



MTAC NEWS

NOVEMBER, 2007

MTAC NEWS is published the months of September, November, January, March, and May. Information deadlines are the 10th of each of the above months, with all information sent electronically to Susan Clark, editor, 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. Please publish relevant information in your Branch Newsletter, so that this news may reach all members.

WANTED: Editor for the *California Music Teacher*

Phyllis Villec, our most excellent Editor of the *California Music Teacher*, is retiring from that job after the Spring Issue. We will miss her voice, as she has brought our magazine to great heights. Do you know someone who you could recommend ... who might be interested in this position? We need someone with organizational skills, writing and proofreading skills, and would like to shepherd our magazine forward.

The position could also be divided into a team: the Editor being the person who works on the choices of articles, submissions, and proofreading; and an Assistant Editor who handles the layout. If you know of someone who would be good for this, please contact President Lee Galloway at lee@leegalloway.com, or 619-281-8118, as soon as possible. He will send you a list of the duties, and Phyllis has promised to be a consultant to help with the transition process. We should have someone in place no later than February to begin receiving submissions for the March 1st deadline of the Convention Call Issue.

VOCE ALERT!

For Northern California, the Regional VOCE competition will be hosted by the Santa Clara Branch on February 3, 2008, at the Santa Clara University Recital Hall. Fees are \$35 for solo, and \$25 per ensemble member. Application Deadline: January 23, 2008, sent to Peter Thompson (but you may advise him as to your intent to apply as soon as possible). Please see VOCE guidelines and application form at www.mtac.org

All branches from Northern California are welcome to come, if you are not planning your own competition. Peter is willing to help advise any branch on starting a VOCE competition within their own branch, and answer any questions a teacher or branch may have. (If you wish to start your own branch competition, this must be underway prior to December 15, 2007.)

Peter Thompson, VOCE co-chair
peter@thompsonstudios.com
408-741-1922

LAST CALL TO Certificate of Merit EVALUATORS

All keyboard evaluators are required to attend a training session before they work the 2008 CM season!

Northern California

Sunday, January 6th training in Sacramento

Please RSVP to jspmidi@aol.com for time and address information

Judi Sands-Pertel, Evaluator Chair Training & Recruiting North

Southern California

Sunday, January 20th, 2:30 p.m. at Field's Piano Store (Santa Ana)

Please RSVP peggy09876@yahoo.com so we will know how many to plan for each session

Peggy Taylor, Evaluator Chair Training & Recruiting South

RE: SURVEY OF MEMBERS

Several of our branches have asked about doing a survey of their members regarding what each member charges for lessons. The State Board has asked the advice of our State Attorney, David Wong, and he has the following answer:

I don't think MTAC should do a survey on lesson prices. It opens MTAC to a lot of risk, with little legal benefit. However, if a branch insists on it, I would take the following precautions:

(1) The survey should be completely managed by a third party. Those handling the raw data should not be members of MTAC.

(2) Data should be made available to members and non-members.

(3) Stick to collecting past information. Don't collect current prices charged, but only collect prices charged at least three months prior to the date of the survey. Definitely do not ask about future prices.

(4) Data should be collected so that I can't figure out how much any particular teacher charges, if I were a teacher in the area.

(5) Prohibit discussions of the results. The results cannot be discussed at branch meetings, recitals, gatherings of any kind, whether they be online or offline.

(6) Make participation in the survey voluntary.

To clarify, the risk that David Wong refers to is the risk of being accused of "price fixing." We need to be careful that any data that comes from any survey not be construed as being used to "fix" prices or fees.

MTAC State Board Policy - October, 2007

WEBSITE NEWS

Online Shopping

There is now a shopping page on the MTAC State Website to order MTAC products. There will also soon be a direct online ordering page through Google Checkout.

See the page by going to www.mtac.org/shopping/ or navigating from the top or left-hand links. Then click on the order form link, fill out online, print, and mail to the State Office. In addition, there will soon be a direct online order form. You will be able to shop online, use your credit card through Google Checkout, and your order will be automatically sent to the State Office by email.

The direct online order form will be available by December 15th. The pdf file order form is available now.

How to be listed on the “Find a Teacher” web page

Anyone can use the MTAC website to find an MTAC teacher in their area. Click on the Find-a-Teacher link, enter a zip code, a radius, and an instrument, and you will see all the teachers who have chosen to have their information displayed. This makes it very easy for potential students to find us! Only MTAC teachers who have chosen to be listed will be shown. If you would like to be listed, click the MTAC Login link, log in, and select Edit Teacher Info. Choose how you want your information displayed, and click submit. It is that easy! Remember ... no one can find you this way if you have not taken the time to enter your information.

Lowell Webster lwebster@redshift.com

FRIENDS OF TODAY’S MUSIC

Friends of Today’s Music (FTM) has commissioned composer Paul Chihara to write a new trio for flute (violin), cello, and piano, aimed specifically at advanced level students. Teachers may review the piece before committing to the program. An advance copy of the score will be available in December. C.F. Peters will publish the scores, and they will be available for purchase at the convention and afterwards, commercially available through your local music retail store. Any teachers with students interested in premiering this new work at the 2008 convention, should contact the chair for more details. This is an outstanding opportunity for students to work on a “new” piece and meet and work with the composer in an encouraging, non-competitive atmosphere. For further information on Paul Chihara and the roster of past FTM commissions, please refer online to the website at: www.mtac/programs/fotm or contact Catherine O’Connor at 510-581-6457 or cathoc@aol.com

SUPPORT OUR MUSIC PROGRAMS THROUGH ESCRIP!

It’s easy! Just register your participating credit/debit cards and Macy’s credit card, and eScrip does the rest. Visit www.escrip.com to get started. Use our **contact name, Music Teachers’ Assn of Ca Foundation**, and our **group ID # 500001198**. Shopping at over 6,000 participating eScrip merchant locations will result in contributions to our Music Program. That’s it — you shop, and MTAC Foundation earns money!

ADULT PERFORMANCE PROGRAM

The Adult Performance Program gives serious adult students, as well as branch members, the opportunity to play for master teachers in a full day of private lessons, master classes, and a recital. Participants may choose any combination of these activities. All participants may attend master classes and the recital, regardless of whether they are performing or not. Performers in the recital may be selected to play in the Adult Seminar Recital at the annual State Convention.

This is a wonderful opportunity for adult students to acquire experience performing and meet other students who are serious about their music studies, as well as a chance to get feedback from some of the best teachers in the area. First-time participants may choose to get acquainted with the program by only taking private sessions and observing the other events, but the option of playing in a master class or in the recital is always available. Memorization is not required.

The following classifications are eligible to participate:

- (1) Avocational - serious adult students of MTAC teachers
- (2) Vocational - college students majoring in music, professional musicians, or non-member teachers studying with an MTAC teacher.
- (3) MTAC teacher/performers

The 2008 **Adult Performance Program North** will take place on Sunday, April 6, 2008, at Santa Clara University in Santa Clara. Deadline to submit applications is March 1, 2008. Master piano teachers so far are Mack McCray, Hans Boepple, and Victoria Neve. To obtain an application form, please visit the www.mtac.org website and click on Adult Performance, or call Karl Goldstein at 510-848-3422.

The 2008 **Adult Performance Program South** will take place on Sunday, April 13, 2008, at Chapman University, in Orange, California, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The deadline to submit an application is February 15, 2008. Master teachers for this event include Antoinette Perry (USC faculty), and Susan Svrcek (Pasadena Conservatory). To obtain an application form, please visit the www.mtac.org website and click on Adult Performance, or call Dr. Joseph Matthews at 714-771-7190.

IMPROVISATION

Improvisation Program welcomes new Chair

At the end of the 2006-07 year, we said our heartfelt thank-you to James Ramos, outgoing Improvisation Council Chair, who was very instrumental in strengthening the Improvisation Program and updating forms and procedures during the last few years, in order to help the program mature and grow. This year, we welcome Alexandra Hawley to the position of Council Chair. She wants to continue to make the Improvisation program more accessible to all teachers and to involve more students throughout the state.

Improvisation Resources have been expanded

A new policy has been approved for the year 2007-08. There is no longer an “approved” list of resources. Any resource can be used. You may use *the Improvisation Syllabus and Guide (ISG)*, *Games and Activities for Improvisation (GAI)*, and the resources listed on the MTAC website, as well as other resources you have available. Any teaching tool for Improvisation is acceptable for participation in the MTAC State Improvisation Program.

The State Improvisation Program includes the optional Improvisation element in Certificate of Merit, the Improvisation Evaluation, and the MTAC State Convention Improvisation Recitals. All instruments are encouraged to participate in the Improvisation programs.

Looking ahead to Certificate of Merit

The optional element of Improvisation in Certificate of Merit can be from any resource — even the student’s own ideas. It is not necessary to bring paperwork documenting the assignment the student will use in Improvisation, but it would be helpful to include a post-it note on the evaluation form, or on the student’s music, noting that the student plans to improvise. Improvisation may be done at any time during the CM evaluation, and is not a part of the technique chart (as it was originally). However, the Improvisation must be completed, along with all the other CM elements, within the time allotted for the CM evaluation at the student’s CM level.

Do you have a Branch Improvisation Chair?

If you find the Improvisation Program helpful in expanding your students’ musical experience, encourage another member in your branch to explore the Improvisation Program. A branch Improvisation Program can be started with yourself and another interested teacher. Plan an improvisation session, workshop, or recital for the students in both studios. Or you could include a few Improvisation performances as a part of your branch recital. Send us news of your success stories as you start small and continue encouraging more teachers and students to improvise! Choose at least one person from your branch to be a contact person for Improvisation and to receive the Improvisation E-Newsletter. The contact person can pass information on to the Branch Newsletter Chair, and also make current announcements at the branch meetings.

Improvisation E-Newsletter

The Improvisation E-Newsletter will be sent periodically to all interested MTAC members. Ask your newsletter chair to include the following in your next branch newsletter:

The Improvisation E-Newsletter is available for any MTAC member interested in learning more about the Improvisation Program and who wants to be kept up-to-date on new information regarding Improvisation. To request the newsletter, contact Improvisation Council Chair

Alexandra Hawley, alidoremi@aol.com

Please include the name of your branch along with your request.

Branch Presidents: Please announce this information about the Improvisation resources, optional Improvisation in CM, and the Improvisation E-Newsletter, at your next meeting. Send us your comments, questions, and successes using Improvisation in your branch, and help us develop an Improvisation Network by appointing a Branch Chair to be a contact person for information.

Dorothy Burgess, Improvisation Publicity Chair
doburgess@aol.com

ASCAP

Don’t forget to keep sending in your programs of all recitals, master classes, concerts, etc. from your branches or from your individual members, so we may mail them to ASCAP, and appropriate royalties may be paid from the performance of works. Mail to State Board Member Susan Clark (see directory).

BRANCH ADS FOR THE CONVENTION PROGRAM BOOK

Are you interested in showcasing the exceptional qualities of your branch? You can do this by placing an ad in the 2008 Convention Program Book.

It is *never too early* to start thinking about placing a branch ad. **Ads will be accepted anytime before May 1, 2008.** Your branch ad might include:

- ★ the names of your branch board
- ★ events or special features in your branch
- ★ establishment of branch (charter date)
- ★ special attractions of your branch location
- ★ greetings to members
- ★ well wishes to convention attendees
- ★ mention of your branch website (if applicable)

Here is what you need to do to place a branch ad:

(1) Have someone in your branch create the ad using the ad specifications listed below. You may submit your ad in one of the following ways:

- a. laser printed hardcopy at 600 or 300 dpi (dots per inch)
- b. a high resolution pdf (300 dpi or higher)
- c. a disc or CD — a hard copy of your ad must accompany the disc or CD

(2) Submit a check, payable to MTAC, and send it to the MTAC State Office by **May 1, 2008:**

MTAC State Office
attention: Advertising Manager
833 Market St., Suite 900
San Francisco, CA 94103

(3) Refer to this for ad specifications and prices:

- _ page - 3" wide by 2" high - **\$50**
- ¼ page - 3" wide by 4½" high - **\$100**
- ½ page - 7" wide by 4½" high - **\$150**
- full page - 7" wide by 9" high - **\$250**

If you want to use an old ad, these are on file with the printer. You will not need to re-submit the ad, but we will need you to specify where the ad last appeared. If the ad last appeared in the CMT, please make note of the date and issue (i.e. Convention 2001), the Volume, Issue, and Page Number where it appeared. From the Convention Program Book, please indicate the year and page number (sometimes ads appear between the numbered pages). Remember - even if you use an old ad, you still need to pay for this year. Your help with this is appreciated.

If you have any questions, contact Rhonda Williams in the State Office at rhondaw@mtac.org or by phone at 800-834-3340 ext. 105.