

Music Teacher's Association of California

San Mateo County Branch

Newsletter

August 2017

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President's Pen **Kevin Imbimbo**

Dear Teachers,

Welcome back Teachers! It seems we just finished another full year of programs and recitals, and here we are ready to begin again. I hope that you all had a chance to recharge your batteries and are ready to jump back into another year of teaching.

Our board is meeting and will have another year of programs for you to take advantage of. I would like to remind you to keep up with the goings on of the branch, not only with this newsletter, but with our website as well. The News and Events page is a quick way of finding dates and details of upcoming events and recitals. I urge you to use this tool to keep informed, and to see the many opportunities that you may participate in.

I was fortunate again this year to attend the MTAC Convention in Santa Clara. As always, there were wonderful student and professional recitals, as well as informative and interesting lectures. We had the privilege of having Condoleezza Rice kick off the convention as the Keynote Speaker. She was inspiring, engaging and certainly embodied the theme of the convention: Breaking Barriers. We must thank one of our own members, Janice Sheng, who is on the State Board, and was the Convention Program Chair. She did an amazing job of bringing interesting and diverse performers and lecturers to this convention. I also found time to meet and talk with members from other branches. I find that we often have the same concerns and ideas in an attempt to serve the membership of our branches. This exchange can also lead to new ideas and programs. Our Branch Board is always looking for input on the programs that we will present. Your input is invaluable in making sure that the events we schedule are meaningful to our membership. The first opportunity to meet the board and give us some feedback is coming up. Irina, our vice president and program chair, will have information on our first general meeting. I'm hoping to see many of you there, especially some of the newer members. This is an excellent chance to find out how you may participate in our branch activities.

I am also thrilled to announce that Don Harper has volunteered to step in to fill the Treasurer position. I would like to thank JungHae Kim for her service over the last year. I know that Don's expertise with financial matters will be invaluable to us. Thanks Don!

Once again – welcome back!

Branch Programs
Irina Behrendt - Vice President

Dear teachers,

I am looking forward to another year of programming for our branch! Our first branch meeting is scheduled for **Friday, September 22nd, 10am-12pm** at the Oak Room in the San Mateo Public Library (55 W 3rd Ave, San Mateo). Come, greet each other with a cup of coffee, meet the new members, hear the latest updates.

We will have a guest presenter, Paula Dreyer - Click on this link: [Paula Dreyer](#) for her bio and photo.. Her presentation is called "Rote Pieces: One Part of the Pedagogical Puzzle"

Please, RSVP here: <https://goo.gl/forms/1qJOsJFmYYRI8vze2>

More plans for this year are still being made and I should be able to reveal some of them at the meeting. Looking forward to seeing many of you there!

Certificate of Merit
Laurie Johnson & Benny Yu

New CM Chair:

Hooray! Benny Yu agreed in mid-June to take on the challenge of managing the Certificate of Merit program for our branch. During the month of July, he attended all of the CM training sessions at the MTAC State Convention, and consulted with Marcela and the CM Committee. He will assume full responsibility for the CM program on September 1st.

A BIG THANK YOU to Benny!!

Mandatory CM Training Meeting: Sunday, September 10, 2:30 to 4:30 PM

Location: Oak Room, San Mateo Library (55 West 3rd Ave., San Mateo)

NOTE: Training is mandatory. You will be blocked from registering students on the state website until the training requirement has been met. If you absolutely cannot attend the meeting on Sunday, 9/10, please contact Benny Yu ASAP to arrange special training.

Registration:

CM registration opens **October 1st** and closes on **October 31st**.

Lastly, Benny and I want to personally thank Marcela Toma for her stellar 12 years of service as Chair of San Mateo Branch CM Program. She is a hard act to follow. We also want to thank Pat McNutt, who, after resigning as CM chair when Marcela took over the position, continued to support the CM program by handling teacher scheduling and preparing detailed written teacher job descriptions. Pat resigned effective May, 2017. We hope both Marcela and Pat find many rewarding ways to enjoy the newfound hours of free time.

My best wishes to all for a successful 2017/2018 CM year! See you all on September 10th.

Yours sincerely,
Laurie Johnson, Director of Certificate of Merit

Recital Hall

Natalie Griffin

There are still many available hours for recitals in the Wind Room for October-December 2017. Just be sure to sign up and submit your payment and contract by the 3rd Sunday of the preceding month. For example, if you want to book a recital for November, you must submit your payment and contract by the 3rd Sunday in October. Visit the SignUp Genius link on our MTAC San Mateo Branch website to see available hours.

Also, starting this fall, teachers will be able to book hours from January-December 2018. We are moving to a year-long contract with Foster City which means that you'll have access to January-December dates this fall.

Be on the look out for an email with 2018 dates and a new signup genius link. Happy music-making to you all, Natalie Griffin, Recital Hall Director