

**Music Teacher's Association of California
San Mateo County Branch
Newsletter
April 2009**

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President's Pen

Pat McNutt

Happy Spring! I imagine your schedules are really full; I know mine is. This seems to happen every year around this time. We are inundated with CM, recitals, Easter season – if you are a church musician, summer planning, etc., etc.

I'll highlight a few things related to our Branch activities. We are looking forward to:

Our Branch Recital Director, Denise Chevalier, is organizing another great Student Recital for us on April 26.

Janice Sheng, our Vice-President in charge of programs, has the annual luncheon planned for us on Friday, May 8. I would love to see many of you there. I hear that there will be a drawing for some valuable prizes! The price is right for a fabulous menu and the venue at Van's couldn't be better.

Kevin Imbimbo is continuing to develop and update our website – check out the new video! Get familiar with the site; it is a useful tool for our membership.

On another note, Marcela Toma can breathe a sigh of relief now that CM is over. Special thanks to Marcela for directing CM! Thanks also to Tom Hansen, who does the student scheduling for piano. We are grateful also to Marjorie Lin and Laurie Johnson for taking charge of the string and voice evaluations.

We owe a large debt to Don Harper, who has been our treasurer for several years. Don had to step down this year. We miss him and thank him for his expertise.

Our new treasurer is Renee Chevalier. Renee stepped up and has worked hard to get up to speed with all those numbers! Thank you, thank you(!) Renee. It is a pleasure to have her on the Board of Directors.

I'll see all of you at the luncheon on May 8!

Membership

Laurie Johnson

Attention all members! It is time to verify the accuracy of your contact information listed on the state MTAC website. The contact information listed in the online database will be used to send your membership renewal notices. You have until April 15 to make corrections. After April 15, the dues notices will be printed and mailed to all members.

Members can access their Member Home Page by going to www.mtac.org and clicking on the MTAC login link which appears at the upper left hand side of the webpage. The member's username and password is the same username and password used for CM registration. If you do not have a username and password, please call me at 650-593-4559. I will assist you in making changes if they are necessary. If all your contact information is correct, you do not need to make any changes. This contact information is also used for the listings in the State Directory. Remember, you have until April 15 to make corrections!

Membership Matters

I want to extend a warm welcome to the new members who have joined our chapter recently. Ava Wong reinstated her active membership in our branch after several years of hiatus. Welcome back, Ava! Likewise, Margaret Brewer-McCauley has reinstated active membership. Some of you will remember Margaret; she was a very active member between 1986 and 1993. It is so good to have these former members in our midst again. Our third, new member is Irina Behrendt, of Belmont. All three of these ladies are piano teachers. Look for them and their students at future branch events and make them feel welcome.

This year we have initiated a mentor program for new teachers. Janice Sheng (Thank you, Janice!!), is pairing new members with teacher mentors to help them understand the workings of the organization. Hopefully, this will make participation in programs like Certificate of Merit less intimidating. So far, two of our members are acting as mentors.

Thanks to Pat McNutt and Vera Shamis for stepping forward to fill this need.

Sadly, we lost a dear and very active branch member last month. Berdine Ehrman will always live on in our hearts and thoughts.

Hope to see all of you at The Vans.

Branch Recital

Denise Chevalier

The final branch recital of the 2008-2009 year will be Sunday, April 26, 2009 at 2:45pm, Foster City Community Center, Wind Room.

I am really looking forward to this one! The student's are playing a wide variety of repertoire, from J.S. Bach to Christopher Norton. For the finale, one of our member's, Vija Norkvesta, will be performing with her friend, Libby Kardontchik, a Los Altos branch member, some four-hand

piano works by the famous soviet composer, Gavrillin. They will be playing “Waltz,” “Little Clocks,” and “Tarantella.” Prior to this ensemble, Renee Chevalier will be giving a talk about Gavrillin.

Programs

Janice Sheng

Our annual banquet is just around the corner!

This year, we'll be holding our banquet at The Van's Restaurant in Belmont, overlooking beautiful views of the Bay Area and enjoying great food and company!

- **DATE** - Friday, May 8th
- **TIME** - 11:15am to 1:15pm
- **VENUE** - The Van's Restaurant, 815 Belmont Ave., Belmont, CA - Phone: 650-591-1384
- **FEE** - \$15.00 per person; same charge is applied to your guest (Note: One guest per participant)
- **BONUS** – *There will be a drawing for PRIZES!*

· **RSVP to Janice Sheng by Friday, April 24th:**

jsheng.piano@gmail.com or call 650-430-1384

· **PAYMENT** – Please write a CHECK payable to MTAC San Mateo

· **Mail check to Janice at: 1748 Pierce St., San Mateo, CA 94403**

MENU – Please note that you *do not* have to indicate your choice of entrée prior to the luncheon. Your order will be taken on the day at the event.

YOUR LUNCHEON MENU INCLUDES:

FRESH BAKED SOURDOUGH BREAD

SPRING MIXED SALAD

With fresh herb vinaigrette

(Soup of the day for those who order the salad entrée)

CHOICE OF:

PORK MEDALLIONS BRUCHETTE

Scallops of pork fillet sautéed with tomatoes, basil & garlic.

Served with mashed red potatoes and sautéed greens.

STUFFED TROUT

Whole river trout (boneless) stuffed with mushrooms, leeks, tomato and onion.

Served with herbed rice and sautéed greens.

CHICKEN PICCATA

Boneless breast of chicken sautéed in olive oil, lemon, white wine and capers.

Served with herbed rice and vegetables.

“Thai” CHICKEN SALAD

Strips of chicken breast marinated and combined with a sweet chili dressing,

fried rice noodles and diced apples over shredded iceberg lettuce.

VEGETARIAN ENTRÉE

Linguini Primavera

COFFEE AND ICE CREAM

Website Update

Kevin Imbimbo

At this point, the basic look of our new website has been established. The web hosting service has been very helpful and responsive to our needs and I think we have a site that will work well for our membership!

Many of you have sent me emails to update your profiles. This information will help prospective parents and students find you in the search feature of the membership directory. If you have not responded yet, please send me the ages you teach, if you drive to homes and to which cities you will travel. My email address: kji@sanbrunocable.com

Although the pages appear to be what we need to easily communicate information to the membership as well as the general public, the look of those pages can be changed. We have added video to the home page, featuring Kenric Tam from our Young Artists Guild Recital held in January. We hope to continue to add video and pictures from the events that our

branch sponsors. If you have any pictures that you think would be appropriate to add, I would welcome them. In this way, we can keep our site fresh and relevant to what is happening in our branch.

Also, if you have any suggestions that would help you navigate through the site or make it easier to access information, don't hesitate to let me know. Please keep going to the site for the latest in branch activities, news, CM information and keep in touch with other members through the directory. I hope that we can not only make the website a part of your routine in keeping up with our branch events, but also in utilizing it as a resource to participate fully in those events.

Other Interesting News Items

From Elizabeth Smolgovsky:

Sandra Kung, 11 years old, student of Elizabeth Smolgovsky, received an Honorable Mention in the 2008 CAPMT Bartok and Contemporary Music Competition, Elementary Level – Category B and the 2009 Marilyn Mindell Piano Junior Competition.

From Pat McNutt:

Peninsula Teen Opera (PTO) is looking for part-time (salary/20-25 hours/week) business manager to oversee its programs. PTO, now in its eleventh year, is a non-profit organization dedicated to first class opera/operetta training for teens. Its mission is “teens performing opera for teens.”

The successful candidate reports to the General Manager/Artistic Director and works in collaboration with PTO's faculty members to ensure successful delivery of Peninsula Teen Opera's program with accountability on wide ranging activities including fund raising, marketing, outreach, volunteer recruitment and development of schedules and task management.

Knowledge or experiences with stage production and/or opera is highly desired. Experiences with basic accounting and use of tools such as Quickbooks will be a great addition.

Interested candidates should email their resumes to

ptopera@gmail.com or mail them to:

Peninsula Teen Opera
2893 El Camino Real, Suite D
Redwood City, CA 94061
ptopera@gmail.com
website: www.teenopera.org
650-400-4293

All questions should be submitted to either the PTO email or mailing address.

From Pat McNutt:

On behalf of the Executive Board of the American Beethoven Society, I request that the following information be communicated to the members of your chapters. Thank you, Celia Mendez.

“The American Beethoven Society is seeking someone to serve, initially as co-chair, and eventually as chair of the Young Pianists Beethoven Competition. The position provides the opportunity to meet and work with internationally recognized pianists, to meet and serve outstanding colleagues in the State and to contribute to California’s musical life in a significant way.” Please send a brief email and resume to wbgeorge@email.sjsu.edu or a letter to:

**William George
American Beethoven Society
San Jose State University
One Washington Square
San Jose, CA 95192**