

San Mateo Branch Newsletter

May 2013

President's Pen – Janice Sheng

Teamwork makes dream work. A year ago today, I set the goal of establishing three new student-programs for our branch: Branch Festivals, Community Outreach Program, and Scholarship Program. With teamwork and our members' involvement and participation, this dream was realized. THANK YOU! I look forward to continue serving you as the branch president next year, and continue to foster our new student-programs.

Scholarship Program

The 2013 scholarship winners' bios will be posted on our "Events & News" webpage in the near future. Below, please find a quick introduction of scholarship winners and the music programs they've been accepted into:

1. **Leslie Jin**, pianist - student of *Sujeeva Hapugalle*, has been accepted into the [Music@Menlo International](#) Chamber Music Program.
2. **Christina Galisatus**, pianist - student of *JoAnn Stenberg*, has been accepted into the Stanford Jazz Workshop.
3. **Hana Mizuta**, pianist - student of *Heidi Hau*, has been accepted into the Aspen Chamber Music Festival.
4. **Helen Foley**, pianist - student of *Leah Brammer*, has been accepted into the American Conservatory Theatre's Summer Music Camp.
5. **Ryan Koel**, pianist – student of *Vija Norkvesta*, has been accepted into the Villa Sinfonia – Zepher Chamber Music Camp.
6. **Brian Blair**, pianist and composer – student of *Irina Behrendt*, has been accepted into the Interlochen Summer Music Program.

2012-2013 Student Recitals – Chen Chen

This year, we had three very successful Student Recitals which usually featured about 20 students. We look forward to continuing to support our students in performance next year.

2012-2013 Branch Festivals

Halloween Festival Chair, *Yvonne Ho-Massey*, created and hosted an unforgettable fun concert featuring students and teachers performing Halloween-themed music. *Irina Carrenca* was responsible for organizing and hosting a colorful and charismatic Spanish & Latin American Music Festival. Both events were well-attended and very successful.

Branch Program – Pat McNutt

As Vice President for our branch, I am responsible for implementing programs strictly for teachers. When we teachers gather together for fellowship, learning, inspiration, and fun, we are helping ourselves be better at our jobs.

As I review the programs we have had this year, the recent luncheon on May 17th is the first thing that comes to mind. All the wonderful new festivals, the scholarship program, and the community service program that Janice helped us to implement were highlighted at this meeting. Equally, the vociferous sound of members greeting and catching up with each other over a relaxing lunch highlighted another reason our organization is so important to all of us. Kevin's slideshow of our branch student activities brought it all together visually for us.

Thinking back to September, 2012, I remember our large gathering when we discussed the nuts and bolts issues and concerns that we have daily as teachers. The lively ideas that were shared helped many of us to be comforted that we are not alone and inspired us to go back to our studios with a new idea or two, and more energy as we began our teaching year.

In November, we had a workshop on Performance Anxiety. We may approach this subject again in the near future.

A highlight for the year was the members' panel discussion on Student Motivation in February. Our illustrious panel (truly!) opened our eyes to ideas we had never thought of. We really must do more sharing of ideas! It was truly inspiring.

Finally, at the luncheon, several of you completed the pink sheets with ideas for next year's programs. Thank you! If you were unable to complete a form, please send me ideas of programs that you would like to see in our branch. Remember....these programs are for teachers, not students.

Have a great summer, and see you at the convention!

A Personal Note from CM Chair - Marcela Toma

Dear CM Teachers:

I would like to take a moment to acknowledge your valuable contribution to the CM program. The evaluations seem like a memory from the past.

My gratitude to the Certificate of Merit team:

Tom Hansen, the mind behind the students' schedule - for your dedication and patience;
Marjorie Lin, Strings chair and Gina Vandellos, Voice chair - for including students from other branches to their already big jobs.

Janet Williams - for working two full days so the teachers receive correct and organized envelopes. The results from matching the evaluation forms with the theory tests were phenomenal.

Pat McNutt - for your effort and valuable input in organizing teachers' work schedule and hospitality schedule. These elements are time consuming and a very important part of the evaluations.

Janice Sheng - for organizing lunch and breaks menu and rescuing the day with theory testing, one of the most stressful elements of the program.

Yvonne Ho-Massey and Brian Landes - for your prompt replies to all the last minute requests.

Site Monitors - Vija Norkvestra, Joy Han, Christina Wong, Lora Konnaya, Sumi Nagasawa - for your punctuality and positive attitude.

Cynthia Brown and Vera Shamis - for inviting us in your private studios with large rooms and tuned pianos.

My special thanks to all CM teachers for your extra time and effort. The evaluators were delighted with the venues, pianos, hospitality, and such wonderful students.

I would like to thank Kathleen Johnson, the Branch Honors Recital chair for an exciting and rewarding event. We had 81 performers representing 33 teachers. "The Presiders, Marjorie Lin, Vija Norkvesta, Janice Sheng, and Pat McNutt set a calm tone for each recital, creating a comfortable afternoon for everyone", to quote Kathleen.

Overall, the CM evaluation was a success! Please spend time reading your respective instrument's syllabus, the documents on Teacher's Home Page, and attend the convention. This year's MTAC convention is in Santa Clara. It would be wonderful to see you there, attending at least one of the two CM Teacher Training Sessions.

It is a joy to work with such dedicated and talented group of teachers! Wishing you all a restful and fun summer.

Membership – Gina Vandellos

Please send your membership dues promptly to the MTAC state office. This is also a good time to update any changes in address, phone or email. Dues must be postmarked on or before July 31st for CM eligibility, listing in State Directory, and membership renewal

Community Outreach – Deanna Du Bois

This year (2012-2013), the Community Outreach Program for the San Mateo County Branch reached out to the Bay Area Retirement Homes. We had students (of any instrument) perform at Nursing or Assisted Living Homes. There were two recitals in December, and two in February. We held the programs at Bayview Villa, San Carlos, Carlmont Gardens, Belmont, Sterling Court Senior Living, San Mateo, and the San Carlos Elms. This was a great opportunity for the students as the majority were preparing for Certificate of Merit. The Senior Citizens certainly enjoyed the performances and requested that we have another recital in the near future.

Thank you, teachers, for encouraging your students to participate! I am still mulling over ideas for next year's COP project. I will let you know soon and may email the branch for your input.

Recital Hall Director – Yvonne Ho-Massey

For Sale: Grand Piano String Cover at Bargain Price \$195.00

Originally purchased at \$395, is a virtually brand new grand string cover for a Yamaha C7 Grand Piano. Our branch no longer needs the string cover for our C7. It is in perfect condition and now for sale at \$195.00

The cover is essential for controlling moisture that comes from the top of the piano. It protects the strings, plate, soundboard, and helps considerably with keeping moisture out of the action. The cover is black with red stitching. It keeps moisture from entering the piano from the top, which causes strings to rust, and moisture marks on the plate and soundboard. It also keeps the piano as clean as it is currently. Washable and easy to take off and put on.

Pictures available upon request. Please contact yhpiano@gmail.com

Recital Hall Reservation for September to December 2013

Recital Hall reservations for the Fall Semester (September – December 2013) will be available the first week of June. Please check the recital hall calendar at the branch website for availability, updates, and rental policy. I will also be sending members an email reminder of when reservations will open.

Thank you and have a great summer ahead!

Corresponding Secretary – Florie Ventura

Lora Konnaya introduced me to this open position last year, followed by email exchanges and personal meeting between her, Janice Sheng, and me. The rest is history. I have certainly enjoyed compiling all those newsletter entries! Although it can sometimes be challenging, it was something I have always looked forward to doing every other month. I couldn't have done my job well enough without the moral support and guidance of Janice and my fellow board members.... neither could have I done it without the inspiring words and occasional feedbacks from some of you. Thank you very much. It has been a great school year, and a pleasure serving you all.

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Have a wonderful Summer!

Please don't miss our Students Musical Achievements! To see them, click this link - [Students Musical Achievements](#)