

## *Newsletter – September 2013*

### *President's Pen – Janice Sheng*

Welcome to the San Mateo County Branch, and welcome to a new teaching year! As I started drafting this message, I remembered that while we have many long-time members at our branch, we also continue to welcome new members into our organization who may not know about our branch history, our wonderful programs for students and teachers; and they may not know anyone at all. If you are a new member reading this, please allow me to be one of the first to reach out to you and welcome you to our branch! Please visit our branch website regularly for updated information on branch events and important dates. On the branch website, you will also find contact information of the board of directors and program chairs. Please reach out to any of us. We are here for you, and we look forward to meeting you in person.

The San Mateo County Branch was chartered in 1939, and has now grown into a strong community of 110 members. We are associated with the Music Teachers' Association of California, and as such, our mission aligns with that of the MTAC: Promotion of musical culture, and the pursuit of excellence in music education.

Our branch student programs include: Certificate of Merit evaluations, student recitals, student festivals, community outreach program, and scholarship program. Branch teacher programs are designed to create opportunities for us to continue our own education in areas such as pedagogy and business knowledge, and to connect with one another on a regular basis. Our branch offers the use of a recital hall to our members, including two high quality grand pianos. We have a fabulous website. We have members who are caring, helpful and inspirational. The list goes on. It's obvious how proud I am of our organization and of my colleagues!

Every aspect of our branch is being carefully and diligently maintained by a volunteer who is also a branch member, and an active teacher, just like you and me. Our branch's success is due to the effective teamwork of these phenomenal member-volunteers who have stepped up as leaders, contributors and mentors. Please remember to take a moment to say "Thank You!" to these individuals when you see them next time.

Thanks for taking the time to read my message. I'm looking forward to another year dedicated to serving you, your students, and our community. See you soon!

Janice Sheng, president.

### ***Scholarship Winners' Concert***

Sunday, September 22. 1:00-2:30PM  
Foster City Community Center – Wind Room  
Free Admission. Door Prizes after Concert.

The 2013 MTAC San Mateo Scholarship Winners are outstanding students who demonstrate excellent musicianship and distinguished leadership and/or community involvement: Leslie Jin, Hana Mizuta, Christina Galisatus, Helen Foley, Ryan Koel, and Brian Blair.

Contact: Janice - [jsheng.piano@gmail.com](mailto:jsheng.piano@gmail.com)

### ***Branch Student Recital***

Sunday, November 17. 2:15-3:15PM  
Foster City Community Center – Wind Room

Application is now open. \$15 per participant.  
Each teacher can register up to 4 students. The combined performance time of the students from the same teacher must be under 15 minutes. Formal attire.

Contact: Chen Chen - [mtacsbranchrecital@gmail.com](mailto:mtacsbranchrecital@gmail.com)

### ***Branch Program – Pat McNutt***

Business Aspects of Running a Music Studio

Date: Friday, October 25th, 2013 10:15 AM  
Location: Foster City Community Center – Port Room  
1000 E. Hillside Blvd., Foster City

Elaine Dai, attorney and music teacher, will present a program on policies related to

running a music studio. In addition to being legal counsel to MTAC, Elaine is a musician and teacher. She will share her considerable knowledge and experience in legal and business issues related to running a home based studio. Her experience as a musician/teacher and attorney gives her the perfect understanding of our particular business concerns. Be thinking of questions about your music studio. In early October, we will begin to ask for your questions to give to Elaine prior to the meeting so she can tailor her program to your needs. Stay tuned!!

Contact: Pat McNutt - [patm@coastside.net](mailto:patm@coastside.net)

### ***Certificate of Merit – Marcela Toma***

Student registration for Certificate of Merit starts on October 1st, 2013 and ends at midnight on October 31st, 2013. Please have your students confirm their correct names, Date of Birth, Grade level, and CM level.

Convention Theme for 2014-2015 is South American and Spanish Composers. Please find the details in the August CM Newsletter.

CM Meeting which will be presided by Ryan Huo is on Sunday, September 22nd at 3:30 PM. It will be held in Allegro Music School at 1123 Industrial Rd Suite 300, San Carlos, CA 94070. Please don't miss this event as many important CM subjects will be presented and discussed. It is a good idea to review your Syllabus and prepare your questions prior to the meeting.

2014 – Piano CM Dates: March 22nd – March 23rd. Mark your calendars!

Contact: Marcela - [mtacsm.cmchair@gmail.com](mailto:mtacsm.cmchair@gmail.com)

### ***Membership – Gina Vandellos***

We welcome our new members:

Barbara Varian Barrett - piano

Wendy (Chi-Wen) Huang - piano

Wei Jung Nina Hsu - piano

Esther Lam - piano and harpsichord

Contact: Gina - [mtacsmembership@gmail.com](mailto:mtacsmembership@gmail.com)

### ***Community Outreach – Deanna Du Bois***

For the 2013-2014 year, we are continuing with the Retirement Home recitals (2 in the Fall and 1-2 in the Winter). We already have confirmation from two Homes! Our first recital will be Saturday, November 9, 2-3pm at Sterling Ct. Senior Living and the second will be held Saturday November 16, 2:30pm at Carlmont Gardens Nursing Home. These were well received and enjoyed by all last year; it's probably a wise idea to keep them going! Thank you, teachers, for encouraging your students to participate in them.

On a different note, in the Winter/Spring, I would like us to reach out to a Music Conservatory or High School. We would have an event educating the students - what to expect in pursuing a degree in music and have 1-2 performances given by one of our teachers and/or students. Please let me know if any of you would be interested in speaking or performing. It may be good to have a young teacher (not that we aren't all young!) to lecture as they would be most current on what students should expect in a getting a music degree.

Contact: Deanna - [Deannadb64@yahoo.com](mailto:Deannadb64@yahoo.com)

### ***Music Festivals – Irina Behrendt***

Registration is now open for the Contemporary Music Festival, scheduled for Sunday, November 17th at 4pm! Let's celebrate the array of styles and genres of the music of the 20th and 21st centuries!

Each teacher may submit applications for up to 4 students. The total playing time per studio is about 15 minutes or less.

Have your students showcase their artwork inspired by the music they present. Explore your students' talents! - drawings, paintings, collages, or any sort of displayable art is welcome!

Festival poster available:

Copy and paste link into your browser <https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B0rqxh3GrjusVnNCZINHbm1Hc1U/edit?usp=sharing>

Contact: Irina - [mtacsm.festivals@gmail.com](mailto:mtacsm.festivals@gmail.com)

***Corresponding Secretary – Florie Ventura***

Our Branch Newsletter is e-published in September, November, January, March, and May. Please make sure your email and postal addresses are updated on the web so that you don't miss a single issue.

Contact: Florie – [mtacsmcorrespondence@gmail.com](mailto:mtacsmcorrespondence@gmail.com)

***From All Of Us: A warm welcome and best wishes for a successful school year!***

President – Janice Sheng

Vice President – Pat McNutt

Certificate of Merit - Marcela Toma

Treasurer – Brian Landes

Membership Secretary – Gina Vandellos

Website – Kevin Imbimbo

Recital Hall - Yvonne Ho Massey

Branch Recital Coordinator – Chen Chen

Community Outreach – Deanna Du Bois

Festivals – Irina Behrendt

***“The Mediocre teacher tells....the Good teacher explains....the Superior teacher demonstrates...The Great teacher inspires.”***

***William Arthur Ward***