MTAC SAN MATEO COUNTY MUSIC FESTIVAL 2027 ADJUDICATORS

LOUISE COSTIGAN-KERNS

NON-COMPETITIVE DIVISION



Louise Costigan-Kerns has performed internationally as a concert pianist and collaborative pianist. Her concerts have been reviewed as “inspiring and technically amazing performances.” And “the orchestra played beautifully last night, in a joyful concert that included the magical contribution of Louise Costigan-Kerns.”

Ms. Costigan-Kerns began studying the piano at age three with her mother, Beatrice Costigan, in Blairmore, Alberta, Canada. At age five she gave her first public recital and began competing in Alberta Music Festivals, where she was a consistent winner through high school. Ms. Costigan-Kerns attended the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston where she received her Bachelor and Master of Music degrees Pi Kappa Lambda. She was on the faculty of the New England Conservatory Preparatory School and Founding Director of the New England Conservatory Extension Division Opera Studio. She studied piano with Irma Wolpe, opera with John Moriarty and Boris Goldovsky and art song repertoire with Allen Rogers. Ms. Costigan-Kerns maintained an active performing career in the Boston area as a solo pianist and collaborative pianist. Over the years she was a member of the Opera Department at Boston University, piano faculty at Phillips Exeter Academy and Artist in Residence at Brandeis University.

Ms. Costigan Kerns was recently awarded the honor of being named a Nationally Certified Teacher of Music (NCTM) by the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA). Her students are consistent winners in Bay Area, Regional and National competitions in both piano and voice. In the San Francisco Bay Area, Ms. Costigan-Kerns has been a member of the piano faculty in the Stanford University Department of Music from 2021 to 2025 and a voice/opera coach and recital pianist at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music from 2018 to 2023.

Ms. Costigan-Kerns is active as a recital pianist, opera coach and accompanist for singers and instrumentalists. Her Bay Area performances with orchestra include performances with the Redwood Symphony, Palo Alto Philharmonic, Santa Cruz Symphony, Winchester Orchestra and the New Millennium Chamber Orchestra.

Ms. Costigan-Kerns’ first solo piano CD, “My Favorite Performances,” was released in 2004. “Piano With Passion,” was released in 2007 and “Into the Light,” was released in 2011. All are available on iTunes/Apple Music and cdbaby.com. She can be seen performing Chopin, Liszt, Debussy, Mozart, Shostakovich and Harrison on YouTube. You can stream her music and follow her on Spotify. Check out her website at Louisecostigan-kerns.com.

MTAC SAN MATEO COUNTY MUSIC FESTIVAL 2027 ADJUDICATORS

ROSE CHEN

COMPETITIVE DIVISION



San Francisco Conservatory of Music
Conservatory of the Arts at Valley Christian Schools, San Jose

Born and raised in Taiwan, Rose Chen is an accomplished pianist and dedicated educator whose career encompasses solo performance, chamber music, and piano pedagogy. She serves on the piano faculty of the San Francisco Conservatory of Music's Pre-College Division, where she teaches piano and chamber music, as well as on the piano faculty of the Conservatory of the Arts at Valley Christian Schools in San Jose. She also maintains an active private studio in West San Jose and is the co-founder of C'est Bon Chamber Music Academy.

Ms. Chen holds a Master of Music degree (2002) and a Graduate Performance Diploma (2004) in Piano Performance from the Peabody Conservatory of Johns Hopkins University, where she studied under the tutelage of Boris Slutsky. In recognition of her artistic and academic excellence, she was awarded a full scholarship and teaching assistantship.

A passionate advocate for both solo and chamber music, Chen has performed extensively as a soloist and chamber musician and is deeply committed to nurturing the next generation of musicians. Her students have received top prizes in international competitions, been selected for the Music Teachers' Association of California (MTAC) Young Artist Guild and Panel Honors, and gained admission to leading institutions, including The Juilliard School, Eastman School of Music, New England Conservatory, Peabody Institute, Northwestern University, the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), and the San Francisco Conservatory of Music.