

Title of Talk on Oct 19:

Beethoven--Beyond Heroics and Titanic Struggles

Description:

Beethoven is regarded universally as one of the giants in the history of mankind because his iconic works (Symphonies No. 3, 5 and 9) reflect the struggles and ultimate triumph in life, which all of us can relate to. His music, however, is more than that. In this talk, I would like to show an appreciation to his many other sides. These include: his innovative ideas regarding rhythm, harmony and tone color; and the variety of moods and styles depicted in his music. The music we will study will be chosen from well-known piano pieces like *Für Elise* composed in different periods of his life.

Bio of Betty Woo

Betty Woo received her D.M.A. degree in performance practice from Stanford University and the Artist Diploma from the Royal Academy of Music in London. At the start of her performing career, she received a special prize for the best performance of a twentieth-century piece in the Gina Bachauer International Competition and a special award in the Carnegie Hall International American Music Competition. She has made major solo appearances in London and New York, conducted masterclasses, gave lectures at conservatories in Hong Kong (her hometown) and Shanghai, and appeared in such festivals as The Fringe Festival in Edinburgh, Olympics in Washington, Yachats in Oregon and Music in the Mountain in California. In December 2019, she collaborated with other Hong Kong-born pianists to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Cultural Center in Hong Kong. She has also collaborated with many diverse groups and performers in the Bay Area, such as the contemporary music groups Earplay and the San Francisco Contemporary Chamber Players, the dance companies Oakland Ballet, Morphoses/The Wheeldon Company Group and the Paul Taylor Dance Company, and cellist Jennifer Culp. She is also a member of the Trio Brillante. A very successful teacher, she was on the faculty of Holy Names University and San Francisco Conservatory for many years. At present, Ms. Woo teaches piano at University of California, Berkeley, and frequently gives talks to various music teacher groups in the Bay Area. She is also a board member of the MTAC Alameda County Branch, and music consultant for US Open Music Competition, and has judged in numerous local competitions.