

"PMA's Got Talent!" Competition 2021 Guest Judges



Igor Veligan, Violin

Igor Veligan, lecturer in violin, viola, and Chamber Music at the University of the Pacific joined the faculty of the Conservatory of Music in the fall of 2006. He has also been teaching at American River College 2004-2015.

He holds a Master Degree in violin performance and chamber music from Odessa State Conservatory. His teachers included Zoja Istomina and Galina Gritzenko. Mr. Veligan founded the Odessa Conservatory String Quartet, which performed extensively in Ukraine, toured in Freiburg, Germany, Tokyo, and Niigata, Japan.

As a chamber musician, Mr. Veligan performs extensively with pianist Natsuki Fukasawa, collaborates with various chamber ensembles and has been a guest violist with the Trio 180. He has also performed as a violist with the Chamber Music Society of Sacramento for the past ten years. Igor Veligan is an artist faculty member of the Hawaii Performing Art Festival, Orfeo International Music Festival (Italy). He is a cofounder and artistic director of Chamber Music Festival at San Domenico Conservatory.

As an orchestra performer Mr. Veligan serves as concertmaster of Pacific Chamber Symphony. He served as a guest concertmaster of the Sacramento Philharmonic and principal violist with the Reno Philharmonic for ten years.

In 2013 Igor Veligan along with pianist Natsuki Fukasawa released a titled "Voices if Eastern Europe" featuring violin and piano sonatas by Enescu, Skoryk and Babadjanian.

Recent solo appearances with symphony orchestra include Bartok Viola Concerto, Prokofiev violin concertos No.1 and No.2 and others.

Mr. Veligan is a founder and violin/viola teacher at the Young Talents Music School. Many of his students are winners of numerous local and state competitions.



Simona Snitkovsky, Voice and Piano

Simona Snitkovsky began her studies at St. Petersburg Conservatory in 1983. She earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in piano performance and completed her post-graduate studies, equivalent to a doctorate of music, in piano performance with an emphasis in chamber music and accompanying. She coached for a short while at the State University of Music and the Performing Arts in Stuttgart, Germany, then further polished her coaching skills at the St. Petersburg Conservatory and at the Mariinsky Theater, under the baton of Valery Gergiev, where Simona worked with Anna Netrebko and other outstanding artists.

As an accompanist, Simona has toured with the Poland Philharmonic, helped lead master classes at the conservatory, and partnered with violinists and vocalists in achieving competition awards in Italy, Sicily and Russia.

Simona relocated to California in 2001, and soon established a reputation with her solid coaching and accompanying abilities at Lyric Opera of San Francisco and Opera San Jose. She remains at Opera San Jose as a principal coach, and directs the Opera Workshop class at San Jose State University.



Nancy Daggett Jensen, Piano

Nancy Daggett Jensen, a Master Teacher certified by the Music Teachers National Association, is an Independent piano teacher in Los Altos, CA. Marquis Who's Who in America awarded her a Lifetime Achievement Award, Top Educator and Humanitarian Award.

Her students have won honors in both Regional and State competitions. Nancy is an experienced piano judicator and was the Certificate of Merit Chair for the Music Teachers Association of California from 1974-1979 and Panel Chair from 2007-2013. Having served several terms as President of the Los Altos Branch of the Music Teachers Association, she is now Certificate of Merit Chair for the Branch.

Nancy has been on the Steinway Society Board for over twelve years and served as Artistic Director since 2008 to present.



Marsha Rocklin, Piano

Marsha Rocklin earned a Bachelor's Degree in Music from Sacramento State and Master's Degree from San Jose State University. In her home studio she teaches students from age six through high school age and beyond. Marsha was elected to serve as the president of the Los Altos Music Teachers Association of California Branch for several years. She is a member of Fortnightly, The Palo-Alto Two Piano Club, and the SAI music fraternity, and has performed locally with several piano partners.

Marsha is an experienced judge who is often invited to judge musical events such as the Music Teachers Association of California Certificate of Merit Test, National Guild of Piano Teachers, California Association of Professional Music Teachers, and others.