CVCC

NOVEMBER
2026

Chagrin Valley Camera Club

www.ChagrinValleyCameraClub.com



Photo by Brenda Traffis

NEWSLETTER CONTENTS

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ARTICLE

Creating This Newsletter Has Become Fun Again

By Chad Barr

I take this newsletter seriously. Our presenters put years into developing their craft, and our members create work worth celebrating. They deserve more than a name, a date, and a few photographs squeezed onto a page. They deserve a publication that gives their work the attention it has earned.

But producing that publication has meant hours upon hours of work. Gathering materials, shaping biographies and presentation descriptions, selecting images, and then arranging everything in Canva required considerable time and patience. I enjoyed deciding what to share with you. The repetitive production work was another matter.

This month, that experience began to change.

Most of you know about my fascination with AI and its growing role in my personal and professional life. Over the past several months, my team and I have been creating applications for a variety of purposes. For this issue, I developed a guided AI workflow specifically for our newsletter.

It leads me through the process, one step at a time. I provide the materials our presenters send, and it helps organize them, refine the writing, and consider which images work well together. When information is missing, it can help research a presenter’s website, with facts and image permissions checked before use. It also keeps track of what I have approved and what we still need.

I remain the editor. The decisions about what belongs, what matters to our members, and how we represent someone’s work remain mine. But I no longer have to personally handle every repetitive production step.

The biggest surprise? Creating this newsletter has become fun again.

ARTICLE

Creating This Newsletter Has Become Fun Again (continued)

Some of you have already seen me use AI to help critique photographs when members request feedback. I have found its observations useful, sometimes more useful than a human judge's assessment. That does not make it the final authority. It gives us another perspective to consider.

Others have seen the photography outing planner I created to find places and events to photograph based on my interests, available time, and willingness to travel. These are practical ways AI can support our photography without changing the photographs themselves.

I know the word "AI" makes some photographers uneasy. Questions about authenticity, authorship, and creative choices deserve serious discussion. Many photographers once questioned digital cameras and editing software, too. That history does not settle today's questions, but it reminds us that we can examine a tool before deciding where it belongs.

If you are curious, try one small experiment:

• Plan an outing. Ask AI for three photography opportunities within an hour of home, suited to your preferred subjects and available time. Request current sources, then verify access, hours, and event details.

• Practice seeing. Ask for a thirty-minute exercise in photographing light, reflections, or repeating patterns with the camera you already own. Take the assignment outside and make it your own.

Noémia Prada's upcoming presentation, "Is Reality Real?", gives us another opportunity to explore the relationship between photography and AI imagery. Come curious and ready to question what you see.

For now, try one experiment that supports your photography without altering an image. See whether it helps you notice more, explore somewhere new, or enjoy the process a little more.

It certainly has for me.

Stay inspired,

Chad
President & Program Chair
Chagrin Valley Camera Club



Charles Brooks

Architecture in Music

November 3, 2026 | 7 PM EST | via Zoom

Charles Brooks brings a musician’s understanding to a photographer’s eye. Based in Melbourne, Australia, he spent more than two decades as a professional cellist before turning to photography full time in 2016.

His musical career took him to concert halls around the world. Today, his photographs reveal instruments from a perspective even their players rarely see. His work has appeared in publications including National Geographic, Der Spiegel, The Telegraph, and Die Zeit.

In “Architecture in Music,” his two creative worlds meet, inviting us to discover extraordinary spaces hidden inside familiar instruments.

www.charlesbrooks.info



Charles Brooks portrait
Charles Brooks

Charles Brooks

Architecture in Music

November 3, 2026 | 7 PM EST | via Zoom

What looks like an immense chamber might be the inside of a violin. A seemingly endless passageway could belong to a piano.

Charles Brooks's "Architecture in Music" reveals the hidden interiors of musical instruments, transforming small spaces into worlds of unexpected scale. His photographs expose craftsmanship, repairs, textures, and structures that usually remain unseen.

Using specialist medical endoscopes, carefully controlled light, and techniques that combine exposures for remarkable depth and detail, Charles creates images that challenge our sense of perspective.

For photographers, this work offers an invitation to reconsider familiar subjects. What might we discover by changing our viewpoint, exploring an overlooked detail, or looking where others rarely look?

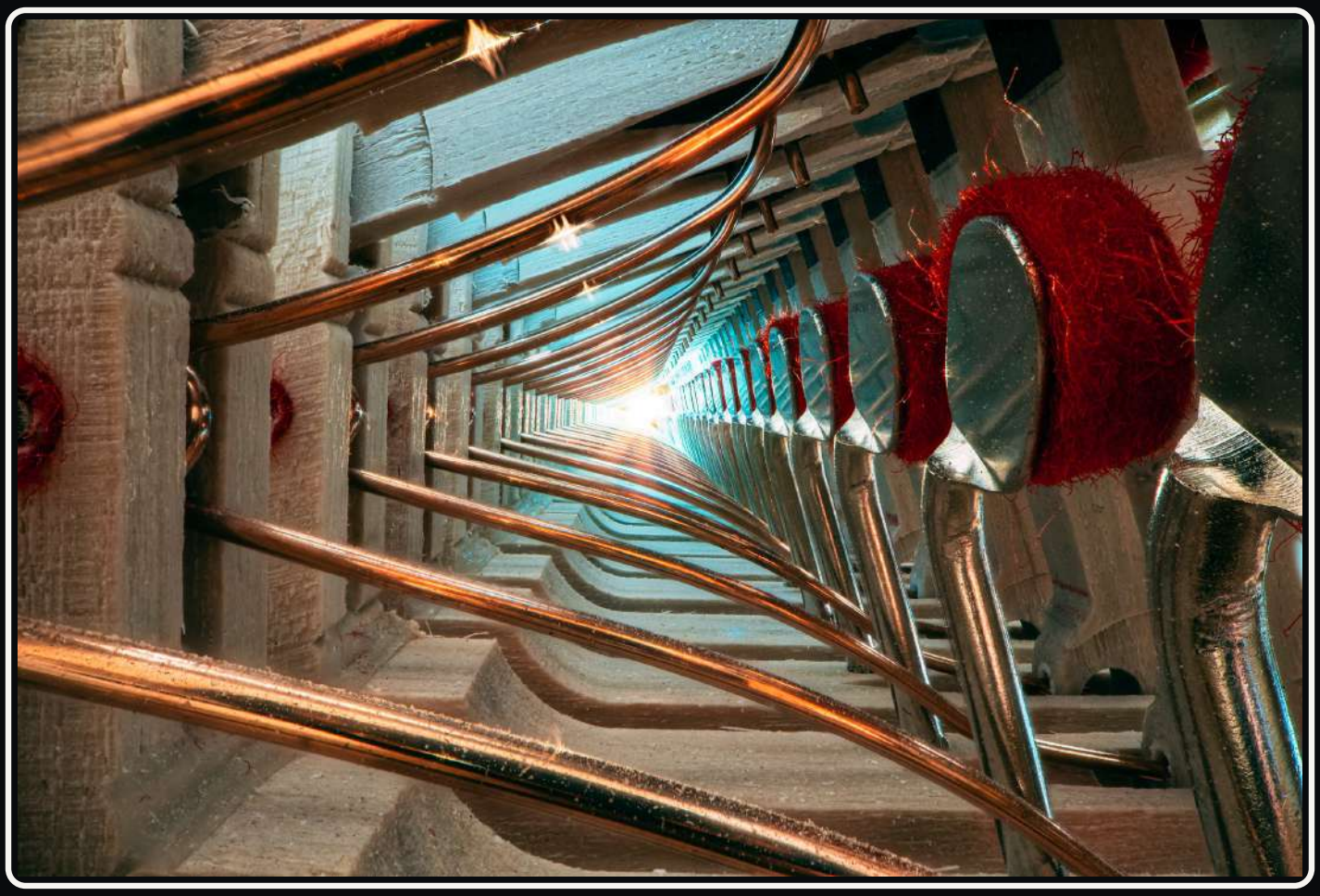
Join us for this unusual meeting of music, photography, and visual discovery.



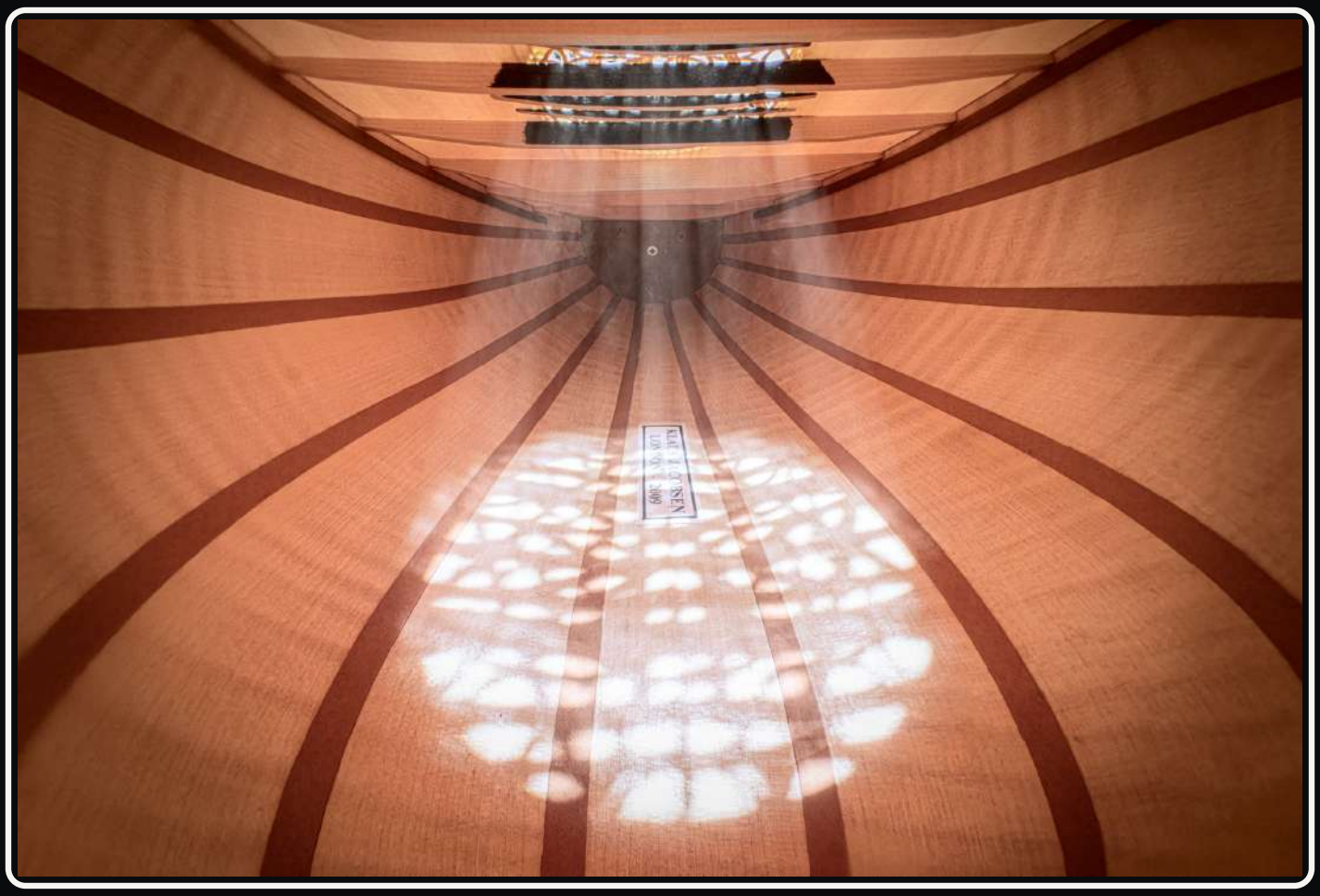
Meinel & Herold Bandoneón
Charles Brooks



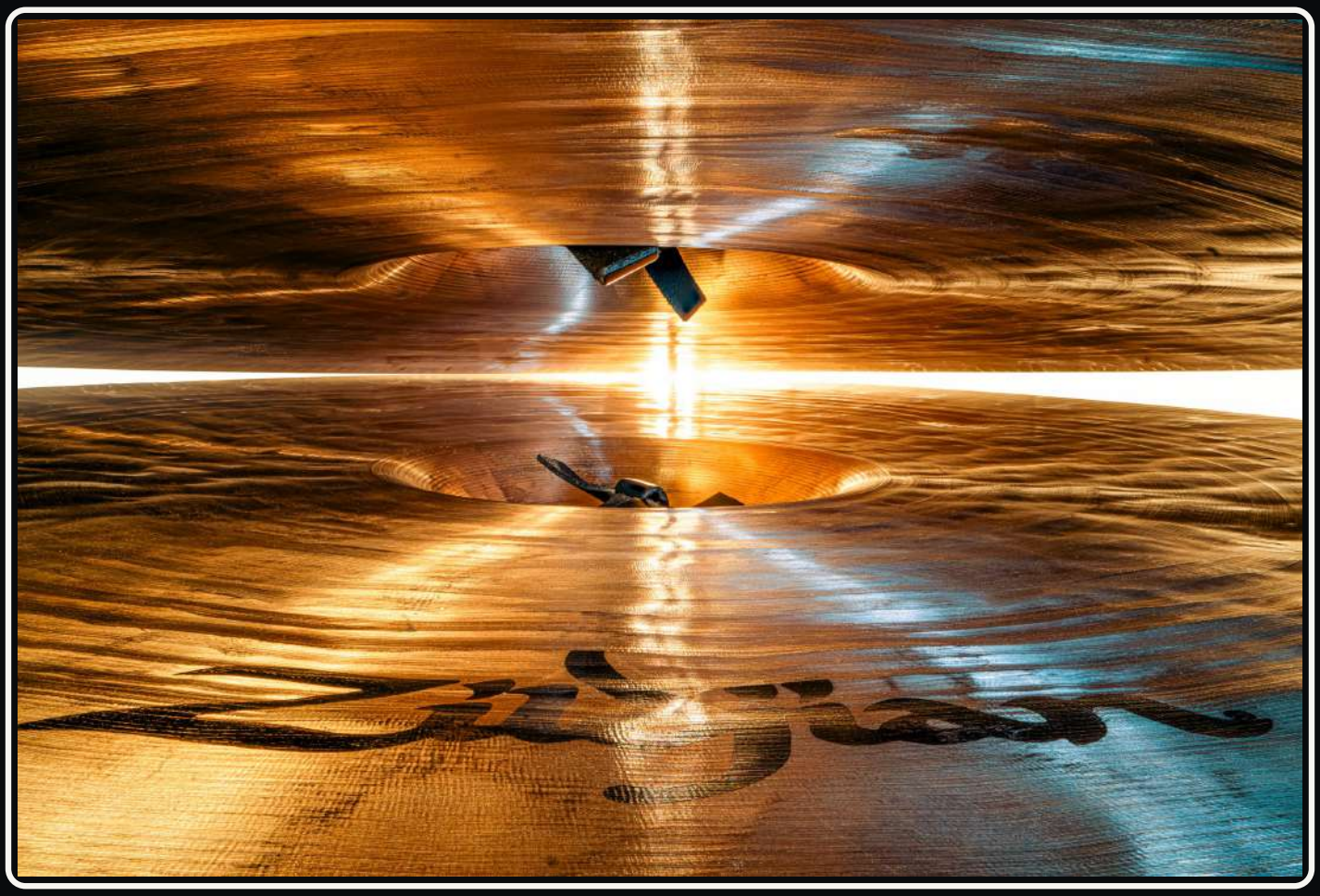
Stradivarius Violin
Charles Brooks



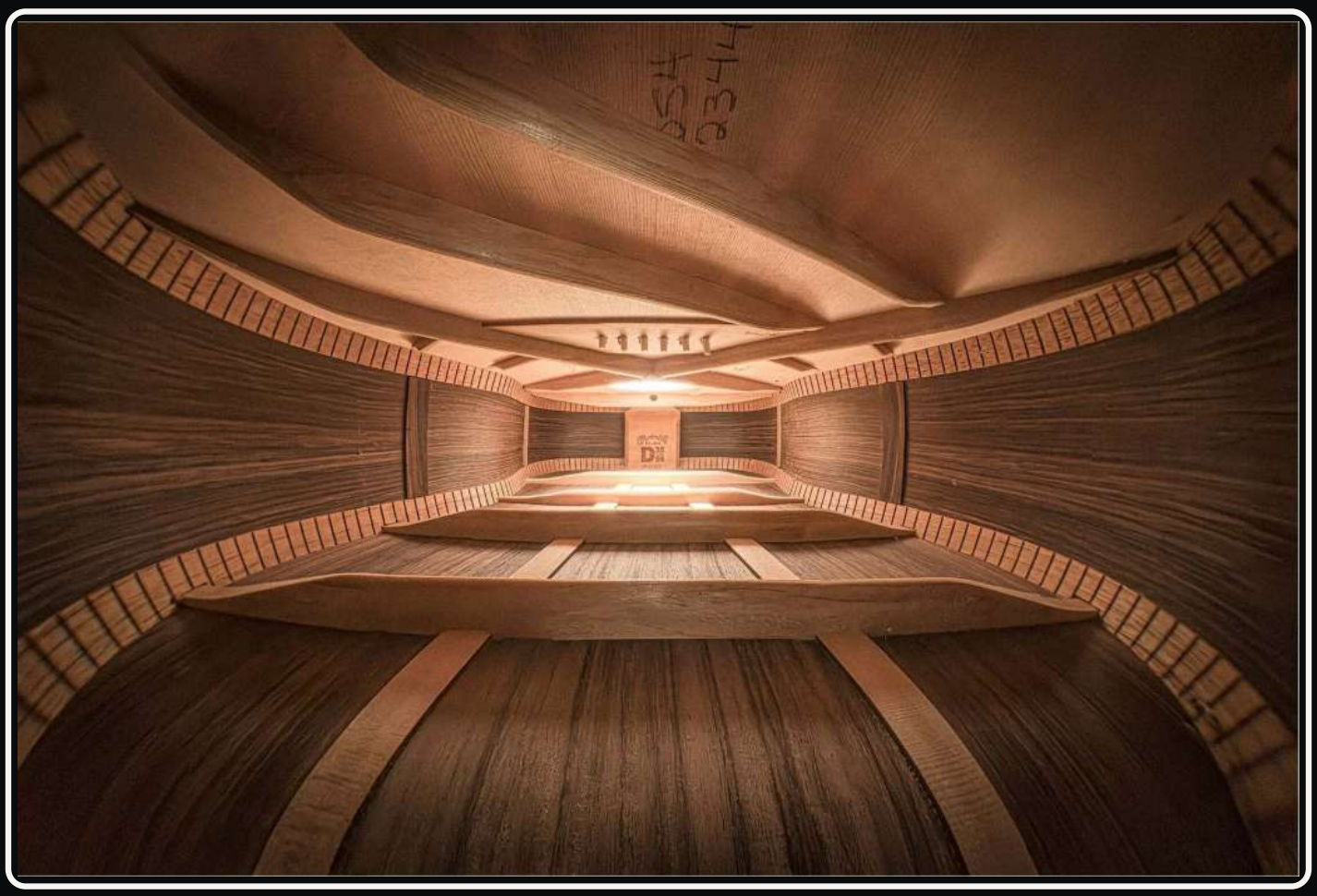
Steinway Grand Piano
Charles Brooks



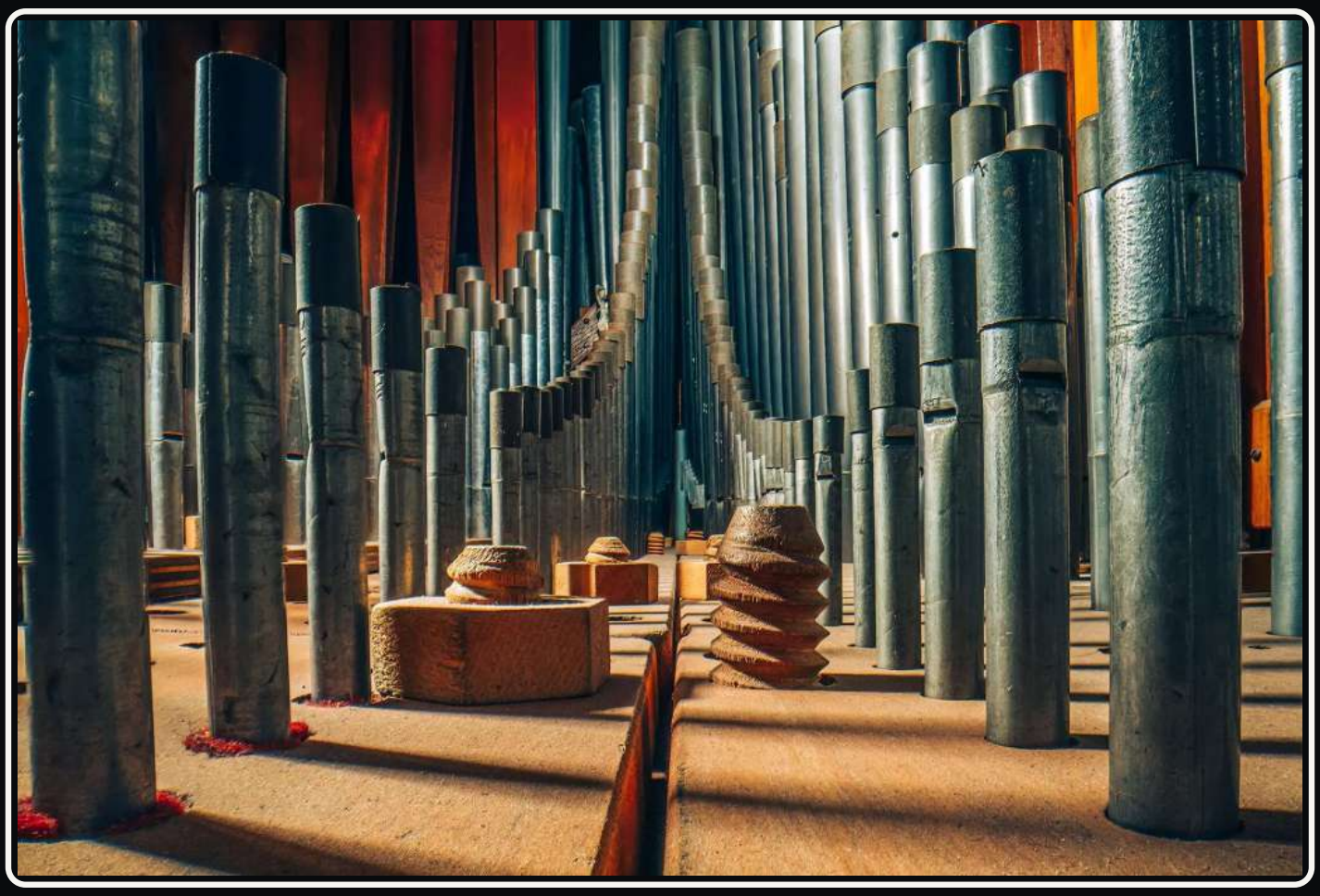
Klaus Jacobsen Lute
Charles Brooks



Zildjian Cymbals
Charles Brooks



Martin D35 Guitar.
Charles Brooks



St Marks Pipe Organ, Part 2.
Charles Brooks



Lockey Hill Cello Circa 1780, Part 1.
Charles Brooks

Imperfect Beauty: texture, age, decay

Tuesday, November 10, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. Eastern
Via Zoom, not at Beachwood Library
The Zoom invitation will be sent the week before the exhibition.

Please Note the Date Change

Our exhibition has moved from November 3 to November 10 to make room for Charles Brooks's "Architecture in Music" presentation on November 3. Please update your calendar.

Finding Beauty in What Time Has Changed

A weathered door. Peeling paint. A leaf nearing the end of its season. Beauty does not always arrive polished and perfect. Sometimes, the marks of age are what make a subject worth a closer look.

Our upcoming exhibition invites you to explore the unexpected beauty of weathered surfaces, aging objects, and the natural process of decay. Through texture, detail, and thoughtful composition, reveal the character in what time has altered.

The Brief

Look for subjects whose imperfections help tell their story. Rusting machinery, worn stone, faded fabric, cracked wood, or a wilting flower can offer rich possibilities. Your approach might be a close study of texture, an abstract arrangement of shapes and colors, or a wider scene that places those details in context.

Consider how light reveals a surface, how framing draws attention to a detail, and how your viewpoint can turn an overlooked subject into a compelling photograph.

This is an opportunity to experiment, share your interpretation, and discover how fellow members approach the same theme in different and creative ways.

Imperfect Beauty: texture, age, decay (continued)

How to Enter

• Submit up to three images.

• Clearly name or label each image with its title.

• Send each image as a high-resolution JPG to Chad@TheChadBarrGroup.com.

• I will acknowledge receipt within 24 hours. If you have not received an acknowledgment, please resend your images.

Submission deadline: 11:59 p.m. Eastern on Saturday, November 7, 2026

Want a Critique?

If you would like feedback on any or all of your submitted images, include “Critique Requested” in your email and identify which images you would like reviewed.

This is a chance to gain insight, perspective, and ideas for growth in a thoughtful, supportive environment.

I look forward to seeing the beauty you discover in the imperfect.

Submit images: Chad@TheChadBarrGroup.com

Lisa Cuchara

Wabi-Sabi

November 17, 2026 | 7 PM EST | via Zoom

Lisa Cuchara, PhD, is a photographer, educator, and OM SYSTEM Ambassador who finds creative possibilities in subjects others might overlook. From birds and flowers to rusty machinery and abandoned places, her work explores how light, texture, and perspective can transform the familiar into something unexpected.

Her teaching spans macro photography, light painting, still life, flowers, and post-processing, bringing technique and imagination together. With her husband, Tom, she runs a photography studio in Hamden, Connecticut.

Lisa encourages photographers to slow down, look beyond the obvious, and create images that express what a subject feels like. That approach is at the heart of “Wabi-Sabi,” her invitation to discover beauty in imperfection.

www.LisaTom.Photos



Lisa Cuchara

Lisa Cuchara

Wabi-Sabi

November 17, 2026 | 7 PM EST | via Zoom

What if the flower you walk past because of its imperfections is the most interesting photograph waiting to happen?

In “Wabi-Sabi,” Lisa Cuchara explores the beauty of imperfect and unconventional subjects. A fading leaf, an irregular blossom, or a weathered surface can offer character, texture, and visual possibilities that a flawless specimen may lack.

Drawing on the idea that beauty can be found in the old, the everyday, and the imperfect, Lisa invites us to slow down and notice what we usually overlook. Her subjects extend from nature’s subtle changes to old cars, abandoned equipment, and the abstract patterns that emerge as rust and decay reshape familiar objects.

For CVCC members, this program offers a fresh way to approach both familiar locations and new discoveries. Instead of searching only for perfect subjects, we can begin looking for the details that make an image distinctive.

Join Lisa for an invitation to see differently and find photographic possibilities hiding in plain sight.



Courtesy of Lisa and Tom Cuchara



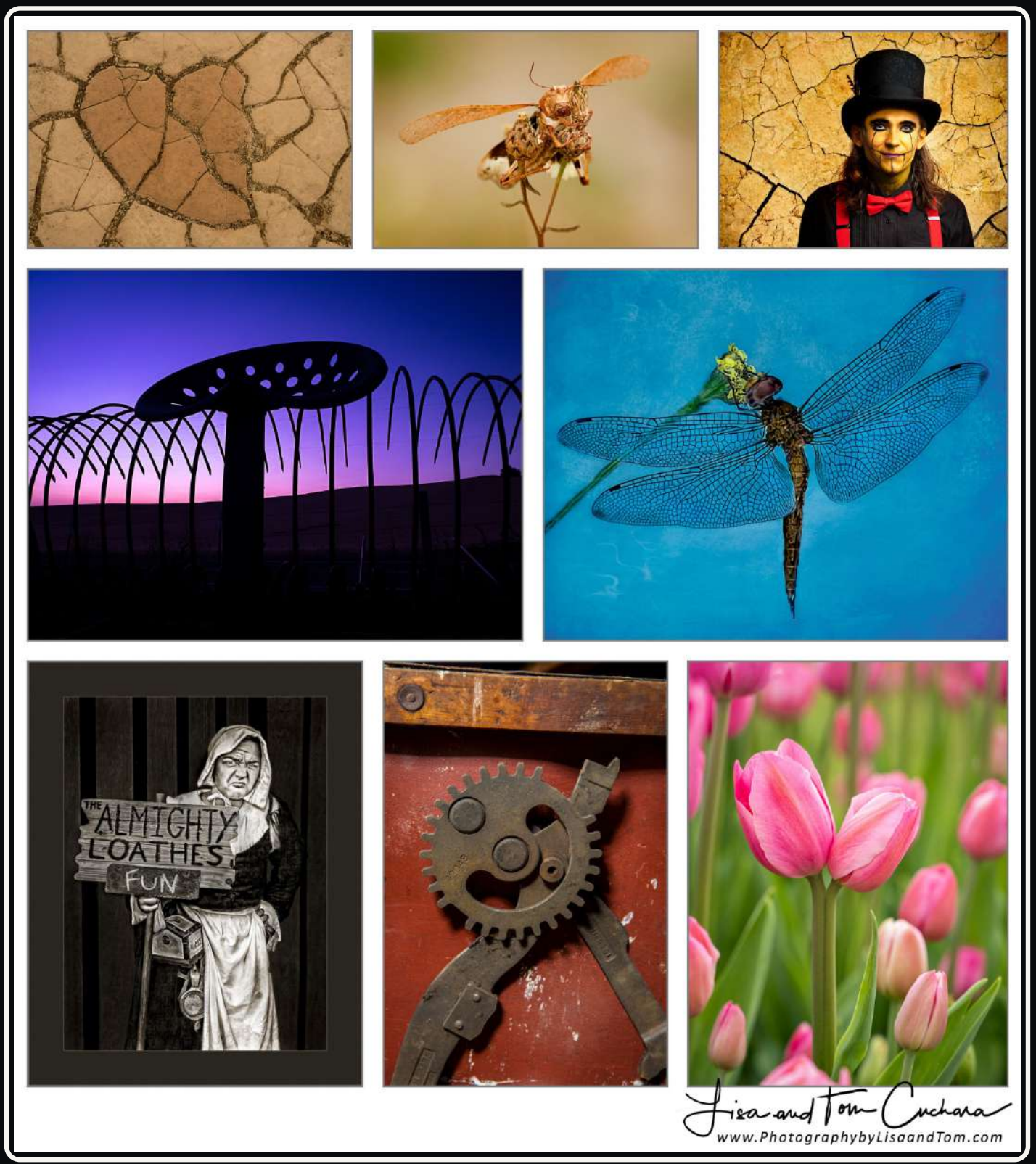
Courtesy of Lisa and Tom Cuchara



Courtesy of Lisa and Tom Cuchara



Courtesy of Lisa and Tom Cuchara



Courtesy of Lisa and Tom Cuchara

Noémia Prada

Is Reality Real?

November 22, 2026 | 10:00 AM EST | via Zoom

“I do not document the world; I translate its silences into images.”

Portuguese photographer and digital artist Noémia Prada explores identity, memory, displacement, and the human experience. Based in Lisbon, she brings a background in journalism, illustration, painting, and photography, along with academic training in Communication Sciences and Sociology.

Having lived and worked across Europe, Africa, and the United States while accompanying her husband’s diplomatic career, Noémia draws on a wide range of cultural and social experiences. Her work takes shape in carefully developed visual series, where images connect through mood, composition, and meaning.

Her artist’s eye is drawn to contrasts: presence and absence, hope and loss, reality and imagination. Whether working with a camera or digital tools, she uses images to explore those tensions and give form to emotion. For Noémia, creating is both a personal necessity and an invitation to the viewer to pause, look closely, and consider what lies beneath the surface.

www.noemiaprada.com



Noémia Prada

Noémia Prada

Is Reality Real?

November 22, 2026 | 10:00 AM EST | via Zoom

How much can we trust what we see in an image?

In “Is Reality Real?”, Noémia Prada brings together photographs and AI-generated images, paired to echo and challenge one another. Sharing a consistent visual language, the images are intentionally difficult to distinguish. A photograph may seem artificial; an invented scene may feel entirely real.

Moving between street photography and portraiture, Noémia explores subjects we often associate with photographic truth. Each pairing invites us to look beyond first impressions and consider how mood, composition, and our own expectations shape what we believe.

As both a photographer and an AI image creator, she approaches these tools as parts of the same artistic practice. The presentation opens a conversation about perception, authenticity, and the changing relationship between images and reality.

Study the four pairs on the following pages before the presentation. Which images do you believe began with a camera, and what makes you think so? We’re leaving their origins unidentified so you can bring your own impressions to the session.



Reality
Noémia Prada



Fragility
Noémia Prada



Humanity
Noémia Prada



Misfit
Noémia Prada



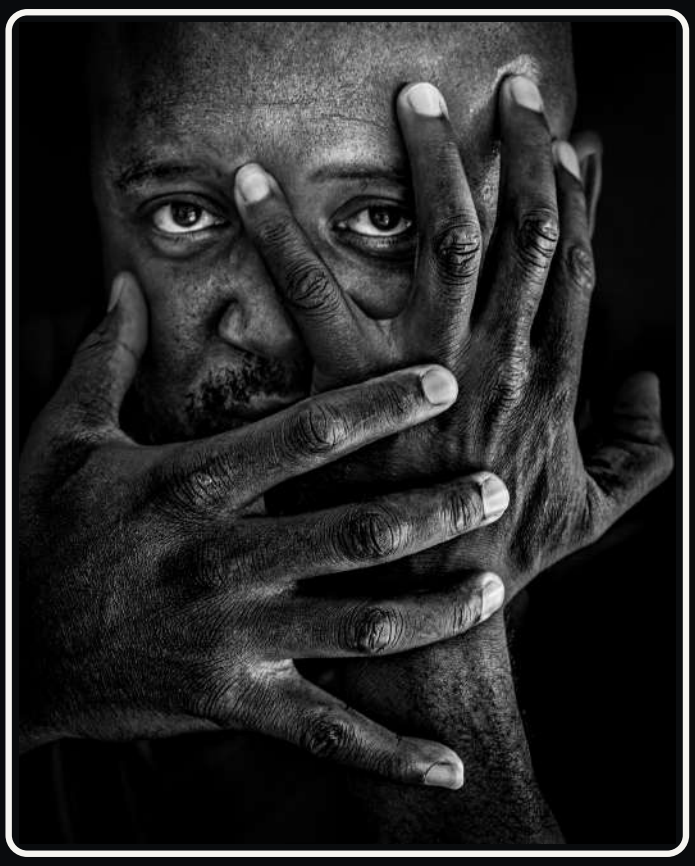
A Shared Waiting
Noémia Prada



Erosion
Noémia Prada



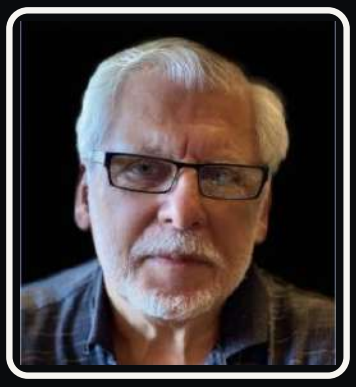
Who Am I?
Noémia Prada



Truth
Noémia Prada

MEMBER SHOW

Celebrating Skip Kremer: Variations on a Theme



Georg “Skip” Kremer

A photograph does not end on the screen. The paper it is printed on can change its texture, depth, and character. This December, CVCC member and former president Georg “Skip” Kremer invites us to explore those possibilities in “Variations on a Theme,” a collaborative exhibition with fine art printer Gus Zimmerman.

The exhibition grew out of a workshop Skip and Gus organized in early 2025. Since then, they have tested more than 120 papers, exploring how different surfaces enhance different images. For this show, they selected more than a dozen fine art papers, with some photographs presented on contrasting papers so visitors can compare the results side by side.

Most prints will be displayed without glass, allowing visitors to appreciate the surface and texture of the paper itself. The exhibition includes landscapes, architectural studies, infrared photographs, and imaginative interpretations, with work presented in both color and monochrome.

Skip brings more than forty years of photographic experience to this project and served four years as CVCC president. We are proud to celebrate his continuing creative work and encourage members, friends, and fellow photography enthusiasts to attend.

Whether you make your own prints or simply enjoy photography, this is an opportunity to look closely, discover how paper becomes part of the image, and support a member whose contributions have helped shape our club.

MEMBER SHOW

Celebrating Skip Kremer: Variations on a Theme

Plan Your Visit

December 6 through 24, 2026
Opening reception: Sunday, December 6, 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.
Beachwood Branch, Cuyahoga County Public Library
25501 Shaker Blvd., Beachwood
Free and open to the public during regular library hours.



Georg Kremer

MEMBER SHOW

Celebrating Skip Kremer: Variations on a Theme



Georg Kremer

Club News: More Ways to Connect

Our club grows stronger when we learn together, share our photographs, and introduce others to what we do. We are making improvements that support all three.

Take a Fresh Look at Our Website

We have significantly enhanced several areas of our website. The revised About page gives visitors a clearer introduction to our club. The newsletter archive makes it easier to explore past issues, and the updated Monday Photo Discussion page helps members learn about this opportunity to share images and exchange ideas.

We have also simplified the Join Today page and made the membership application easier to find. If you know someone who enjoys photography, invite them to explore the site and discover our community.

Looking Ahead Together

Our recent board meeting focused on ways to strengthen the member experience. Among the priorities discussed:

• Bringing back field trips: Creating opportunities to get out with our cameras, explore locations, and learn alongside fellow members.

• Expanding education and mentoring: Helping members develop their skills while encouraging experienced photographers to share their knowledge.

• Supporting exhibitions and competitions: Building on opportunities to display our work, exchange perspectives, and celebrate photographic achievement.

We will share specific plans as they develop. If you have a location to suggest, a skill to share, or an interest in helping, please let me know.

Follow the Club on Facebook

Our Facebook page is now easy to reach from the club website. Follow along for announcements, club news, and more exciting activities as they take shape. It is another way to stay connected between meetings and help others discover CVCC.

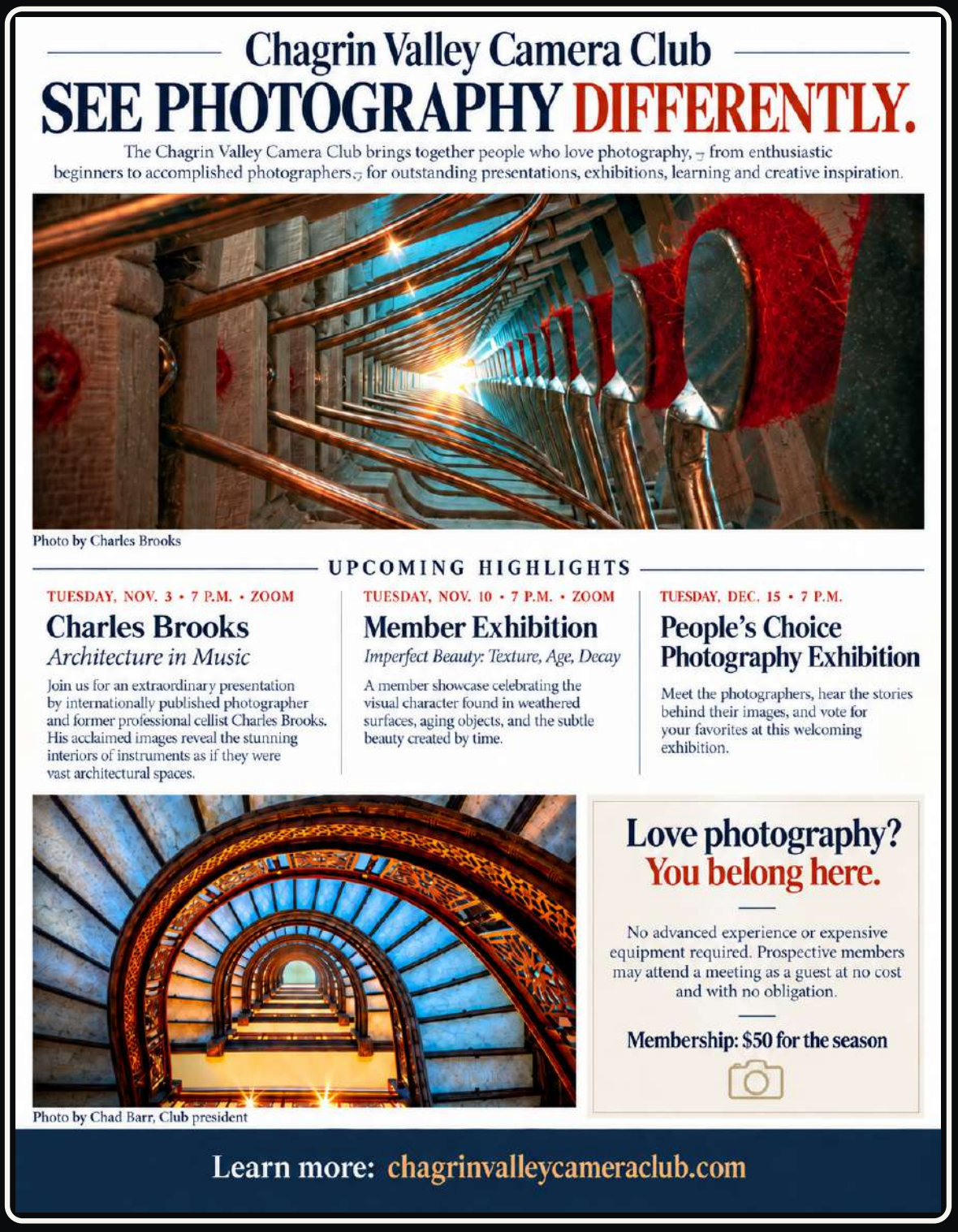
CVCC in BeachwoodBuzz

Thanks to Debby Rapoport’s help, our club continues to be featured in BeachwoodBuzz. This ongoing visibility introduces more people to our programs, our photography, and the welcoming community we have built.

The accompanying promotional page highlights upcoming events and invites readers to join us. Please share it with someone who might enjoy discovering the club.

Visit chagrinvalleycameraclub.com to explore what is new.

CVCC in BeachwoodBuzz



Thank you to Debby Rapoport for helping promote CVCC in BeachwoodBuzz.

Member Events, Exhibitions, and Competitions

Photography is not just about taking pictures, it’s about seeing differently, trying new approaches, and daring yourself to grow. Our exhibitions, competitions, and shows are designed to push your skills, inspire new ideas, and bring the club together. Bring your work, your curiosity, and your courage.

November 10 | Member Exhibition

Imperfect Beauty: texture, age, decay
7:00 p.m. Eastern via Zoom, not at Beachwood Library.
New date: moved from November 3. Submit up to three images by November 7 at 11:59 p.m. Eastern. The Zoom invitation will be sent the week before the exhibition. Full entry guide on page 14.

December 6 through 24 | Member Show

Variations on a Theme
Georg “Skip” Kremer and Gus Zimmerman at Beachwood Library. Opening reception: December 6, 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. See page 28.

December 15 | People’s Choice

7:00 p.m. at the library. Print Categories: Open.
Bring your strongest prints. The room votes. Simple, high energy, and a great way to see what resonates. More information to follow.

Member Events, Exhibitions, and Competitions (continued)

February 2 | Competition

7:00 p.m. at the library. Still Life and Light: Glass, Water, Ice, Tabletop.
This competition challenges photographers to transform ordinary tabletop subjects into compelling compositions through the creative use of light. Glass, water, ice, reflections, transparency, and shadow can become powerful elements for exploring form, mood, and visual imagination.

March 16 | Exhibition

7:00 p.m. at the library. Black & White Only.
Stripped of color, this exhibition focuses attention on light, shadow, contrast, texture, form, and emotion. Photographers are invited to explore the expressive power of monochrome and create images in which composition and tonal relationships carry the story.

April 6 | Annual CVCC May Show

7:00 p.m. at the library.
Print Categories: General Color, B&W, Creative.
New date: April 6, 2027. Originally scheduled for May 4.
More information to follow.

Please Note

Global edits and exposure blending are fine. No complete AI image generation.

Officers and Board Members

CHAGRIN VALLEY CAMERA CLUB | 2026-2027

President & Program Chair

Chad Barr

Vice-President of Education

Ken Weiss

Treasurer

Kathie Smith

Executive Council

Skip Kremer | Errol Bellon | Ken Weiss | Marina Neyman
Larry Osher | Morry Burke | Bob Trinnes | Les Greenberg

Exhibitions

Larry Osher, Chair
Margaret Konecky

Field Trips

Les Greenberg

Webmaster

Shibing Huang, The Chad Barr Group

Facebook Administrators

Ken Weiss | Skip Kremer | Chad Barr

Monday Critiques

Les Greenberg | Errol Bellon

Newsletters

Chad Barr

Additional Resources

Explore and Connect

Our Website

Club news, programs, and information

Facebook Group

Connect with members and club activity

Video Archive

Past programs, competitions, and lessons. Members only; password required.

Newsletter Archive

Explore past issues of the club newsletter.

Comments and Concerns

Contact Chad Barr, President and Program Chair

Field Trip Suggestions

Share ideas for future club outings

Monday Photo Discussion Group

Every Monday at 9:15 AM via Zoom
Hosted by Les Greenberg

Contact Les to join

Join or Renew Your Membership

Become part of the Chagrin Valley Camera Club, a welcoming and growing community for photographers of all experience levels. Local and distance members enjoy exceptional presentations, competitions, exhibitions, educational resources, and opportunities to strengthen their craft.

2026-2027 membership form on page 39.

2026-2027 Program Schedule

September through December 2026

All times Eastern.

Date	Presenter / Event	Time	Venue	Program
Sep 1	Lee Hoy	7:00 PM	Zoom	Elevate Your Images
Sep 15	Gerri Jones	7:00 PM	Zoom	Artistry Beyond the Lens
Oct 6	Bobbi Lane	7:00 PM	Zoom	Venice Carnival
Oct 20	Angela Poggioni	7:00 PM	Zoom	The Gentle Red Giant
Nov 3	Charles Brooks	7:00 PM	Zoom	Architecture in Music
Nov 10	Exhibition	7:00 PM	Zoom	Imperfect Beauty: Texture, Age, Decay
Nov 17	Lisa Cuchara	7:00 PM	Zoom	Wabi-Sabi
Nov 22	Noémia Prada	10:00 AM	Zoom	Is Reality Real?
Dec 1	Susan Magnano	7:00 PM	Zoom	Illuminating Nightscapes: Mastering the Art of Light Painting
Dec 15	People’s Choice	7:00 PM	Library	Print Categories: Open

2026-2027 Program Schedule (continued)

January through May 2027

All times Eastern.

Date	Presenter / Event	Time	Venue	Program
Jan 5	Roxanne Bouché Overton	7:00 PM	Zoom	Excursions Into Liminal Time
Jan 19	Gerri Jones	7:00 PM	Zoom	Photographing Refracted Glassware with Reflections
Feb 2	Competition	7:00 PM	Library	Still Life and Light: Glass, Water, Ice, Tabletop
Feb 16	Ray Schneider	7:30 PM	Zoom	Intentional Composition Through Photography
Mar 2	Mark Bowie	7:00 PM	Zoom	Forests
Mar 16	Exhibition	7:00 PM	Library	Black & White Only
Mar 21	Tomasz Trzebiatowski	1:00 PM	Zoom	Chad Interviews the Editor-in-Chief of FRAMES Magazine
Apr 6	Annual CVCC May Show	7:00 PM	Library	Print Categories: General Color, B&W, Creative
Apr 20	Polina Plotnikova	7:00 PM	Zoom	In and Out
May 4	TBD	7:00 PM	TBD	TBD
May 18	Dan Katz	7:00 PM	Zoom	Human Art: Photographing the Nude Figure

Membership Registration

CHAGRIN VALLEY CAMERA CLUB | 2026-2027

Please print clearly.

Full Name _____

Email Address _____

Phone Number _____

Street Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Spouse Name, if applicable _____

Spouse Email and Phone, optional _____

Membership Options | Select One

[ ] $50 Full Membership, includes spouse
[ ] $25 Student or Distance Membership

Distance membership is for those who live far away or cannot attend in person because of health, mobility, or driving limitations. Distance members enjoy all other club privileges but may not participate in the annual May Show or People's Choice.

Pay by Check

Make checks payable to Chagrin Valley Camera Club. Mail the completed form and payment to:
Kathie Smith, Treasurer CVCC
5659 Wellington Road
Lyndhurst, Ohio 44124

Pay Electronically

Venmo @Chad-Barr-141
chadbarr@mac.com
Cash App $chadbarr1
Chad Barr
Include member's full name, phone number, and email address.

Questions? Chad@TheChadBarrGroup.com | 440-715-5247

Chad Barr, President and Program Chair