



MTAC NEWS

January 2013

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.

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Greeting from your State President

Happy New Year! Even though MTAC works on more of a traditional school year calendar, January 1 can signify a new beginning for Branches, our students and all of us. It can also signify the time that we need to emphasize to our students that there isn't much time left to prepare for many of our Branch and State programs! It's also a time to possibly think of some new programs for Branch meetings. The new Branch Referral Directory is on the public side of the MTAC website. This is a helpful guide for Branches to use to plan new and exciting programs for members. Please check it out. Have a great 2013!

Santa Clara Hyatt Regency Club

I'm getting excited about the Convention. Suzanne Wong, Convention Program Chair, has lined up many interesting sessions and amazing artists for us. There is something for everyone. We realize that it is an expense for us to attend the Convention and we need to plan ahead.

The State Board works hard trying to find hotels with reasonable rates. The beautiful Hyatt Regency Hotel is a super value at \$99 per night plus FREE parking! There is another option to keep in mind when making your hotel reservations; the Regency Club. The price of a sleeping room with access to the Regency Club is \$139 for up to 2 people in a room. The Regency Club is a private lounge on the lobby level of the hotel. When you sign up for the Regency Club you have access to this lounge which has a complimentary breakfast every morning and appetizers every evening. During the day it is stocked with complimentary waters, non-alcoholic beverages and snacks. Even with the additional cost, this can turn out to be a better deal than having to order room service or eating in the hotel restaurants. Please consider this option.

Registration should open in February. See you in Santa Clara!

Madeline Miller
MTAC State President

Job Board Posting

At some time in the future, a Job Board button will be posted on your Teacher Home Page. At the click of that button, you will be able to view and read descriptions of all jobs in MTAC, most volunteer, a few with compensation. You can then select jobs that interest you and we can be in communication about your interests.

We hope you will consider sharing your talents and skills. Your commitment ensures the steady growth and strength of our unique organization.

Branch History Updates Are Due June 30, 2013

I have heard from several Branch historians, but I have not yet received any Branch history updates. Now, there are just 5 months until the June 30 deadline for the Branch histories to be turned in to the State History Committee.

On February 1, I will be traveling to the State Office to do research. If your Branch needs help or would like me to do research on your Branch history, please let me know by January 31.

I look forward to reading all of the Branch histories that will be arriving soon.

Irene Brown
State Historian

Branch Programs Referral Directory is Posted Online

Attention Branch Presidents and Program Chairs!

The new Directory is up and ready to serve you. It is an updated list of people and programs that you can include in your Branch meetings and events. To access or download the directory, go to the state website and click on "Referral Directory" on the left. You will find two documents: the *Branch Program Referral Directory 2012* and the *Guidelines and Application*. If you are interested in having your name included in the Directory, follow the guidelines and application procedure. "It is a wonderful thing to share talent, knowledge and experience with other colleagues, students and listeners. I hope for the Referral Directory to be just the beginning of shared member talent and new creative programs throughout the State." (*Alla Dobrish, author of the Original Forward to the Directory, 2005*)

Certificate of Merit

No Show – No Theory Test

The MTAC State Board, through the State Board Liaisons, sent the following information to all Branch Presidents in December, 2012.

Beginning with 2013 evaluations, students who are no-shows for their CM theory test will not be given the unused copy of the test. Since the elimination of Path B, all Certificate of Merit tests must be administered on the official Branch CM day or through an authorized make-up. Please make sure that your CM Chair and all of your CM Teachers are aware of this new policy.

Guitar Syllabus Proposal and Questions

CM Council has received a proposal for a Guitar Syllabus. The State Board is supportive of the idea to develop this program, but first we want to know how interested you would be in Certificate of Merit for Guitar. The initial program would start out with a few levels and then build as registration grows.

The following are some basic questions that need answers from Members who teach guitar.

Please email your answers to CM Coordinator, Judi Sands-Pertel, jspmidi@aol.com by January 31, 2013.

1. How many guitar students do you currently teach?
2. Would you utilize a guitar CM program?
3. Would you serve on a committee? The communication would primarily be through email and chaired by a CM Council member.
4. What is the most important curriculum in your studio?
5. Do you use method books, or create your own materials?
6. Do you offer testing in your studio?

Composers Today

State Contest online registration and uploading deadline:
March 30, 2013

Symposium online registration deadline: April 15, 2013

Symposium

- Composers who participate in the 2013 Evaluations program may apply to the MTAC Convention Symposium Recitals.
- Only students who apply to the Symposium and are accepted will be able to perform at the Convention Symposium Recitals.
- Application is done online by the teacher on the MTAC website: <https://www.mtac.org>. Log in to your Teacher Home Page with your username and password.
- Students with higher grades (usually an average of at least a rating of 4) will be invited (by e-mail) to perform at the Convention Symposium.
- Instructions and communication will be done mostly by e-mail.
- All students who won a first, second or third prize at the State Contest will be removed from the Symposium Convention Recital as they will be performing at the Convention State Contest Concert.
- Last year all Symposium applicants were invited to perform.

Any questions please contact –

CT Symposium Chair

Ana Contreras, anapianolesson@gmail.com

Friends of Today's Music and Contemporary Music Seminar

Friends of Today's Music has commissioned composer Katrina Wreede to write a new work for piano and strings. This exciting new work titled "I-5" is based on reveries or daydreams while traveling Interstate 5 in California - which so many of us do when traveling to the MTAC convention. The music portrays adventures that happen while driving and what we see fly by on land and on the road!

The work is in five short movements and is scored for piano, violin, viola, cello and bass (or 2nd cello). Each movement features an instrument and is aimed at high school level musicians. This is an outstanding opportunity for teachers and students to work firsthand with a composer and learn a new work.

Back by popular demand, the **Contemporary Music Seminar** will resume during the convention. This concert features teachers and students performing contemporary music and presenting a brief background about the works and composers. This program is open to teachers and students Level 3-Advanced. Program time is limited and performers will be selected based on repertoire and space availability.

In memory of Dr. Bob Bennett

We are deeply saddened by the recent passing of **Dr. Bob Bennett** who founded and organized both the Friends of Today's Music and Contemporary Music Seminar programs for MTAC for many years. His visionary outlook and tremendous dedication to music and education will forever be remembered through these innovative programs.

For further information on these programs contact –

Friends of Today's Music/
Contemporary Music Seminar Chair
Catherine O'Connor; cathoc@aol.com 510-581-6457.

Improvisation

Optional Improvisation at Certificate of Merit

Branch Presidents: please remind your Branch members – when entering student repertoire (Edit Eval. Info), **click the Improvisation Box** for students who will improvise at CM. Students have the opportunity to improvise from 5 to 60 seconds during the evaluation (it must fit into the total time of the evaluation, so even a 5- or 10- second improvisation is fine). Students can choose any theme or idea for their Improvisation, such as "Monkeys at the Zoo" or "Spring Flowers," or play an improvisation using a technical item such as broken chords or five-finger patterns. This is a good way for students to use their CM technique requirements in a practical way. Many times, beginning improvisers learn to improvise by using these technical items in a short improvised piece.

Teachers are not required to list the kind of Improvisation the student will play at CM; *all that is required is to click on the Improvisation box near the bottom of the form before clicking on "submit."* Students may prepare an Improvisation to practice (each time they practice it can be different), or they may improvise "on the spot" at CM.

Improvisation Evaluation

The **postmarked deadline** to submit applications for the Improvisation Evaluation is **March 15**. Record your student's improvisation on a CD or mp3 (many students know how to make this recording at home) and submit it along with the Evaluation Application Form found on the MTAC website. Students will receive written comments, along with a rating from 1-5+.

Convention Recitals

At the Convention, there are two types of Improvisation Recitals.

- 1. Improvisation Celebration Recital:** participants are chosen from students who submitted the Standard Improvisation Evaluation Application along with one recorded Improvisation, and received a high rating. On this application form, students may request "Evaluation Only," or they may also want to be considered to perform at the 2013 State Convention.
- 2. Improvisation Honors Recital:** students submit two recorded Improvisations with the Advanced Improvisation Evaluation Application. These students will be considered to play in the Honors Recital at the Convention.

This year's Improvisation Theme at the Convention will be "Earth and Sky." There are free monthly assignments on the website you may use with all your students. Students who are accepted to play in an Improvisation Recital at the Convention can prepare for the Improvisation games with these assignments.

Click on the Improvisation>Documents page for additional information and to access these applications. You may email your questions to one of the Improvisation Council members –

Dorothy Burgess, doburgess@aol.com
Deb Sanfilippo, debsanfilippo@yahoo.com
Alexandra Hawley, alidoremi@aol.com

Piano Concerto and Solo Competition

New Online Application Form

We would like to announce the new online application procedure for teachers who will be entering students in the 2013 Concerto-Solo Competition. PDF printed forms or applications filled out by hand will no longer be accepted. Each teacher must log onto the MTAC website with their username and password and then follow the links to the Concerto-Solo application form.

Payment also will be securely handled online, using a credit card. The non-refundable application fee is \$75 per student. Please do not mail personal checks to the State Chair.

The only exception to the use of snail mail is sending a copy of the student's passport, driver's license or birth certificate to offer proof of age.

Teachers may scan proof of age documents and send as an email attachment. Please type in the Subject Bar: Student's Name, Division & Age Category, i.e. "Andy Cheng - Concerto/Division 4" OR "Nancy Johnson- Solo/Division 3".

For teachers entering multiple students, proof of age documents may be scanned in the same attachment, but in

the body of the E-MAIL, there must be a clear listing of each student's name + Division/Category.

For teachers sending proof of age documents by snail mail, the name of the student and Division/Category must be clearly printed on the upper Right Hand corner of the page. Any unreadable proof of age documents will be returned and the student may not compete.

The online registration opens January 15 and closes March 1 at 11:59 p.m. Please direct any questions about the new procedure to –

Piano Concerto Solo Chair South
Kristi Lobitz, klobitz@sbcglobal.net

Piano Concerto Solo Chair North
John McCarthy, jmccar9416@aol.com.

VOCE

VOCE Master Class

For the first time, VOCE Place Winners and Honorable Mentions will be eligible to participate in VOCE String and Chamber Music Master Class at the MTAC Convention 2013.

Violin Teacher, *Li Lin* (from the SF Conservatory of Music) and the internationally renowned *Alexander String Quartet* will be giving Master classes for VOCE Finalists at the convention.

VOCE Competition

For more competition details, please read the September 2012 MTAC News posted at your Teacher Home Page. Application/Guidelines – go to: <http://www.mtac.org/programs/voce/index.shtml>

Northern Branches

On the next page is a chart of all the currently scheduled VOCE Competitions for Northern California. All first place Branch winners' names and applications must be confirmed online by March 5, 2013 for the State Finals.

Southern Branches

VOCE South Auditions are held in individual Branches, or in some cases, with a host Branch. For Branches with very few entries, please contact Jane Masur and arrangements will be made to put your students with the closest Branch that has room. These smaller Branches will still be only in competition with their own Branch and can be advanced to the finals.

Any questions please contact –

VOCE Chair South: Jane Masur,
jane@ozziesmusic.com 858-748-5662

VOCE Chair North: Erika Miranda,
quiny@earthlink.net 510-595-9378

Currently Scheduled VOCE Competitions for Northern California

COMPETITION	HELD AT	DATES/TIME	CONTACT
Alameda County <i>Regional Competition</i> Application Fee: \$55 per soloist, \$45 per ensemble member	<i>The Crowden School</i> 1475 Rose St Berkeley, CA 94702	Feb. 10, 2013 Sunday, 11-4pm Application deadline: January 20, 2013 <i>Send Branch Checks to:</i> 6601 Tremont St. Oakland, CA 94609	<i>Erika Miranda</i> VOCE Chair North (for Strings, Voice & Chamber Music) quiny@earthlink.net
Santa Clara <i>Regional Competition</i>	<i>Santa Clara University</i> Center for the Performing Arts	Feb. 9, 2013, Saturday, 9-1pm Application deadline, Jan. 15	<i>Haruna Shiokawa –Mo</i> , Chair. haruna12345@sbcglobal.net
Palo Alto <i>Branch Competition</i>	<i>The Congregational</i> <i>Community Church,</i> Sunnyvale	Feb. 3, 2013 Sunday, Application deadline, Jan. 21	<i>Theresa Frew</i> , Chair FrewT@sbcglobal.net
Marin Branch	TBA	Feb. 9, 2013 Saturday	Florence Aquilina aquicox2@sbcglobal.net

Media and Publication Awards

All Branches and Teachers!

Now is the time to start submitting publications (yearbooks/directories, newsletters and recital programs) as entries in the 2013 Media and Publication Awards Program.

Postmark deadline for all entries is June 12, 2013. For judging purposes, please note that all entries must be submitted in printed form, especially newsletters even if they are circulated to your members electronically.

Branch Scrapbooks: Bring your scrapbook to the Annual State Convention for display beginning the first day of Convention and ending on Monday evening. Look for the Scrapbook Display Table (it will be clearly labeled and in a public area). Judging begins on the second day of convention and will be completed on the morning of the Annual Awards Banquet, so make sure a representative brings your scrapbook!

Thanks to the many Branches who have already submitted their entries. But we're still looking for more!

Entries may be submitted by regular mail or e-mail to:

Media and Publication Awards Chair

Arlene Ferrolino
426 E. Randolph St.
Glendale, CA 91207
arleneferrolino@yahoo.com 818-291-9891

We're also searching for judges to select the winners for this year. Judging will take place on Sunday, June 16 from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. at my home. Please call or e-mail if you're interested in helping out.

2013 Convention Registration

Early-bird Full convention registration is available to members up until May 15 at \$180. After that date, pre registration pricing is available until June 15 at \$220. After June 15 the full convention is \$260. We also offer reduced prices on the registration form for a spouse/relative, or college student.

All teachers attending the convention for any reason are required to register and will be mailed a registration invoice if they do attend and fail to register. Single day registrations are available for \$130. You will be receiving an invitation through Cvent with instructions to complete registration, or register on the MTAC website, or use the registration form in the upcoming *California Music Teacher Magazine*.

The MTAC has negotiated a favorable room rate of \$99 at the Santa Clara Hyatt Regency Hotel.

New Branch members who were approved after August 1, 2012, receive \$40 off of the full convention registration rate. The State Office must receive this discounted convention registration application on or before June 15, 2013. This is a great opportunity for new members to meet and network with members throughout the state.

Heidi Lyn Williams
Convention Registrar



Tango Ensemble Master Class and the Jazz Piano Master Class Applications Due Soon!

A Message from Your Convention Chair, Bill Becker

Two exciting opportunities are available to students for these 2013 special Convention Master Classes.

1. Monday, July 1, 2013 – The Tango Ensemble Master Class given by Pablo Ziegler.

The master class is for a chamber group of two to five players. An arrangement by Ziegler will be sent in advance to selected groups for performance in the master class.

2. Sunday, June 30, 2013 (tentative schedule) – The Jazz Piano Master Class will be given by Jeremy Siskind. This is an artist change since the last newsletter.

For this master class, a jazz standard will be assigned to each participant. The following is a bio for Jeremy Siskind, who is also a former Certificate of Merit student and Composers Today winner:

Jeremy Siskind is the winner of the Nottingham International Jazz Piano Competition, a second-place finisher in the Montreux Jazz Festival Solo Piano Competition, and a two-time finalist for the American Pianist Association's Cole Porter Fellowship. His 2012 recording, Finger-Songwriter, has been hailed as "one of the best albums I've heard all year" by Emusic and "one of the most remarkable records I've heard in a very long time" by the MinnPost. Named a Professor of Piano at Western Michigan University in 2012, Siskind is an active educator – he's a regular contributor to Clavier Companion magazine and a frequent clinician for Yamaha and Hal Leonard. Besides his musical degrees from the Eastman School of Music, Siskind holds a degree from Columbia University in English and Comparative Literature.

To download a copy of either application, log in to your Teacher Home Page and click on "Convention Special Programs." Fill out the form(s) and mail to Suzanne Wong, Convention Program Chair at the address noted on the form. **The postmarked deadline is February 1, 2013.**

With the holidays now past and the calendar moving forward into January, we are now anticipating the wonderfully hot days of summer and the *sizzling* hot music forthcoming at MTAC State Convention! Beautiful California and especially our Santa Clara Valley, and the Santa Clara Hyatt Regency Hotel, offer venues for first class lodging, dining, entertainment, museums, historical sites, and best of all our students who will be presenting their musical achievements to family, teachers, and eager and appreciative audiences who recognize these students' commitment to their craft!

As we proceed toward Convention and readying our students for Certificate of Merit adjudications, let's remember that not only is the Convention for these performing students, but for families. How so? Well, from my perspective, Santa Clara, California, is a *destination*. Yes, a destination for teachers as well as their families. There's much to do as promoted by the Santa Clara Chamber of Commerce. Please watch for my upcoming article in the CMT that details exciting, enticing activities ranging from theme parks, to museums, to stadiums, to the worthwhile, notable, and historic community of Santa Clara. There's not a minute to lose for you and your family and/or your students and their families who will be staying perhaps for their annual "family" vacation. Remember, San Francisco Peninsula including FILOLI (www.filoli.org/plan-your-visit/), Half-Moon Bay, Santa Cruz and the Boardwalk and the ocean are very short distances for your families to visit.

So to recap, my purpose in bringing all this to your attention is: yes, convention is about recognition of musical achievement for our budding young performers; however, within that concept is the fact MTAC provides an opportunity for families to gather and enjoy themselves. I'd like to see our MTAC State Convention exceed expectations in attendance. Let's encourage colleagues and friends to attend, and our student families to attend. When the registration opens, be the first in line to reserve your hotel room. The MTAC State Board is creating a world-class convention with speakers and continuing education that you'll want to be a part of! Yes. **Take action – be there!!!**

All things 2013 Convention,
Bill Becker



Music Teachers' Association of California

F O U N D A T I O N

Please consider making a donation on or before March 31, 2013, and your name or Branch will be included in the 2013 Convention Program Book.

The MTAC Foundation thanks the following 16 individuals, 11 Branches and The San Diego Foundation from Beyster Family Foundation Fund for their generous donations.

Donors List

August 1, 2012 to January 10, 2013

Henry Allain
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The San Diego Foundation from Beyster Family Foundation Fund

2012-2013 Branch Giving Tree

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- San Fernando North Valley Branch
- Orange Coast Cities Branch
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- Redlands Branch
- Contra Costa County Branch
- Conejo Valley Branch
- West San Gabriel Valley Branch
- San Mateo County Branch
- San Joaquin County Branch
- San Fernando East Valley Branch
- Placer Branch
- Santa Cruz County Branch
- Lakewood-Cerritos Branch
- Sacramento County Branch
- Sonoma County Branch
- West Los Angeles Branch
- Whittier Branch
- Monterey County Branch
- Diamond Bar Branch
- Antelope Valley Branch
- Yolo County Branch
- Southern Alameda County Branch
- Northern San Diego County Branch
- Pleasant Valley - Ventura County Branch
- Delta Branch
- Solano Branch
- Stanislaus County Branch

Music Teachers' Association of California Foundation
2012-2013
 We believe in the MTAC Foundation's vision of excellence and its Mission.
 We support Composers Today ♦ Friends of Today's Music ♦ Improvisation ♦ Music Study Assistance Grant ♦ Piano Concerto and Piano Solo ♦ Vocalists, Orchestral instrumentalists, Chamber music, Ensembles ♦ Young Artist Guild ♦ Young Composers Guild
 Together we can and will make a difference.

We are in a new fiscal year and there is a new Branch Giving Tree!
 Please help to fill in all 67 MTAC Branches by donating to the MTAC Foundation.