

AS THE PEG TURNS...

SACRAMENTO AMERICAN STRING TEACHERS ASSOCIATION SPRING 2017 NEWSLETTER

Dear Sacramento ASTA members,

I just returned from the CASMEC conference in San Jose and was very inspired to hear all of our ASTA State Solo Competition winners perform at a showcase recital on Saturday afternoon, February 18th. There were eight total performers including one violinist, one violist, two cellists, one bassist, two guitarists and a harpist. Each winner received \$950.00. I am looking forward to our next state competition, which will take place in northern California in the fall of 2018. Susan Lamb Cook has agreed to chair the event and will be assisted by Kim Feeney. CalASTA held its spring state board meeting immediately following the showcase recital with representatives from all areas of California present.

New Member "Spotlight"

Shula Stevens Calmann

The Sacramento ASTA section welcomes new member Shula Stevens Calmann. Born in San Rafael, CA, Shula moved to the Sacramento area at the age of four. She began her musical training in piano and voice, but had always dreamed of playing the harp as a child. Unfortunately there weren't any harps available in the SCUSD school music system. The closest she could get to the instrument was when she would ask her mother to drive down "H" Street by McKinley Park because one of the houses had a big golden harp in the front window. After graduating from high school, Shula attended the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, where she actually had the chance to try out the harp, and became quickly aware that this was her instrument, so she switched over at the age of 21. She began from scratch, learning a whole new technique and way of thinking about music. After a few years of gaining the basics, she travelled to New York and studied briefly with Mildred Dilling (Harpo Marx's teacher!) Returning to Sacramento, she attended CSUS, and studied with Marylou Dozier. After Ms. Dozier she studied for several years with John Fuller, principal harpist in the Sacramento Symphony, and Anne Adams, principal harpist for the San Francisco Opera Orchestra. She eventually completed her BA, with a minor in music, at Mills College in

Oakland. During this time, she founded the "Reverie" Harp & Flute Duo, performed actively, and had a full-time teaching studio with harp, piano and voice students. After graduation, Shula entered into the clergy, first as a Cantor, responsible for the musical aspects of leading worship services, and then later became a Rabbi. She attended Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, CA. Her Master's Thesis was on the subject of sacred chant and its role in uncovering hidden meaning in the Biblical narrative. Along with serving in the clergy, she has continued to perform and teach privately. She plays and teaches both the concert (pedal) harp and the smaller folk and Celtic harp, in addition to music theory. All of her teachers have been in the lineage of the Renie/Grandjany tradition, which emphasizes relaxation as foundational to one's technique, in service of deep, flowing musicality. If you would like to get in touch with Shula, you can call (916) 442-7315 or email, rabbishula@inreach.com

Upcoming Events...

Sacramento Section Spring Recital:

This year's spring recital will take place at 2:00 on Saturday, May 13th at the Eskaton Monroe Lodge in Sacramento. The address is 3225 Freeport Blvd. Sacramento, CA 95822. Performers of all ages and levels are welcome, including small ensembles. The recital is an ideal opportunity to perform your pieces for the annual solo competition which will take place the following week on May 21st. Rejean Anderson and Kimberly Feeney are the coordinators. Please see attached application form for more information. (Please note that no late postmarked applications or applications with missing checks will be accepted.)

Sacramento Section Solo Competition:

This year's solo competition will take place on Sunday, May 21, 2017 at the UCD Music department in Davis. It will run from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. The winners will perform as a showcase to be included with our 2017 Fall Recital and will also be eligible to compete in the next State Solo competition that will be held in the fall of 2018 in Northern California. Please see attached guidelines and application form.

Application forms for both the recital and solo competition are also available online at "calasta.org" on the Sacramento page under "Sections".

Upcoming Workshops and Concerts:

Monday, April 17, 2017, 4:00pm, Free Event

UC Davis, Pitzer Center Recital Hall

Alexander Technique Workshop with Harvey Thurmer

Harvey Thurmer is Associate Professor of Violin at Miami University, Ohio. He completed his training through Chesapeake Bay Alexander Studies, Greensboro, North Carolina in 2012, and since then has given workshop throughout the United States.

Sunday, May 14, 2017, 2:00pm

Great Composers Chamber Music Series

Scott-Skillman Recital Hall, Harris Center, Folsom

Featuring the music of Rachmaninoff and Tchaikovsky

Carrie Hennessey, soprano, Ian Jessee, violin, Susan Lamb Cook, cello, and

Gayle Blankenburg, piano

For tickets, visit www.harriscenter.net

Summer Workshops:

June 26 - 30 and July 10 - 14, 2017

Sacramento Youth Symphony Chamber Music Workshop

For further information, visit www.sacramentoyouthsymphony.org

A summer strings performance/theory workshop will be held in Davis, CA from June 19-July 7, 8:30-10:30 A.M. It is open to students entering grades 5-7

with at least one year of public or private instruction on chosen instrument.

For more information and registration please contact the Davis City and Parks Department www.cityofdavis.org or email kfeeney@djusd.net

Mono Lake Music & Ecology Summer Camp, June 25 - July 1, 2017

Visit our camp Website for further information:

<http://www.musicandecology.com>

Our current board for the Sacramento section is as follows:

President - Kimberly Cole Feeney
kfeeney@djud.net

Vice-President - Gay Currier
gcurrier@macnexus.org

Secretary - Rejean Anderson
rejevcl@yahoo.com

Treasurer - Catherine Heusner
catmusic@juno.com

Membership Chairperson - Gay Currier

Member at Large - Robert Bloch
rsbloch@ucdavis.edu