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MTAC News

September 2015

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Greetings From the State President

Dear Colleagues,

I am thrilled and excited to be your President for the term 2015-2017. We have six returning Board Members: Verna Balch, Gwen Churchill, Jennifer Cruz, Louise Earhart, Peter Thompson, and Nancy Woo, and three new members: Marceline Lee, Jane Masur, and Janice Sheng. I know I speak for everyone on the Board when I say we are honored to be the Board of one of the most prestigious music teaching organizations in the country.



Dr. Louise Earhart

We have so many programs to offer, not only on the State level, but also on the Branch level. I am interested in the many and varied programs that each Branch offers to its students and teachers. The six MTAC programs for students and teachers on the State level are Adult Performance, which includes the Teachers' Convention Recital, the Certificate of Merit Program with 11 graduated levels and YAG, Composers Today with YCG, Improvisation, Piano Concerto and Solo Competitions, and VOCE. MTAC has grown from one State program, the CM program, to these six major programs, and from one man's vision, love, and drive in 1897, Vollmer Hoffmeyer, to nearly five thousand members.

Our Conventions are wonderful musical exhibitions with lectures, recitals, master classes, and many student recitals on various instruments. I encourage everyone to begin planning for these Convention Recitals now. One recital program that I am again interested in is the Ensemble Programs. I have always had four-hand and two-piano works on my studio recitals. To give this work more focus for the recitals, my studio has chosen an Opus from a composer, distributed the parts, and played the entire work. The composers in succession have been these: Ravel, Faure, Bizet, Schumann, and Dvorak. On our next recital in January 2016, we will perform Three Clementi Sonatas for four Hands -- eight

movements in all. We have all learned a great deal and had a lot of fun doing it!

I wish everyone the best in this next busy season of music making. Take time to enjoy every event. Thank your colleagues for their work; everyone needs appreciation--a kind word goes a long way.

Remember to Enjoy Life and Music, two of the most precious gifts we have been given.

Louise Earhart, Ph.D.

Dr. Louise Earhart
MTAC State President

The Newly Installed 2015-2017 State Board of Directors



- Dr. Louise Earhart, President
Long Beach Branch

- Marceline Lee, Membership Secretary
Yolo County Branch

- Gwen Churchill, First Vice-President
Sonoma County Branch
- Peter Thompson, First Director
Santa Clara County Branch
- Verna Balch, Second Vice-President
South Bay Branch
- Nancy Woo, Second Director
Orange County Branch
- Jennifer Cruz, Treasurer
Diamond Bar Branch
- Janice Sheng, Third Director
San Mateo County Branch
- Jane Masur, Recording Secretary
Northern San Diego County Branch

Message From the State Board

What is happening with the Certificate of Merit money retained by the branches?

We have heard from several CM Branch Chairs, Branch Presidents and Treasurers that clarification is needed regarding this change.

Here is a summary:

Beginning in 2015-2016, Branches will retain \$3 per student from the State CM registration fee.
Beginning in 2016-2017 with the introduction of the new CM database, Branches will retain \$0 per student from the State CM registration fee.*

Here is the background and explanation:

The \$6 previously retained by the Branches from CM registration was to help with their operating costs. Branches have been retaining funds since the mid 1980's. The original purpose was to support the Branch operations to help cover the Branch operating expenses. The reality now is that most Branches charge a surcharge or a Branch fee to help with operating CM at the Branch level. The \$6 on its own is not enough to cover the operating costs.

*The debut of the new CM database in 2017 will automatically divide the State and Branch fees. With the new system of the database, the State is moving to a more streamlined fee structure within registration. Instead of having a State fee, a Branch fee/surcharge, and a Branch portion of the State fee, MTAC will have a State registration fee and Branch registration fee for CM. The students' parents will pay the fees online and the State will rebate the Branch portion of the CM fees back to the Branches after registration has closed. MTAC is moving away from surcharges and other small charges that cost more to build into the database and often take more administrative time to maintain.

Association

Convention 2016

Verna Balch, Convention Program Chair

MTAC's 106th Annual Convention: 'Composers Alive'
Hilton Los Angeles Airport
July 1-5, 2016

Have you heard about the 2016 Convention Theme “*Composers Alive*”? We encourage you to widen your view with these new innovative offerings. To help us in our quest for *Alive* music, [here](#) is a sampling of some of our outstanding artists:

For exciting news about the 2016 Convention Program please click here.

Notes From the Convention Registrar

Jennifer Cruz, 2016 Convention Registrar

Greetings from your new Convention Registrar for 2016 (and 2017)! First, I'm proud to report that our 2015 Convention, held at the beautiful Fairmont Hotel in San Jose this past July, was another huge success! Its prime location, having a wide variety of restaurants and interesting places to visit, along with an amazing lineup of artists and events, was definitely the key factor to its success. This year there were 664 Convention attendees and over 1400 students who performed in various student recitals. Pianist Andrew von Oeyen gave a spectacular program at the Monday evening concert. Jerome Lowenthal once again enlightened us with his master teaching at the Panel Piano Masterclass, in addition to performing a spectacular recital on Sunday afternoon.

For information about Convention registration please click here

State Programs

Adult Performances

Jennifer Griest, Adult Performance Chair North

The Adult Performance Program winners presented a wonderful recital at this year's convention on July 4, 2015. Judges from the programs in Northern and Southern California selected winners based on recital performances at the Adult Performance programs in March. At the convention, Rob Cook, Maryam Farshadfar, John Van Vleet, Dwight Stone, NinoAngelo Lastimoso, Mark Zullo, Ching Yu and John Orlando performed works by Gershwin, Bach, Albeniz, Stone, Beethoven, Vlasse and Chopin. They represented the studios of Nora Ayzman (Los Altos), Jennifer Grant (Marin County), Jennifer Griest (Alameda County), Jane Jonaitis (West Los Angeles), Sandra Shen (Los Altos), Danae Vlasse (Diamond Bar), and members of Contra Costa County and Santa Cruz County.

Congratulations to all the participants and teachers! We hope to see you at the 2016 program and next year's convention!

Jennifer Griest
Adult Performance Chair North

Certificate of Merit

Judi Sands-Pertel State Chair

Welcome to a new CM year!

For staffing, policy and guidelines updates, please read the August CM Newsletter posted at your home teacher page or by clicking the link below.

CM Council

Certificate of Merit Newsletter

Composers Today

Liz Lucus, Composers Today State Chair

Composing students and teachers: let's make 2016 an incredible year! Whether you teach composition or are new to the field, the Composers Today Council is here for you to guide you with this amazing program of getting new music evaluated by amazing professional composers with the intent of encouraging them to continue towards more creativity and discovery. Composers Today does not happen by itself... it needs YOU!

[Click here for more information](#)

Improvisation

Deborah Sanfilippo, Improvisation State Chair

We had several improvisation events at this year's convention. The Improvisation Council held a short informational meeting where many teachers came to find out about our MTAC State Improvisation Program. We showed a Power Point presentation that outlined the what, why and how to get involved in the Improvisation Program. This Power Point can be emailed to any branch that would like to show it at one of their meetings. It takes less than ten minutes. Send Deb Sanfilippo (debsanfilippo@yahoo.com) an email and she'll get it to you.

[Click here for more information](#)

Piano Concerto-Solo Competition

Anna Lin, North Chair Kristi Lobitz, South Chair

The Piano Concerto-Solo competition culminated in an outstanding pair of final rounds at the Convention, held on July 4th at the Fairmont San Jose. Out of the sixteen finalists there were four first place Solo winners, and four first place Concerto winners. The remaining eight students were awarded second place in their various age divisions, and all competitors received prize monies. Of the first-place winners, there were a total of two from the North, and six from the South — the reverse of last years results!

[Click here for more information](#)

VOCE

Kathy You, North Chair Xuefeng Stanley Wang, South Chair

Our MTAC program that features our very talented vocalists, orchestral instrumentalists, and chamber ensembles.

New Chairs: We are pleased to introduce our new VOCE Chairs: Xuefeng Stanley Wang from Northern San Diego Branch and Kathy You from Los Altos Branch.

We are entering a new age in MTAC with the opening of the VOCE database.

New Training: An instructional YouTube video is now available on the Branch VOCE Chair Google Group to assist Branch Chairs on the new registration procedures. Very soon another video will be available for teachers to learn the new registration procedures. Watch for an email from the State Office.

[Click here for more information](#)

Foundation

Joyce Osborne, Committee Chair

Another Year . . .

Another Donation List for the Foundation . . .

”Oh where, oh where has the money all gone?”

As of July 31, 2015, the MTAC Foundation raised **\$81,605.43**.

Were you a part of this? Take a look to see how the donations came in and where they all went. Oh, yes, the Foundation needs to be replenished each year!

[Click here for more information](#)

Thank you for reading the MTAC News!

MTAC NEWS is published in September, February, and April. Deadlines for submissions are the tenth of each of the above months. Please send all information with “MTAC NEWS” in the subject column electronically to Gwen Churchill, editor, gchurchill@mtac.org. The MTAC News is posted online at www.mtac.org on the Teacher Home Page under *MTAC*.

Comments and suggestions should be addressed to Gwen Churchill, Editor.

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