

Music Teacher's Association of California

San Mateo County Branch

Newsletter

March 2009

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President's Pen

Pat McNutt

I am sure many of us are in the throes of helping students finish up their **CM preparation**. Certificate of Merit is an invaluable benefit of membership in MTAC.

In spite of our nail-chewing over repertoire rules, technique requirements and other areas of musicianship that are demanded of our students, I hope you are aware, as I am, of the value this yearly landmark provides for our students. I know it guides my teaching regimen and keeps me and my students on track with clear goals and guidelines.

On our new **website**, mtcsanmateo.org, one of the features is an Event Calendar. We are attempting to keep it full and up to date on all of our activities, such as Board meeting times and locations, CM deadlines and convention dates. I hope this will be an often used tool to help you keep in tune with our happenings.

One of our longtime, active members, Berdine Ehrman, passed away Friday, February 20. Berdine was a very special person and her contribution to our Branch will be remembered and valued. There is no service planned, according to her wishes.

MTAC Convention will be held at the Santa Clara Marriott, July 3-7. You can take advantage of early bird registration until May 15, a new registration mode for 2009. Go the state website to register or read your Music Teacher Magazine (from the State MTAC) for information on the convention and access to a registration form.

Below is a notice regarding the **improvisation competition** for convention – read on:

The deadline for submissions to the MTAC State Improvisation Evaluation is April 15. This is an adjudicated event where students record an improvisation they have created onto a cd or cassette which they have sent in for a written evaluation. Top-scoring students are then invited to perform their prepared improvisation at this summer's state Convention. Teachers interested in finding more about the Improvisation Evaluation are encouraged to go to the state website where information and applications can be downloaded.

Website Update

Our website is live again!

The San Mateo Branch board has been working with Rogue Web Works out of Ashland, Oregon to set up a new site for our branch. Kevin Imbimbo, who is our Web Administrator, will be handling the editing and maintenance of the site.

I am asking you to do three things:

1. Read the note below from Kevin.
2. Check out the site – mtacsanmateo.org
3. Send Kevin the requested information so the site can be complete and maximally useful to our members. Send your information to kji@sanbrunocable.com and use “website” in the subject line.

Thanks!
Pat McNutt

From Kevin Imbimbo:

Our website is up and running. I urge you to look at it and peruse it often, as it will be a major communication tool for our membership. The URL is mtacsanmateo.org.

The “Find a Teacher” page shows a member directory. This directory has your name, city, phone and instrument. Check to make sure your personal information is correct.

You can be accessed by email from this listing; the email address is encrypted. As a result, you will not receive spam if someone sends you an email from this listing. However, if you would prefer to opt out of email, let me know, and I will remove your email address. On this page, we can also create a link to your website if you request it.

You will see that there are other criteria on the “Find a Teacher” page. Please send me the following information so I can add it to your listing:

- Go to students’ home – yes or no
- Cities you will travel to if you go to students’ homes
- Age range taught – check any or all the three choices listed

Email your info to me at kji@sanbrunocable.com – use “**Website**” as the subject.

Certificate of Merit
Marcela Toma

Please send me an email as soon as you know of a student’s DROP or change to Path B. It will be of great help as we are going to work on the schedule shortly.

Enter the repertoire online ASAP and go back before the deadline and check for accuracy.

Good luck and best wishes.

Branch Recital
Denise Chevalier

The branch recital on Sunday, February 15 was a huge success. The attendance was great, despite the heavy rain and all the children were very well-trained and performed beautifully. They also looked marvelous in their recital attire!

There were 15 performing students, representing the following studios: Dorian Ho, Mania Vehouni, Irina Carrenca, Renee Chevalier, Anatasia Yi, Sujeeva Hapugalle, Emi Sunahara, Pat McNutt and Denise Chevalier.

At the end of the recital, Irina Carrenca, our first performer/teacher, played Chopin wonderfully.

The next recital will be April 26, 2009 at 2:45pm. You may apply on our website, mtacsanmateo.org. Click on Branch Recital – you will see the information and the application. This will be the last branch recital of the 2008-2009 year.

There are several revisions to the recital application. The most significant ones are:

- 1) NO FEE for either the student or teacher to perform
- 2) The number of students a teacher can apply for is unlimited (there is a sorting system to allow as many teachers possible to have their student's perform)

We want the branch recital's to be a benefit for our members and their students!

Programs
Janice Sheng

Terry Metzkin, who did the Finances presentation in February, donated \$100.00 to our branch towards scholarships for students.

The Annual Banquet is just around the corner. We will be having the luncheon in May this year. I'm looking forward to seeing you there and stay tuned for more details!

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