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MTAC News

(May 2016)

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Greetings From the State President



Hello,

Welcome back to the MTAC News, your link for finding continuing information about our State Programs and our yearly Conventions. As always, your State Office Staff and State Board are working hard so that these Programs and our Conventions run as smoothly and efficiently as possible. The Convention Planning Committee, Verna Balch, Chair, Nancy Woo, and Jane Masur, are members of your State Board. They have worked tirelessly this year for Convention 2016. The six other members of the State Board give counsel and encouragement throughout the year, of course, and all nine of us work during the Convention.

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This year our Keynote Speaker is Andrew Norman. We are reaping the benefits of one of our own MTAC students. An important teacher in Andrew's young life was our own Martha Ashleigh. Andrew was selected as a Young Artist Guild Member and a Young Composers' Guild Member. Our members can and should feel very proud of Andrew and MTAC's excellent teachers. Andrew's accomplishments include two degrees in music, the 2006 Rome Prize and the 2009 Berlin Prize. He is now the composer-in-residence for the LA Chamber Orchestra and is the newly appointed Director of the LA Philharmonic's Composer Fellowship Program. He is also most generous. Right after his Keynote address, he will give another talk explaining his work with Fellowship Program.

To continue reading please [click here](#)

Online System News

MTAC Online System Teacher Information Sessions Offered At Convention

Did you miss it? Maybe there wasn't a session that was close enough, or you were busy that day. Or perhaps you would like a refresher course. Well, you're in luck! The State Board will be hosting several "Teacher Information Sessions" for the new Online System for CM Enrollment 2017. These sessions will provide an overview of the teacher and parent portals and will be offered every day at Convention, in the Bel Air room. Discover what the new online system has to offer; get a first-hand look at how to build your student roster; take a sneak peek at the CM application process. These are the same sessions that were offered in the north and south during April and May, designed to give teachers a brief but important introduction to the new online system.

What other teachers are saying about these sessions:

- I came, I ate, I took notes (upon an excellent outline). You do NOT want to miss this. (Orange County Branch)
- I learned a lot from attending the info session. (San Mateo Branch)
- Thank you for your excellent explanation of the new CM processes at last Wednesday's workshop. I certainly hope that all CM teachers plan to attend at least one of these valuable sessions. (South Bay Branch)

Join us in Bel Air and see what you missed!

[Teacher Information Session Schedule](#)

Friday, July 1: 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Saturday, July 2: 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

Sunday, July 3: 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Monday, July 4: 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Convention Piano Policy

To keep our Convention pianos in good working condition for the duration of the Convention, teachers and artists are asked to refrain from selecting pieces for “prepared piano” for performance at the Convention.

Specifically, works using any foreign object in the pianos or to strum, pluck or vibrate on the strings. Some limited use of the hands inside the piano is allowed with certain restrictions. Our pianos this year are being graciously provided by Steinway & Sons for our exclusive use. Please read the following paragraph to make sure our students are in compliance with the guidelines:

Hand-muting, string tapping, strumming or the plucking of the piano strings is allowed, as long as only the performer’s hands or fingers are used for these effects and the essential integrity and tuning of the piano is not affected. Not allowed is the insertion in the piano or on the strings of metallic objects, stones, paper or any other foreign object, intentional de-tuning of the strings or the excessive pounding of chord clusters, which has the danger of de-tuning the piano for following performers.

ASCAP

ASCAP PROGRAMS

Please remember that all programs from Branch recitals, master classes, and competitions, plus programs from private studio recitals of MTAC members, are to be mailed to the MTAC State Office Attn: ASCAP, 833 Market St., Suite 900, San Francisco, CA 94103 or emailed to Maria Mercado at mariam@mtac.org. Some Branches collect these programs all year, and mail them in the spring. Its that time of year so collect these programs, and send them all in together – or separately as the events occur.

MTAC has an overall licensing agreement with ASCAP which assures that ASCAP member

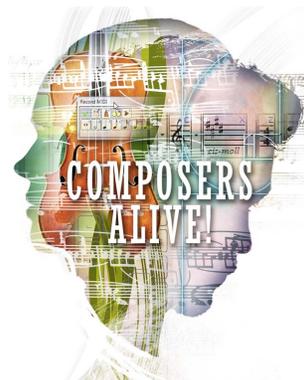
composers and arrangers will receive royalties from the music which MTAC students and members perform. But in order for ASCAP to know what is performed, they must have programs. There is no charge to the Branches for this service, except for your mailing cost. The State will take care of mailing all programs directly to ASCAP. Should you have any questions about ASCAP, you may access their website at www.ascap.com.

Association

Convention 2016

Verna Balch, Convention Program Chair

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



With such an incredible group of Artists and Sessions for this year, we recommend that you do not miss any event. Plan to attend the Convention each day. Here's why:

On day 1

- Meet our own very alive and successful composer Andrew Norman.
- Hear Dr. Falik's ideas on inspiring advanced students to think creatively about programming.
- Be overwhelmed with Piano Ensemble Extravaganza
- Learn from Beethoven expert Dr. Gordon without having to enroll in a course at USC
- Become acquainted with John Harbison. Get caught up with New Repertoire
- Want to know more about Pedaling, or how to teach by Skype? It's all on this day
- Finish off the evening with the new debutant YAG Recital.

On day 2

- A history lesson on the Development of the Piano.
- Master Classes for Piano, Concerti, Violins. Plus Solo Competition.
- Hear an exciting L.A. Philharmonic Violinist's Recital
- Rendezvous with Bartók, Post-Romantic Piano Music and Syncopations, all on Saturday.

- Websites, Technology, Texting and Tweeting? This is the day to learn about them
- Concerto Competition excitement this evening.

To continue reading about the Convention program please [click here](#)

Notes From the Convention Registrar

The time has finally arrived...Convention 2016 registration is well underway! You should have received an email from the State Office along with a link to the website for online registration.

Member Registration Prices

- Pre-Registration: Full Convention - \$300/Single Day - \$150 (on or before June 15, 2016)
- Onsite Registration: Full Convention - \$340/Single Day - \$170 (after June 15, 2016)
- Reduced prices are available for spouse/relative or college students
(Please see website for more info.)

Hotel Accommodations

Take advantage of the discounted room rate (\$99/night +tax) and availability before rooms get sold out. The rate is available to all Convention guests while supplies last (before June 15th).

Parking Rates=\$10 Self / \$20 Valet

Free Convention Registration

If you've never been to an MTAC Convention and would like to this year, you may be eligible to receive a free registration from the State. Each MTAC Branch is given ONE free First Time Attendee registration and may freely decide how this member will be chosen. This First Time Attendee registration is non-transferable. Please contact your Branch President for more information..

Convention Delegates

Delegates to our Convention Delegates' Meeting and Annual Business Meeting are very important. They represent every member in your Branch. Many Branches give their delegates some kind of compensation for being a delegate (i.e., free convention registration). If this is the case in your Branch, your delegates must still register as regular members and then get reimbursement from their Branch.

Teacher Registration

Please keep in mind that all teachers attending Convention for any reason, including those teachers whose student is performing at Convention, 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 \$170.

Jennifer Cruz, Convention Registrar

Nominating Committee Seeks Recommendations for 2016-2017 Ballot

2017-2019 MTAC State Board of Directors Ballot Recommendations

A Nominating Committee has been formed for the purpose of providing a ballot for the 2017-2019 MTAC State Board of Directors. The first meeting of this committee will take place at the 2016 MTAC Convention, and the completed slate will be in place by December 31, 2016, for election in the spring of 2017. It is not too early to begin planning for the creation of this election slate. The Nominating Committee consists of the following persons: Susan Clark, (tubaflute@comcast.net); Kathy You (kathyjyou@gmail.com); Bill Becker (beckerpiano@att.net); Suzanne Wong (swabe@hotmail.com); Mark Mendez (mark.mwnsw1965@yahoo.com)

Susan Clark, MTAC State President 2009-2011, is the Chair of the Nominating Committee for this 2017-2019 slate, and is currently accepting recommendations for persons interested in serving. If you or your Branch has a suggestion of a potential candidate, please forward this information to Susan (tubaflute@comcast.net) or to any other member of the Nominating Committee, enclosing a brief bio of this person and reasons why you think he/she would be a viable candidate for a State Board position. Please keep in mind the following mandates included in our MTAC State Bylaws, Article V, Section 1:

- a. Must currently be an Active Member in good standing, and must have been an Active Member for at least five years
- b. Must have served at least two years on a Branch Board of Directors
- c. Must have demonstrated leadership potential (Article VII, Section 1b)

Also, important characteristics are as follows:

- d. Has good planning and time management skills
- e. Works well with others on a team
- f. Has good communication skills
- g. Has a vision for the future of MTAC

The exact position a candidate may hold within the State Board of Directors is determined by a separate set of guidelines and will be dealt with directly by the Nominating Committee. But the first step is to secure a list of potential candidates from both the North and South of the State. Please be sure, prior to submitting a name, that the person recommended is willing to be considered for selection to the slate of officers.

We look forward to receiving your suggestions.

Susan J. Clark, past MTAC State President
2017-2019 MTAC Nominating Committee Chair

tubaflute@comcast.net

home phone 925-754-2992 or cell phone 925-899-0740

State Programs

Adult Performance North

Jennifer Griest, Adult Performance Chair North

The Adult Performance North Program took place on Saturday, March 12, at Contra Costa College in San Pablo, CA. The judges were Richard Cionco of Sacramento State University, Dr. Sonia Leong of the University of the Pacific, and Machiko Kobiialka of the San Francisco Conservatory's Pre-Collegiate program. Twenty-one students and MTAC members participated in private lessons, masterclasses and a recital with the judges.

A majority of the participants played in the recital at this year's Adult Performance program. The program featured compositions by Bach, Schubert, Prokofiev, Mozart, Beethoven, Chopin, Schumann, Liszt, Dvorak, and Grieg. Six of the performers were invited to perform at the upcoming MTAC state convention. The winners were Maryam Farshadfar, Katherine Triest, Stephen Bertges, Scott May, Kevin Sy and Rob Cook. The judges also selected two alternates: first alternate, Peian Harness; second alternate, Ching Yu.

Congratulations to all the participants and winners!

Please Contact Jennifer Griest at jgriest@contracosta.edu for more information.

Jennifer Griest
Adult Performance Chair, North

Certificate of Merit®

Online System – Branch Chair/Coordinator Training and Evaluator Portal

Dear Branch Chairs/Coordinators and Evaluators,

CM Council will be leading training sessions at Convention Friday through Monday. Bring your own laptop or use our computer lab. Three specific sessions will be held daily:

Administrative Functions: Come experience the Branch C/C Portal; reports, migration, application process, enrollment, how to enter results, and more. We ask that each Branch send their Chair/Coordinators or committee to a session. The sessions are for your CM leaders, the small team that makes CM run! This team you send will train the teachers in

September.

Student Scheduling: CM Council is requesting Branches to assign a Scheduling Coordinator for each Branch. This could be a Branch Chair or another person that oversees scheduling and will be able to train others as needed.

Evaluator Portal: You'll have your own portal for training and work sign-ups! Evaluator Portal Training sessions are brief and will also be included in the Evaluator Training sessions for all instruments.

CM Council is very excited about the launch of the new online system and we look forward to sharing the many innovative features. See you at Convention!

CM Council
Judi Sands-Pertel
State Chair

CM 2016 Convention Training and Meetings

Friday, July 1, 2016

- **10:30-10:50** Evaluator Portal Online System Training***
- **11:00-12:30** Branch Chair / Instrument Coordinator Portal Online System Admin Training
- **1:00-2:00** Branch Chair / CM Schedulers Online System Training
- **2:15-3:00** Theory Test Grader Training
- **2:00-3:00** Teacher Online System Info Session – Presenter – State Board, Bel Air

Saturday, July 2, 2016

- **8:00-10:30** Evaluator Training for Piano and Strings*
- **9:00-10:00** Teacher Online System Info Session – Presenter – State Board, Bel Air
- **11:00-12:30** Branch Chair / Instrument Coordinator Portal Admin Online System Training
- **1:30-1:50** Evaluator Portal Online System Training***
- **2:00-2:45** Theory Test Grader Training
- **3:00-4:00** Branch Chair / CM Schedulers Online System Training

Sunday, July 3, 2016

- **9:30-10:30** Branch Chair / CM Schedulers Online System Training
- **9:30-10:30** Voice Teacher Special Session** “Inside the Evaluation”
- **10:45-12:15** Branch Chair / Instrument Coordinator Admin Portal Online System Training
- **12:30-3:00** Evaluator Training for Piano and Voice*
- **3:00-3:20** Evaluator Portal Online System Training***
- **4:00-5:00** Teacher Online System Info Session – Presenter – State Board, Bel Air

Monday, July 4, 2016

- **9:30-12:00** Evaluator Training for Piano and Winds*
- **1:30-3:00** Branch Chair / Instrument Coordinator Admin Portal Online System Training
- **2:00-3:00** Teacher Online System Info Session – Presenter – State Board, Bel Air
- **3:30-4:30** Branch Chair / CM Schedulers Online System Training

All CM sessions will be held in the Marina Room unless otherwise noted by the asterisks.

* This session will start in the Marina Room; then, after 45 minutes, a group will be split and be directed into the Newport B Room.

** This session will be held in the Newport B Room.

*** Not required for Evaluators attending the regular Evaluator Training Session.

Friends of Today's Music

MTAC's Friends of Today's Music Program engages the young musicians by commissioning and premiering level-appropriate works written by some of today's most prominent composers like Joan Tower and William Bolcom. We celebrate 30-year anniversary of this unique program this year. This year's commissioned composer is a Grammy-Award winning composer, Michael Daugherty, whose eclectic style encompasses influences from his training in serialism with European composers like Ligeti and his personal experiences in American pop and jazz music. Inspired by Hemingway's Nobel Prize-winning novel, *The Old Man and*

the Sea (1952), the composer has written a piano trio by the same title (violin, cello and piano) for students, ages 13-18 as “an elegy to the struggle of life and death between man and nature”.

The premiere will take place during the MTAC State Conference in July 2016 (July 3rd, 1 PM) during which the students will have a chance to work closely with the composer. Those interested in taking a sneak peek at the brand new score, please contact the Friends of Today’s Music program chair, Dr. Minji Noh at minz319@gmail.com. For more detailed info on the composer, please visit www.michaeldaugherty.net.

Dr. Minji Noh, Friends of Today’s Music Chair

Improvisation

We have had some wonderful improvising going on around the state. The proof came to me in the form of forty-seven entries in our State Improvisation Program. I applaud the creativity and bravery of those students who entered and thank their teachers for realizing how important fostering that creativity is. You can come applaud some of them yourself (literally) at the convention in L.A. We will have three Improvisation Celebration Recitals where the students who entered the Standard Evaluations, and scored high enough, will play a prepared improvisation and then will play some games where they make up music on the spot. Lots of fun! We will also have the Improvisation Honors Recital where the best scoring Advanced applicants will play two improvs each, and create music of the moment using themes and artwork as inspiration that they have no foreknowledge of. I hope you will come to some Improvisation events this convention. Enjoy!

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Sanfilippo
Improvisation Chair

Piano Concerto-Solo Competition North

Piano Concerto North:

Northern Regional – This year the northern regional was held on Saturday, April 2, at Santa Clara University. There were 94 participants this year from 39 different teacher studios. Forty-four percent of participants were placed including a winner for each division, along with first and second Alternates and Honorable Mentions. All eight winners from each division will compete in the Final at Convention in LA on July 2. The first Alternate of

Concerto division III & IV will play in Concerto Master Class at the Convention.

PCS North Chair – Anna Lin

Piano Concerto-Solo Competition South

Concerto-Solo Competition: Success at the Regionals

Southern Regionals: The Concerto-Solo Southern Regionals were held at El Camino College on Saturday, March 26th with 106 students competing from close to 50 teacher studios. 35% of the field placed, including a winner in each division (except College/Solo IV), along with 1st and 2nd Alternates, and Honorable Mentions.

The four Solo finalists in the South will now prepare to compete against the four Solo finalists in the North, with the same preparations taking place for the eight Concerto winners in their respective categories.

This year, the Solo Finals will be held on Saturday, July 2nd at 2:00 p.m. at the Convention at the LAX Hilton, and the Concerto Finals will remain in its popular time slot of Saturday evening at 7:45 p.m. Both finals take place in the International Ballroom. The playing level in every age division continues to be extremely high, and given the competitive nature, generates a lot of excitement in the audience. Please make every effort to attend one or both of the final rounds!

A piano concerto master class will be given at the Convention this summer, featuring the four 1st Alternate students (North and South) from Concerto Divisions III and IV. The two-hour master class is scheduled for Saturday, July 2nd at 8:30 a.m. in the La Jolla Room and will be taught by well-known Southland pianist, Robert Thies. Featured concertos are Beethoven, Concerto No. 1 in C Major (1st movement), Chopin, Concerto No. 1 in E minor (1st), Rachmaninov, Concerto No. 2 in C minor (1st), and the Strauss, Burleske in D minor.

Kristi Lobitz, Chair-South

VOCE

The VOCE finals were held on Sunday, April 17, 2016 at Chapman University with 59 teachers and 26 branches represented in the competition. There were a total of 134 student participants; 17 ensembles of 55 students and 79 solo competitors. The State Winners can be viewed on your teacher portals at new.mtac.org. The winners will be presented at the VOCE Winners Recital during MTAC Convention on Sunday, July 3, 2016, at 7:30pm at the LAX Hilton.

Kathy You
VOCE State Chair, North

Foundation



Have you ever wondered how many students are practicing at a particular moment on any given day in all of California?

Can you fathom all the music being made during that one minute?

Do you wonder how many are studying with MTAC teachers and preparing for performances at the State Convention?

Do you think they are excited about performing at Convention?

Have you thought about the ribbons, plaques, and/or monetary awards these students will be receiving?

I suggest you stop, take time and think about it. The number of students must be staggering! As I try to put it in perspective, I realize what a thrill it is for us music teachers to be part of this process. We have shared our expertise and love of music with many students! Listening to the wonderful music performances at Convention makes us smile.

WAIT A MINUTE!!! YOU ALL KNOW THIS!!!

You are probably wondering why I am mentioning it.

Yes, you say, here comes the financial pitch. How correct you are! You have put your heart and soul into music-making with the students, and now we request that you also give your money. It is vitally important that the Foundation has a sufficient amount to get the ribbons, plaques, and cash awards that go to all the participating students. Almost half of our Branches have already donated to the Foundation and many individuals have sent in their yearly donations. Unfortunately, there are still many Branches and members who have not given anything to the Foundation for this year. We are in great need to build up the Foundation. If you have not yet sent in your annual donation, either as a Branch or individual, please do so ASAP.

Your money goes to the students who have earned it. The awards give them a sense of pride and fulfillment about their performances and the beautiful music they have added to our world.

We need to receive your donations NOW so the awards can be given at Convention.

Many thanks for your generosity!!

Joyce Osborn, MTAC Foundation Chair

State Office

In Memory of Sue Shannon

Sue Shannon served on the Composers Today Advisory Board between 1993 and 1995. She was an integral part of establishing the Young Composers Guild (YCG) and served as the YCG Chair between 1996 and 2011.



Sue, with a friend, created Music-Craft, a program for preschoolers. Next, she started the Sue Shannon School of Piano, which would eventually grow to several hundred students with nine teachers. She created her own line of music books with twenty-two publications by the Alfred Publishing Company.

True to her trailblazing ways, she kept on soaring – literally. The skies were her next frontier. She became an aviator, obtained her pilots license, and along with husband Harry, bought two airplanes and started an aviation business!

Sue's many accomplishments were astounding – a decades-long music career, writer, pilot, dancer, cook, artist, skier, singer, the list goes on. But she would always say the greatest accomplishment of her life was her family, and the tremendous sense of pride she felt by her husband and her children's successes. She was a loving, caring and giving woman who touched many and will be truly missed.

Thank you for reading the MTAC News!

MTAC NEWS is published in September, February, and May. 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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