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SAN MATEO
COUNTY BRANCH

Music Teacher's Association of California San Mateo County Branch

Newsletter

October 2017

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- **Branch Programs Sunday November 19th, 12:30-2:30pm** Chamber Music/Solo Strings Master Class at the Burlingame Music School - **Monday November 6th, 11:00-1:00pm**- Guest speaker Doug Goodkin at Myriad Music School
- **Certificate of Merit – October is sign up month – 2018 CM evaluation dates (Piano: March 17-18; Violin/Viola: March 10-11; Cello: March 10; Voice: March 11)**
- **Community Outreach program Saturday October 28th, 3:30 pm** (Carlmont Gardens)
- **Branch Recitals: next recital - Saturday December 2nd, 1:30 pm** (Wind Room)

President's Pen

Kevin Imbimbo

Dear Teachers,

We have kicked off another year with our first meeting and guest speaker. Friday, September 22, we were treated to an excellent presentation on rote pieces and how to incorporate them in your teaching. If you missed it, Paula Dreyer's bio will be up on the website on the News and Events page. We were also privileged to have a representative of Steinway give a short presentation. I was pleased to see some old as well as new faces there.

As I announced at the meeting, Don Harper has taken over the duties of Treasurer; however, this is forcing him to do double duty at the moment as Membership Chair. I am making a plea to anyone who would step forward to assume the Membership Chair. It is

not one of the more time consuming positions on the board, but an important one. As a board member, this would give some of you newer members a chance to have input on events and programs and get to see how the board functions. Please contact myself or Don for more information about the responsibilities of this position, and consider getting involved.

I was also pleased to welcome Benny Yu as our new CM Chair, and once again, I thank Marcela Toma for her many years of service in that position.

As we are under way, I am looking forward to another year of exciting concerts and programs. Keep checking the website for upcoming events, and here's to another great year of music making.

Branch Programs

Irina Behrendt, Vice President

Dear Teachers,

Thank you to those of you who were able to come to our September meeting! I have received quite a bit of feed back on our presenter, Paula Dreyer. Thank you for sharing your experience! I thought it was inspiring and not at all mundane. It made me re-think some things I do and remember some good ideas that got dropped somehow over the years of teaching. For those of you who were not able to come to the meeting, you can read a short summary by Elisabeth Fourtanier below.

We had also enjoyed meeting Aaron Kruziki, a sales representative from Steinway. He has encouraged us to explore Steinway Educational Partnership program - you may read the summary here: <http://www.steinwaypianos.com/education/teachers/Steinway-Educational-Partnership>

Looking ahead, our annual Chamber Music/Solo Strings Master Class is planned for **Sunday November 19th, 12:30-2:30pm** at the Burlingame Music School. Chamber groups (trio, quartets, and duets of any combination of instruments except for piano duets) are encouraged to apply. Solo strings are very welcome.

This year's Master Teacher will be Vladimir Klebanov (violin, viola). Vladimir has extensive teaching and performing experience from all over the world, including Russia, Israel, South Africa and the US. He is a founder and director of Gloria Music School and is one of the coaches with the ECYS orchestras.

Please, express your interest and indicate the type of ensemble by **Wednesday, November 1st** by emailing to me directly at ibehrendt09@gmail.com

Participation fees for ensemble members will be \$40/member, and \$50 for solo players.

Also, an exciting presentation is coming up at the Myriad School of Music (remember Simone Bley, who inspired us last year?). Simone is inviting Doug Goodkin <http://www.dougoodkin.com> and here is a message from her:

“Dear Fellow Music Educators & Friends,

Join other enthused music educators and pedagogues! Fellow MTAC member, and Director of the Myriad Music School & Dance Academy in San Mateo, Simone Bley, has been hard at work booking interesting topics and top-notch speakers for this year's round. *We only have 8 openings left.* RSVP to simone@myriadmusic.net to save a spot in this clinic. MTAC San Mateo is co-sponsoring the event, so branch members get FREE ADMISSION! Please, mention MTAC San Mateo on your RSVP.

Clinician Doug Goodkin: Motivating our Teaching Jazz & Improvisation (An approach through Orff practices and Body Movement).

Monday November 6, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm

Location: Myriad Music School & Dance Academy
2250 Palm Avenue, San Mateo”

Warm regards,

Irina Behrendt,
Vice President

Certificate of Merit
Benny Yu, CM Chair

Dear CM teachers,

Thank you so much for attending the teachers' trainings in September. We had a great number of teachers joining the upcoming CM evaluations. I hope it will be a smooth and rewarding year for everyone. You should be able to access the MTAC Teacher Portal now.

Reminder, October is the registration period for CM 2018. Here are a few tips for you to have a smooth and successful registration.

1. Check with parents and see if they are interested to have their students participate in CM 2018. Share with them the benefit of having an evaluation and encourage them to join. Share this link with them if they need more information regarding the program.

<http://www.mtacsanmateo.org/certificate-of-merit.html>

2. Suggest an appropriate evaluation level for your students to enter. Please remember CM evaluation is not a race. Plan out pieces that will be a good learning program for your students.

3. Log on to new.mtac.org

You can use the "+add new student" button to enter any new or transferred student. For students who have participated in CM before, you will need the parent's email and also the student ID.

4. Use "apply to CM" button under the Programs' page. You should see the list of all the students who participated in CM last year. You can simply click the blue "select" button,

enter their school grade and CM level next year. Finish with clicking "done". The rest will be on the parents part to confirm.

5. Please be sure to remind parents to check any emails initiated by MTAC, especially for first time families. They might need to check their spam folder.

6. Please remember to check under the information and resources tabs for the most updated dates and policies. Click the gold "Certificate of Merit" box when you log on to your teacher portal and you will see that.

7. Here are the dates for the CM 2018

March 10, for Violin, Viola, Cello
March 11, for Violin, Viola, Voice
March 17-18 for Piano

Have a great registration month of October. Please always remember that I am here and ready to help, email me whenever you need. Please give me 2 to 3 days time to process and respond, as I anticipate a high volume of emails coming in.

Thank you,
Benny Yu

Community Outreach Program

Olga Moudry

1. The first Community Outreach Concert will take place at Carlmont Gardens (2140 Carlmont Dr, Belmont, CA 94002) on **Saturday October 28th, 3:30 pm.**

Teachers may sign up a maximum of 3 students, and the time limit is 12 minutes per teacher. It is open to all instruments and all levels, and we encourage string and wind instrument players as well as singers to take part. Please check the attached guidelines before signing up your students, and use this link to sign up: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/17sI-oGCRGtAa8U0AMrqXTcP-KDBPfUyrTuCysJC0aok/edit?invite=CMrTrroC&ts=59d52739 - gid=0>

2. We are looking for an accompanist for this recital. Stipend will be at least \$90 for the event. Please contact me if interested at olga_chernisheva@yahoo.com

3. Calling for older/advanced students to perform in the Vitas hospice:

Vitas hospices are in need of musicians to perform for their residents. They have multiple locations in the Bay Area and performances can be any day/time (except Sunday mornings). They would like to have 45-50 minute programs.

These concerts would be best suited for older/mature students of advanced level who are able to perform 20 minutes or longer programs. Shorter performances are welcome too, as they can be paired with longer programs. I am calling advanced students who would like to do something good, and also earn volunteer hours for college applications, and practice performing for an appreciative audience. Please note, that we do not provide an

accompanist. If you play an instrument that requires accompaniment, you may bring your accompanist, or play with a recorded accompaniment.

Please let me know if your students are interested – Use the link below to indicate the dates you are available and the length of your program.

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1IhxpTYgpxQCItXIFWKdxUwV46ZE7s8UkuBEnkUG_8Y/edit?invite=CI_ygeEK&ts=59d529f3 - gid=0

Thank you

Branch Recitals

Jennifer Ho

Our first Branch Recital of the year will be held on **Saturday December 2nd, 1:30 pm**, at the Wind Room of the Foster City Community Center. We encourage San Mateo Branch teachers to invite their students to participate. It is a great opportunity to meet other young musicians from the Peninsula, play together and learn from each other.

Review of recent branch program:

Elisabeth Fourtanier

Summary of Paula Dreyer's lecture:

Rote Pieces: One Part of the Pedagogical Puzzle

Our branch activities started on September 22nd with a very inspiring lecture by educator/composer Paula Dreyer who presented the benefits of supplementing “traditional” teaching by introducing “rote pieces” during part of the lesson. These pieces, which are easier to learn by demonstration than by reading, can be a vehicle for teaching many concepts and skills. Once a student (beginner and elementary) is free of reading, he/she will be more available to learning other skills such as:

- Technique
- Rhythm (beyond reading level)
- Musical expression
- Theory in real time, as well as transposition, improvisation and composition.

Motivation – Finally, it is a big motivator for the beginning students to play “fancy” pieces beyond their reading level. These pieces appear more difficult than they are. Students love the sophisticated sounds, the use a wide area of the piano, and engaging rhythms.

Resources:

“Little Gems for Piano” by Paula Dreyer – 3 volumes: beginner to early intermediate

(<http://www.pauladreyer.com/book>)

“Patterns for Fun, Book 1” by Paul Sheftel and Vera Wills book 1- early intermediate - Alfred Music

“Repertoire by Rote” by Denis Alexander and Amy Greer- early elementary - Alfred Music

“Piano Safari” – a piano method by Katherine Fisher and Julie Knerr