



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

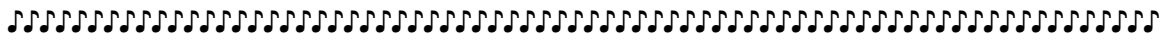
**Newsletter**

**November 2016**

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**President's Pen**

Kevin Imbimbo

Dear Members,

It's hard to believe that the holidays are just around the corner. We have had quite a fall of programs and recitals. I have to give a big thank you to our board, especially Irina, our program chair, for putting together our YAG recital and our ensemble Master Class. If you couldn't attend, I am putting together a DVD of the YAG performance, and will announce it when it is available. We also have continued with our Outreach Program recitals, and have had our first of three Branch Student Recitals. If you missed any of these programs and somehow lost the email of our newsletter, please go to our website - [mtacsanmateo.org](http://mtacsanmateo.org). You can see the newsletter there, a page of news, and a short headline of upcoming events. The MTAC calendar also has the dates listed for these events. We try to get these events posted in advance, so that you can make plans to attend. We have also had several new members that have joined our ranks this year. I would encourage those members to jump in and help out with some of the programs and projects that we have. There are many ways to help without having to jump into the deep

end. One of these projects that we need some help with is a fund raiser that we have had for the past two years -our Practice-a-thon. Students get pledges for each hour that they practice over the course of the month. We are in need of someone to help organize and help get students enthused about participating. This has been a successful fundraiser for our organization, raising over \$2,000 each of the last two years. We are hoping to get it set up for the month of January. This will also benefit those students getting ready for CM. If you have any questions about the program, you can contact me at [kji@sanbrunocable.com](mailto:kji@sanbrunocable.com). One of the reasons that we need to raise funds, is that our membership dues do not cover the entire costs of the branch programs and our on going expenses. One of our biggest expenses is the storage of our pianos and rental of the Wind Room at the Foster City Community Center. We have tried not to pass on all these costs to the membership as you rent the space for your recitals, but this has put a burden on our budget. We need more fundraising ideas from all of you. Please give us some help in the brainstorming process. If you have ideas for raising money, please let us know. We want to keep providing you with the many rich and diverse programs and recitals that we have had in the past. Having said all that, I hope that you all can find time to relax in this hectic performance season. I know that we are all going to feel the pressure, as performances and church services start piling up. I wish you a happy and healthy holiday season.

### **Branch Programs**

Irina Behrendt, Vice President

Dear all,

It's been a busy season! I sincerely hope you have enjoyed a variety of programs this Fall. In anticipation of Thanksgiving, I'd like to give many thanks to all of you for the important work you do, for your aspiration to grow and learn, and for sharing that passion with your students!

Thank you for coming out to hear inspiring Simone Bley in September- she gave us a jump start, didn't she?

Thank you all for supporting the two wonderful YAG performers on November 6th: Anna Boonyanit, piano, and Jaimee Cao, violin. So much energy, so much skill! As always, I wish more students could attend... As an important side note - I am very grateful to the Foster City Library for the financial support of this particular program, and to the Foster City Parks and Recreation for letting us use the Wind Room free of charge for this event. If you are a Foster City resident and use the library, it wouldn't be a bad idea to drop them a thank you note or even just mention it to the staff!

Thank you for preparing your students for the Chamber Music Master Class - what a gift of musicianship! I am pleased that we had a few returning students, but also some new participants. I hope that this program continues to grow! (Thank you Irina Carrenca for the generous donation of an extra hour of hall time!).

I would also like to thank the Board for the amazing team work! I am proud to be a part of it!

And, finally, thank you so very much for your notes of support and gratitude! They mean a lot to me and inspire to do more!

Remember to visit our FB page! <https://m.facebook.com/mtacsanmateo/>. Please post your recital photos, comments about programs, photos from branch events and invite your students' parents to be a part of it. Let's stay in touch!

Happy Thanksgiving, everyone!

### **Certificate of Merit**

Laurie Johnson

We have 62 teachers participating in Certificate of Merit this year. Together, they have enrolled 591 students in the evaluations scheduled for next spring. I know from my personal experience that the new enrollment process was both a challenging and frustrating experience. So congratulations and thanks to all the teachers who successfully enrolled their students using this new online system!

Also, heads up! The next step, Entering Student Repertoire, already appears to have some errors in the repertoire data base. If you encounter errors in the listing and categorizing of repertoire, please alert Marcela Toma or Tom Hansen immediately. And, begin entering student repertoire a.s.a.p. to avoid last minute frustrations. And, do not hesitate to email Marcela with questions or concerns; she is there to help you negotiate the new system.

Lastly, I have disappointing news to share with all of you. After 12 years of dedicated and conscientious service, our amazing, awesome CM Chair, Marcela Toma, has announced her decision to step down from the CM Chair position at the conclusion of the 2017 CM Evaluations.

The Board of Directors has already formed a committee of four teachers to search for a new CM Chair. The board is hoping that this new CM Chair will be able to shadow Marcela during the CM evaluation process in February, March, and April. And, with ongoing support from Marcela, the board hopes that the new chair will assume full responsibility for the administration of the CM program next fall.

For several years the CM Chair has received a stipend for administering the program. This stipend is based on a \$5 per student payment. Of course, the total amount varies as the exact number of students enrolled changes each year. If you have more questions about the scope of the job, please contact me, Laurie Johnson, Director of CM, San Mateo Branch Board of Directors. You can call me at 650-593-4559. Looking forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely, Laurie Johnson

## **Community Outreach Program**

Olga Moudry

The community outreach concerts were a great success. We had a recital on September 17<sup>th</sup> at Carlmont Gardens and another one on October 22<sup>nd</sup> at San Carlos Elms. We received particularly enthusiastic feedback from seniors and staff at San Carlos Elms (“the residents enjoyed it very much and talked about it for the whole week”). We were invited to perform again, so we will definitely be back for another recital in the Spring.

## **Branch Recitals**

Jennifer Ho

Our first Branch Recital on Sunday, November 6th was very successful. Eight teachers participated and 16 lovely students performed on that day. It was a diverse and well balanced program including piano, voice and violin pieces. It was wonderful to see many young talented and well prepared musicians performing for our community. We are excited and looking forward to more great teachers and performers to join us next year. Our next Branch Recital will be on Saturday February 25th, 2017.

I wish you all Happy Holidays!