

Music Teacher's Association of California

San Mateo County Branch

Newsletter

September 2010

A friend of the great composer asked Brahms one day, "How was your day? What did you do today?"

After a moment Brahms replied, "In the morning, I added one note to my new symphony."

The friend looked at him expectantly. Brahms continued, in the same tone, "In the afternoon, I threw the note out."

—Our thanks for this joke to Marjorie Lin

We have three exciting events on our September/October calendar:

- September 26, the CM Update/Teacher Training, the easiest way in the world to review protocols for Certificate of Merit;
- October 15, pianist/lecturer William Wellborn, with great suggestions for encouraging the intermediate level student up to the advanced level; and
- October 17, special recital by pianist/member Janice Sheng.

Other pertinent dates:

- September 15, CM registration opens;
- November 15, CM registration closes. No exceptions

CM Evaluation dates:

- Voice: **March 6**
 - Piano: **March 12-13**
 - Strings: **March 26-27**
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A Note from Your President

Pat McNutt

Welcome to a new school year!!

In a recent postscript to an email from my 8 year old Granddaughter, she wrote (and I quote) “ps. im starting piano practice!!!” She is so excited to begin [private lessons](#). I am excited to teach beginners – and let’s face it, most of us always have beginners!

A new year begins, and with it lots of MTAC San Mateo Branch activities. We will have a special CM meeting [On Sept 26](#). We are fortunate to have a State CM representative travel to our branch to teach and keep us up to date on CM. This is a required meeting for CM teachers, so be sure to RSVP to Marcela soon.

Dr. William Wellborn will give us a workshop [on October 15](#). Event details can always be obtained on our website, [mtacsanmateo.org](#). Click on “[Event Calendar](#)” at the top of the home page for dates, times and locations of branch meetings. If you missed the teacher recital in June of last year, there is a video clip on the website – check it out! Our newsletter is posted on the website.

A committee has been formed to discuss solutions regarding the [Foster City Recital Hall](#), and our two pianos. The recent doubling of our rent has presented a challenge to our branch budget, as well as to individual teachers who wish to rent the hall and the pianos. If you have ideas to share, please do so!! You can contact me, and I will share your ideas with the committee. You will hear more about this in the near future.

We belong to a vibrant and growing professional organization. Here are some interesting statistics regarding MTAC:

- *4,699 members*
- *276 new members in 2009-2010*
- *38 members lost in same year*
- *65 Branches*
- *2 new branches this year*

We can be proud to belong – and hopefully, pleased to contribute and participate!!

Pat

Business before pleasure

Marcela has arranged for a CM Council representative to hold a training session for our branch this fall.

All active CM teachers are required to come to this meeting, unless you were able to attend the meetings at the last Convention. New members interested in registering students for the Certificate of Merit and all active CM teachers are expected to attend.

Please have your questions ready; it will be extremely enlightening. Also, you might study your Syllabus and CM policies. There will be a quiz with gifts for all correct answers.

When: Sunday, September 26, 2010 at 2PM

Where: Allegro Music School - Concert Hall (directions below)

Please RSVP by September 20th to singers38@yahoo.com

Directions to Allegro Music School:

From 92

Take Exit 14B, Foster City Blvd

Take Left at Metro Center Blvd

Take the 2nd Right onto Pilgrim Dr

The location is on your Right.

From 101

Take Exit Hillsdale Blvd / Foster City Drive East

Continue on Hillsdale Blvd. until Pilgrim Dr

Take a Left at the red light; the location is on your Left.

The "BIG JUMP"

Dr. William Wellborn, an outstanding musician and lecturer, will speak to us on Friday, October 15th.

His lecture, the "BIG JUMP", focuses on helping us encourage students out of the relative security of the Intermediate level into the exciting challenges of [Advanced levels of pianism](#). Making a smooth transition from the intermediate to the advanced level is one of the most crucial periods for both student and teacher. The repertoire must be challenging and stimulating, but not beyond the scope of the student. This session will offer guidelines for getting students through this stage of their [musical development](#), as well as creative suggestions for repertoire that is both effective and innovative. Along with some tried and true personal favorites, special emphasis will be placed on several lesser-known works, with a discussion and illustration of many of these selections from the keyboard. Many valuable recommendations for technical studies at this level will also be provided. Every pianist should find this lecture exceptionally stimulating.

When: Friday, October 15th 2010 at 10:30 AM

Where: The Oak Room

[San Mateo Public Library](#)

[55 W. Third Avenue](#)

[San Mateo, CA 94402](#)

A faculty member of the [San Francisco Conservatory](#) since 1989, William Wellborn teaches advanced students from around the world each summer at the Austrian International Piano Seminar and Festival. His students frequently win top prizes in local, state, national, and international competition. His own concert and lecture tours have taken him to 25 states and 12 countries. He is the founding president of the SF Bay Area Chapter of the American Liszt Society and Vice-President of the Chopin Council of [San Francisco](#).

Dr. Wellborn's complete bio can be found at his website at www.williamwellborn.com.

An important update from Marcela, our amazing CM director

Certificate of Merit

Marcela Toma

Dear CM Teachers:

Welcome to another year of [Certificate of Merit](#). Thank you for your hard work and the time you volunteer, which are vital to the CM program. Our branch students who participate in CM certainly benefit from your effort. Thank you so much Marcela!

Registration opens

The Registration of students for the 2011 CM Evaluation opens September 15, 2010. Registration closes November 15, 11:59PM. No late registration.

Please go to mtac.org, read and make copies of:

- Parent Letter
- Addendums (found at Teacher's Homepage)
- Certificate of Merit Policies & Procedures
- Registration Instructions and fees

Please use the Help File online if you have any questions.

CM Dates 2011

Voice: [March 6](#)

Piano: [March 12-13](#)

Strings: [March 26-27](#)

New Branch fees

There will be an increase in Branch fees by \$3.00 this year, as we have not raised the CM fees for the past 6 years.

Path A \$15.00

Path B \$13.00

The total will be added automatically to your students' fees.

You will find the list with the new State fees at your Teacher Page.

Preparatory Level Path A

At the CM Council's recommendation the Preparatory Level will be reinstated in the Path A evaluations.

Line of Communication

CM questions should not be directed to the State Office or State Board!

- Parents ask Teacher
 - Teacher asks Branch CM Chair
 - Branch Chair asks CM Council member for program in question
 - CM Council members ask CM Coordinator
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Janice Sheng - Piano Recital

**Sunday, Oct 17, 2010
4:30-6:00pm**

Foster City Community Center, Wind Room
(1000 E. Hillsdale Blvd., Foster City, CA)

Admission is by donation. Refreshments will be provided.

~ Special Guests ~
Kathleen Johnson, Cellist
Thomas Hansen, Pianist

~ Concert Program ~
R. Schumann: Kreisleriana, op.16
Bach/Brahms: Chaconne, transcribed for the left hand alone
S. Rachmaninoff: Sonata for Cello and Piano (3rd mvt)
R. Schumann: Piano Concerto in A minor (1st mvt)

RSVP by October 10th
jsheng.piano@gmail.com
(650) 430-1384

A special day of music in Sacramento

The MTAC Sacramento County Branch is sponsoring "A Day with Melody Bober", Saturday May 14, 2011, from 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM. The program will include a workshop on "Energizing your Studio", an Alfred Music Showcase, featuring Melody's music, a luncheon, a master class and a student recital. Spend a day of professional training with one of today's most widely respected composers. Melody Bober has more than 25 years of experience in music education. Come and be inspired by music that can bring standing ovations to your recitals. It will be held at the Lions Gate Hotel & Conference Center, 3410 Westover Street, McClellan, formerly AFB Sacramento, CA 95652. The cost is \$50.00 to attend this multi-faceted seminar of training, motivation and inspiration to help build your business. The Luncheon is

included with your admission. The Master Class and Recital is open to the teachers/students of the Sacramento County Branch only. Student participation is contingent upon receipt of the teacher's application fee. A flyer and official application is available from the corresponding secretary [mtac.newsletter@gmail.com].

Do you have a change of address, phone or email? Please send any changes to Vera Shamis: verashamis@hotmail.com or 650-578-9040.