



MTAC NEWS

September 2014

MTAC NEWS is published the months of September, November, January, March, and May. Information deadlines are the 10th of each of the above months. Please send all information with "MTAC NEWS" in the subject column electronically to Dr. Louise Earhart, editor, learhart@mtac.org.

The MTAC News is posted online at www.mtac.org on the Teacher Home Page under MTAC.

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From the State President

It was an unforgettable night in the Hilton Los Angeles Airport Hotel's elegant International Ballroom. Anderson and Roe's explosive, exuberant, thrilling, and electrifying duo performance swept the audience off of their feet. What really touched me, however, was the duo's genuine love and absolute joy for making and sharing music with each other, reminding me how much fun it is to play with partners and to share that incredible dynamic with an audience. I am grateful that MTAC has programs that support this kind of music making and music sharing. Our students participate in ensembles through VOCE, Convention recitals, and Certificate of Merit® Evaluations. Someday, our students may be the next Anderson and Roe!



Lately, I have been thinking a great deal about the theme of the 2015 Convention, "Joy in Music", and in light of this theme, I reflected upon all the ways that music truly enhances our lives. I recently read an article entitled *The Benefits of Music Education* by Laura Lewis Brown, who interviewed Kenneth Guilmartin, co-founder of "Music Together." Guilmartin describes it well: "Music learning supports all learning. Not that Mozart makes you smarter, but it's a very integrating, stimulating pastime, or activity."

We are so fortunate to be in the profession of music education. As music teachers, we teach more than music, for we facilitate students' learning of other subjects and enhance their skills visually and verbally, and in spatial-temporal ways. Based on the research cited in Brown's article, the study of music can increase our IQ and test scores, boost immune systems, reduce pain, keep aging brains healthy, and reduce depression and anxiety. Most importantly, music makes us happier.

Dr. Eric Rasmussen, chair of the Early Childhood Music Department at Peabody Preparatory of the Johns Hopkins University, teaches a specialized music curriculum for children aged two months to nine years. In the same article "The Benefits of Music Education," he reflects on what music means to us, and concludes: "Music is for music's sake. The benefit of music education for me is about being musical. It gives you a better understanding of yourself. The horizons are higher when you

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are involved in music. Your understanding of art and the world, and how you can think and express yourself, are enhanced."

Music gives us a better understanding of ourselves and of others. It strengthens our ability to learn other skills and supports our physical and mental well-being. What could be more joyful than that?

I wish you all a joy-filled and musical 2014-2015, and I look forward to your vibrant contributions and participation in our MTAC State and Branch programs this year!

Amy Martin
MTAC State President

Adult Performance

Jennifer Griest, North Chair

The 2015 Adult Performance North Program is scheduled for Saturday, March 14 at Contra Costa College in San Pablo, CA. Individual evaluation, master class participation and performance opportunities are offered. Performers for the state convention are chosen from this event. Adult participants meeting the following requirements are encouraged to register:

- Adult student at Intermediate level or higher (avocational)
- College student majoring in music; professional performer (vocational)
- MTAC teacher-performer

The enrollment deadline is February 15, 2015. Please contact me at jgriest@contracosta.edu for further information, or visit the MTAC website at www.mtac.org/adult-performance/. We hope to see you and your students there!

Alison Edwards, South Chair

The 2015 Adult Performance South Program is scheduled for Sunday, March 22, 2015 at Chapman University, Orange, CA. Participants will receive individual evaluation, master class participation and performance opportunities. Performers for the State Convention are chosen from this event. Adult participants meeting the following criteria are encouraged to register:

- Adult student at Intermediate level or higher (avocational)
- College student majoring in music; professional performer (vocational)
- MTAC teacher-performer

The enrollment deadline is February 15, 2015. Please contact me at aedwards@fullerton.edu. For further information visit the MTAC website at www.mtac.org/adult-performance/. Adult Performance is a wonderful opportunity for many individuals. We look forward to your participation!

Certificate of Merit®

Judi Sands-Pertel, State Chair

There are three important CM News items:

1. Reminder: The Certificate of Merit® registration period is October 1-October 31, 2014.

Register your CM students early. There will be no late registration. If you have questions or concerns, please contact your CM Branch Chair.

2. Young Artist Guild: Please consider hosting a YAG concert at your Branch. Contact Nicole Burns, our YAG Coordinator, for more information or see the CM Newsletter for the new YAG member pictures, programs, and bios. Information on presenting a Young Artist Guild concert for your Branch is available on the MTAC website.

3. The new Theory practice tests are now available for purchase at the MTAC online store.

Composers Today

Liz Lucus, State Chair

Nature contains the elements, in color and form, of all pictures, as the keyboard contains the notes of all music. But the artist is born to pick and choose... that the result may be beautiful – as the musician gathers his notes, and forms his chords, until he brings forth from chaos glorious harmony.

James Whistler (1885) saw his paintings as musical compositions illustrated visually

While Whistler may have seen his art through a musical standpoint, perhaps you have students or you, yourself, have seen composing as musical art. Our Composers Today (CT) program boasts some of the best-known student composers in the nation. This program has a tiered judging system that supports all styles of composition, from song writing to chamber works, from electronic music to visual media. The CT program is for students and teachers to have a community of artists to meet and work for common goals.

Composers Today oversees the following three projects:

State Evaluations. The State Evaluations are non-competitive and all entries receive constructive comments and ratings from two Judges. Registration closes **January 15, 2015**. The students who enter the State Evaluations and receive high ratings for their compositions can apply to perform those compositions at the Symposium Recitals at the MTAC Convention. **Symposium Recital** applications are due by **April 15, 2015**. State Evaluations and Symposium are offered for both students AND Teachers, with registration online.

Young Composers Guild (YCG). YCG is for serious young composers who plan to pursue music composition as a career. The YCG applicants receive written comments on and analysis of their compositions by two Judges. Registration closes **January 15, 2015**. Registration is

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offered through the YCG Coordinator. YCG students are inducted into the **Young Composers Guild** at the MTAC Convention. Cash awards are given to the Guild members. Please note that YCG has supported a number of reputable professional composers. Support the future of music and donate to the YCG Foundation!

State Contest. The State Contest is competitive in eight age divisions. Applicants receive written comments and first, second, and Honorable Mention placement will be awarded from two Judges. The State Contest registration closes **March 30, 2015** and a proof-of-age document, i.e. birth certificates or drivers' licenses, must be received one week prior to this date. Trophies are awarded at the MTAC Convention at the State Contest Winners Recital, and the Adult State Contest Winners Recital. State Contest is offered for students AND Teachers, with registration online.

Resources...

Get connected. The Council is organizing teacher workshops to help support teachers. WE NEED YOUR HELP to get this going! For more information and discussion on what, when, where, why, how, please check the CT Forum, Yahoo Group. If you are not a part of it, email Connie Tyler connie@deephum.com to receive your invitation.

Get started. The CT Syllabus and CT Workbooks are available through MTAC State Office and are loaded with information to help you and your students with this creative process.

Improvisation

Deb Sanfilippo, Chair

Calling all teachers who want to help their students harness their creativity while using their technic and theory concepts. We encourage you to check out the sample assignments available on the teacher pages of the state website, under Improvisation. There you will find many of the assignments we have featured at convention recitals, including this year's theme: "California History." Your students could begin by making up their own arrangement of "Oh California," the song sung by many of the original '49ers on the way to the gold fields. It uses the same tune as "Oh Susanna." The students can use the I, IV and V chords that most will have learned already, or they can use their own ideas for harmony. Here are the lyrics to the '49ers song "Oh California:"

I come from Salem City with my washbowl on my knee,
I'm going to California the gold dust for to see.

It rained all night the day I left, the weather it was dry,
The sun so hot I froze to death, oh brother, don't you cry.

Chorus: OH, California, that is the land for me, I am bound
for San Francisco with my washbowl on my knee.

Enjoy your trip through California History through improvisation this year!

Piano Concerto-Solo Competition

Anna Lin, North Chair

The Piano Concerto-Solo Competition, Northern Regional will be held on Saturday, March 28, 2015 at Santa Clara University, Santa Clara, CA. Application deadline is March 1 and will be posted on the MTAC website. Teachers should continue to submit student applications and payment online.

Kristi Lobitz, South Chair

The Piano Concerto-Solo Competition, Southern Regionals will be held on Saturday, March 21, 2015 at El Camino College in Torrance, CA.

If the overall number of applications exceeds 130 students, Solo III Division will be scheduled on Sunday, March 22, 2015 at Steinway Gallery, Pasadena (to be determined).

The online registration (posted on the MTAC website) will open on January 15, 2015, and the application deadline is March 1, 2015 at 11:59 p.m. (for both North and South regions).

Teachers should continue to submit student applications and payment online, using their log-on password. Proof of age documents, i.e. birth certificates or drivers' licenses, may be sent as an email attachment or through the mail. The registration fee, payable through the MTAC website, has been adjusted to \$85 to cover increasing facilities expense.

We are again looking forward to a successful competition this year in both the North and South.

VOCE

Grace Yu, North Chair

Jane Masur, South Chair

Welcome Branch Presidents, Branch VOCE Chairs, and Teachers to VOCE 2015!

It's near the time to begin the registration process for this year for the VOCE website opens for registration on November 1, 2014. Branch VOCE Chairs, please make sure you have updated your Branch information and that you have written in the dates for 2015. If you do not do so on your Branch VOCE Chair page, your VOCE teachers will be unable to register for this year. If you don't yet know your Branch date, or will be regionalizing with another Branch, just put in the default date of January 31, 2015. The exact date of your competition can be added later.

If there are only a few entries, your state chairs can assign those entries to a neighboring Branch. Many smaller Branches choose to combine with another Branch to save on expenses. Remember, each Branch competes only with those in their own Branch and not with those entries from the host Branch. If you would like to participate in a VOCE Branch audition and your Branch does not hold a competition, please notify either State Chair immediately

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so we can find a nearby Branch that can accommodate you.

All entries must apply with the online application; there is no paper application. The fees for Branch level competitions will remain with the Branch for one more year; the Branch Chair will enter the appropriate address for mailing the check. Please ignore the \$5.00 administration fee on the VOCE Guidelines. This fee does not apply for this year. There is a help page for teachers who have not used the website before. As always, your State Chairs are available to help new Branch chairs get started. Suggested Branch fees are \$45.00 for solos and \$35.00 for ensemble members. Branches may choose to charge more than this amount and can notate their fee on the Branch VOCE Chair page link. State fees have gone up to cover some of the rising costs of the State Finals: Solos are \$80.00, ensemble members are \$55.00. For Branches wishing to charge less for non-competition, please have teachers send the amount directly to the Branch without registering online. Applying for the state finals is also done online and payment must be made to the State Office. There will be instructions on the teachers' website about applying for the State Finals.

Branch Chairs, please go immediately to the State website and login as a Branch chair. Use the same passwords as last year. If you are a new chair or forgot your password, contact either State Chair and we will email these to you. We are available to answer questions about repertoire, application procedures, Branch chair issues, and regionalizing Branches. Please email us for any problems or concerns.

VOCE Chair North, Grace Yu gracemyu@yahoo.com

VOCE Chair South, Jane Masur janemasur50@gmail.com



2015 MTAC CONVENTION
Fairmont San Jose, July 3 - 7, 2015

Convention Registrar

2015 Convention Registrar, Gwen Churchill

Convention News

The 2014 Convention at the LA Hilton was a great success! With so many fabulous artists, how could it be anything but successful? There were 761 attendees and 1553 students performing this year! Anderson & Roe, piano duo, were electric in their Monday night performance. Sean Chen (former student of Edward Francis and winner of the Crystal Award at the 14th Van Cliburn Competition amongst many other awards) dazzled us with both his youth and maturity. You can read more about the other artists and sessions in the Convention Program Chair Report.

The 2015 Convention will be held July 3 -- July 7 at the Fairmont Hotel in San Jose. This is a new location for the MTAC Convention. The Fairmont is located in downtown San Jose, close to many great restaurants and entertainment opportunities, including the Tech Museum and the Discovery Museum, making this is a great family vacation destination.

If you would like to check out the facility, here is a link to their website: www.fairmont.com/san-jose/

We have negotiated a **room rate of \$99 per night** for Convention attendees.

For Convention registration, be sure to take advantage of our **early bird convention registration rate of \$240** if registered on or before May 15, 2015. After May 15, the rate increases to \$280. Onsite registration for the convention is \$320.

Make your plans now to attend the 2015 Convention at the Fairmont Hotel in San Jose. You will not want to miss it!

Convention Program Chair

2015 Program Chair, Peter Thompson

Call for 2015 MTAC Convention Session Proposals

MTAC is actively soliciting proposals for convention session presentations for the MTAC 105th Annual Convention July 3 --7, 2015 at The Fairmont, 170 S Market St., San Jose CA 95113. Send your proposals by email to Peter Thompson, Convention Program Chair, at pthompson@mtac.org. Responses will be made by email. The deadline for the first phase of proposals is now past -- Sept 15, 2014. Proposals that were received before this date will receive priority, as scheduling of the convention began in the middle of September 2014. In order for the Convention Planning Committee to select sessions proposals in a timely manner, submitted proposals will be considered until October 15, 2014. After October 15 and ending October 31, proposals will be considered only if there is space and they meet the needs of the Convention. Please submit your session proposal early before October 15, 2014.

- Convention sessions may be of any length and although 50 minutes, 60 minutes, 75 minutes, and 90 minutes are the standard lengths, 50-minute sessions are the most common.
- Full convention registration will be given to all presenters whose proposal is accepted. An additional honorarium is not guaranteed, although may be given in some cases.
- Proposals should not be commercial in nature. Books or products with which a presenter is involved should not be referenced during a convention session.
- Proposals should include the following: 100-word session description, a 100-word bio or curriculum vitae including presentation experience, and a list of references.
- Recordings or videos will be accepted, but are not required. They may be mailed to Peter Thompson, Convention Program Chair, 1355 Saratoga Ave Apt. 1, San Jose, CA 95129. Nothing mailed will be returned.

Please note deadlines: Sept 15, 2014 for primary consideration; October 15, 2014 for secondary consideration. Include full contact information: Name - Address - Phone - Email

Convention Publicity Chair

2015 Convention Publicity Chair, Bill Becker

SAVE THE DATE!

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED ...

MTAC STATE CONVENTION

July 3 – 7, 2015

Fairmont Hotel, San Jose, California

Whether you're from Northern, Southern, or Central, California, your presence is requested at our 105th MTAC Convention. The State Board of Directors is well underway in planning this gala event in celebrating the "Joy in Music!" Convention not only features your high achieving students but also your own professional development. Take this time for you! It can be a respite from your busy teaching calendar. It will give you time to refresh your spirit and to receive the motivation to be the best that you can be at your craft, teaching music!

You can expect new ideas, new music, and the chance to bask in the classics that have a place in your heart, both for yourself and your students' lives.

See you there! SAVE THE DATE: July 3-7, 2015.

MTAC Piano Policy

To keep the convention pianos in good working, teachers and artists are asked to refrain from selecting pieces for "prepared piano." This includes works using any foreign object in the pianos to strum, pluck, or vibrate on the strings. Convention pianos in 2015 will be graciously provided by Steinway & Sons. Please read the following paragraph to make sure our students are in compliance with the MTAC guidelines:

Hand-muting, string tapping, strumming or the plucking of the piano strings is allowed, so long as only the performer's hands or fingers are used for these effects and the essential integrity and tuning of the piano is not affected. Not allowed is the insertion in the piano or on the strings of metallic objects, stones, paper or any other foreign object, intentional de-tuning of the strings or the excessive pounding of chord clusters, which has the danger of de-tuning the piano for following performers.



Excellence in Music Education

**Friends of Today's Music /
Contemporary Music Seminar**

Catherine O'Connor, Chair

Friends of Today's Music has commissioned composer Joan Tower to write a new work for solo piano aimed at advanced level students. Teachers wishing to submit students to perform the world premiere during the 2015 MTAC Convention should contact the State Chair for application guidelines. This new work will be published by G. Schirmer and will be available in early January 2015. For information contact: Cathy O'Connor, 510-581-6457, email: cathoc@aol.com

Joan Tower is widely regarded as one of the most important American composers living today. During a career spanning more than fifty years, she has made lasting contributions to musical life in the United States as composer, performer, conductor, and educator. Her works have been commissioned by major ensembles, soloists, and orchestras, including the Emerson, Tokyo, and Muir quartets; soloists Evelyn Glennie, Carol Wincenc, David Shifrin, and John Browning; and the orchestras of Chicago, New York, St. Louis, Pittsburgh, and Washington DC among others. Tower was the first composer chosen for a Ford Made in America consortium commission of sixty-five orchestras. Leonard Slatkin and the Nashville Symphony recorded **Made in America** in 2008 (along with **Tambor** and **Concerto for Orchestra**). The album collected three Grammy awards: Best Classical Contemporary Composition, Best Classical Album, and Best Orchestral Performance. In 1990 she became the first woman to win the prestigious Grawemeyer Award for **Silver Ladders**, a piece she wrote for the St. Louis Symphony where she was Composer-in-Residence from 1985-88. Other residencies with orchestras include a 10-year residency with the Orchestra of St. Luke's (1997-2007) and the Pittsburgh Symphony (2010-2011). She is in residence as the Albany Symphony's Mentor Composer partner in the 2013-14 season.

MTAC Foundation

Joyce Osborn, Chair

Can You Believe It? We Did It!!!

I set a goal for **\$100,000** for 2013-2014.

With all of your help, we made that goal and more!

Yes, you all raised \$108,640.63!!!

For your information, here is how it broke down as to the donors:

1. Out of 67 Branches, 47 Branches sent in a donation. Know that a few of the Branches said they either had a deficient or just barely made the finances this year, but please know that even \$5 puts you in the Branches Represented category. I hope every Branch will consider it for next year. Put it on your financial agenda now.
2. We had MANY individual donors.
3. The CM Council sent in a check including donations from all their members.
4. The State Board Members were represented 100%.
5. The total amount given by the Private Donors and Branches was \$61,940.63, of which \$15,589 came from the Branches.
6. The following Foundations and Grantees gave us \$46,700!
 - a. **The Colburn School – Private donor**
 - b. **Piano Technicians Guild**
 - c. **Beyster Family Foundation**
 - d. **Aaron Copland Fund for Music**
 - e. **Hennings-Fischer Foundation**
 - f. **Don & Sue Natenstedt Family Fund**
 - g. **Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund – Private Donor**
 - h. **Schwab Charitable Fund – Private donor**

If you attended our wonderful 2014 Convention at the LAX Hilton Hotel, you probably saw me popping up everywhere asking for money. Let me explain:

I sat in two String Master Classes, listening to our marvelous Master Teachers – Nathan Cole, Associate Concertmaster for the LA Philharmonic, and Mitchell Newman, first violinist in the LA Phil. As they talked about bow speed, right arm weight for dynamics, changing of up and down bows, shifting, slides, value of practicing pizzicato first, then the bow, etc., I was marveling at the possibility of all we can learn or reconfirm at Convention and the availability of us having contact with such superb musicians.

At the end of that day, I realized that all of this was made possible by our MTAC Foundation money. Yes, that dreaded word, **MONEY**. Convention learning is what

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motivates me to continue to ask for donations, whatever the size.

So . . . please know that if I am asking for money, I only want you to give if you are able. If your situation is such that it is not possible at present to donate, do not feel I am pressuring you. That is not what the MTAC Board and I mean to do. ***However, I do request that you take part in this wonderful activity that keeps MTAC alive.***

The programs will continue to flourish because of your donations. Is a **goal of \$115,000** a good reach for us 2014-2015? Any amount from \$5 to “the sky is the limit” is welcome.

There are many ways to donate. Of course, the two obvious ways are to send in a check, marked MTAC Foundation, or to donate stocks. If you have a stock portfolio, please look at it and see if you can send some stocks our way. You can either sell them yourself and send in the proceeds, or send the stocks to the Foundation. They will be sold and the money will go directly into the Foundation.

A very important item: Individual Programs

I would like to encourage each of you to designate the specific Program or Programs that you want to receive your donation. In this manner, we can keep track of how much a particular program has for scholarships and other use. In upcoming articles, I will give you an update on programs and their specific needs. If you have no particular program in mind, then designate your donation Second Century Fund. That money goes to fill specific needs and to add a cushion of funds for our future.

Bravissimo!!! Take a bow!!!

You all helped MTAC to shine this 2013-2014 year.

A huge “Thank You” to all of you!!!