



MTAC NEWS

November 2012

MTAC NEWS is published the months of September, November, January, March, and May. Information deadlines are the 10th of each of the above months, with all information sent electronically to Amy Martin, editor, amartin@mtac.org. Each issue of the MTAC NEWS is emailed on the 20th or the following business day of each of the above months to State Board Members, State Chairs and Branch Presidents. Please forward this entire MTAC News to your Branch members. The MTAC News is posted online at www.mtac.org on Teacher Home Page under MTAC.

ASSOCIATION

Check Your Branch Websites!	1
Happy Holidays!	1
Holiday Schedule for the Office	2
Branch Programs Referral Directory	2
State Programs	2-3
Adult Performance South	2
Composers Today	2
Improvisation	3

CONVENTION

Looking For Students For Two Special Master Classes at 2013 Convention	4
2013 Convention Artists Update	4
From Your Convention Chair - Bill Becker	5

FOUNDATION

MTAC Foundation Annual Fund Drive	6
A Special Handmade Thank You Gift	6
2012-2013 Branch Giving Tree	7

****NEW**** This Table of Contents is interactive!
Click on the title of the article you wish to read
and you will be taken to that section of this pdf.

Check Your Branch Websites!

It has come to our attention that some of the Branch websites might not be current and up to date with MTAC State Policies. It is a big job to keep everything current on a website. We are constantly finding things hiding on the state website that need to be changed. This is especially important on the public pages of a website. This is where prospective members or parents might search for information.

Recently we have had parents call the State Office because they have seen that there are two ways to participate in the Certificate of Merit program, Path A and Path B. Their teacher told them that was no longer true, but they questioned it because it was on the internet! Yes, the Branch's website said there was still Path B. Please check your Branch websites for current information. It might even be safest to provide a link to the state website for specific program details. The internet is a wonderful source of information for us all; we just need to make sure that it is accurate.

Madeline Miller
MTAC State President

Happy Holidays!

Just can't believe that it's almost Thanksgiving and Christmas and Hanukah are right around the corner. This is a very busy time for all of us and our students. We try to fit everything in and still keep up with progress for tests that will be coming up in the Spring. Even though we are getting ready for the holiday season, your State Board of Directors is planning for the 2013 MTAC Convention. Our last board meeting was held at the convention site at the Hyatt Regency in Santa Clara. It is a beautiful hotel and will be an amazing venue for our convention. Please plan to attend.

I wish you and your families a very happy holiday season.

Madeline Miller
MTAC State President

Holiday Schedule for the Office

The State Office will be closed for the following days:

November 22 and 23 Thanksgiving
December 24 and 25 Christmas
December 31 New Year's Eve
January 1 New Year's Day



Branch Programs Referral Directory A Resource for Your Branch Meetings

Are you looking for a stimulating lecture presentation at your branch meeting? A recital to motivate students and teachers? Or a master class teacher working with students from your Branch?

The Presidents' Breakfast at the 2005 Convention sparked the idea for a Referral Directory for Branch programs. A directory was created that now consists of Lecture Presentations, Master Class Teachers, and Performers and Composers who can be invited to your Branch meeting or function. Just browse the list of the dozens of topics and recitals. Lecture topics range anywhere from "Dealing with Performance Anxiety" to "Teaching Artistic Pedaling."

An updated 2012-2013 version of the Branch Programs Referral Directory will be out shortly. The Directory contains titles of presentations and complete contact information of the presenter. Look for the link on the left side of the MTAC homepage. To be included in the Directory, one has to apply with details of the presentation offered. If you are interested in having your name listed in the Directory, click on the Application Form, fill it out completely, and mail it to the MTAC Branch Programs Referral Directory chair, Suzanne Wong.

We hope you will use this handy resource for your next Branch program!

Adult Performance South

The Adult Performance South event will be held on Sunday, March 17, 2013 at Chapman University in Orange. Students who enroll may choose any combination of private lessons, master classes, and/or recital.

Internationally recognized musicians will adjudicate this event. This is a wonderful opportunity for adult pianists who may be college music majors, teachers, or dedicated amateurs studying with an MTAC teacher.

Applications may be obtained from the MTAC web site on your Teacher Home Page. Please send completed applications and fee to:

Dr. Joseph Matthews
5721-2 East Stillwater Avenue
Orange, CA 92869-7553

The deadline to enter is February 19, 2013.

Composers Today

Relevant dates:

(Please note that evaluations are due by January 15th, not the 10th as stated in the last newsletter.)

State Evaluations registration and uploading:
12/01/2012 to 1/15/2013 (online)

Young Composers Guild registration deadline:
1/15/2013 (contact YCG Chair)

State Contest registration and uploading deadline:
3/30/2013 (online)

Symposium registration deadline: 4/15/2013 (online)



Why teach composition?

One of my student's parents (who is an elementary school teacher) said to me one day, as her daughter, a beginning student, and I sat at the computer doing some composing: "Oh, I get it. Composing is to performing as writing is to reading."

Composition is a hands-on way to really understand musical form and theory. The actual physical activity (even on a computer) of putting music together using a structure and the accepted forms of conveying that structure to others (for instance notating dynamics) is a very strong learning mode, just as writing a word cements the word in the brain in a much firmer way than just reading the word out loud.

The CT Programs

The Composer's Today **Evaluations** Program is a wonderful supportive way of encouraging students to compose.

The **Symposium**, which is the performance arm of the Evaluations Program is a non-competitive, fun way to share those compositions at the convention.

For those who wish to have a competitive setting, the **State Contest** provides both competition and positive feedback for the entrant. Winners perform at the State Contest Concert at the convention.

The **Young Composers Guild** is for those students who find themselves drawn to a career in composing and the YCG Concert is an exciting view into the future of music.

Registration and applications for Evaluations, Symposium and State Contest are now completely online. Information is on the website. Make sure you log in to your Teacher Home Page for details. Contact your Branch Chair for additional information and help.

There is an e-list through Yahoo Groups for those interested in the most up-to-date information and in discussion about the teaching of composition. To receive an invitation to join the group, contact connie@deephum.com.

The Improvisation forms on the MTAC website have been updated for the 2013 Improvisation Evaluation. The Evaluation **postmark deadline is March 15, 2013**. Students may prepare any Improvisation for MTAC Improvisation programs.

Students may apply for the Standard Evaluation with one recorded Improvisation. They have the option of the Evaluation only, or they may also choose to be considered for the Celebration Recital at the Convention.

Students who are interested in performing in the Improvisation Honors Recital at the Convention should apply for the Advanced Evaluation, submitting two recorded improvisations. Two to five students with high ratings will be selected.

December is a good time to introduce Improvisation to your students, even if it's a short "sleighbells" song (try the

rhythm of Jingle Bells on a group of two or three black keys). The **2012-2013 Earth and Sky** Theme assignments include other December Improvisation ideas such as: 1) Increasing darkness as the days grow longer, 2) Families gathered together around a fire, 3) A sleigh ride over the snow covered earth, 4) Skiing in the mountains, and 5) Dancing and singing around an evergreen tree. There are several more ideas on the website: log in to your



Teacher Home Page, click on Improvisation Documents, then The Earth and Sky, and scroll down to the December page.

You might look ahead to the February and March pages to find an Improvisation idea for your student to prepare for the **Optional Improvisation at Certificate of Merit**. If your student will improvise at CM for 5 - 60 seconds, be sure to click on the Improvisation box near the bottom of the CM page when you enter student repertoire online. The box is above "Request Day and Time of Evaluation." The Improvisation is not rated, but the evaluator will acknowledge that the student participated. Improvisation is a creative way for students to share an idea through music!

Dorothy Burgess
Improvisation Assistant Chair

A graphic with a dark background featuring a hand holding a violin bow, musical notes, and a starry sky. The text "Musical Bridges Around the World" is written in a white, cursive font across the top.

Musical Bridges Around the World

Looking For Students For Two Special Master Classes at 2013 Convention

A Tango master class given by Pablo Ziegler, the renown collaborator and arranger for Argentine tango master Astor Piazzolla, is scheduled for Monday, July 1. Teachers who have students (a chamber group of 2 to 5 players) interested in participating are encouraged to apply. An arrangement by Ziegler will be sent in advance to selected groups for performance in the master class.

A Jazz Piano master class given by Tamir Hendelman (pending confirmation by artist) is also scheduled. A jazz standard will be sent to selected piano students to prepare for the master class. For more information and an application, please contact Convention Program Chair, Suzanne Wong at swabe@hotmail.com.

2013 Convention Artists Update

Attention string and voice teachers! We are pleased to have the **Alexander String Quartet** perform in concert for us at Convention next year. In addition, Zakarias Grafilo (violin) and Paul Yarbrough (viola) will perform in recital, and Frederick Lifstiz (violin) will conduct the Violin Master Class. The Alexander Quartet was formed in New York City in 1981 and recently celebrated its 30th anniversary. Based in San Francisco, the Alexander Quartet was awarded Presidential Medals in honor of its longstanding commitment to the Arts and Education. Having celebrated its 25th Anniversary in 2006, the quartet has performed in the major music capitals of five continents, securing its standing among the world's premier ensembles. Widely admired for its interpretations of Beethoven, Mozart, and Shostakovich, the quartet has also established itself as an important advocate of new music through over 25 commissions and numerous premiere performances.

Violinist, **Li Lin**, has been described by Itzhak Perlman

as "a superb violin teacher who is beyond successful in giving his students the best skills they need." He has produced numerous students earning the highest level of achievements, including top place winners at the Menuhin International Competition, Louis Spohr International Competition, Stradivarius International Competition, Sarasate International Competition, Wieniawski International Competition, and Tchaikovsky International Competition. He discovered his passion for teaching in his early 20s and has never stopped since. We are pleased and honored to have Mr. Lin conduct the Intermediate Violin Master Class.

Mezzo-soprano, **Sally Porter Munro**, is a native of London, England and a graduate of the Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester, England. While living in England she sang with the English National Opera, Royal Opera de la Monnaie in Brussels, and as an oratorio soloist in Europe. She also performed with the BBC Singers on radio and television. She relocated to New York City to continue her studies. Since moving to San Francisco, Ms. Munro has sung as a soloist with Pocket Opera, Berkeley Opera, North Bay Opera, San Francisco Lyric Opera, and Lake Tahoe Festival. Her roles include Dorabella (*Così fan tutte*), Cherubino (*Marriage of Figaro*), Siebel (*Faust*), Tisbe (*Cenerentola*), Beppe (*L'Amico Fritz*), Rosina (*Barber of Seville*), Adalgisa (*Norma*) and Charlotte (*Werther*).

Other 2013 Convention artists include **Christopher O'Riley** (piano), **Pablo Ziegler** (piano), **Hector Del Curto** (bandoneon), **Isabelle Chapuis** (flute), **William Wellborn** (piano), **Randall Faber** (piano), **Hans Boepple** (piano), **Gwendolyn Mok** (piano), **Susanna Garcia** (piano), **Jyoti Hench** (piano), **Gayle Kowalchyk** (piano), and **Wynn-Anne Rossi** (piano).

Mark your 2013 calendar for Convention June 28 – July 2 at the Hyatt Regency in Santa Clara!

Suzanne Wong
2013 Convention Program Chair



Plan NOW to attend!
MTAC 103rd Annual State Convention
Hyatt Regency Santa Clara
June 28 – July 2, 2013
See you there!

Dear MTAC Teachers (and families!),

You know Convention is coming. You know what a great opportunity it is to meet your peers, hobnob with old friends, meet vendors and composers whose works you use, see your students perform in this very special venue. You know State Board is planning something special, (because they always do!) But DID you know that Santa Clara is a premier destination for a family vacation? In addition to the wonderful Great America theme park, here are some other attractions you may not know about:

Explore California History at Mission Santa Clara de Asis, or take the Stroll Into The Past on the grounds of Santa Clara City Hall. There are several FREE art museums in the area, including The Triton Museum, featuring 19th and 20th century American Art, Native American tribal collections, and a seven-acre sculpture garden.

Bill Becker
2013 MTAC Convention Chair

The Intel Museum

10,000 square feet of fun, interactive learning for children and adults.

And it's FREE!

Find out more:

<http://www.intel.com/content/www/us/en/history/museum-visiting-intel.html>





Music Teachers' Association of California

F O U N D A T I O N

MTAC Foundation Annual Fund Drive

A Special Handmade Thank You Gift

In the 2011-2012 fiscal year, the MTAC Foundation received the following –

- \$14,000 from grants
- \$8,665 from Branches
- \$29,887 from individual donors

Because of the generous support and contributions to the MTAC Foundation, numerous awards were presented at the 2012 Annual Convention to talented and deserving students who participated in Improvisation, Piano Concerto, Piano Solo, VOCE, Young Artist Guild, Young Composers Guild and Young Film Scorers Guild.

Some of these students would like to personally share their gratitude and appreciation with you:

Katelyn V. –

Thank you so much for your support of the VOCE competition. Winning 1st place in the Intermediate Ensemble Category was a major accomplishment and highlight for me and also for our piano quartet. To reach a milestone like this and know that hard work is being recognized is a wonderful gift. Thank you again for your support of young musicians.

Moises S –

I would like to thank you for your generous support toward the VOCE competition. The scholarship money I received was a great help towards funding my musical career and education. I am currently trying to achieve my AA in Music and your generous donation has helped me pay for books and tuition. Thank you very much for this great help and for all your generous support to all young artists.

In the new 2012-2013 fiscal year, the MTAC Foundation once again needs your donations to continue support, to not only the talented, but also financially needy students. Please make a donation to one or each of the following programs – Composers Today, Friends of Today's Music, Improvisation, Piano Concerto, Piano Solo, VOCE, Young Artist Guild, Young Composers Guild, Young Film Scorers Guild, the newly established Music Study Assistance Grant, or the Second Century Fund.

Thank you.

Amy Martin
MTAC Foundation Chair



This gift is handmade by Joy Chen, Amy Martin's sister. It is made with Tattting, which is a technique for handcrafting a particularly durable lace constructed by a series of knots and loops.

It will be given to donors of \$100 or more. A card with the following message "When I give you something I make with my hands, I share my heart" with the gift will be mailed to each and every donor.

Please make a charitable and tax deductible donation to the MTAC Foundation before the end of the year. Thank you.

Amy Martin
MTAC Foundation chair



