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# MTAC NEWS

MAY, 2008

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MTAC NEWS is published the months of September, November, January, March, and May. Information deadlines are the 10<sup>th</sup> of each of the above months, with all information sent electronically to Susan Clark, editor, [tubaflute@comcast.net](mailto:tubaflute@comcast.net). Each issue of the MTAC NEWS is being mailed to State Board Members and Branch Presidents, plus it is available online at [www.mtac.org](http://www.mtac.org). Please publish relevant information in your Branch Newsletter, so that this news may reach all members.

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## 2008 MTAC CONVENTION REGISTRATION June 27 - July 1, 2008     Riverside, CA

Please check the website and the current issue of the *California Music Teacher* for all of the exciting events planned for this year's convention. This year you can register online. It is quick and easy. Either use the invitation you have been sent via email, or go to the [www.mtac.org](http://www.mtac.org) website for the registration link.

The convention hotels are the Riverside Marriott and the nearby Mission Inn. Many people have already reserved rooms, and there aren't many left! Please try to reserve your rooms soon in order to get the type of room you want.

➔ **The phone numbers** for making convention hotel reservations are **incorrect** on the registration form in the current issue of the *California Music Teacher*. They are **correct** on the [www.mtac.org](http://www.mtac.org) website. The phone number for the **Riverside Marriott** should be **800-266-9432** and the number for **The Mission Inn** is **800-843-7755**. We hope to see you all at the convention in Riverside.

Madeline Miller, Convention Registrar

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## CONVENTION SESSIONS ADDED

### Community Outreach Meeting

A Community Outreach Meeting has been added to the Riverside Convention. The meeting will be on Monday, June 30<sup>th</sup>, at 12:00 noon, in the Citrus-Heritage Room of the Riverside Convention Center. Lee Galloway will share ideas from the MTNA National Conference presentation on Community Outreach, and Karen Becker will also contribute thoughts about Community Outreach. All Branch Community Outreach chairs, plus anyone else interested in this great subject, are invited to come.

### Music Education in and Impressions of China

Karen Becker, CM Coordinator, and Lee Galloway, State President, were guests of the Beijing Musician's Association where they gave a presentation, two master classes, and visited four different music schools, including the famed Central Conservatory of Beijing, from which all of China's greatest musicians have come. Come and hear impressions of China with Karen and Lee, in the Citrus-Heritage Room of the Riverside Convention Center on Monday, June 30<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m.

## MAKE PLANS TO VISIT OUR FIRST ANNUAL

# Silent Auction!

New this year at the Riverside Convention will be a Silent Auction to raise money for our Foundation. The MTAC Foundation supports all of our student programs and scholarships. The auction items will be displayed and available for bidding on Friday, June 27<sup>th</sup> - the first day of the convention. The winners will be announced at the Friday Night Banquet.

There are many interesting items already submitted to the auction. To peak your interest, here are a few of the items to be auctioned:

A framed autograph of Arthur Rubenstein  
the new complete Celebration Piano Series, from Frederick J. Harris  
Magic Mountain tickets  
Restaurant gift cards  
lunches with folks that we all love  
and much more!

If you have anything that you would like to donate to the auction, please check the website for suggestions of items to be donated. Please contact Jeanne Jordan, our Silent Auction chair, at [jeannejordan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jeannejordan@sbcglobal.net) for more information.

We can also accept cash donations from the branches. These checks should be made out to the MTAC Foundation so they will be tax deductible. Please indicate that the money is go to the Silent Auction. In this way, we can make the displays of our items interesting and raise even more for our students.

Hope to see you at the auction!

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## MTAC CONVENTION DELEGATES

Each branch is allowed representation at the Annual Convention by one delegate for each 25 members, or a portion thereof. There will be two meetings at the MTAC Annual Convention in Riverside, for which branch delegates' attendance is required. The first is Saturday morning, June 28<sup>th</sup>, from 8:00-10:00 a.m. in the La Sierra Room of the Riverside Convention Center. The proposed bylaw changes will be discussed, along with other matters. The second meeting is the Annual Business Meeting on Monday morning, June 30<sup>th</sup> from 8:00-10:00 a.m. in the Raincross Ballroom of the Riverside Convention Center, at which time we will hold the vote for the proposed bylaw changes, along with other important business. The State Board recommends that each branch pay the convention registration fee for each of their delegates, to help support their attendance. Remember that it is through your delegates that you have your best opportunity to be represented and to be heard as a branch at the State level. I look forward to seeing and hearing from you, through your delegates.

Lee Galloway, MTAC State President

## VOCE CONVENTION RECITAL

Sunday evening, June 29<sup>th</sup> - 7:30 p.m. Students performing on this recital were chosen as the very best in the State in their respective categories through local branch competitions, and at the State Competition held at Chapman University this spring. Besides playing on the Convention Recital, the winners receive monetary awards.

The VOCE program has become more successful each year. This year we had 142 final applicants, whereas last year it was 114. Ensemble entries exploded to 21, 11 of which included piano. It is exciting to see all these very fine players and singers playing and practicing together with such enthusiasm and joy.

The winners' recital will be featuring Junior violinist Lily Tsai, from Palo Alto; Intermediate violinist Jessie Chen, from the South Bay; and Senior violinist Austin Hansen, who lives in Irvine. From the woodwind categories, we will hear the Intermediate wind winner Stefani Feldman on clarinet, who lives in Sherman Oaks; and Senior wind winner flutist Mark Teplitsky from San Diego. Our winning vocalist will be mezzo soprano Hannah McDermott, from Manhattan Beach. The Irvine Branch produced the winning Intermediate Ensemble. Included in this trio are Tiffany Huang, violin ... Gloria Yen, cello ... and Christine Lin, piano. The winners in the Senior Ensemble live in Claremont, Santa Ana, and Walnut, and they are Judith Yu, violin ... Allan Hon, cello ... and Renee Yang, piano.

Please note the day and time of this wonderful concert. The VOCE team guarantees that you will be amazed and energized by attending and hearing this inspiring event.

Verna Balch and Peter Thompson, co-chairs  
Shirley Yamamoto

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## CHANGE IN STATE BOARD MEMBERSHIP

It is my duty to announce to you that Marilyn Carstens has resigned from the State Board of Directors. She has been a breath of fresh air, and will be missed. I am sure that she will continue to be active in MTAC in some fashion. The Board has voted in **Mona Benight** to fill out the remainder of Marilyn's term, as Director-at-Large. Branches which have had Marilyn as their liaison (Los Altos, Monterey, Palo Alto, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Stanislaus), will now have Mona Benight as their liaison, effective immediately. Mona's email is [bps@wwdb.org](mailto:bps@wwdb.org), and she comes to us from the Lodi Branch.

Lee Galloway, MTAC State President

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION  
on REINSTATEMENTS & NEW APPLICATIONS**

The State Board recently approved the following policy:

***New membership applications and reinstatement requests must be accurately completed and submitted to the State Office, postmarked on or before August 1<sup>st</sup> to be eligible for Certificate of Merit participation and other State Programs.***

**What this change means to current members:**

- 1) If a member's dues payment is not postmarked by August 1<sup>st</sup>, MTAC membership is forfeited (see State Bylaws, Article VIII, Section 3).
- 2) When membership is forfeited, a member needs to reinstate to have membership restored.
- 3) If a member reinstates after August 1<sup>st</sup>, they will not be allowed to participate in Certificate of Merit or any other State Program for that fiscal (academic) year

Members are strongly encouraged to send in their dues today.

**Student Membership Announcement:**

Student Members will NOT be allowed to renew their membership status until their student status has been verified, or until they have changed to provisional or active status. Please contact your Branch Membership Secretary for more information.

James Ramos, State Membership Secretary

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***CALIFORNIA MUSIC TEACHER***  
**PUBLICATION DEADLINES**

Branch Presidents — please note and advertise the following *California Music Teacher* magazine publication deadlines. They have recently changed, and are different than the ones published in the recent Convention Call Issue. The next deadline is especially important, because it has changed significantly.

Fall Issue - **July 31<sup>st</sup>**

Spring Issue - **October 31<sup>st</sup>**

Summer (Convention) Issue - **February 28<sup>th</sup>**

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**GROVE MUSIC ONLINE**

The website for Grove Music Online has been redesigned and renamed **Oxford Music Online**. See the new website ... click the link to MTAC login in the upper left-hand corner of the [www.mtac.org](http://www.mtac.org) home page. You will need your CM username and password. If you do not know them, please ask your CM branch chair. After login, you will see the teacher home page. Read the top paragraph on the page for further instructions. This website has a much better and clearer search function. In addition, two dictionaries have been added to the search capability: **The Oxford Dictionary of Music, Second Edition**, and **The Oxford Companion to Music**. The description of all the new features is contained in the “What’s New” link from the Oxford Music Online home page. You may also take a “Guided Tour” of the new features.

Lowell Webster [lwebster@redshift.com](mailto:lwebster@redshift.com)

## ADULT PERFORMANCE NORTH

Adult Performance north met on April 6, 2008, at the Santa Clara University Music Department. There were fourteen participants enrolled, but only thirteen attended ... seven teachers and six students. In addition, there were three auditors. The teachers were Hans Boepple, Mack McCray, and Victoria Neve. There were ten performers in the recital, of which seven were selected to perform at this year's Convention. Of those, only three are planning to go to Riverside to perform in the recital.

It was generally agreed that this was one of the best APP events in recent years. Everyone seemed to have a wonderful time. The students expressed real satisfaction with the classes and lessons, and the teachers all told me how much they enjoy taking part in this program. The venue couldn't have been better, with plenty of practice rooms, good pianos, and a beautiful recital hall.

Karl Goldstein

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## IMPROVISATION

The State Improvisation Program is happy to announce that there are 36 students, representing twelve teachers in eight branches, participating in this year's Improvisation Evaluation. Several students with high ratings on their improvisation have been chosen to participate in the **Improvisation Celebration Recital** at the State Convention. These students will perform their "prepared improvisation," and then will improvise on various themes in "music of the moment" as they pick a topic out of the basket.

The more advanced improvisers submitted two recorded improvisations to apply for the **Improvisation Showcase Recital**. Mark Saturday morning, June 28<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. on your Convention Schedule for the Showcase Recital. This is the highest honor for the improvisation student — similar to the Winners' Recital for Composers Today. This will feature the improvisers who received very high ratings in creativity and musicality. Students will perform their prepared improvisations, and will also improvise "on-the-spot" on various themes and pictures, displaying their creativity on a moment's notice. The Improvisation Program has grown to include students who qualify for the **Senior Medallion in Improvisation**. During this session, we will proudly present the first Senior Medallions of this program to students who have participated for at least 3 of their 4 years in high school.

There will be two **Improvisation Workshops for Teachers** at the convention. The first session is for **beginning teacher-improvisers** on Saturday, June 28<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. If you are a beginner in improvising or teaching improvisation, you will learn some new ways to present improvisation to your students. This is an interactive session, so you can try these improvisation ideas at the keyboard, using headphones. A second session on Sunday, June 29<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. is designed for **teacher-improvisers who are already comfortable with improvising**. Come and share your ideas and/or demonstrate your best improvisation techniques with other teachers. This session will include a "group improvisation" without headphones, with each teacher joining in, one by one, to make an Improvisation Ensemble. Both sessions will be hands-on workshops on keyboards in the Embassy Room in the Marriott Hotel.

Alexandra Hawley ([alidoremi@aol.com](mailto:alidoremi@aol.com)) Dorothy Burgess ([doburgess@aol.com](mailto:doburgess@aol.com))  
Deb Sanfilippo ([debsanfilippo@yahoo.com](mailto:debsanfilippo@yahoo.com))

**SHARING THE GIFT OF MUSIC**  
**The Music Students' Service League (MSSL) of Santa Clarita Valley**  
*Careese Quon, president of MSSL, Santa Clarita Valley*

**Getting Started:** In July, 2006, after seeing an advertisement for MSSL at the MTAC State Convention held at the Biltmore Millennium Hotel in Los Angeles, five piano students from the Santa Clarita Valley came together to brainstorm and plan a way to serve the community through music. With the support of a Santa Clarita Valley MTAC member, Alyse Korn, the MSSL advisor, and with the permission of the Westfield Valencia Town Center Mall, five piano students provided holiday music for shoppers for the first time in November 2006. The MSSL of SCV has not only provided the local mall with music on a monthly basis, but MSSL also performs regularly at several nearby senior homes. In just a short period of time, the MSSL of Santa Clarita Valley has expanded to include over 30 members who have contributed their talents as the gift of music is spread throughout the Valley. The MSSL started with just pianists, but has grown to include other instruments such as the flute, alto sax, violin, and cello. The junior high and senior high school students represent almost every public, private, and home school in the Santa Clarita Valley.

**What We've Done:** The MSSL students have brought smiles to the seniors at the homes where they have performed. The seniors are not only treated to the talented playing of the students, but the students and seniors also have a chance to interact and socialize while the students pass out homemade goodies and thank the seniors for coming to hear them perform. The elderly take pleasure in having the youth perform for them, and the kind words of the audience are always a great encouragement for the students. The past Easter, 2008, the MSSL received donations from local stores like Target, Long's Drugs, Stater Bros, Ralphs, and Rite Aid. MSSL was able to put together 30 Easter care baskets that were passed out to the seniors in attendance at the Summerhill Villa performance. The Easter care baskets were an unexpected gift at this time of year, that definitely brought a sense of brightness and joy to the Summerhill seniors that day. This past Christmas, 2007, the MSSL had the chance to raise money for the organization with a bake sale booth at the Saugus High School holiday boutique. The MSSL raised \$350 with the delicious homemade baked goods prepared by the students. The MSSL has also been asked to provide music services for events like a preschool graduation, a first communion party, and has been given the opportunity to perform at a Parks & Recreation Winter Festival. The MSSL is also a support to the SCV MTAC and has provided lunch to the judges of the annual Bach Festival.

**This is Just the Beginning!** Regular monthly performances at the Westfield Valencia Town Center Mall will continue through the month of May. The MSSL will break for the summer, and will resume again in August, when school starts. The first meeting before the school year begins with an annual summer social get-together where old and new members gather to get to know each other better before starting a new year of performances. The MSSL of SCV hopes to fulfill their ultimate commitment of "sharing the gift of music" with the community around them. Receiving support from teachers, students, and the community is very crucial to the success of the MSSL. Thus far, the Santa Clarita Valley and the SCV MSSL has warmly welcomed the newly-formed MSSL of SCV.

## LAST CALL TO SUBMIT ENTRIES TO THE SCRAPBOOK & AWARDS PROGRAM

**Deadline: May 31<sup>st</sup>**

The Scrapbooks and Awards Program will recognize outstanding branches and individual private studios at the 2008 MTAC Convention in the following categories:

- Branch Scrapbooks
- Branch Yearbooks/Directories
- Branch Newsletters
- Branch Websites
- Branch Recital Programs
- Individual Private Studio Websites (new category for 2008)
- Individual Private Studio Recital Programs
- Other published materials, including flyers, brochures, and individual studio newsletters

All categories (except Branch Scrapbooks) will be judged on Sunday, June 1<sup>st</sup>. Therefore all entries must be received by May 31<sup>st</sup>.

Send entries to:                   Teresa Chan Escobar, State Chair  
MTAC Scrapbooks and Awards Program  
9362 Hazel Circle  
Villa Park, CA 92861

Send entries by email to:    [teresaescobar@gmail.com](mailto:teresaescobar@gmail.com)

When submitting entries via email, please note on the subject line that this is an MTAC Awards Entry and for what category. Entries received *after* May 31<sup>st</sup>, 11:59 p.m., wither by regular mail or email, will be ineligible for an award. So send your entries as soon as possible to ensure inclusion.

To be considered for an award for your private studio website in the Individual Private Studio Websitesu category, email your website address by the submission deadline (May 31<sup>st</sup>). Branch Websites will automatically be entered — just make sure your branch website address is correctly listed in the “MTAC Branches” page on the MTAC website.

Branch Scrapbooks will be judged at the Convention. Make sure your branch representative places your branch scrapbook entry on the Scrapbook Display Table at convention by Friday, June 27<sup>th</sup>. Scrapbook judging will take place from Saturday, June 28<sup>th</sup> to Sunday, June 29<sup>th</sup>.

For more details about each awards category, judging criteria, and all submission information, visit the “Awards Programs” page on the MTAC website and click on the Participation Guide link. (You may also request, from the State Chair, that the Participation Guide be emailed to you.)

Thank you for your participation, and GOOD LUCK!

Teresa Chan Escobar

## 2008 CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

Planning the yearly convention takes years, literally! Many of the artists are contracted years ahead of time due to scheduling, availability, etc. The planning of the convention as often been compared to a pregnancy. The nine months leading up to the event are full of plans, education, worry, last minute “did I get this done” and then the actual moment of arrival! I am quite grateful for the opportunity to be part of this birthing process, “Celebrating the Music of America”.

On June 27, Gary Ingle, Executive Director of MTNA will open our convention with his Keynote address. Gary is involved in many facets of music beyond MTAC. His life is on the plane jetting from one country to another in support of Music Education. Following that, Scott McBride Smith will moderate a panel consisting of Seymour Bernstein, Robert Vandall, Kevin Fitz-Gerald and Dean Robert Cutietta (Thornton School of Music). The panel will discuss the status of Music In America today.

You will have the chance to listen to hundreds of students in performances, representing thousands of hours of practice, lessons and a celebration of what’s right in America today- our own students!

Masterclasses will take place by Seymour Bernstein, Kevin Fitz-Gerald, Oxana Yablanskaya, Robert Vandall, in piano. Bernadine Blaha and Kevin Fitz-Gerald will preside over an ensemble masterclass while Dr. Lucinda Carver will join us for a harpsichord masterclass. Dr. Jeffrey Kaatz from La Sierra University will lead our cello masterclass. Other masterclass include cello with Dr. Jeffrey Kaatz, violin with Frank Almond, flute with Jim Walker, clarinet with Gary Gray, and voice with Gary Glaze.

This year, I’m delighted in the presentation of a joint artist recital by Kevin Fitz-Gerald, piano and Jim Walker, flute. Kevin will also join vocalist Gary Glaze for a joint recital as well. Frank Almond will present a violin recital while Dr. Jeffrey Kaatz is featured on cello. UCLA’s Gary Gray will charm us with his clarinet and our Monday evening concert will feature Oxana Yablanskaya.

Some of the lectures include:

Jerry Wong- from Yale University on the Music of Seymour Bernstein

Robert Vandall lectures on Technique and ensembles

Linda Rohmund- comparison of technique books

Gail Lew- new materials

Susan Svrcek- Continuing the American Tradition: Ives, Cage & Crumb

Don Campbell- Through the Child’s Ear and Nadia Boulanger

Performance Anxieties by Erik Forrester

Carolyn Carson- on Anton Bilotti

Seymour Bernstein- Pedaling, The Soul of the Piano

Bernadine Blaha and Kevin Fitz-Gerald- Questions and Answers Surrounding Life

Peter Yazbeck- Memories of Glenn Gould- His Technique and Artistry

Aaron Copland will be highlighted by Carl Matthes while Ed Darling will discuss Richard Chronister’s principles of piano pedagogy.

Gottschalk will be featured in a lecture performance by Michael Schneider.

Dr. Lucinda Carver will discuss the Baroque Dance in the keyboard works of J.S. Bach.

We are also delighted to have Rebecca Bogart discussing the American Music for Piano Students, 1820-1890.

Our own Carolyn Biller will guide us through studio organizational techniques.

As always, our annual programs such as Composer’s Today, Improvisation, Young Composer’s Guild, Young Artist Guild, Certificate of Merit Recitals in various disciplines, VOCE, Contemporary Music Seminar,

Teacher's Performance Recital, Concerto/Solo Competition, Adult Recital, and many many helpful branch oriented sessions! The annual business meeting will take place on Monday, June 30. This is a time to focus on the business end of the organization as well as vote upon any business changes such as bylaws, etc.

You will also have a chance to support your own MTAC Foundation. On Friday evening, prior to the opening Banquet, a silent auction will be held. Many items have been donated by various teachers, vendors, and people from across the state. 100% of the proceeds will benefit the MTAC Foundation. Even if you are not attending the banquet, you may have a chance to participate in the silent auction. Please make an effort to make our Foundation the charity of your choice. As a teacher, we are daily involved in the process of musical education. Many of us also donate to churches and various charities throughout the state and country. Please take a moment and think of how much MTAC means to you. If each of us would give a minimal amount on a yearly basis, our Foundation would grow and become a vital part of our organization. You will hear more of the Foundation in the coming year as we try to make it part of our everyday MTAC life.

So, join me for the MTAC Convention held at the Riverside Marriott and Convention Center June 27-July 1, 2008. One may do as much or as little as possible. We have a schedule that features something for everyone at all times. Come and join your State Board of Directors as we celebrate of Music of America. It will be a grand time, one you won't want to miss!

Sharon Townsend Roth, Convention Program Chair