



CERTIFICATE OF MERIT NEWSLETTER

August 2011

CM Information Chair: Sue Scofield jandscofield@earthlink.net
October Newsletter deadline – September 30, 2011

2011-2012 CM CALENDAR

Registration

- | | |
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| August 31 | Deadline for Branch Chairs to get their requested dates to the Scheduling Chairs and Instrumental Chairs. |
| September 15 | Database open for Registration. |
| September 18 | CM Council Meeting. |
| September 30 | Deadline for all Instrument Chairs to be listed in the Database. |
| October 1-31 | Evaluator Choice Form posted at Teacher's Home page. |
| November 15 | 11:59 p.m. Database closed for Registration for all branches. Branches may not make their own registration deadline. No late registration. |
| November 16 | Fees, one teacher and one check, must be submitted directly to the Branch Chair and must be postmarked no later than November 16. Work Contracts (if required by Branch) MUST also be submitted at this time! |
| December 15 | Branch CM fees due to State Office. Check from Branch to State Office for the branch CM fees must be postmarked by 12/15 or a 1% late fee will be imposed. |
| December 15: | Evaluator Schedules must be completed. |

Enter Evaluation Information Online - Evaluator Input - Panel Input

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| January 2 | Database open for entering evaluation information and Repertoire online. Note: Individual branch will set its own deadline for teachers to enter evaluation information online. |
| January 10 | Last day for Evaluators to confirm assignments. |
| January 10 | Deadline for Panel students to enter repertoire online. |
| January 15 | Deadline for Panel students to revert to Non-Panel status. |
| January 20 | Last day for Branch Chairs to verify Evaluator list. |

CM Evaluation Dates

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| Feb. 18 –Apr. 1 | Branch CM Evaluations North and South. Note: Teachers check with your Branch Chair for your branch’s evaluation dates. |
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Panel Regionals

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| Feb. 25 - 26 | Piano Panel Regional North and South. |
| March 3 - 4 | Piano Panel Regional North and South. |
| Feb. 25 | Strings (Violin & Viola) Panel Regional South. |
| Feb. 26 | Strings (Cellos & YAG for all Strings) Panel Regional South |
| Feb. 26 | Winds and Voice Panel Regional South |
| March 15 | Deadline - Panel applicants complete theory tests at their own branch |

Panel Finals

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| March 15 | Deadline for Panel Final Application. No late applications. |
| March 23, 24, 25 | Final Panel Auditions South. |
| Mar. 31 &Apr. 1 | Final Panel Auditions North (Piano). |
| April 2 | Theory test materials may be released statewide. |

Convention and Other Year-End Deadlines

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| April 15 | Deadline for Convention Applications. No late applications. \$20 Convention Application Fee per student is due. |
| April 15 | Deadline to apply for Make-up Evaluations for High School Students <i>only</i> . |
| April 25 | Deadline for Chair to send MUP applications and fees to State Office. |
| May 4-6 | CM Council meeting. |
| May 15 | Deadline for Completion of Make Up Evaluations, High School Students only. |
| May 20 | Deadline for Convention Recital Programs due to State Office. |
| May 31 | Deadline for teachers to report database entry errors. No changes made after this date. |
| May 31 | Deadline to enter MUP results. |
| June 1 | Convention recitals schedules posted on the state website. Go to Convention 2012 , click on Student Performance Information . |
| June 29 – July 3 | Convention 2012 at the San Diego Town and Country Hotel and Convention Center. |

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News from our Coordinator

Dear CM Chairs,

Convention was enlightening for us all; new seminars, new teaching materials and our new Council members were announced. The attached CM Council roster has all of our contact information and lists our new members. We're also happy to welcome two new Branches, San Joaquin County in the North, and Carmel Valley in the South.

I'm amazed at how prepared I feel we are for the new CM season. We all thank Karen Becker for making a smooth transition possible for CM 2012. Listed below are some important items. Please email this letter to the teachers or announce to them that it is posted at their Teacher Home site.

- The Branch Chair "posting/ mailing" of Policies and Forms will be posted in late August/early September, the specific date will be announced through the CM Chairs Yahoo Group.
- CCSR *Information includes new features in the Database.
- Please remind teachers about the CM Registration Agreement that they will need to read and agree to before enrolling students in CM (see below).
- There are no changes in CM Registration Fees.
- North Evaluator training sessions have a new meeting format and will combine "Instruments"; Piano/Voice and Piano/Winds and a String session all held in October.
- Want a Council member to help with your CM meeting, schedule now!

If you are a new Branch Chair, be sure to log-in and update your Branch Info and also contact your CM Council Branch Chair Liaison. All Instrument Chairs or Representatives for your Branch are now required to be listed in the *Database.

Thanks for everything you do we know that CM would not "happen" without you. Please remember that the Council is here to support you!

Regards,
Judi Sands-Pertel
CM Coordinator

Certificate of Merit Registration Agreement

- I am the primary teacher of all my registered students. I risk losing CM and MTAC privileges if I enter students of another teacher.
- I am aware of each of the following:
 - If a student receives Remain at Level or fails theory, that student must repeat the same Path A level.
 - Evaluators' decisions are final.
 - All CM registration deadlines are final.
 - Students who bring photocopies to CM evaluations will receive an automatic Remain at Level (RAL).
- I am familiar with and agree to follow my branch CM work policy.
- I have read the [MTAC Privacy Policy](#).
- I have read the [CM Policy and Procedures](#).



New Syllabi for 2012 Evaluations

MTAC.org > Shopping

Harp - Member \$22 and non-Member \$27.50
Voice/Winds - Member \$35 and non-Member \$43



Attention South String Chairs and Evaluators

The Evaluator Training Session for Strings South will be:
Friday, November 11, 2011
at the home of Tammy Tsai located at 12940 Essex Place, Cerritos, CA 90703.
Contact Tammy at tammystsai@yahoo.com for more information.



The New Voice Syllabus is here!!

Sarah Sandvig, North/South Voice Chair

The new syllabus was presented at the Convention in July and will be used for upcoming 2012 CM Evaluations!

Below are the highlights of the new syllabus.

- Easy to read charts for Repertoire requirements, Panel, Convention, Sight-singing & Technique.
- Sample pages of Ear-training, Vocalises & Technique.
- Evaluation requirements now listed separately from Repertoire requirements.
- Sight-singing & Rhythm examples included in each level.
- Repertoire choices include an updated list of books, and a composer list. (You can choose any song written by the composers on the list as one of your required Syllabus pieces).
- An alphabetical list of composers is included as well as a list of composers listed by period.
- Answer key for composer questions provided as well as terms for all levels listed in the back.
- Period requirements updated for levels.

The Syllabus is available for purchase at our website: mtac.org > Shopping. Member price is \$35, non-member is \$43.75.

For more information about the Syllabus, please contact Sarah Sandvig, Voice Chair, North/South at sarahsandvig@gmail.com.

Voice & Wind Regional Panel South

Voice and Wind students applying for Panel will have their first round of evaluations regionalized. The dates are as follows:

- Voice/Wind Regional Panel Evaluations (South): Sunday, February 26, 2012 at CSU Long Beach, 1250 Bellflower Boulevard, Long Beach, CA 90840
- Voice/Wind Panel Final Audition: Saturday, March 24, 2012 at Cal Poly Pomona

Please note that Voice/Wind Panel Applicants in the North will still have their first evaluation at their home branch. Please refer to the Panel Information on your Teacher Home page for more information about the Panel program.

Please refer to the Panel Information on your Teacher Homepage for more information about the Panel program.

Michelle Rumley
Wind Chair, North/South
michelle@rumleymusic.com

Sarah Sandvig
Voice Chair, North/South
sarahsandvig@gmail.com



Wind News – New Syllabus for 2012 Evaluations!

Michelle Rumley, Wind Chair North/South

Please update your email address book! Michelle's email has been changed to:
michelle@rumleymusic.com

Attention Wind Teachers!

The New Wind Syllabus is now available. The syllabus was presented at Convention and will be used for the upcoming 2012 CM Evaluations!

Here is a brief overview of the highlights the update has provided.

- All wind instruments are included in one syllabus for easy reference, including 3 new instruments: flute, clarinet, oboe, saxophone, bassoon, trumpet, horn, and trombone.
- There is a new Jazz repertoire category for Saxophone, Trumpet and Trombone students.
- The theory curriculum has been updated to not only better prepare students for college theory, but to also give them a more solid theory foundation to help them understand their repertoire.

- Technique requirements have been updated to match the updated theory.
- Sight-reading examples have been included.
- A more thorough reference section is included, which includes octave nomenclature, technique examples, articulation examples, vocabulary definitions, and a list of composers and their dates.

The Syllabus is available for purchase at our website: mtac.org > Shopping. Member price is \$35, non-member is \$43.75.

For more information about the Syllabus, please contact Michelle Rumley, Wind Chair, North/South at michelle@rumleymusic.com.

Wind Evaluator Trainings Sessions

All Evaluators must attend Evaluator Training at least every two years. Please make sure your training does not lapse!

Wind Evaluator Training Dates:

Sunday, October 2, 2011, 1:00 PM at the home of Michelle Rumley:
6362 Dennison Street, San Diego, CA 92122.

Saturday, October 8th at 2pm at the home of Shirley Yamamoto,
2300 Maple Avenue, Unit #113. Torrance, CA 90503

Sunday, October 30, 2011, Sacramento
2:00 p.m. New Evaluators; 3 to 5:00 p.m. Everyone!

Please contact Michelle Rumley with any questions or to confirm your attendance,
michelle@rumleymusic.com.



News from CCSRs

Ryan Huo

Did you know that CCSR stands for CM Chair Computer Support Representative? As your Branch's CM Chair, if you ever have any questions or concerns related to the MTAC CM Online Database, you may contact your Branch's assigned CCSR for help:

Branch names from **Alameda** to **Imperial Valley** may contact Peggy Taylor (peggy09876@yahoo.com).

Branch names from **Irvine** to **Pasadena** may contact Ryan Huo (ryanhuo@me.com).

Branch names from **Placer** to **Santa Clara** may contact Melissa Mandeville (Msmelisma@surewest.net).

Branch names from **Santa Clarita** to **Yolo** may contact Pat McNutt (patm@coastside.net).

As we are getting geared up for another year of CM Evaluations, please remember to change the password of your CM Branch Chair Homepage. After doing so, please log in and click on "Edit Chair Info" on the left side menu. Make sure that the information is up to date and accurate. **NEW THIS YEAR:** Please also enter the contact information of your Branch's Instrumental Chairs.



New for Teachers: On September 15, the Database opens for **CM Student Registration**. Teachers will see a new page when enrolling a new student:

CM New Student Registration Preliminary Questions

Has the student you want to register changed teachers since they were last enrolled in CM?

Yes

Clicking Yes will take you to the Change of Teacher, Request Form.

Has the student you want to register ever been a CM student with you?

Yes

Clicking Yes will take you to the Recall a Student, Request Form.

Is this the first year this student has participated in Certificate of Merit?

Yes

Clicking Yes will take you to the New Student Registration Form.

Clicking "YES" to the appropriate question will take the Teacher to the proper registration page for the student. Although this might not seem important, we must remember that every student's

history is tracked. Improper method of registration will lead to further complications down the road for you, your teachers, and their students. Please train your Teachers and inform them about this new page.



New for CM Chairs: Chairs could now **search for a student by “Student ID”** or simply “Student Last Name.” This Search Page could be accessed on the CM Branch Chair Homepage, under “Student List.”

Search for Teacher or Student

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| Student ID or Username | <input type="text"/> | <input type="button" value="Edit Reg. Info"/> ↓ | <input type="button" value="Go"/> |
| Student Last Name | <input type="text"/> | <input type="button" value="Go"/> | |
| Select Teacher | <input type="text" value="Ryan Huo (StateID=6705, LBTC=10)"/> | | <input type="button" value="Go"/> |
| State Teacher ID or Last Name | <input type="text"/> | <input type="button" value="Go"/> | |



Also new for CM Chairs: Please make sure your **Branch has an Instrument Chair or Representative** for each instrument group that has registered students. Starting this year, your Branch is required to enter this information into the CM Branch Chair Homepage, under “Instrument Chairs.” Input deadline is September 30, 2011.

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| <p>Branch</p> <p>Evaluation Time Totals</p> <p>Reports</p> <p>Total Fees</p> <p>Chair</p> <p>Confirm Evaluator Assignments</p> <p>Documents</p> <p>Edit Chair Info</p> <p>Help Page</p> <p>Instrument Chairs</p> <p>Newsletters</p> <p>Scheduling</p> | <p>Branch Instrument Chair List</p> <p>Download Branch Instrument Chair List (csv file)</p> <p>This is a list of the Branch Instrument Chairs.</p> <p>CM Chairs: Please make sure that your Branch has an Instrument Chair or a Representative for each instrument group that has registered students. There is no limit to the number of Chairs in each Branch.</p> <hr/> <p>There are no instrument chairs for this branch. To add instrument chairs, click the Insert button.</p> <p><input type="button" value="Insert"/></p> |
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Instructions for entering Instrument Chair Information into your CM Branch Chair Homepage:

1. Click on “Instrument Chair.” You will see a screen similar to above.
2. Click on “Insert.”

3. Choose a teacher as instrument chair, and then choose the instrument. (For Santa Clara County Branch Only: please choose a section.) Click on "Insert."
4. A confirmation page will display the information you entered.
5. Click on "Results." This will list all of the instrument chairs that you've entered.
6. To insert another instrument chair for your branch, repeat steps 2 to 5.

Become a CM Evaluator



Do you know someone who might be interested in becoming a CM Evaluator? CM Council is looking for new and highly qualified evaluators for the 2011-12 CM Season.

Prospective evaluators must have at least 3 years of experience in the CM Program, teaching and enrolling students in all CM levels. If you know someone who meets this requirement and is interested in becoming a CM Evaluator, please encourage him/her to complete and submit a CM Evaluator Application Form.

The CM Evaluator Application Form is posted on the Teacher's Home Page at www.mtac.org. To retrieve this application form*, prospective evaluators need to:

- Login to the Teacher Home Page using username/password.
- On the left side menu, click on "CM Evaluators."
- Click on "New Evaluator Application." There will be a link to download the Evaluator Application Form. Click to download.
- Print, complete, and submit this Evaluator Application Form before September 30. Please read and follow the submission instructions indicated on the application form.
- Have two (2) colleagues complete and submit the Reference Forms. Colleagues may be a Branch CM Chair, a current CM Evaluator, or someone who knows the prospective evaluator's professional ability. Please read and follow the submission instructions indicated on the application form.

Once the prospective evaluator's application is approved, he/she must attend TWO training sessions: (1) New Evaluator Training and, (2) Active Evaluator Training. Details regarding training sessions will be announced in early fall.

** Please note that the Evaluator Application Form is only available at the Teacher Home Page for new applicants, or for Evaluators whose status has become inactive. Evaluators with active status will be directed to the Online Evaluator Availability Form.*



ATTENTION SOUTH PIANO EVALUATORS!

Most Evaluators Will Need To Attend Training This Year
Evaluator Training Schedule for the South

RETURNING ACTIVE EVALUATORS*

- Saturday, October 8, 2011, 2:30 pm at Karen Becker's home in Oxnard
- Sunday, October 23, 2011, 2:30 pm at Peggy Taylor's in Cerritos
- Sunday, October 30, 2011, 2:30 pm at Fields' Pianos in Santa Ana
- Sunday, November 6, 2011, 2:30 pm at Sharon Townsend-Roth's in Glendale
- Sunday, November 13, 2011, 2:30 pm at Rosemary Yang's home in Corona

Be sure to **complete the 2011 Evaluator Quiz** before attending a training session and present it as their Admission Ticket. *You must arrive on time and stay for entire training session to receive credit.



NEW EVALUATORS**

- Sunday, October 16, 2011, 2:30pm at Peggy Taylor's home in Cerritos

**New Evaluators must attend two (2) training sessions before evaluating for the first time:

1. The New Evaluator Training Session on October 16th and
2. One of the Returning Evaluator Training Sessions listed above



North Evaluator Training Sessions – New Format!

Remember, Active Evaluators* must attend training every two years!

To help accommodate travel time and hectic schedules we will hold training sessions differently this year. Each session will include a “New Evaluator” and Active Evaluator Session, then a break out session for your specific Instrument. We are offering two sessions for Piano and another Instrument - Example:

October 22 Piano and Voice

12:30 p.m. - New Evaluators

1:30 p.m. - General Session (required for all Evaluators-New and Active)

2:30 p.m. - Instrument groups (break into groups - Piano or Voice for a “mock evaluation” and specific training issues.



Strings only - Sunday October 2, 2011 in Union City

2:00 p.m. - All Evaluators

RSVP by Sept 26th Gloria Ho gloho@att.net



Piano and Voice - Saturday October 22, 2011 in San Jose

Times listed above.

RSVP by October 18th to Tina Carter (Piano) - cm.tcarter@yahoo.com

Sarah Sandvig (Voice) - sarahsandvig@gmail.com



Piano and Winds - Sunday October 30, 2011 in Sacramento

2:00 p.m. - New Evaluators

3:00-5:00 p.m. - All Evaluators

RSVP by October 18th - Tina Carter (Piano) cm.tcarter@yahoo.com

Michelle Rumley (Winds) michelle@rumleymusic.com

All evaluators must:

1. Complete the 2011 Evaluator Quiz before attending a training session and present it as their Admission Ticket. *When you RSVP for the session, the Quiz will be emailed to you.*
2. Attend the entire training session to receive credit.

*Evaluator Guidelines: Section 3, #3 - Evaluator Training. Active Evaluators must attend an Evaluator Training Session(s) before conducting their first CM Evaluation, and must attend Evaluator Training once every two years thereafter in order to remain on the Active Evaluators List. Evaluators who do not complete an Evaluator Training within two (2) years shall be removed from the Active Evaluators List and will not receive any Assignments. Evaluator Training Sessions are conducted during the MTAC's Annual Convention, and also at designated locations during the year. Please check with the Evaluator Chair regarding Evaluator Training dates and locations.

Reminder about RAL's and IC's



Six Reasons for Automatic Remain at Level (RAL)

The Remain at Level rating is for the student who clearly is not prepared for the Performance Evaluation or receives an Automatic Remain at Level for one of the situations listed below.

A student receiving a RAL must repeat the level.

Students shall receive an Automatic Remain at Level for any one of the following:

- 1) Advanced Level required Etude not memorized
- 2) Sight Reading: Refuses to Attempt (legally blind students exempt)
- 3) Technique: None prepared or cannot play without notation
- 4) Memory Requirement Not Met (See Syllabus)
- 5) Required Number of Pieces Not Correct (See Syllabus)
- 6) Any student who brings a photocopy to evaluations or brings music reproduced from a CD or downloaded from the Internet without a logo or the source (URL) to a CM evaluation will not be heard by an evaluator and will receive an automatic remain at level.



Five Reasons for Ineligible for Certificate (IC)

The “Ineligible for Certificate” rating shall be used for students who perform a proficient CM Performance Evaluation, but who have violated rules and regulations not related to performance quality.

Students who receive an IC rating are permitted to move to a higher CM Level at their next Performance Evaluation, but may not perform at Convention or Branch Honors Recitals. However, they may still be eligible for Senior Award.

Students shall receive an IC rating for any one of the following:

- 1) Performing incorrect repertoire categories, Syllabus piece, or not having a required Syllabus piece.
- 2) Performing technique from an incorrect Syllabus or level.
- 3) Advanced Level required Etude not from the Etude list(2007 Syllabus Pgs. 92-96).
- 4) Failing to provide original music scores for the Evaluator, including a second original score if the piece is not memorized.
- 5) Performing any Not Acceptable Repertoire.



Council Member Update!

Many thanks to Karen Becker, Lori Jensen and Rosemary Yang for their years of service on CM Council. The entire CM “community” is grateful for their dedication and commitment to this outstanding program.

Please take note of these new Council members and job changes !

Sue Scofield – Information Chair/Training Liaison
Huei Ping Chen Lin – Festival Recital Chair
Vera Hoalim – Panel Chair South
Marie Kaneta – Regional Panel Chair South
Susan Beaty – Evaluator Scheduling Chair South
Gloria Ho – String Chair North
Judi Sands-Pertel – CM Coordinator



Teacher CM Information Presentations!

Remember Branch Chairs, now is the time to schedule a CM Council member to visit your branch and support your CM Teacher training session! There are no expenses for the Branch; mileage is covered by the State Office.

Please contact Sue Scofield, CM Council Information Chair and State Training Liaison at jandsscofield@earthlink.net.



Convention Theme for 2011 and 2012 COMPOSERS BORN IN RUSSIA

Including, but not limited to:

Arensky, Anton
Balakirev, Mily
Berlin, Boris
Blok, Vladimir
Borodin, Alexander
Eckhardt-Gramatte, Sophie-Carmen
Freed, Isadore
Frid, Grigori
Glazunov, Alexander
Glinka, Mikhail
Gnesina, Elena
Goedicke, Alexander
Gretchaninov, Alexander T.
Gubaidulina, Sofia
Kabalevsky, Dmitri Borisovich
Kalinnikov, Vasily
Kapustin, Nikolai
Komanetsky, Andrey
Lyadov, Anatoly
Maykapar, Samuil
Medtner, Nicolai
Miaskowsky, Nicolai
Mussorgsky, Modest
Prokofiev, Sergei
Rachmaninoff, Sergei
Rebikov, Vladimir Ivanovich
Rubinstein, Anton
Shchedrin, Rodion
Scriabin, Alexander
Shostakovich, Dmitri
Stravinsky, Igor
Tchaikovsky, Piotr Ilich
Tcherepnin, Alexander
Tcherepnin, Nicolai

Teachers should seek approval from the Theme Recital Chair or Discipline Chairs for composers that may be questionable and/or not on the list for Path A Students, Level 3 - Advanced Solos only - 7-minute time limit



♪ Introducing Members for the Young Artist Guild 2011-2016 ♪

Nicole A. Burns
Young Artist Guild Chair

The “Magic of Music” embraced each and every one who attended the 2011 Young Artist Guild Recital on Friday, July 1st, 2011 which was presented in the Exhibit Hall West at the dazzling Oakland Marriott City Center. Six remarkably talented and gifted students were showcased that evening. Pleasingly, there were two pianists from the South, one pianist from the North, one flutist from the North, one violinist from the South, and one cellist from the South.

A delightful slideshow was shown during intermission honoring the newly initiated YAG members and a special tribute was made honoring the late Bruce Sutherland and his munificent contributions to the YAG program during the closing Awards Presentation. A lovely memoir was also printed in the program by former student of Bruce Sutherland and performing concert artist, Max Levinson.

To my surprise, following the Young Artist Guild Recital I was presented with exquisite sketches of each performance magnificently hand drawn by artist Storm Case of Laguna Beach. A momentous gift that will be cherished forever which will be preserved and archived by the MTAC State Office. (Please look for these in the next issue of the CMT)

As each MTAC branch debut's a Young Artist Guild member through a captivating concert we continue to inspire them and others in the pursuit of musical excellence. Your steadfast faithfulness and devotion to the Young Artist Guild program is an inspiration to all future musicians sparking in them a hope and a future love and passion for this art and profession which we so richly pursue. Hearten these students embrace them in a life-long excursion into the “Magic of Music” by hosting a Young Artist Guild Recital in your branch. For more info visit www.mtac.org

Christopher DeFazio, cellist, 11th grade, student of Kihae Kim-DeFazio– Orange

Christopher DeFazio began studying the cello at the age of eight in 2002. His only teacher has been his mother Kihae Kim-DeFazio, a student of Piatigorsky, Rejto, and Starker. His orchestral experience began early in 2004 when he auditioned successfully for the Cerritos College Symphony. In 2005 he auditioned for the Orange County

Symphony where he held the assistant principal's chair until 2007. In 2008 he auditioned for the Southern California Youth Philharmonic where he has served as the principal cellist since 2009. In the same year he successfully auditioned for the Young Musicians Foundation ("YMF") Debut Orchestra with which he is currently under a three year contract. Christopher has also served as an invited guest member for various orchestras such as the Montage Civic Orchestra, the United Musicians Symphony Orchestra of Los Angeles, and the Southern California Philharmonic. He performed in the Luna Chamber Music Encounter in 2008 and 2009, and he performed as a cellist in the Young Musicians Foundation Chamber Music Series in 2011 at the Bing Theatre in Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

His solo experience started in 2003 with a performance at a senior citizen home. He has performed at the Crystal Cathedral, the Nixon Library, Chapman University, California State Long Beach, in studio recitals, in competitions and master classes, at the MTAC state conventions and Branch Honor recitals. In 2007 he performed as the featured soloist accompanied by the Orange County Symphony, and his recent affiliation with the M & M Music Group has enabled him to perform before audiences of more than one thousand persons at a time.

At age 17, Christopher already has a studio of his own teaching students privately, and he assists in group lessons offered through the Continuing Education program of North Orange County Community Colleges. Christopher is homeschooled, an avid bowler, and an accomplished tennis player. He is active in his church, and he plans to major in music performance and education in college

Eleanor Dunbar, violinist, 11th grade, student of Gail Gerding Mellert – South

Now 15, Eleanor Dunbar has been homeschooled since Kindergarten. She started her violin lessons at age 3, and currently she is under the tutelage of Mrs. Gail Mellert of Palos Verdes. Eleanor is the concertmaster of the Asia America Youth Orchestra under the direction of Mr. David Benoit. She is also a member of American Youth Symphony under the direction of Mr. Alex Treger. Eleanor has soloed with AAYO, the South Bay Youth Orchestra, Santa Monica College Symphony Orchestra, and Beach Cities Symphony Orchestra. She had her first solo recital at Peninsula Music Fair in 2008. She was a featured soloist performing the entire Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto with Asia America Symphony in June 2011. Eleanor has won numerous awards in violin: Bach Complete Works Competition, Music Teachers' Association Scholarship Competition, Santa Monica College Concerto Competition, Ventura College Concerto Competition, Artists of the Future Competition, and American String Teachers Association State Final. She was the grand finalist at the Los Angeles Music Center Spotlight Awards last year. She is also a four-time recipient of the Young Musicians Foundation scholarships and Fe Bland awards. Eleanor spent her last four summers in various music camps, and this year she will be in the Aspen Music Festival.

Dennis Fang, pianist, 11th grade, student of Ariel Tzu-I Yang – Irvine

Dennis Fang is an eleventh grade high school student currently enrolled in Sage Hill School. He started taking piano lessons since age 8 and has been studying piano with Ariel Yang since 2003. He enjoys music and piano is a big part of his life. He likes dynamic and challenging pieces. He also likes romantic pieces with beautiful melodies. Dennis has won numerous awards, including:

1st place: Los Angeles International Liszt Piano Competition

1st place: California International Young Artist Competition

1st place: MTAC state Solo Piano Competition

1st place: MTAC Irvine concerto competition

Three time grand prize at the Cypress piano competition

Finalist: 5th Bosendorfer and Schimmel USASU international Piano Competition

In 2008, Dennis became the youngest student admitted to the summer academy of Lake Como International Piano Academy in Lake Como, Italy under the direction of Maestro William Grant Nobore.

In addition to competitions, Dennis also played at various concerts including performances with Yorba Linda Orchestra and UCI symphony Orchestra. He performed in fund raising concert for earthquake victims, in concert for raising awareness of child safety and in benefit concert for fine arts and classical music. Benefit Concert for “World Vision”. He hopes to have a positive impact on the world with his music.

Gus Liu, pianist, 11th grade, student of Olya Katsman – Southern Alameda

Gus Liu, 16, began studying piano at the age of five, with Jennifer Hu and afterward with Daniel Cheng. Under the tutelage of Olya Katsman for the last four and half years, he was the first place winner in the East Bay Music Festival piano competition, the Menuhin-Dowling Young Pianists Competition, and CAPMT Honors Audition. He has performed in the Fremont Young Artist Showcase, Junior Bach Festival many times, and the 2010 Panel Honors Recital. Gus has also been selected for MTAC convention master class with Randall Faber in 2007, CAPMT master class with John Salmon in 2009, masterclass with Scott Foglesong in 2010, and masterclass with Diane Walsh in 2011. During the past two summers, Gus participated in two important chamber music camps, performing in California Summer Music in 2009 in Sonoma, California and also in the Ameropa International Music Camp last year in Prague, Czech Republic. He also studied violin for three years and was the concertmaster of Horner Junior High School Symphonic Band.

Gus has performed in benefit concerts such as 2010 Concert for Haiti and 2011 Concert for Japan. Having attained YAG in his junior year, he realized that he has the ability to do more, and he wishes to make classical music more accessible to young generations.

In addition to his achievements in piano, Gus is also a competitive athlete. Currently, he is ranked number one on the varsity badminton team at Irvington High School and has recently placed 2nd in the North Coast Section in Boy’s Singles. He has won tournament prizes at the local and international level, including third place in the 2009 USBDF International Junior Badminton Tournament in boy’s doubles.

Pavitra Rengarajan, flutist, 11th grade, student of Teresa Orozco-Petersen – Santa Clara

Pavitra Rengarajan, a junior at Harker High School, has studied the flute over the past several years with Teresa Orozco-Petersen and previously with Gala Yaroshevsky. As a Young Artists Guild (YAG) member, graduate of the Certificate of Merit program sponsored by the Music Teachers' Association of California (MTAC), one of eight finalists of the National Flute Association (NFA) High School Soloist competition, and a member of the San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra (SFSYO), Pavitra has won various competitions, soloed with orchestras around the Bay Area, and played for various events, festivals, and productions. She has enjoyed working with phenomenal conductors and musicians including Michael Tilson Thomas, Emile de Cou, Donata Cabrera, Keith Underwood, Jim Walker, Robert Dick, and Catherine Payne. Her other interests include writing, hiking, and hanging out with friends.

Alex Wang, pianist, 12th grade, student of Hans Boepple – Santa Clara

Alex Wang recently graduated from Irvington High in Fremont as valedictorian of his class. He is currently a student of Professor Hans Boepple and studied with Ms. Dorothy Su and Dr. Jed Galant in the past.

Alex has performed in many concerts and competitions throughout the state. He is a winner in the MTAC Piano Solo of Northern California this year, the Young Pianists' Beethoven Competition in 2010, CAPMT's Bartok and Contemporary Music State Competition in 2009, the MTAC Piano Concerto Competition in Northern California and state in 2008, and the Menuhin-Dowling Young Musicians in 2007. He is also a frequent performer in the Junior Bach Festival in Berkeley. Alex was selected to perform in master classes with great pianists such as Dr. Angela Cheng and Mr. Christopher O'Riley. Meanwhile, Alex studies music composition and film scoring with Mr. Glen Stark, and established himself in MTAC's Young Composers' Guild and Young Film Scorers' Guild in 2009 and 2010, respectively. He had also won awards in the MTAC Composers' Today contests and the NACUSA SF Branch Composition Competition.

Alex founded his school's Music Club and spearheaded benefit concerts for the Haiti earthquake relief efforts and Music for Minors, an organization to promote music education in schools. He also presided over the Math Club and Tutoring Club in his school. In his spare time, Alex enjoys reading, photography, and bicycling. This fall, he will attend Stanford University as a freshman.



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