

# MTAC San Mateo County Branch

## Newsletter

February 2011

### **In this issue:**

- Presidents Pen
- Certificate of Merit

### **PRESIDENT'S PEN**

Many of you, like me, find this time of year especially busy. Preparing students for Certificate of Merit is no small task. The redeeming factor is that it is such a great guide for teaching, helping to keep students on a steady track. I find if I teach to the CM curriculum, letting it guide my basic curriculum all year, students benefit enormously. They feel proud and prepared - a little nervous, but not much! Our Branch owes so much to **Marcela Toma** for directing this program. If you have not seen all the work she does, you simply cannot imagine – but try! And thank her profusely!

Our discussion on teaching at the January 28 meeting was fabulous. About 30 members sat around tables and shared ideas and solutions. There were several “light bulb” moments. We will continue this annual meeting. As **Vija** said after the program, “We need our colleagues. Teaching can be lonely, and it is so very refreshing to share with each other”.

**Pat**

### **BRANCH BOARD NEWS**

Your Branch Board has spent many hours in the last 2 or 3 years getting the business and organizational tools of MTAC sorted out. We are led by the state MTAC in by-law revisions, standing policies, and we are developing a Board Handbook for the Branch to make serving on the board easier for everyone who does. Being on a non-profit Board of any kind carries responsibility, especially now that government agencies are keeping a close watch on non-profit organizations, making sure we are doing things properly – and they should! And we should! Gone are the days when we can turn a blind eye to anything that would endanger our status as a professional non-profit group.

**Barbara Barclay**, our Recording Secretary has expertise in legal and business aspects of non-profits, and we are really fortunate to have her working on the board. She has guided us through by-law revisions, and developed financial policies and organizational helps that make working for our Branch much easier and smoother. You will be receiving copies of our by-laws for approval this year, and next year there will be more revisions to consider. As

a member of our organization you have the privilege of reading about the nuts and bolts of our group in the by-laws. Do you ever wonder how we run everything? Read the by-laws when they are sent to you, and feel free to ask questions. When we ask for your vote to approve them, please respond.

### **MTAC STATE NEWSLETTER**

The State MTAC Newsletter is now available on your teacher home page. Sign on to your teacher page with your username and password, click on MTAC on the left, and read the newsletter. It is impossible to include all the information in the state letter to you in this Branch newsletter. It is full of really helpful information to keep you connected to our organization.

### **CM BRANCH HONORS RECITALS**

CM Branch Honors Recitals will be held on Saturday and Sunday, April 2 and 3 at Allegro Music Studio in Foster City. The schedule is as follows:

#### **Saturday, April 2**

1:30 - Program I  
3:00 - Program II  
4:30 - Program III

#### **Sunday, April 3**

1:30 - Program IV  
3:00 - Program V  
4:00 - clean up

Even if you do not have students playing in the recitals, choose a recital or two and come listen to see what our talented students are doing!

Thank you to **Kathleen Johnson**, Recitals Chair. If you have any questions about them, please contact Kathleen.

### **CONVENTION NEWS – July 1-5, 2011**

Convention is in our neighborhood this year! Oakland Marriott City Center hosts MTAC July 1 – 5, 2011. Theme this year is “THE MAGIC OF MUSIC”. Rather than repeat all the details here, find your spring issue of the California Music teacher magazine, and read all about it.

**Online registration** is available, and you will receive an email from CVent, inviting you to register for convention. If you have not listed an email address on your teacher home page, please do so. Or if your email has changed recently, check your home page to make sure your email address is correct.

**Early Bird registration** deadline is May 15 – this will give you the best rate - \$170 – for the entire convention. After May 15 the cost increases, and on site registration is even more.

### **Free Convention Registration**

Each Branch can choose one member who has never attended a convention before to receive a free convention registration. If you would like to attend convention for the first time, contact Pat McNutt, President, [patm@coastside.net](mailto:patm@coastside.net).

### **New Member Discount**

New Branch members who were approved after August, 2010, receive \$40 off of the full convention registration rate. This discounted convention registration must be received by the State Office on or before June 15. This is a great opportunity for new members to meet and network with members throughout the state.

## **BRANCH PROGRAM NEWS**

### **DATES TO MARK ON YOUR CALENDAR:**

**Saturday, May 7, 5:00 p.m. – Young Artist Guild Recital - Artist Iris Wu.** You will be receiving more information on this very soon. This is an event that members and students should not miss!

**Friday, May 13, 11:00 a.m. – Annual Member Lunch and business meeting,** at Van's restaurant. This is always a good gathering and visiting time – save the date!

**Saturday, June 4, 2:00 p.m. – last Branch Student Recital of the year.**

**Sunday, June 12, 7:00 p.m. – Teacher recital – plan now to solo or join together to perform!**

### **Certificate of Merit Information**

We are getting closer to one of our most important state programs, the Certificate of Merit.

**Please read carefully the dates below:**

- **February 20th Deadline for Entering the Repertoire**
- **March 3rd (3/3) Deadline for Changes to Path B or Dropping from CM Evaluation.**
- **No changes can be made to the schedule after March 3. Please let us know as soon as you made a decision!!**

E-mail: Tom Hansen: [hansenpiano@gmail.com](mailto:hansenpiano@gmail.com) or me at: [singers38@yahoo.com](mailto:singers38@yahoo.com)

I am looking forward to seeing all of you on the evaluation day.

Good luck

*Marcela*

\*\*\*\*\*