

**Music Teacher's Association of California
San Mateo County Branch
Newsletter
August 2015**

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Presidents Pen - Kevin Imbimbo

Dear Members,

This is my first newsletter as your president! First of all, I would like to thank our out-going president Janice Sheng for laying the groundwork for many of the programs and events that we will continue to support for our membership.

Although not all of the dates and events are finalized, I can report that we will continue the Community Outreach Program with recitals and the Practice-a-thon, Branch Student Recitals, our scholarship program, general meetings (which will include lectures and master classes) and of course, CM. We are also looking at scheduling a recital with one of the YAG performers. The Board members will elaborate on all the fine details of these events and more.

I want to urge you to make our website a daily habit in your web browsing. We have made an effort in the past year to update and change the site, making it easier to navigate and be more informative. I hope that you will check the website on a regular basis to keep up on events, programs and recitals that our branch will be offering.

Although June and July are usually down months for teachers, our yearly convention is always the highlight of the summer. This year was no exception, as we met in San Jose at the Fairmont Hotel. The theme of the convention was "Joy in Music." We had several branch members, including many of our board that attended. There are always so many lectures, showcases, recitals and master classes to attend, that it is hard to take in everything, and each teacher came away with a slightly different experience. Some of the major topics of the lectures and workshops that I attended were on sight-reading, improvisation and the use of technology in your studio. Of course, the student recitals, the YAG concert, the solo and concerto piano competitions were amazing. The level of performance seems to continually improve every year. I hope that if you did not attend this year, you will make a point of registering for next year's convention. The wealth of information crammed into four days is incredible, not to mention the chance to share ideas in an informal way with teachers from other branches.

As we go forward, I want to encourage you to let us know what types of programs you would like to see. As a board, we want to make sure that the events we plan for the membership are valuable to you. Your

input is essential in making this happen. After all, this is your organization and we need your participation to make it work.

Thank you for your dedication as teachers and here's to a great year of bringing the "Joy of Music" to our students!

Branch Programs - Irina Behrendt - Vice-President

Dear teachers,

I hope all of you had a wonderful summer, with a lighter teaching schedule, time for yourselves and your families and some travel, perhaps.

I can't wait to catch up with all of you at our September Social, scheduled for Wednesday, 9/16, 10-12pm at the Oak Room, San Mateo Library (55 W. 3rd Ave, San Mateo). We will be having coffee/tea and refreshments, socializing, introducing the new board members and sharing branch plans for the upcoming year. Please, mark your calendars! Here is the RSVP form: <http://goo.gl/forms/8VEDKdA0pY>

While your calendars are open, Diane Hidy's Piano Teaching Tips workshop, hosted by the Palo Alto branch and co-sponsored by our branch, will take place on Tuesday, October 13th at 10:30am-12noon at St. Mark Episcopal Church of Palo Alto (600 Colorado Ave, Palo Alto, CA 94306).

Also, I would like to mention two programs that are still in the planning stages. Our board is very excited to be hosting a YAG recital at our branch this year! YAG (Young Artist Guild) performances are always a highlight at convention, as they are the pinnacle of our work at the MTAC. We are looking forward to supporting the program and showcasing the outstanding young musicians.

The other program is a Chamber Music/Strings master class planned for early November. More information will be announced at the meeting in September!

And last, please take a minute to look over this quick survey: <http://goo.gl/forms/kZ9J03RXTj> Check all the programs you'd like to see in our branch or add your own. This will help me understand your needs and plan more efficiently!

Certificate of Merit - Marcella Toma

Greetings all:

I hope you are well and enjoying the summer!

The CM Teachers' trainings for our branch will be held every other year. Our next session will be in the fall of 2016, so no CM meeting this year.

MTAC Store: Please order your Syllabi, Sight Reading booklets and Technical Requirements books from the MTAC website: <http://www.mtac.org/store/>

NEW: Please know that the new CM branch fee will be raised to \$35 per student. The accompanist fee will be the same, \$15 per student. The payment for accompanying will be raised to \$70/hour.

MTAC San Mateo website: The links to the CM Calendar, Teachers' Work Agreement, guidelines, significant dates and deadlines can be found on our branch's website after September 15, mtacsanmateo.org under the Certificate of Merit Program.

The dates for the CM evaluations 2016 are confirmed. Please make sure you will mark your calendar right away.

CM 2016 Evaluations Dates San Mateo Branch:

March 5 - 6 ~ String - Foster City Community Center (FC)

March 5 ~ Winds - FC

March 6 ~ Voice - FC

March 12 - 13 ~ Piano (Sunday, March 13, Daylight Saving Time) -

Allegro Music School, FC, Lessons on B, NDNU, Wu Studio on 17th San Mateo.

March 20 ~ Branch Honors Recital – Allegro Music School

Oct 1, 2015 - Database opens for Registration. Please do not enter the repertoire. Find the instructions for Registration on the Teacher's Home page, under Resources -> Documents. If you need help with your Username & Password please contact me.

Oct 31 - 11:59 p.m. Database closed for Registration for all branches.

Nov 1 - Students' List, Fees: one check per teacher must be submitted directly to the Branch Chair. Strings, Voice and Wind teachers may send two checks: registration fees and accompanist fees: \$15/student. The Teacher's Work Contract must be also submitted at this time. Please read the entire contract and keep a copy for your records.

Jan 2, 2016 Data Base Opens for entering the Repertoire, Honors & Convention recitals choices; Day 1 or 2, the AM/PM; Carpool for Ensemble and Siblings. Should you need any further information or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me: mtacsm.cmchair@gmail.com

Wishing you a summer filled with beautiful moments and cherished memories!

Branch Recitals - Irina Carrenca

Welcome Teachers to a new year of exciting happenings at our San Mateo Branch.

I'd like to share the particulars of the Branch recitals that took place last academic year. We had four branch recitals held in two days, November 2014 and March 2015, respectively. The participation for each of these events were 25 students, represented by an average of 12 teachers. Kudos to each and every teacher who sent their students to participate. I encourage those that haven't participated yet, to do so for the coming year.

The first branch recital of this academic year is scheduled for January 30th, 2016 at the Wind Room of FCCC.

Have a great and prosperous year!

Community Outreach Program - Deanna Du Bois

Happy summer! Last year we had four Community Outreach Recitals at various Retirement Homes and started our very first Practice-a-thon (PATH)! For 2015-2016, the San Mateo Branch plans to have more recitals and continue our successful PATH from October 1 to 31, 2015.

Some new things are happening with the PATH! Please remember to check your emails for the updates.

I'd like to mention some highlights of the MTAC convention. Although I only attended for one day, I thought the seminars were very educational and inspiring. It was quite a treat listening to Jerome Lowenthal speak of the Romantic piano literature and hear Hans Boepple's astute suggestions during the Intermediate level master class.

Membership - Gina Vandellos

Please give a warm welcome to the new active members:

Kent Darnielle - piano (transfer)

Jennifer Ho - violin

Erica Messer - harp

Olga Moudry - voice

Corresponding Secretary - Deanna Du Bois

Here are some announcements from our Board:

1. Music at Kohl Mansion has announced the lineup for its 33rd annual series of chamber concerts in Burlingame's historic Kohl Mansion, opening Sunday, October 18, 2015 at 7 pm. The series will celebrate its 33rd year with eight monthly concerts featuring music by a variety of composers, representing an eclectic blend of both traditional repertoire and bold newer works. Five of the eight concerts are Music at Kohl debut ensembles: the Catalyst Quartet, the Altius Quartet (with special guest violist Geraldine Walther), the Boreal Trio, the Lysander Piano Trio, and the Israeli Chamber Project. Returning to the Kohl stage this season are three highly praised ensembles from years past, the Cavani Quartet, the Harlem Quartet, and Trio Con Brio Copenhagen. (message from Natalie Griffin)

2. There is a new Recital venue in Burlingame, at 1501 Bayshore Hwy., which is open for any of our members to use. The Concert Hall has a capacity of 60 people. It is a hall perfect for that intimate experience. Equipped with a Concert Grand Baldwin Piano, the Hall is available to rent on Fridays after 6:00 pm, Saturday afternoon and Sundays. Rental fee for MTAC members is \$70/hour with a two hour minimum. Rental fee for non- MTAC members is \$80/hour. Cleaning fee \$70. A credit card hold is required as a security deposit which shall be returned upon satisfactory inspection of the venue following the event.

Please contact Irina Carrenca at 650-307-4564 for details.