



## October 2016 Newsletter

The October 1 luncheon benefitting Burlingame Music Club (BMC) was a huge success! Forty-six members were present to welcome the teacher-honorees, their prize-winning students/parents, and, of course, our Keynote Speaker, Ben Simon, Artistic Director, San Francisco Chamber Orchestra and Palo Alto Chamber Orchestra and his young but very talented PACO musicians, over 80 in all! The atmosphere was warm, festive and fun-loving. Roz introduced her friends in the Chinese American community to BMC for the first time and their responses were very positive. The event received \$7,000 after expenses and BMC is most grateful for a \$10,000 donation from a former member, Patricia Kirkbride, to show her renewed interest in the music program for the 2016-17 season. The 3-part program may be highlighted below:

The teachers were honored together with their students and parents. *Ruby Pleasure*, teacher of voice at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, said that her students take away “a piece of her heart” whenever they leave her. Teacher *Sumi Nagasawa* wrote “Oh, what a wonderful BMC event this afternoon at the SM Library. I can only imagine how much time, effort, energy, and planning you must have put into for preparing such a great event. Thank you BMC for the lovely charm award. Under this outstanding leadership, BMC will grow ever so strongly.” Another teacher of piano, *Erna Gulabyan*, who was unable to attend, wrote “Thank you so much for all your work. Your competition is giving such a wonderful opportunity for kids to explore their potential to the highest level. It's a great challenge that otherwise they wouldn't experience. I can't tell you how much, as a teacher, I appreciate what you are doing. Thank you!”

Artistic Director Ben Simon followed in a very moving but humorous way, sharing memories of his many teachers. He remarked, “we always stand on the shoulders of the teachers before us and we, in turn, pass on our legacy to our students...” The BMC also announced two Inaugural President's Awards--one for strings in honor of Ben Simon and one for piano in honor of Patricia Kirkbride. Each will be a first prize of \$1,000.

The third part of the program was the performances of two ensembles of middle school musicians. A couple of 6<sup>th</sup> graders mentioned that they started their music education at the young age of 5! These young talents played with such poise and confidence that the audience was mesmerized.

So, members and guests, thank you all for coming. We hope you will attend our future monthly concerts and become part of the BMC Family.

Best wishes, Roz



**Karen's Music Corner:**

For the first time in many years we have 28 competitors for our music competition, which is just wonderful!! Due to the large number we are going to look for alternate venues to have some of these young people perform and this will include perhaps some Sunday afternoon and evening performances at locations to be determined later. The PACO ensembles at the luncheon were wonderful and it's great to see so many young people starting music at a young age and enjoying themselves so much. Music is a great discipline. It teaches the young people savoir-faire in public and a sense of sophistication that is recognizable even at a young age. Thank you PACO.

Our professional artists for our November meeting will be the Golden Balboa Quintet comprised of members of the San Francisco Opera Orchestra, musicians from the School of the Arts in San Francisco and freelancers who have played with the Adventures in Music program. December will bring us the Sequoia high school chorus under the direction of Dr. Othello Jefferson, a marvelous musician, an artists' exhibit and a celebratory end-of-year party, *not to be missed*.

In January we will have Ron Sfarzo and Andrei Bostan, two very well-known musicians with very interesting lives that they will tell us about. February will be the Valentine's Day concert with Clairdee and Ken French, two wonderful San Francisco musicians. Clairdee is an internationally known singer who right now is performing at the Metropolitan Room in New York. What a treat this concert will be. For St. Patrick's Day in March, we will have Scottish Thistle comprised of members of the San Francisco Opera Orchestra Patricia Heller and Patricia Farrell, who will absolutely bring out the Celtic in all of us. April's program will be announced at a later date. Our final program in May will feature Mike Galisatus and friends. Mike is the professor of big band at College of San Mateo, a well-known musician in this area who is a great entertainer. He will bring the year and the program to a close with the big bang!

So, our lineup is very different this year. Change is good and we're off to a great start.  
Thank you everyone!

Karen



We look forward to seeing you at the November BMC meeting, 1:15 PM Monday November 14, 2016 at the Burlingame Woman's Club, 241 Park Road, Burlingame.

**Suggestions? Comments? Contact us:** Karen ([pianokaren@gmail.com](mailto:pianokaren@gmail.com)) or Roz ([rozkooh@hotmail.com](mailto:rozkooh@hotmail.com)) <http://www.burlingamemusicclub.net>

Burlingame Music Club, P.O. Box 8, San Mateo 94401

Memories of a delightful celebration of BMC's 86 years of excellence:

More at <http://www.burlingamemusicclub.net/Photos.htm>



Invitation on Screen



Certificate from Congresswoman Jackie Speier



The 2 Co-Presidents Roz Koo and Karen Hutchinson



Karen Hutchinson, Pat Kirkbride, Roz Koo, Barbara Braun



Karen Hutchinson with Teachers Ruby Pleasure (l) and Cathy Cook



Speaker Ben Simon





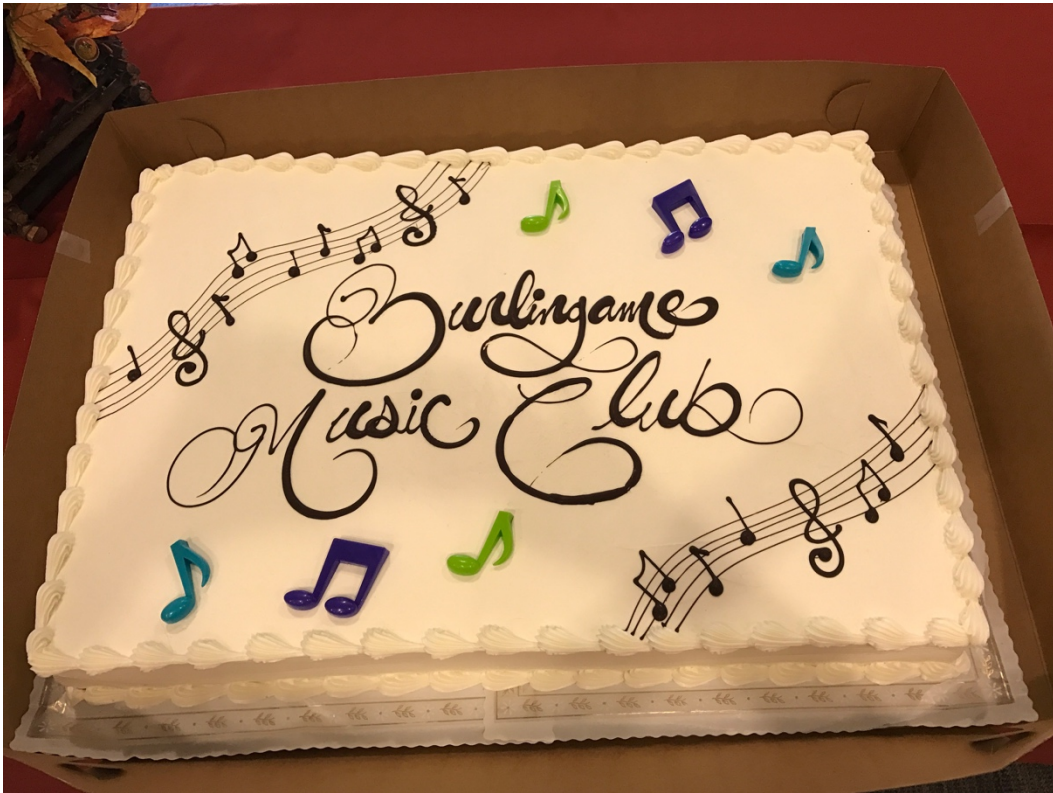
Ben Simon with his PACO quartet



Head table



A party scene with Supporter Jan Wolfe and Parent Sharon Spivak



A gift from Copenhagen Bakery