

DELTA BRANCH

MUSIC
TEACHERS'
ASSOCIATION
OF CALIFORNIA

Delta Branch

NEWS

Winter, 2015

BRANCH EVENTS - DECEMBER

5 Barnes & Noble Bookfair

BRANCH EVENTS - JANUARY

23 Student Recital

OTHER EVENTS - NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

11/22 Diablo Symphony Orchestra p.3

12/18, 19, 20 Solo Opera presents Hansel & Gretel p.3

OTHER EVENTS - JANUARY

1/31 Villa Trio at the Thompson's 1:30 PM p.4

COMING UP - FEBRUARY

13 Rachel Reilly Young Artist Competition

20 Student Recital featuring Competition winners

Barnes & Noble Fundraiser

Have you circled Dec. 5th on your calendar? I'll wait while you do that.

Ok--Dec. 5th from 10:00--6:00. Big recital and fundraiser at Barnes and Noble!! A time to show



off your students, schmooze with the public while you tell them about our group, wrap presents, and spend lots of money to benefit our scholarship fund. {You did tell everyone on your Christmas list that you were only shopping at B&N, didn't you?}

If you forget to get something on the 5th, you can shop online Dec. 5th through 11th. Mention our number {11708997} and we'll still get credit.

Flyer and vouchers are attached to this email. See you on Dec. 5th.

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A message from your President

Reading the most authoritative texts on physiology, neurology, and neurosurgery, will not make one a brain surgeon. To become competent in neurosurgery requires years of tutelage under the charge of competent surgeons, closely supervised operating room experience, and careful testing to be certain that one is qualified to operate on a human brain. One of the things experienced during this rigorous training is the close relationship with one's fellow students and one's teachers. What has this to do with music teaching? Well, as they say, it ain't brain surgery. But---

Recently I had occasion to read a book which proposed that a person could teach oneself to play the piano. It reminded me of a video, on the same topic, that I had seen some years earlier. The "teacher" in this video dispensed in a short time such misinformation ("it doesn't matter which fingers you use play these chords") that I was truly saddened by the thought that people were actually buying this course and trying to apply this misleading advice.

Continued, p.2

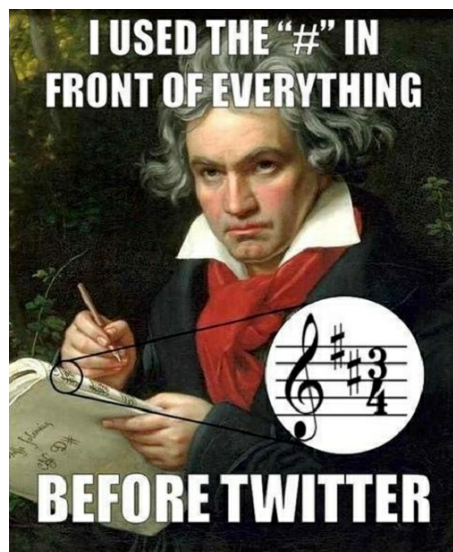
There is nothing to be found in these programs that can come close to having real music instruction from a competent music teacher. Someone who can watch, hear, give advice on how to use correct technique, what interpretation means, and in so many other areas, is an invaluable part of music education. Then there is the benefit of having actual human contact with your teachers and fellow students. I know that my life has been enriched immeasurably by my association with fellow students and teachers throughout the years. In a time when we are more isolated than ever before from fellow humans by technology, I strongly feel that this kind of interaction between teacher, student, and fellow musicians should be recognized as one of the most significant parts of music education. (doesn't matter which fingers you use play these chords") that I was truly saddened by the thought that people were actually buying this course and trying to apply this misleading advice.

Some notes on current matters: As you know, registration for the upcoming Certificate of Merit has closed and those participating should be busy preparing for this major event. Catherine tells me that we have a full 2-day CM this year. Thanks to all who are involved, new and continuing teachers. The B&N Bookfair is set for the 5th of December (Thank you, Carole); the schedules have been published and we're looking to have another successful showing this year. Thanksgiving is almost upon us. and the December holidays not far behind. If there's not another opportunity to say it, **Happy Holidays** to All! Looking forward to seeing you at the Bookfair.

William Hobbs

Trivia Question and Attachments: See the other attachments to this email: **Monthly Student Recital Form, BN Bookfair vouchers and flyer, various musical happenings. And now your trivia answer for this newsletter: What can french fries, hamburger, and watermelon do for your students, other than give them a nice lunch? Help them play scales in rhythms (and just rhythms, basically)! Here's how: French fries = eighth notes; hamburger = triplets; watermelon = 16th notes! You can use this terminology when a student runs into triplet eighths in a piece of music: "Those are hamburger notes!" Also, you can give rhythmic dictation: Try writing this in 4/4 time: Hamburger - bun - French fries - French fries - bun - bun - watermelon - bun ("bun" is the quarter note). Give it a try in your studio and see how your students' rhythmic accuracy improves!**

The trivia question for next newsletter: What do Halloween, Groundhog Day and Tax day (April 15) have in common?

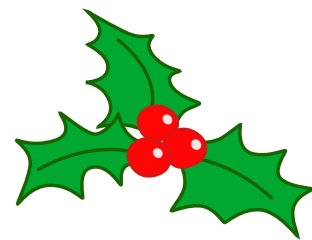


Adult Seminar News

Those attending the Adult Seminar on October 25 enjoyed an afternoon of playing and discussing music together. We found that we had the same issues whether beginner or advanced. Teachers represented were: Kathleen Flemming, Sara Harris, Barbara Schnieder, and Maureen Honegger. We heard music from musicals to Romantic and Contemporary styles. Our welcome special guest was Lu Peng who came to "check us out"!

Our next Adult Seminar will be in February. Special thanks to Kathy Crowe for allowing us to use her lovely home and wonderful piano.

Maureen Honegger, Adult Seminar Chair



Additional Information

[Concerts](#)

[About the Symphony](#)

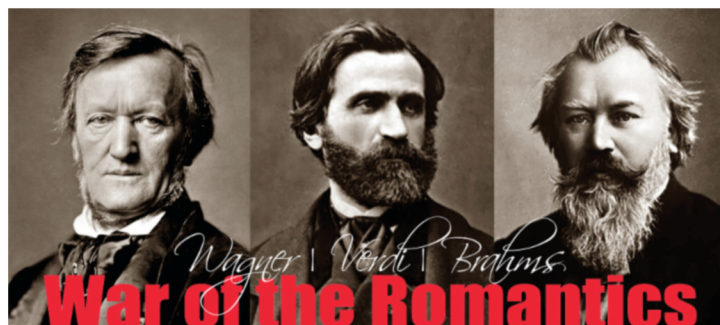
[Outreach Program](#)

[Instrument Drive](#)

Our Special Guest This Concert



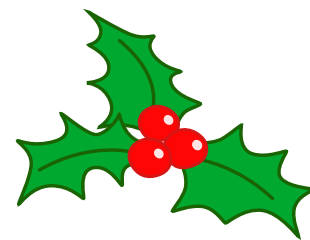
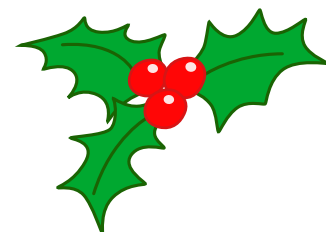
Soprano Carrie Hennessey



War of the Romantics - November 22 at Leshar Center

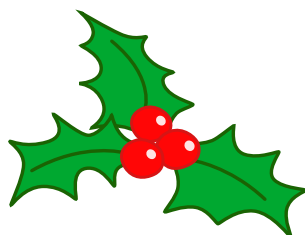
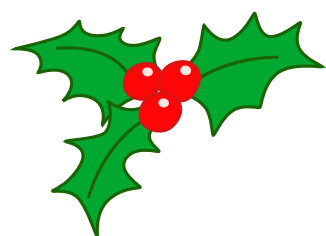
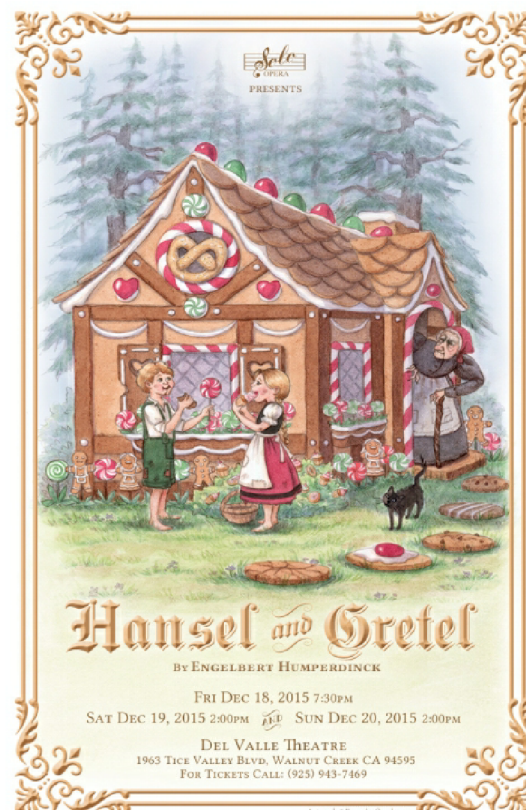
Can the heated debate between lovers of Wagner, Verdi, and Brahms ever be settled? Our second set features our very own clash of these classical music titans, brought to life by our guest soprano, Carrie Hennessey. Listen, and judge for yourself.

Wagner - "Prelude" and "Liebestod" from Tristan und Isolde
Mozart - "Dove Sono" from Le Nozze di Figaro
Verdi - "Tacea la Notte Placida" from Il Trovatore
Verdi - "Mercè, Dilette Amiche" from I Vespri Siciliani
Soprano Carrie Hennessey
Brahms - Symphony No. 4



Reception Honoring Kristina Anderson and John Clark

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED to join the Diablo Symphony in a champagne toast honoring two retiring members of the orchestra, Kristina Anderson, and John Clark. The reception will be held at Massimo's restaurant directly following the Leshar concert.



A Request for the Monthly Student Recital Teachers

When you pay me for the student fees, it is much easier for me to track checks rather than cash. I attend every recital, so you can pay me at that time. Remember to make out the check to: MTAC, Delta Branch.

Many thanks,

Maureen Honegger, Monthly Student Recital Chair



Chamber Music Recital set for January 31

The Villa Trio will perform an afternoon of chamber music on Sunday, January 31, at the Thompson home. A Salon Series event, the doors open at 1:30 PM for light refreshments and wine or other drink, with the concert beginning at 2:00 PM. Nancy Bachmann, piano, Roy Oakley, violin, and David Wishnia, cello will perform Mendelssohn's Piano Trio #2, Op. 66 in C Minor; the Haydn Piano Trio in G Major, Hob XV, 25 (Gypsy Rondo); and Short Stories for Piano Trio (Premiere) by Nancy Bachmann. It is rare to get to hear serious chamber music played by such an accomplished and seasoned group, especially in the comfortable setting of a living room! Tickets \$15 (complimentary refreshments). Call 925-513-7156 or email info@thompsonmusicstudio to reserve seats. Seating is limited, so call or write early!



Composers Today/Improvisation Workshop

Do you have any students who like to improvise or compose their own pieces?? I have a high school student who wants to share his music with other high school students. Kathleen has three grade school students who are interested. After discussing this with Kathleen, I offered to host the high school group at my home, TBA. So, who is interested? Would a Sunday evening be a good time? Let me know.

Maureen



Halloween Happenings at...



The Honeggers'



The Thompsons'



With Kim Griffith-Fraley
as Mozart

