



Music Teacher's Association of California

San Mateo County Branch

Newsletter

January 2010

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President's Pen

Pat McNutt

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a great holiday season.

We are required by the MTAC State office to update our Branch by-laws so that they conform to changes the State has made in their by-laws. One of our board members, Barbara Barclay (recording secretary), has taken on this important and difficult job. Her expertise in this area is invaluable.

As the Board was discussing the changes at our recent meeting, we became aware of the importance of the Code of Ethics that is on the front page of our by-laws.

In our professional organization, it is essential we all conform to the ethical rules that make us strong: through honesty, fairness and mutual respect. The Code of Ethics is printed below – please give each tenet strong consideration:

Code of Ethics

Members of the Music Teachers Association of California, San Mateo Branch, shall pledge not to engage in the following unethical behavior:

To do, or knowingly permit, proselytizing of students from the studios of others;

To present any student as one's own until after an enrollment of six months, unless by consent of the former teacher;

To accept a pupil if aware of an unresolved indebtedness to a former teacher;

To disparage the work of a colleague.

Your Branch Board took the month of December off, but we are now back at work planning the remainder of this year's programs. Be aware of what's in store:

January 24 – Student Recital

February 12 - General Meeting

February 21 – Voice CM evaluations

March 6 and 7 – String CM evaluations

March 13 and 14 – Piano CM evaluations

March and April – CM Honors Recitals – stay tuned for dates

May 22 – end of year Banquet

June 13 – Teacher Recital – “Celebrating Friendships”

Our group's strength is as good as our participation in our events and programs. I hope you will join us for as many events as possible.

The MTAC Newsletter is full of useful ideas and information for all members. I cannot relay it all to you, so the best thing for you to do, is to go online to the MTAC State website, click on member newsletter and read all about it!

Recital Hall

Yvonne Ho

There are some available times for your students' CM rehearsals/recitals or any last minute branch programs for the month of February. Please submit requests to me by January 15th to reserve a spot. For current dates and times, please check our calendar at: <http://www.mtacsanmateo.org/recital-hall/recital-hall-reservation-calendar.html>

Available times as of Jan. 8th

2/14: 12:00-2:30; 5-9pm

2/19: 6-9pm

Note: When reserving a time slot, please be considerate and INCLUDE any set up or tear down and clean up time for your event. Please do not arrive earlier than your scheduled start time or leave later than your scheduled finish time. Arriving earlier or leaving later may cause an interruption to the other members' recitals/events. Please let your students and families know: NO EARLY ARRIVALS AND LATE DEPARTURES. Thank you for your cooperation.

I would like to remind our members regarding rental hall rules. These rules are also on our rental hall contract:

Cancellations – If a reservation is cancelled more than three months prior to the reserved date, all payment will be refunded minus a \$50.00 cancellation fee. If a reservation is cancelled less than three months in advance, the entire rental fee is forfeited.

Submitting Changes – You must email or call me by the 15th of the previous month in order for me to make any changes. This includes cancelling your event, switching to a different time or requesting the seating arrangement for your event. For example, if your event is on February 19th, you must let me know of any changes by the morning of January 15th.

Locking the Pianos – Teachers who reserve the hall to use the piano(s) are responsible of locking up the piano(s) after their events. The keys to the pianos are always with the Community Center receptionist. After the pianos are locked, please return the keys to the receptionist.

Moving the Pianos – When you are finished using the pianos, it is your responsibility to move the pianos back to the original storage spots on the north wall. Leave the piano benches near the pianos. *Do not expect the building attendants to move the pianos after your event.* If you need assistance with moving the pianos, you may ask one of the receptionists to help you.

Branch Recital

Denise Chevalier

Our next branch recital is Sunday, January 24 at 2:45pm at the Foster City Community Center, Wind Room. The following teachers will have their students perform: Pat McNutt, Sujeeva Hapugalle, Irina Carrenca, Denise Chevalier, Marcela Toma, Vija Norkvesta, Eva Plachy, Renee Chevalier, Irina Behrendt and Haruko Kogure.

Our guest artist (branch member) will be Vija Norkvesta. She will give a short talk on the Khachaturian Ballet followed by the duo piano team of Libby Kardontchik and Vija Norkvesta. We will hear excerpts from the ballet, "Spartacus," Egyptian Dancer" and "A Dance of the Greek Slave."

I look forward to seeing all of you there!

Programs
Janice Sheng

“Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success.” (Henry Ford)

I'm thrilled to invite you to our upcoming branch event on Friday, February 12th. We will come together to enjoy a complimentary brunch provided by our branch, get to know each other better and work together as a team as we discuss subjects related to teaching and performing.

- Program title: Brainstorming over Brunch
- Date: Friday, February 12
- Time: 10am to Noon
- Venue: Allegro Music School in Foster City (Address: 550 Pilgrim Dr. Suite F, Foster City, 94404)
- Brunch: Free!
- What to bring: two to three questions relating to teaching and/or performing. Please write each question on a separate piece of paper and bring your questions with you. You may submit the questions anonymously. If you prefer not to submit any questions, come anyway for brunch, mingling and lively discussions!

Program overview with general timing outline:

- Brunch and Mingling – 10-10:45am
- Icebreaker Game – 10:45-11:15am
- Brainstorming Session – 11:20-11:50am
- Closing Remarks & Photos – 11:50-Noon

Please RSVP for this event by: Monday, February 1st to Janice Sheng
Email: jsheng.piano@gmail.com
Phone: 650-430-1384

Please note that our Annual Luncheon will be held on Friday, May 21st from 11am to 1pm at the Van's Restaurant in Belmont. We had a blast last year; please join us again this year!

Certificate of Merit
Marcela Toma

As you all know, the evaluation information for entering repertoire online has opened January 2, 2010.

The DEADLINE for entering repertoire is February 20, 2010.

Please let Pat McNutt know if you have any specific requests regarding your work schedule on the CM weekend. Pat's email: patm@coastside.net

Thank you, Pat, for your invaluable help with this important task.

Upon request from our Branch membership, the Branch Honors Recital for 2010 will be reinstated. You DO NOT need to check the Branch Honors box as you enter the repertoire. The Evaluator will choose the piece for Honors if the student is eligible.

Please read carefully the new requirements and let me know if you have any questions.

Branch Honors Requirements 2010 – San Mateo Branch, piano:

1. The student must be CM Level 5 or higher and School Grade 5 or higher.

Most of the other requirements for our Branch Honors Festival are the same as those for Convention, such as:

2. Sight reading must be Excellent or Good.
3. Technique must be Excellent or Good and within the time limit.
4. All pieces must be memorized.
5. The "Honor" piece must receive a performance rating of a 5+ or 5.
6. Repertoire not selected must be at least a "good" and receive a rating no less than a 4-
7. The student must receive a theory score of 80% or better.

Requirements for Voice and Strings to follow.

Do you have a change of address, phone or email? Please send any changes to Laurie Johnson: laurlyn@comcast.net or 650-593-4559.