

**Music Teachers' Association of California  
San Fernando East Valley Branch Meeting  
June 20, 2016 – Keyboard Concepts in Van Nuys**

**Minutes**

In attendance (21 members): Dilara Khalilova, Connie Kuhne, Janet Kaplan, Aziza Syed, Meg Falk, Gillian Smith, Michael Paul, Tamara Gyulnazarova, Raisa Menkina, Mia Paul, Valeria Danielyan, Alla Arutyunyan, Nicole Nale, Kathleen Rabun, Rita Hovanesian, Mark Richman, Anahit Sevoyan, Thelma Mericle, Francine Ross-Pancost, Roger Eshleman, and Chin-Suk Kim.

President, Gillian Smith, called the meeting to order at 10:30AM. She said that, as this was her last meeting as President, she would like to thank many members for their contribution to the Branch. Gillian stated that she had enjoyed serving this community and its members, and handed out written statement of her acknowledgments (copy attached).

Gillian called on Membership Secretary, Francine Ross-Pancost, for the membership report. Gillian thanked Francine for her work as Membership Secretary and presented her with a plaque thanking her for 13 years chairing Certificate of Merit for Strings. Francine reported the name of a transfer member. Gillian mentioned that the Branch has approximately 68 members.

Gillian asked Aziza Syed for the Treasurer's report. Aziza stated that she had taken \$1500 (all of which might not be needed) from the savings account to cover cost over-runs from the 2015/16 fiscal season. The deficits were attributed to two main causes: the Benefit Concert, instead of raising funds, lost \$57 mostly attributed to a heavy rain storm which kept many traditional attendee/donors away from the concert; and student attendance at some of the Branch Festivals has dropped in recent years resulting in deficits for some events. Aziza will provide a copy of the budget breakdown as soon as the last receipts for the year are in.

Gillian asked the group why they thought participation was down in numbers, and what might be done to improve it. Valeria Danielyan suggested that perhaps including age categories for the Contemporary Festival might encourage teachers to enter younger students. It was also suggested that scheduling events at somewhat different times during the year might attract more participants. Gillian said that they would cover the calendar issues one-by-one. It was also agreed that a Contemporary Festival committee would be formed over the summer to discuss ways in which the event might attract more participants.

Michael Paul, not present at the meeting in May when the issue was thoroughly discussed, expressed concerns that Certificate of Merit for piano would not be at Valley College next year. Several members in attendance reiterated the reasons why CM will be held at the new Piano Play facility, instead. Gillian mentioned that other branches borrow pianos from major piano stores for their Certificate of Merit process, and Rita found out from Keyboard Concept administrators that KC would be happy to loan us pianos for our CM process, if needed.

Dates for each event were discussed. Although final dates for each event can only be confirmed in the fall when the various venues confirm with us, desired dates for events were decided upon. Tentative Schedule is attached.

Roger Eshleman installed the Branch Officers for the new year: President, Nicole Nale; Vice-President, Mark Richman; 2nd Vice-President, Meg Falk; Treasurer, Aziza Syed; Corresponding Secretary, Thelma Mericle; Recording Secretary, Barbara Yellin; and Directors, Arjang Hedayati, Kathleen Rabun, Anahit Sevoyan, Gillian Smith, and Rita Hovanesian. All present stated that they would serve the Branch in good faith, and the slate was accepted unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 12:05PM.