



MTAC NEWS

November 2013

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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

October came and went; we had a smooth CM registration period. It was teamwork among the State Office, CM Council, Branch Presidents, and CM Chairs to get the word out regarding the change to October-only as the registration period.

The effort paid off. Teachers registered on time. The total registration number is up by 500 students. Congratulations to everyone!

As a friendly reminder, the CM fee check is due to the State Office by November 30, 2013. Branch Treasurers, please remember to mail your Branch check early or a 1 percent late fee will apply.

While you are in the thick of CM preparation for your students, the State Board of Directors is hard at work planning a fabulous 2014 convention for you and your students. We are excited that we have an amazing lineup of convention artists for piano, strings, winds, and voice. Please read Program Chair Edward Francis' article in this newsletter.

On November 9, 2013, the State Board and Convention Committee members visited the Convention 2014 site at the LAX Hilton. We are happy to report that the hotel is accommodating, and we are looking forward to a successful convention. However, the convention will not be successful without you – the MTAC members. Plan your 2014 summer vacation from June 27 through July 1 at the Hilton Los Angeles Airport Hotel. I look forward to seeing all of you there!

Amy Martin
MTAC State President

From the State Office

December 2013 and January 2014 MTAC State Office Schedule:

The State Office will be closed for the following days:

- November 28 and 29 Thanksgiving
- December 24 and 25 Christmas
- December 31 New Year's Eve
- January 1, 2014, New Year's Day
- January 20, 2014, Martin Luther King Day

From the State Historian a Request for Information

Irene Brown, State Historian, is working on identifying a large envelope of pictures marked "Convention" found in the State Office. Fortunately, most of the photos are identified, but a few are not. She is hoping that someone can help her identify the following photos.

The first photo is a Cal Plan Graduation at the 1949 convention in San Francisco. Can anyone identify any of the graduates?



The next two photos have no date or identification of any kind.

Can anyone identify the following string quartet?



Does anyone have any idea of where the convention picture to the right was taken and the approximate year?

Please send any information you have regarding the photos to Irene Brown at irenesmusicstudio@gmail.com. Thank you for your help.

Irene Brown
State Historian

Adult Performance North

The 2014 Adult Performance North Program is scheduled for Saturday, March 8, 2014, at Contra Costa College in San Pablo, CA. Please contact jgriest@contracosta.edu with any questions about the event. Applications are due February 15 and should be mailed to Jennifer Griest:

Jennifer Griest
Adult Performance Chair North
3982 Whittle Avenue
Oakland, CA 94602

Adult Performance South

The Adult Performance South event will be held on Sunday, March 16, 2014 at Chapman University in the city of Orange, California. Participants may choose different combinations of private lessons, master classes, and recitals. (Please see the website for details.)

The adjudicators for this event are James Bonn, faculty emeritus from the University of California; Alison Edwards of the California State University Fullerton piano faculty; and Dmitry Rachmanov of the California State University Northridge piano faculty.

Entry forms are available on the MTAC web site, and they are due on February 15, 2014. Forms should be mailed to:

Dr. Joseph Matthews
Adult Performance Chair South
5721 East Stillwater Avenue, Unit 2
Orange, CA 92869-7553

Information and rules for the event are available on the MTAC web site.

For further information or questions, contact Dr. Matthews at matthews@chapman.edu or (714)771-7190.



Composers Today

Composers Today has a Yahoo e-list for those members of MTAC who would like to keep abreast of the latest information regarding the CT program and other information pertinent to teaching composition. This list is open to any MTAC member who would like to join. Currently, the list has 46 members. It is a restricted group and not overly active, so if you wish to join, you do not have to worry about being bombarded with email. If you would like to be a member, contact Connie Tyler at connie@deephum.com, and she will arrange for an invitation to be sent to you.

Programs and Deadlines

EVALUATIONS: An evaluation is a non-competitive learning experience where students receive a written response in the form of constructive comments and ratings from two professional evaluators. Submissions are now done online using .pdf, .mp3, and .wav files. Compositions from the Evaluations may be submitted for performance in one of several State Convention Symposium recitals based upon the two evaluators' ratings. Teachers may also submit compositions and perform in the Symposium

**Deadlines: Evaluations, January 15, 2014;
Symposium, April 15, 2014**

STATE CONTEST: This competition offers a 1st-, 2nd-, and 3rd-place winner for each of the eight student and teacher divisions based on age as of March 30, 2014. Two professional adjudicators provide constructive written comments and judge compositions. Winners perform their pieces (or have someone perform them) at the State Convention. Honorable mentions are listed on the website and their pictures will be displayed with the 1st-, 2nd-, and 3rd-place winners at the convention. Submissions are now done online using .pdf, .mp3, and .wav files.

Deadline: March 30, 2014

YOUNG COMPOSERS GUILD: The Guild provides a special format for serious young composers who plan to pursue music composition as a career. Students who have had their work performed at MTAC State Convention at least once during their high school years may apply for membership in the YCG. Students may be selected to perform at convention and by invitation for various Branches throughout the state.

Deadline: January 15, 2014

SENIOR MEDALLION: Senior Medallions are awarded to graduating high school seniors who have entered 3 different compositions in grades 9-12 including their senior year and performed in a least one State Composers Today recital.

Composers Today Council members:

Elizabeth Lucus, State Chair, liz@lucusnet.com

Connie Tyler, Information and Publicity Coordinator, connie@deephum.com

Deborah H. How, Ph.D., Adjudicator Coordinator, dhhow@musette.org

Deborah Sanfilippo, Evaluations/Finance/Records Coordinator, debsanfilippo@yahoo.com

Ana L. Contreras, Symposium Coordinator, anapianolesson@gmail.com

Su-Shing Chiu, State Contest Coordinator, sushing_chiu@yahoo.com

Dr. Ron Anderson, Young Composers Guild Coordinator, ronjanderson@gmail.com

Improvisation

EVALUATION DEADLINE

If you have not explored the world of Improvisation with your students, now is a good time to start! You may have students who will thrive on Improvisation and will be creative in using things they are learning in technique and theory at their level. Their own creation of music is an excellent teaching tool to reinforce those areas.

The **deadline** to complete the **Improvisation Evaluation Application** and submit recorded improvisations is **March 15, 2014**. Listen to your students' Improvisations each week for 15 to 30 seconds and you will begin to notice the growth in their fluency and creativity. Once a student develops an Improvisation into something they enjoy playing over and over, this may become the Improvisation they will submit for the Evaluation.

If you don't know where to begin in teaching improvisation, ask your student to draw a picture on their assignment page each week. I use a template to draw a 2" square and ask the student to draw a picture in the square to improvise on during the coming week. Each week there is a new picture and a new improvisation (*students do not have to remember what they played the day before – each day there can be a "new" improvisation*). Drawing a picture each week has been a major break-through for some students who say they don't know what to play. Playing in pentatonic on the black keys is a way for beginning students to explore the sounds of the piano. This is a good opportunity to teach beginning students how to properly use the pedal in their pentatonic improvisation ("keep your heel on the floor!").

Students may improvise in the MTAC Evaluation Program using any source for their inspiration. They may make up their own improvisation, or use any improvisation assignment for an idea. On the website, you will find **sample Improvisation assignments with monthly themes** that have been used during the past seven years, along with the "Holidays" theme which is coming soon. You may print any of those that appeal to you and your students. In addition, you will find the MTAC **Improvisation Syllabus and Guide** and **Games and Activities for Improvisation** on the Shopping Page at the bottom of the Improvisation page. Both books are designed for teachers to use with students

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in levels Prep through Advanced. You may photocopy appropriate assignments for your students.

After you log into the MTAC website and then the Teacher Home Page, click on Improvisation>Documents, where you will find links for the Standard Improvisation Evaluation and the Advanced Improvisation Evaluation.

Standard Improvisation Evaluation. This evaluation is for the novice improviser in any level -- the student who has just recently begun to create his or her own pieces. The student may choose to have just a written evaluation done, or he/she may also request to be considered for the Celebration Recital at the Convention.

If your student has not submitted an Improvisation in the MTAC Evaluation Program before, you will want to start with this **Standard Improvisation Evaluation**. Students submit one recorded Improvisation and receive written comments from the adjudicator. The comments will guide them in improving their improvisation and will let them know that they are on the "right track" in learning to improvise. Students have two options: 1. They may want to participate in the EVALUATION ONLY to receive written comments but do not want to be considered to perform at the Convention, **or** 2. They may want to receive the written comments AND be considered to perform in the Improvisation Celebration Recital at the Convention. Students will indicate which option they are choosing on the application form. Students in option 2 with the highest ratings from the adjudicator will be invited to perform at Convention.

Advanced Improvisation Evaluation. Students who participate in the Advanced Evaluation have been improvising for a while and feel comfortable performing in a group setting, particularly in "on the spot" improvisation activities. For this evaluation, two recorded improvisations are required. Students who apply for Advanced Evaluation are asking to be considered for both the Celebration and Honors Recitals at Convention.

Students who have performed in the Convention Improvisation Recitals previously may want to submit two recorded Improvisations in the **Advanced Improvisation Evaluation**. This is for students who want to perform at the Convention. They will be considered for the Improvisation Honors Recital. If selected, the student will perform both Improvisations. Because the Honors Recital is limited to five students, those not selected will perform their best-rated improvisation in the Improvisation Celebration Recital.

The Improvisation Evaluation Program is open to students taught by MTAC teachers (any instrument) from age five through adult.

Complete information is included on the website for each application mentioned above. If you have questions about the MTAC Improvisation Program, or how to start teaching improvisation, feel free to contact an Improvisation Council member.

Feedback from Branches would be appreciated! Do some of your Branch members teach Improvisation? Has your Branch dedicated a Branch meeting or program to Improvisation? Do you have performance opportunities in your Branch for students who enjoy improvising? How many students in your Branch improvise in the Optional Improvisation during the CM Evaluation? Does your Branch have an Improvisation Branch Chair? Additional comments are welcome!

Deb Sanfilippo
Improvisation Council Chair, debsanfilippo@yahoo.com

Dorothy Burgess
Improvisation Assistant Chair, doburgess@aol.com

Certificate of Merit

CM Council says "thanks" to our brilliant Branch Chairs and our talented Teachers for their support of the CM program! Registration is up 500+ students from last year. All Instruments had an increase in regular CM and/or in Panel! CM Council wants to thank everyone for stepping up to the new Registration timeline. Regards,

Judi Sands-Pertel
CM State Chair

Friends of Today's Music and Contemporary Music Seminar

Friends of Today's Music has commissioned composer **Derek Bermel** to write a work for solo piano aimed at advanced-level students. The composition will be 5 to 10 minutes in duration and will be published by PeerMusic Classical. The work will be completed in January 2014; teachers may wish to obtain and preview the score before submitting students to perform the premiere. Described by the Toronto Star as an "eclectic with wide-open ears," Grammy-nominated composer and clarinetist Derek Bermel has been widely hailed for his creativity, theatricality, and virtuosity. Bermel's works draw from a rich variety of musical genres, including classical, jazz, pop, rock, blues, folk, and gospel. Hands-on experience with music of cultures around the world has become part of the fabric and force of his compositional language. We look forward to Mr. Bermel's residency at convention.

The Contemporary Music Seminar will be presented at the 2014 Convention in Los Angeles. This program features students and teachers introducing and performing contemporary works. This is a terrific opportunity to share newer and unknown works by the composers of our time. All MTAC teachers are welcome to participate. All selections must be published.

For information on these programs, please contact:

Catherine O'Connor
FTM Chair
(510-581-6457) cathoc@aol.com

The MTAC Certificate of Merit Council is seeking to hire individuals to write the 2015 CM Theory Tests and to compose the CM Sight Reading Excerpts for Harp, Piano, Violin, Viola, Cello, Voice, and Wind Instruments.

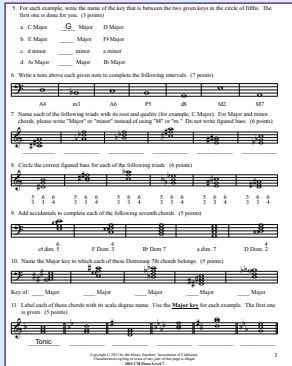
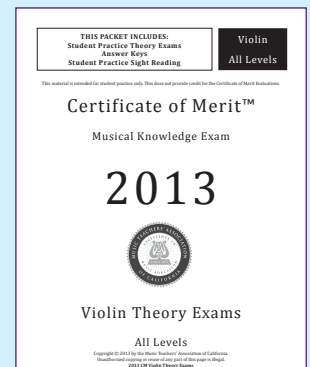
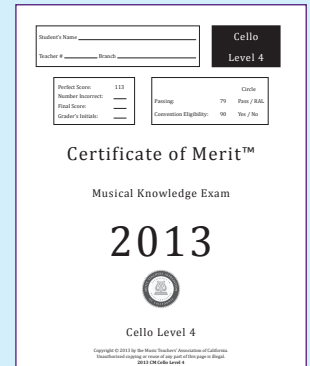
Please note that THIS IS A PAID contracted position – not a volunteer position.

If you are interested and/or want more information go to (click): <http://fs24.formsite.com/cmccouncil/newapplication/index.html>

Applicants must:

- Own and have extensive experience with the Finale Notation Software
- Have a keen sense of clean and neat formatting
- Have a striving for excellence and perfection
- Have extensive experience as a CM Teacher
- Be well versed with the requirements in the CM Syllabus
- Be able to honor instructions and deadlines set forth in the Test Materials Writer Guidelines
- Be able to accept criticism and be willing to revise work if needed without complaints
- Be able to communicate regularly with Test Materials Coordinator via emails

We are accepting applications until December 31, 2013, and we look forward to hearing from you!



Piano Concerto Solo North

The Piano Concerto-Solo Competition, Northern Regional, will be held on Saturday, March 15, 2014, at Santa Clara University, Santa Clara, California. The online registration will open on January 15, 2014, on the MTAC website. The application deadline is March 1, 2014, at 11:59 pm.

Anna Lin
Concerto Solo Chair North
yungshueh@hotmail.com

Piano Concerto Solo South

Online Application Form continuing in 2014

The 2014 Concerto/Solo Southern Regionals will be held on March 22, 2014, at El Camino College, Torrance and on March 23, 2014, at Steinway Gallery, W. Hollywood (High School/Solo Division 3). The online registration opens January 15, and closes March 1, 2014, at 11:59 p.m. Please direct any questions about the application procedure to:

Kristi Lobitz
Concerto Solo Chair South
klobitz@sbcglobal.net

VOCE North and South

Welcome Branch Presidents, Branch VOCE Chairs, and Teachers to VOCE 2014. It's time to start the registration process for the coming year. Our website is now open for registration. Please make sure your Branch Chairs or Branch Presidents have visited their Branch page on the VOCE link on your Teacher Home Page; that they have updated their Branch information; and that they have inserted the dates for their Branch for 2014. Without updating their Branch link, teachers will be unable to register for this year. If you do not know your Branch date, or will be regionalizing with another Branch, put in the default date of January 31, 2014, so the teachers can register. The exact date can be added or edited later, and, if there are only a few entries, we can assign them to a neighboring Branch. Remember, each Branch competes only with those in their own Branch and not with those entries from the host Branch. Many smaller Branches choose to combine to save on expenses. If you would like to participate in a VOCE Branch audition and your Branch does not hold a competition, please notify either Erika or Jane immediately so we can find a nearby Branch that can accommodate you. You will not be competing with their Branch but will be heard by judges who can evaluate your students to be able to qualify for the State finals.

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The fees for the Branch level competitions stay with the Branch. The VOCE chair will enter the appropriate address for mailing the check. All entries must apply with the online application. There is no paper application. There is a help page for teachers who have not used the Teacher Home Page before. As always, Erika and I will be available to help new Branch chairs get started. Suggested Branch fees are \$45 for solos and \$35 for ensemble members. Branches may choose to charge more than this amount and can notate that on the Branch website link. State fees have gone up to cover some of the rising costs of the State Finals. Solos are \$75, ensemble members are \$50. Applying for the State Finals is also done online, and payment must be made to the State Office. There will be instructions on the Teacher Home Page 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 have forgotten your password, contact either Erika or Jane, 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.

Erika Miranda
VOCE Chair North
quiny@earthink.net

Jane Masur
VOCE Chair South
janemasur50@gmail.com



Convention Program Chair

Music Teachers' Association of California
The 2014 Annual Convention
"Music Brings Us Together!"
Los Angeles Hilton Hotel at LAX
June 27 – July 1, 2014

The 2014 annual Convention for the Music Teachers' Association of California will be held June 27 through July 1 at the luxurious Hilton Hotel at Los Angeles International Airport. Program chair, Edward Francis of the MTAC-Conejo Valley Branch, is working with State Board member Verna Balch and Foundation Chair Joyce Osborn in organizing a slate of international performers and artist teachers to present recitals and sessions to the more than one thousand anticipated attendees. Confirmed convention artists include the sensational piano duo **Anderson & Roe**. After millions of "hits" on their various YouTube videos, these superstars of the piano world were pleased to make room in their extremely busy schedule to appear at the convention. The duo will present a major recital and conduct a master class.

Sean Chen, the 2013 Van Cliburn medalist and winner of the \$100,000 American Pianists Association DeHaan Classical Fellowship, will also be one of the main artists. Chen, who has been on a whirlwind international tour since wins at both competitions, is able to squeeze in a

convention solo recital and master class. Chen has an important connection to the MTAC, as he is a product of its programs; as a student, he won honors in YAG and the Concerto/Solo competition.

Flutist, **James Walker** of USC, and collaborative pianist, **Bryan Pezzone**, will present a spectacular recital and teach master classes.

String teachers will be pleased to know that we have engaged the First Associate Concertmaster of the Los Angeles Philharmonic, **Nathan Cole**, as our violin string artist.

Dmitry Rachmanov, coordinator of the keyboard area at California State University-Northridge, will be featured in a recital highlighting the music of Alexander Scriabin. Rachmanov's spring semester sabbatical focuses on research and highlights Scriabin's compositional development and innovation. His tour will take him to all parts of the USA, Europe, and Russia, with a culminating recital at Carnegie Hall.

Contemporary music expert, Dr. **Charles Fierro's** lecture/recital features Hindemith's Ludus Tonalis, a specialty of the concert pianist and a masterwork surprisingly underperformed.

Concert artist and professor of piano at the Juilliard School and the Music Academy of the West, **Jerome Lowenthal** will preside over a master class of piano

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concertos. He will also judge the state finals of the Solo and Concerto Competitions. Serving on the judging panel with Lowenthal will be **Joel Harrison**, president and artistic director of the American Pianists Association, headquartered in Indianapolis.

Dr. N. **Lincoln Hanks**, chair of the theory and composition areas at Pepperdine University, will share the results of an experimental composition project funded by the Pickford Foundation that focuses on encouraging the writing of new music for silent films. Pepperdine is the first institution to have Pickford Foundation's funding.

In association with Alfred Music Publishers, **Melody Bober**, the composer of countless musical gems for students, will give several presentations, as will **Nancy Bachus**, pianist, editor, and professor of music at Westminster Choir College.

Did you ever wonder why particular students are successful, or why certain teachers always have students that continually earn honors? You can find out during one of the moderated panel discussions with teachers and parents of successful students.

Additional performances, intermediate master classes, general pedagogy, and our soon-to-be-announced guest artist in voice (we are working on a real gem in this area!) will soon be available on the MTAC website

[Editor's Note: We are pleased to announce the guest artist in voice, is Aaron Blake, Tenor. Aaron was a VOCE winner and currently sings with the Cincinnati Opera. We are excited that Aaron will be at the convention on Sunday, June 29, 2014.]

The MTAC is pleased to announce that the 2014 convention will be all-Steinway, the result of an exceptional working relationship with the **Steinway Piano Company**. The generosity shown by the world's premiere piano manufacturer illustrates its belief in the MTAC, its mission and its programs. Steinway's West coast general manager **Gavin English** was particularly helpful with this development.

Special rates have been negotiated with the hotel, and reservations can be made from this point on. For more information, please check the convention link under the "Events and Information" tab on MTAC's website: www.mtac.org.

Edward Francis

2014 Convention Program Chair

Convention Registrar

2014 Convention Registration

Early-bird full convention registration is available to members up until May 15, 2014, at \$210. After that date, pre-registration pricing is available until June 15, 2014, at \$250. After June 15, 2014, the full convention is \$290. We also offer reduced prices for a spouse/relative, or a 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 onsite day registrations are available for \$145.

There are three ways that you can register: (1) when you receive an invitation by email from the MTAC State Office to register, (2) register on the MTAC website, or (3) use the registration form in the upcoming *California Music Teacher Magazine*.

The MTAC has negotiated a favorable room rate of \$94 at the Los Angeles Airport Hilton.

New Branch members who were approved after August 1, 2013, receive \$40 off the full convention registration rate. The State Office must receive this discounted convention registration application on or before June 15, 2014. This is a great opportunity for new members to meet and network with members throughout the state.

Gwen Churchill
Convention Registrar

MUSIC TEACHERS'

ASSOCIATION *of* CALIFORNIA



FOUNDATION

Excellence in Music Education

**From the Foundation Chair
and Donors List**

Where We Are - Foundation Campaign

Thanks to all of you who have generously donated up to this point in time. We are moving forward, but still at a slow pace. As of November 14, 2013, we had \$6,544 in revenues coming in. That is a start, but still a small one.

MEMBER DONORS

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How generous they have been and what an excellent example they have set for all of us. If neither you nor your Branch has donated to the Foundation, I urge you to put it on your financial agenda and send in a check before the end of December. Our goal is to have one hundred percent representation with our Branches, and as high a percentage of member donors as possible. Any amount, however large or small, is greatly appreciated.

Please know that the Foundation **REALLY** needs a boost financially. It is the engine that makes many of our programs run.

Thanks to the above donors. You have set a marvelous example for all of us.

2013-2014 Branch Giving Tree

