

# Music Teacher's Association of California

## San Mateo County Branch

### Newsletter

### May 2015

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#### **Presidents Pen - Janice Sheng**

Dear All,

So much has happened since the publication of our last Branch Newsletter! We had another hugely successful CM season in March, thanks to CM program chair Marcela Toma and her leadership team. Irina Carrenca and Deanna Du Bois both organized and hosted wonderful recitals that provided valuable opportunities for students of our branch to polish their pieces before the CM season. Earlier this month, the "Musical Journey Through Time" concert for young children (organized by Irina Behrendt) was so well-attended that it was standing room only! Bravissimos and congrats to all - to those who stepped up to be involved and to those who provided positive support!

Here are some other new developments that I would like to share with you: As you may recall, I have accepted the nomination to join the State Board for the 2015-2017 term; thus, I needed to relinquish my position and find a replacement for the 2015-2016 fiscal year. I'm thrilled to share with you that Kevin Imbimbo has agreed to step up and take over the branch president role commencing August 1, 2015. Current Recital Hall Director - Kayoko Kuchiishi - needs to resign after this fiscal year for personal reasons. I am sure I speak on behalf of the members who have depended on Kayoko's assistance in booking the Recital Hall, how much we appreciate her superb organizational skills and enthusiastic dedication to helping others. The incoming Recital Hall Director is one of our newest members - Natalie Griffith. She will officially serve as RHD commencing August 1, 2015 as well. We are very fortunate to have Natalie join the branch board and to take on this meaningful leadership role. Our annual luncheon is coming up on May 29th! Please mark your calendars and plan on attending this important event. Not only does our annual luncheon provide a rare opportunity for us to visit with one another, we also have some important branch business to cover at that time. There are important issues related to the Recital Hall that need your attention. We will also welcome and meet our new Branch President and the new Recital Hall Director at that time. Contact Irina Behrendt at [ibehrendt09@gmail.com](mailto:ibehrendt09@gmail.com) if you have questions or need any assistance.

#### **Branch Programs - Irina Behrendt - Vice-President**

Dear colleagues,

The first item on my agenda is our annual banquet. Thank you to those who have responded! I have corrected the form and you should be able to respond 'no' as well, if necessary. This year's luncheon will be packed with topics to share and discuss. We need your input and vote. Please, see if you are able to free a few hours on May 29th from 11:30am to 1:30pm.

The response form is here: <http://goo.gl/forms/hkxFrq96zB>. It can be found on our website [www.mtacsanmateo.org](http://www.mtacsanmateo.org) under the 'news and events' tab.

Now, I would like to thank everyone who supported the "Journey Through Time" event. The Wind Room was packed! We even needed extra chairs! I saw lots of happy smiles and received some positive feedback from parents and teachers, and requests for more concerts. If you haven't already, please email me your or your students/parents' impressions [ibehrendt09@gmail.com](mailto:ibehrendt09@gmail.com). I would like to continue this program, but that would probably require an overwhelming practice-a-thon participation next Fall. I hope to see most of you at the luncheon!

## **Certificate of Merit - Marcella Toma**

Dear CM Teachers:

I would like to take a moment to congratulate everyone on your accomplishments and your valuable contribution to the CM program.

A heart felt THANK YOU to all of you for your punctuality, positive attitude and effort. I would like to acknowledge all the Site monitors for being in charge of the hospitality and for working closely with the evaluators and students at each venue for a smooth evaluation. All the teachers in the theory rooms, hospitality, door monitors, check-in desks, graders - you are all a necessary piece of this puzzle and your service is very much appreciated by everyone. The Evaluators were delighted with the venues, pianos and our branch's particularly well prepared students. You have my gratitude:

Tom Hansen: for your dedication, patience and communication skills. For all the extra work on the evaluation weekend and squeezing a performance in the evening. Kudos! Adjusting the schedule at the teachers' and my request up to the deadline; thank you for your computer knowledge and all the help answering important theory questions from the grading teachers.

Strings Chair Marjorie Lin: thank you for your high performance and devotion to our students. Kathleen Johnson and Janice Sheng: for being dependable and volunteering extra time for the Strings evaluations. Voice Chair Gina Vandellos: thank you for brightening everyone's day and for including students from other branches to your already big job.

Thank you Laurie Johnson CM Director: for saving me precious time by attending the board meetings and being the liaison between the CM program and the branch. Our branch's Treasurer Li-Ying Wu and Kayoko Kuchiishi Recital Hall Director: thank you for your prompt replies to all the last minute requests and long after CM is over. Janet Williams and Gina Vandellos: working many hours overtime matching the evaluation forms with the theory tests so teachers receive their envelopes ASAP.

Pat McNutt: for your effort and valuable input in organizing teachers' work schedule and hospitality. Greatly appreciated! Rebecca Maggi - you are on our minds and wishing you a fast recovery. Thank you Cynthia Brown, Vera Shamis and Li-Ying Wu: for inviting us into your private studios with large rooms and fine pianos. Irina Behrendt, Sevan Karjian and Shu Fang Lee: a personal thank you for helping me with picking-up all CM signs, packing all the boxes at the end of CM and Pat for coordinating. It saved me a ton of time. :-)

A special thanks to Kathleen Johnson, Honors Recital Chair: for a great musical afternoon acknowledging our Honors students and teachers!

The CM evaluations were a success overall; and even though the number of students with RAL and IC ratings was very limited, it is regrettable and strenuous on the families, teachers and the CM team. Please spent time reading your respective instrument Syllabus and the Policies & Procedures on the Teacher's Home Page.

CM FEES 2016 IMPORTANT UPDATE:

The CM council will raise the fees starting in 2016 by \$6 per level and per student. The branch fee will be raised to \$33 per student. It is highly recommended that the CM teachers attend at least one of the CM Teachers' Training Sessions at the MTAC convention in July. Please find the convention schedule at the [mtac.org](http://mtac.org) website. You may be able to register for one day only, if you do not attend all convention programs. You have the chance to share your concerns and questions with the CM council representatives. I am looking forward to seeing you all there

It is a joy and a privilege working with such a dedicated and talented group of teachers! Warm wishes for a restful and fun summer!

## **Branch Recitals - Irina Carrenca**

Hello members,

Our last two Branch Recitals of this academic year occurred on March 7th at the Allegro School with great success. All 25 participating students performed incredibly well - 20 piano students and 5 violin students, represented by 12 teachers of our Branch. Thanks to all the teachers who encouraged their students to be part of this wonderful performance opportunity.

If you'd like to volunteer your time by taking photos of these performances, please contact me at 650-692-5839.

## **Community Outreach Program - Deanna Du Bois**

We have one more Community Outreach recital this year! It's Saturday, June 13 at 3pm and the location is the San Carlos Elms Assisted Living Home. Please check out our website – [www.mtacsanmateo.com](http://www.mtacsanmateo.com) for more information (address and guidelines, etc). I hope your students can participate. This home has a nice baby grand!

I anticipate we will have the Practice-a-thon in the next academic year – most likely in October. Please begin to encourage your students for this exciting and rewarding program!