

MTAC San Fernando East Valley Branch Meeting

Monday, September 8, 2014, 10:00 am

Location: Piano Play

10:20 Welcome Members

Gillian welcomes members to the meeting, of which 26 are present. Janet, whose son passed away, thanked us for the flowers. Also, there is an elderly couple who performs regularly together and is looking for places to perform; their names are Charlie (94 years old) and Erica (92 years old). If you know anyone who would be interested in hosting a house concert, you can contact Gillian with the information.

10:27 Venues

CSUN and/or LA Valley College can be costly so we are looking for other places to host events. A few suggestions include the following:

- (a) Good Samaritan Hospital in Downtown LA, which has a nice chapel and only charges a \$60 guard fee
- (b) First Christian Church of North Hollywood.
- (c) Russian Piano Academy is circa \$160 for a few hours
- (d) Keyboard Concepts in Van Nuys
- (e) Sue Choi's home; up to 50 people can be seated
- (f) Hollywood Piano has a great reception hall and is circa \$150/3 hours
- (g) Santa Monica Library Martin Luther King Auditorium is circa \$180/3 hours with 150 seated and a Steinway Piano; you may rent up to two months in advance.

10:30 Treasury Report and Events

We are off to a good start. Our membership is up. Also, we received \$1300 from the state.

Just a note: our branch reimburses Gillian for her membership dues.

We are still working on hosting a Concerto Competition but it won't happen this year.

CM strings testing is occurring the same day as the Honors Festival, therefore, a few students may not be able to perform at the festival. Perhaps, we can host separate event for these performers on a different day. Sue Choi offered her home as a choice venue.

10:35 New Members

Francine notes there are five new members and more in process. These members include two pianists, a violinist, a euphonium teacher, a cellist, and a composer.

10:40 Accompanying List; More on Events

SFEV Branch is thinking to create a list of people who are interested in accompanying others.

Contemporary Festival update: music must have been composed after 1920; all music by Prokofiev, Bartok, Stravinsky is acceptable regardless of the date of composition; and Piazzola transcriptions are acceptable.

Bach Festival update: Nobuyo asked teachers to please remove all non-active students from your registration list. At the 2014 branch Bach Festival, less than 30 students participated. Nobuyo encouraged teachers to enter more students next year. If students are playing pieces by Bach for Certificate of Merit, consider enrolling them in the Bach Festival. Not only is it a great festival, but our branch needs to raise money to pay for three judges.

Benefit Concert update: It is the last Sunday in the month of January. Volunteers are needed to help this concert run smoothly. So far the following people are contributing their time and effort:

- Paul (event chair)
- Dilara
- Arjang (stage manager)
- Valeria
- Aziza
- Gillian

If anyone else is interested in helping, please contact Paul or Gillian.

10:50 SFEV Branch Website

Ronda, our professional website designer, has contributed well to our branch providing us with lovely ideas to refresh our website. She may not be paid enough and Gillian, Dilara, and Laura will work it out so that she may be paid fairly w/o compromising our branch's finances. Also, if you have any suggestions as to who would like to advertise on our website, please contact Dilara.

11:00 More Events Updates

General Recital Update: Michael Paul is the event chair for the October General Recital. The fee is \$15. A student who plays a duet in addition to a solo need only pay one registration fee if the total playing time is less than 6 minutes. If the playing time is over 6 minutes, the student should register with two entry fees totaling \$30.00.

Branch Honors Update: Requirements to be able to participate have changed. Sight-reading needs to be 'average' or better; technique needs to be 'good' or 'excellent'; theory needs to be over 80%; pieces (level 4 or higher) do not all need to be memorized (but the piece selected for Branch Honors must be memorized), and the grading for the selected piece (selected by the evaluator) needs to be a 5-, 5, or 5+.

11:05 Balancing CM Preparation into Lesson Time

A question arose as to what tips and tricks teachers use to prepare students for CM efficiently during lesson time. A few suggestions are listed below:

- hold separate theory workshops
- address theory during the learning of every piece so that the student is constantly aware of and thinking about theoretical concepts rather than spending extra time working in theory books
- give practice tests in advance
- organize student practice time on paper each week (give them things to check off... theory, technique, sight-reading, etc.
- keep theory work for a week after the lesson so that you can correct it without taking up lesson time
- have older students grade their own exams using teacher's answer page

11:10 YAG Performers

Our branch invited a YAG performer to the Convention and it turned out well. We have also invited a YAG performer in for previous holiday meetings; should we opt to pay for one again? Most if not all members seemed to nod "yes."

11:15 Meeting Adjourned

September 22, 2014

Dear Members of MTAC SFEV!

It was wonderful to see so many of you at the September Meeting. I'm glad that there wasn't too much business to take care of so that we could spend some relaxed time together, and it was especially good to meet many new members who attended. Thank you all for making the effort to be there.

PAUL PITMAN CONCERT

Our esteemed colleague, Dr. Paul Pitman, will be performing with singers in his upcoming concert "Where Opera and Broadway Meet" at the First Presbyterian Church of Encino, this coming Sunday, September 28. Please see attached flyer for details!

GENERAL RECITAL

The first General Recital of the year will take place October 19th at Valley College. Please remember to register by October 6th. Michael Paul is the chairperson. If you register students for this recital, please be prepared to help Michael before, during or after the recital, if he asks you, or let him know if you will be unable to attend.

Michael Paul has also agreed to be the branch liaison with Valley College, as he was last year. Thank you so much, Michael!

MARK RICHMAN MASTERCLASS

We are very fortunate to have a recognized "Master" teacher in our branch. Each year, Mark Richman conducts a masterclass for our student pianists (and I am sure he would consider a chamber music ensemble as well since he is a well-respected coach for Junior Chamber Music.) Please let Mark know if you have students who would like to perform at this wonderful class. It will take place November 2nd at Pasadena Steinway 4 to 6PM.

CONTEMPORARY FESTIVAL

The Contemporary Festival takes place November 16 at Hollywood Piano in Burbank [Address: 323 S. Front Street, Burbank 91502 Ph: (747) 400-3193.] Please make note of the change in location!! The recitals will run about one hour earlier than in past years: first recital will begin around 12 noon; the second will probably start around 2:00; and the third around 4PM. Please let me know in advance if you need two pianos.

For those of you who are new to the branch or are thinking of entering student for the first time, details about this festival can be found on our website. The Festival is open to the public: anyone may attend. The registration deadline is October 27.

BACH FESTIVAL

The Bach Festival, chaired by Nobuyo Nishizaka, takes place April 12 at Pasadena Steinway. Again, please make note of the new location! Nobuyo asks that all of us consider entering more students in this event. Perhaps begin preparing students with their Bach pieces for Certificate of Merit and for the Bach Festival soon!

BENEFIT CONCERT

Our Benefit Concert will be on January 25th at the first Presbyterian Church of Encino. Paul Pitman will chair this event as he has for many years. Thank you, Paul! He will be assisted by Valeria, Dilara, Arjang and many others of us. We don't require anyone to attend any event all season (except CM), but it is requested that all of you attend this event and encourage your friends and students to attend as well. Not only is this a fund-raising event for student scholarships, it is a celebration of our teaching community. Many of our members perform at this event, and there is time just to be together before and after the concert and during intermission. Please plan to be there, if you possibly can!

BRANCH ACCOMPANISTS

It was requested that we keep a list of members of our branch who are willing to

serve as accompanists for our students. Please let me know if you wish to be included on this list.

EVENT CALENDAR

An updated Event Calendar is attached with new locations for the Contemporary Festival and the Spring Festival.

Gillian