expense if they can be justified as important to your business activities. Check with your accountant.

Patron Contributions are also due. Patrons are also listed in the chapter yearbook September printing. Pay with a separate check and write "donation" in the memo portion of your check so your contribution can be tax-deductible. Make your patron check to Mu Phi Epsilon. Donations of \$50.00 or more will receive a tax letter in early January. Patron contribution levels are Friend (\$25-\$49), Silver (\$50-\$99) Gold (\$100-149) Platinum (\$150+) Patrons may also receive a reminder notice from our Patron Chair.

**Check your listing** in last year's directory.

Send any changes to [Julio Sequeira](#), and [David Champion](#)

## LOCAL CHAMBER MUSIC



I act as a coordinator for our informal group of string-playing enthusiasts. Some of us played as a chamber group in public for the first time on Sunday. Playing in public is not our aim. We like playing chamber music together just for the pleasure of the music and each other's company. We play most often in a home in Lunada Bay in Palos Verdes Estates. We use other homes.

Again, we are enthusiastic amateurs who live in the South Bay. Most of us play in the Peninsula Symphony. When we play chamber music, we stop and regroup several times during each movement, although many go without a stop. Some bad notes are par for the course, and we try to get the dynamics right. Pieces we play include the quartets of Haydn, Mozart, and Beethoven, and we may grow into quartets and quintets of those composers as well as Brahms, Schumann, and Dvorak. One of our favorite pieces is Schubert's Trout Quintet, where one of our violinists plays the piano part and we have a bass player join in.

We'd love to add sessions for the occasional piano quartet or quintet by many of those same composers. Because we are retired, we play on Monday and/or Friday afternoons from 1:00 pm until around 3:30 pm with a break to chat and snack. Around the middle of each month, I ask for everybody's available Mondays and Fridays during the next month, and then I compile and email a schedule of dates in which I name the specific two pieces we will play through on each date. That way, everyone has a chance to practice ahead of time if they wish. We may go months without repeating a particular piece.

I hope this all sounds like something you would enjoy. We would love to have one or two occasions each month to add piano repertoire. We could repeat pieces you like more often. Please write or phone if you'd like more information and/or would like join in.

Please note that I've sent this from a different email address than Anne used. You can reply to this one (also shown below after my name). I use the other email address for organizations and businesses.

Sincerely,

Phil Solomita  
[roar4p@verizon.net](mailto:roar4p@verizon.net)  
310-378-0765

# MU PHI EPSILON

Palos Verdes/South Bay Alumni Chapter  
Spring 2021 Scholarship Awards

## **Michael Wise, Drums \$1,000.00 Patron Scholarship**



**Michael Wise** received his BA in Music at California State University Dominguez Hills in spring 2021 and plans to continue to a master's degree. Michael has played for social gatherings, church events, and school social functions in the Los Angeles and Long Beach areas. He performed with a variety of groups such as Resonance Band, The Think of One Jazz Combo, Luke Elder and The Infinite Ways, The Long Beach City Jazz Band, and many more ensembles. He also volunteered his time by helping the drumline at Jordan High School. Michael's goal is to become a private Drum instructor for high schools, community colleges, and for universities. Michael wants to share his gifts with the world and inspire new musicians of today's generation.

## **Mahane Tomizawa, Piano \$750.00 Ruth Cuccia Memorial Scholarship**



**Mahane Tomizawa** is dedicated to playing classical piano music. She completed all levels, including the Panel level, of the MTAC Certificate of Merit Evaluations, and is in her first year of the Applied Music Program at El Camino College with private instructor Professor. Lois Roberts. Mahane also continues lessons with her long-time private teacher, Naomi Ozawa with whom she has been studying since elementary school, performing in her recitals every year. In those recitals, Mahane also performed piano duets and trios and as accompanist for instrumentalists. Mahane won several awards in competitions such as the Southern California Junior Bach Festival, Southwestern Youth Music Festival (SYMF), and the JMAC Lighthouse Piano Festival. Mahane performed as a flutist in school bands from fourth grade to high school marching band and wind ensemble. She performed with the South Torrance High School Jazz ensembles as a piano player and in a small jazz combo with some of her friends. The combo performed in recitals and in competitions. Recently, Mahane has focused on the piano in classical music. She recently performed in virtual recitals hosted by Mrs. Ozawa, while also working on some recordings of classical piano pieces that she is studying with Lois Roberts at El Camino College.

## **Dé Ana Abinante, Jazz Vocals \$750.00 Patron Scholarship**



Dé Ana Abinante is a 23-year-old, passionate, singer/songwriter/musician, and youth advocate. She is an El Camino College alumni and is pursuing a BM in Jazz at CSUN. As an artist, she places 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 Los Angeles 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, set to be released by the fall of 2021. De Ana also teaches music at Cal Heights Music School and started her own online music academy, Young Song Learners.

**Janelle Catbagan, Voice \$400.00 Linnea Eades Memorial Scholarship**



**Janelle Catbagan** will be a senior this fall at California State University Dominguez Hills majoring in Music Education with an emphasis on voice. After graduation, she plans to pursue a music teaching credential and earn a master's degree to become a music educator in a K-12 school. In the 2020-2021 school year, Janelle was president of the Gamma Sigma Chapter of Mu Phi Epsilon at California State University Dominguez Hills. She is representing the chapter at the Mu Phi Epsilon International Convention this summer and will continue as president in the coming year. Janelle is currently studying voice under Dr. Dawn Brooks and currently a cantor for Sunday mass at St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church in Gardena, CA.

**Enrica Hodder, Voice \$300.00 Patron Scholarship**



**Enrica Hodder** attends the Applied Music Vocal Program at El Camino College maintaining a 4.0 GPA. She received the Foundation Board of Directors Award for Excellence for the 2021 to 2022 academic year. A soprano in the vocal program, she performs solo classical pieces in recitals and with the choir. In 2019, Enrica performed at Carnegie Hall as a member of the Distinguished Concerts Singers International. Also in 2019, Enrica was selected to participate in the Master Class for the Applied Music Vocal Program, directed by Sara Widzer where she performed the role of Rosina in Rossini's *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*. Enrica is an active member of the Manhattan Beach Community Church Choir and performs with them on a weekly basis. She is also a continuing member of the Voce Angelicus Choir at El Camino. Enrica performs solo pieces in the Opera Workshop Showcase each fall and spring and looks

forward with enthusiasm to performing live this fall 2021.

**Shannon Gaebrielle Hefley, Composition \$300.00 Pearl Kim Award**



**Shannon Gaebrielle Hefley** is a composer, musician, and private flute instructor and currently a student at California State University Dominguez Hills. She began her musical journey in elementary school with the choir at 7 and flute at 9, followed by composition at 16. Hefley has performed throughout the Temecula Wine Country, Riverside County, and as a pit orchestra musician for the off-Broadway show of *Beauty and the Beast* (2018). Her most recent performance was Aaron Copland's *Appalachian Springs*. Currently, she is studying flute under Dr. Derrick (Rik) Noyce and composition with Dr. Jonathan Grasse at California State University Dominguez Hills. She composed music for the Mount San Jacinto College Orchestra, where she debuted an original composition *Beyond the Reaches of Our Galaxy*. Shannon Gaebrielle composed multiple works for the Cadenza String Orchestra based in Temecula, CA. She was to debut her piece *Plumb Blossom*, in July 2021, in the Summa Cum Laude International Youth Festival (Vienna, Austria). In June 2021, she had the pleasure of composing two

pieces *Seasons Changing* and *Mama Thelma* and performing in a workshop by the LA-based Brightwork Ensemble for New Music. She is currently working with a three-time platinum award-winning artist and writer (not to be disclosed) on a project she will share upon its completion.