

Music Teacher's Association of California

San Mateo County Branch

Newsletter

November 2014

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Presidents Pen - Janice Sheng

Dear Members,

Since our last newsletter publication, our branch has had a number of exciting and wonderful programs and events. These include: round-table discussions and live music performance (Irina Behrendt); Certificate of Merit Information Meeting (Marcela Toma); a Community Outreach Recital (Deanna DuBois); and our very first Practice-a-thon - raising money to support MTAC State Student Programs (Deanna DuBois). Furthermore, there will be two Branch Recitals (Irina Carrenca) and the 2014 Scholarship Winners' Concert (Janice Sheng).

As you can see, our program chairs have been working very hard to serve you and your students. Your participation, encouragement and support motivate us to continue volunteering our time and efforts to serve our community.

I want to share how impressed and grateful I am for the leadership team that I am working with this year. Every board member and program chair has demonstrated commitment and interest for their responsibilities; they are also kind, respectful, considerate and great team-players. We look forward to seeing many of you at our future events and programs. As always, please feel free to reach out to any of us and let us know how we can serve you better.

Branch Programs - Irina Behrendt - Vice-President

Dear Colleagues,

It is hard to believe the winter holidays are on the doorstep!

I have a couple of news items. First, the proposed Forrest Kinney workshops that were planned for January have, unfortunately, been cancelled. Second, a repertoire/performance group is being formed in our branch. If you are a performer and wish to share your art with a group of other performing teachers in an informal setting or wish to play for others in preparation for a concert, contact Natalie Griffin at nfmgriffin@gmail.com. All instruments and voices are welcome! Also, in this light, please let me know if you would like to be a group leader for some other activities, as we discussed at our September meeting (e.g. hosting/ organizing a book club or movie nights, organizing a group of museum or theater goers, a pedagogy group, etc.) Email me directly: ibehrendt09@gmail.com

The chamber music/voice/orchestral instruments Master Class is coming up on February 1, 2015. I will be sending out links to application forms and more information mid-November. This is not directly related to the VOCE competition. Any student of our branch is welcome to participate. However, if you are entering students into VOCE, this is a great 'practice' opportunity a week before the competition.

No solo piano or piano duets, but any chamber ensembles, voice students, or solo instrumentalists other than pianists are welcome. The application fees are \$45/solo entry; 35/ensemble member entry.

Our clinicians are:

David Chernyavsky, violin

Vicktoria Erlich, cello

Milton Williams, voice

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving, everyone! Safe travels and stay well!

Certificate of Merit - Marcella Toma

Dear Teachers,

The CM registration closed October 31st and it was very successful! Thank you for your participation and mailing your fees in a punctual manner. The numbers are as follows: students registered for the entire branch: 618. Those registered for Piano: 541, Violin: 50, Viola: 3, Cello: 6 and Voice: 12. There are a total of 66 participating teachers.

The Addendum to the Teachers Work Agreement will be posted on our branch's website. It is the result of a very fruitful collaboration between Laurie Johnson, Pat McNutt and myself.

Exempt:

Teachers Over 80 Exempt: The San Mateo County branch will release/excuse from working at the CM evaluations any teachers over 80 years of age.

CM Teacher Non-Working Fee: The CM teacher will personally conduct the required work and may not send a substitute. Exceptions will be reviewed by the CM chair and Teachers Work Scheduling chair. The teacher unable to work one or more of their required shifts on the CM Evaluation days must pay a fee of \$40.00 per hour and needs to inform Pat McNutt ASAP at patm@coastside.net of the day and time, before January 31st.

Paid Substitute Worker: The branch will pay \$30.00 per hour to the substitute teacher working on the CM evaluation day. As soon as they receive their assigned work hours, the teachers available to do additional paid work on the evaluation days will inform the CM chair with clear instructions concerning the day and times which they are able to sub before January 31st. These paid hours will

not replace the hours the CM teacher needs to fulfill the work requirements for their own registered student.

A successful CM year to you and your hard working students!

Scholarship Program - Janice Sheng

The 2014 Scholarship Winners' Concert will take place on Friday, November 14 at the Congregational Church of San Mateo at 7:00pm. The Scholarship Winners are: Dara Phung (piano), Iris Wu (piano), Lucas Munro (viola), Ethan Haman (organ) and Karina Tseng (piano). The teachers of these scholarship winners include: Sumi Nagasawa, Sujeeva Hapugalle, Minsook Kang and Angela Kraft Cross.

Congratulations to the 2014 Scholarship Winners, their teachers and their parents!

VOCE - Gina Vandellos

VOCE is a prestigious competition for voice, strings, winds/brass, and chamber music at the Branch and State levels. A non-competitive format is available for students who are not quite ready for competition, allowing them to perform for judges' comments without being judged against other students.

The San Mateo County Branch VOCE competition will be held on February 8th, 2015. Student registration is now open until December 15th. Login to your Teacher Home Page at the state MTAC site and scroll down to VOCE to find the VOCE Rules and Guidelines. These guidelines explain the categories and age limits, repertoire requirements and eligibility. You can find the online application here as well.

Those students who wish to enter the competition will be heard by the judges and the winners will be chosen. The MTAC San Mateo branch will give all participants a certificate (non-competitive and competitive) and trophies to the winners. The winners will advance to the state finals at Chapman University, Southern California in April.

I realize that this is a new program to our branch and there will be questions. Please do not hesitate to ask me.

Gina Vandellos, VOCE chair

Phone: 650-592-5210

Email: ginavandellos@hotmail.com

Membership - Gina Vandellos

A warm welcome to our new members:

Yun-Chi Cheng, piano

Sonya Yu (contributory), harp

I encourage all members to visit our newly updated San Mateo County branch website, www.mtacsanmateo.org, and review your contact information. Click on the Member Directory link in the About Us tab in the top menu to bring up your name and information. When the website was

updated some teacher information may have changed, so please check and inform Kevin Imbimbo of any changes that need to be made. My email is mtacsmmembership@gmail.com.

Corresponding Secretary - Deanna Du Bois

A quick note to remind you – if you have a job position announcement or any performance/educational news you'd like me to post, please send me an email: mtacsmcorrespondence@gmail.com.

Community Outreach Program - Deanna Du Bois

The practice-a-thon (October 1-31) was a smashing success! Five teachers participated and their students/parents raised about \$1700.00! As you may remember, this donation will go toward the Young Artist Guild and the Children's Concert Series. Some money may even start a Community Outreach Program Fund.

It was exciting and interesting to see which students followed their individual practice plan. As you may imagine, some practiced less than their goal, some followed their practice plan faithfully and others exceeded their goal and practiced as much as they could! It was helpful to give the students extra prizes in order to keep them motivated.

The categories for the winners were: Most Consecutive Practiced, Most Practiced and Most Money Donated. They were awarded with fancy ribbons at the Branch Recital, Saturday November 15. All those that participated are receiving certificates.

Daniel Wu (student of Sujeeva Hapugalle), received both the Most Consecutive Practiced and the Most Practiced awards. He practiced 51.5 hours! John Haertle (student of Deanna Du Bois) received the Most Money Donated award and with the help of his family and friends donated close to \$300. Of the five studios that participated, the studio of Deanna Du Bois brought in the most dollars.

See the last page to check out all the teachers, students and sponsors involved in the practice-a-thon!

The Community Outreach Recital on September 27 at the Magnolia of Millbrae went very well. We had a variety of performers, including violin, cello and piano. Our very own President, Janice Sheng, was the featured accompanist that day. All performers, including Janice, played wonderfully. The Magnolia retirement home was a great venue as we had the opportunity to share our student's music in their beautiful decorated living room.

I'm looking forward to our next recital at the Hillsdale Atria in San Mateo. This concert will be Saturday, December 13 at 3:30pm.

Practice-a-thon teachers, students and sponsors:

1. Sujeeva Hapugalle - Daniel Wu sponsored by: Sujeeva Hapugalle & Qian Lin
2. Marcela Toma - Quinn Seeberan sponsored by David Seeberan and Darrell & Cheryl Hay
3. Phyllis Pan – Emily & Alyssa Yin sponsored by Terry, Kirk & Helen Yin and Sam Hong
 - Abigail Lesmana sponsored by Billy Lesmana & Sonny Siregar
4. Irina Behrendt – Arianna & Daniel Behrendt sponsored by Irina Behrendt
 - Chitra & Anita Mukherjee sponsored by Minakshi Mukherjee
 - Ella Leppert sponsored by Diana & John Leppert
 - Samantha Breen-Tsang sponsored by Lilian Tsang
 - Daria Izmailova sponsored by Irina Behrendt
 - Leo Kargin sponsored by Vladislav Kargin
5. Deanna Du Bois – Sam & Max Laudor sponsored by Pamela Dreizen
 - Connor MacMitchell sponsored by Ruby & Jill MacMitchell and Rita & Reuben Aguilar

- Anya & Diya Gupta sponsored by Lata Goel
- Brandon Moon sponsored by David & Jeesup Moon, Jae sook Won, Grace Warhurst and Naun Kim
- John Haerlte sponsored by Lisa, Jeffrey & Cathy Trevino and Anne & Steve Haertle
- Amelie Delizo sponsored by Tessa Solomon
- Ellen & Esther Chung sponsored by Vincent Chung & Rosanna Lee
- Audrey & Claudia Williams sponsored by Dana Alvey, Caya Meisner and Susan Williams
- Henry Eaton sponsored by Sally & Dave Ellison and Anne & Andrew Eaton
- Marc Abraham sponsored by Raya Abraham
- Joanna Thangaraj sponsored by Preetha Thangaraj
- Alex Ferfas sponsored by Elvie Tomacder

The Janice Sheng Studio also contributed!