



MTAC NEWS

November, 2008

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 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.

ATTENTION ALL STUDENT ARTISTS!

Teachers - please tell your students

We are holding our first-ever Convention Program Book Art Contest, for the purpose of finding the design for the front cover of the 2009 Convention Program Book. Can you draw? Are you a student of an MTAC Teacher? Would you like the recognition of having your art work displayed on the MTAC Program Book cover for the 2009 Convention, for all attendees to see? Good! You would be perfect to participate in this contest.

- 1) Requested design size is 8½" by 11", and in color. (All submitted art work will not be returned, and will become the property of MTAC.
- 2) The theme for the 2009 Convention is "Got Rhythm?" If you could coordinate your art work with the theme, that would be perfect.
- 3) On the back of your design, please put the following: your name, address, phone number, email address, and age; your teacher's name and the MTAC branch where he/she is a member.
- 4) Your design must be postmarked no later than March 31, 2009, and mailed to:
MTAC STATE OFFICE, ART DESIGN CONTEST
833 Market Street, Suite 900
San Francisco, CA 94103

2nd and 3rd place designs will also be displayed at the 2009 convention, to be held at the Santa Clara Marriott Hotel, July 3-7, 2009.

For more information, please contact Susan Clark, tubaflute@comcast.net

MTAC FOUNDATION SILENT AUCTION

Don't miss out on a great chance to support your MTAC Foundation. A silent auction will be held once again on Friday of the 2009 Convention. Students, parents, teachers and guests are invited to bid on items such as music, jewelry, vacation opportunities, collectibles, restaurant certificates, wine, antiques, books, and one-of-a-kind photos and art work. All contributions are tax deductible. This is an easy fun way to support the MTAC Foundation. If you are interested in donating any item, you may contact our Foundation Chair, Sharon Townsend Roth, at shrn.rth@gmail.com, or check the www.mtac.org website.

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT PAYMENT DEADLINE

By November 16th, all teachers' checks should be received by their branch CM Chair. After receipt of all checks, the CM Chair must make sure that the checks equal the amount for the State total of their branch fees. The Branch Chair should then give the checks to the Branch Treasurer for deposit. Enough time should be allowed for the checks to be deposited into the branch account, and to clear.

A branch check is then written and mailed to the MTAC State Office. It must be **postmarked by December 15th**. A **1% late fee** will be imposed on every branch which does not meet this deadline.

Madeline Miller, State Treasurer

VOCE

Rev up! Start planning. The time is now to set your date for Branch VOCE Recitals/Competitions. Take this opportunity to showcase your voice, wind, and string students in the solo categories of this high level competition, or join with a pianist and/or other instruments to compete in the ensemble categories. Teachers are also encouraged to use this event as a non-competitive recital to introduce younger students to the program.

Please note: on February 14, 2009, the Santa Clara Branch will host any northern California branches which don't have their own competitions. This will take place at Santa Clara University Recital Hall, Santa Clara, CA, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.. Contact Peter Thompson, if interested.

Send applications, \$35 solo, \$25 per ensemble member, by February 1, 2009 to:
Peter Thompson, VOCE Co-Chair (northern California) 20800 4th Street, #3, Saratoga, CA 95070
Peter is also willing to assist any branch in starting their own VOCE competition. If you've never done this before, and need help getting started, please call or email Peter at 408-741-1922 or peter@thompsonstudios.com

For help in southern California, contact Verna Balch, 310-377-3288, vernabalch@aol.com

ESCRIP SUPPORTS OUR MUSIC PROGRAMS

It's important to our students ... It's important to our community!

It's easy! Just register your participating credit/debit cards and Macy's 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 by using your registered credit card will result in contributions to our student programs. It all adds up to benefit our students. Donations are deposited monthly into the Second Century Fund, which helps supplement Adult Performance, CalPlan, Certificate of Merit, Composers Today, Friends of Today's Music, Improvisation, Piano Concerto/Solo, VOCE, Young Artist Guild, and Young Composers Guild.

Please encourage all of your members to sign up for this easy and painless way to donate to the Foundation. There are so many merchants involved with this company, that we all use the products at one time or another.

STATE MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

In 2007-08, the MTAC made the membership application process quicker and easier by updating and improving its application forms. These new documents and a few procedural changes were introduced at the Branch Membership Meeting held at the 2008 State Convention. Now downloadable, the newest versions of the application forms provide improved instructions and reduce printing costs.

For 2008-09, the MTAC is looking beyond improving application forms. We are now evaluating the entire membership process. This initiative, started at the 2008 Strategic Planning meeting held this past August, will ensure the application process is:

- (1) Expedient — The membership application process should allow for the quick verification of each prospective member's qualifications.
- (2) Efficient — The membership application process should be even easier for applicants, branches, and the MTAC as a whole.
- (3) Legal — The MTAC needs to be careful that its membership process is non-discriminatory.

Be assured, we are fully committed to keeping the high membership standards as stated in the MTAC Bylaws. As a professional organization, we also want to apply the same high standards to our membership process.

James Ramos, State Membership Secretary

FUNDRAISING — DONATIONS

The Mission of the MTAC Foundation

*... to financially support the pursuit of excellence in music education
through the development and provision of musical programs, student scholarships, awards, and grants,
as well as provide assistance to MTAC members in need*

sounds so simple. Yet it means so much.

For 100 years, people in MTAC have worked together to provide excellence in music education. A simple gesture on your part or on the part of your branch, such as donating to the Foundation, holding a fundraiser specifically for the Foundation, or even spreading the news of the Foundation to your students and community, will make a difference.

As we celebrate MTAC on a daily basis, help YOUR Foundation grow into a viable program that will truly service the needs of students, teachers, and our musical communities.

Sharon Townsend Roth, Foundation Chair

CONVENTION RECORDINGS ONLINE FOR VIEWING

Video recordings of the 2008 MTAC Convention in Riverside, CA, are now available on the website. The list of recordings is at <http://www.mtac.org/recordings/>. Click the Watch Video link to see the video. A link to the recordings page is available from the list of links on the left-hand side of every web page. The recordings page is also available from the Annual Convention page. Please let your branch members know of this exciting addition.

Lowell Webster lwebster@redshift.com

IMPROVISATION

With the holidays approaching, this is a good time of year to ask your students to improvise. Many students like to play “their own song” about Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, Kwanza, or Christmas.

Students who will be participating in Certificate of Merit may choose to enter the Optional Improvisation, using their own original idea, or they may base their improvisation on an assignment you have practiced with them. The Optional Improvisation time limit for CM is from 5-60 seconds, depending on the CM level. The time limit is listed on each level of the CM Syllabus, just before the repertoire requirements. Even the Prep level students can easily improvise for 5 seconds — suggest that they try playing just on the black keys, or improvise a melody using a 5-finger pattern they are learning on the technique chart. Encourage your students to play a short improvisation every day after practicing their technique chart. Check the MTAC Improvisation page on the website for more information.

Dorothy Burgess, Improvisation Publicity Chair doburgess@aol.com

2009 CONVENTION PROGRAMS

Don't miss our 99th Annual Convention at the Santa Clara Marriott, July 3-7, 2009, right next door to Great America. This is an ideal location, centrally located, with many exciting nearby sites to see. New this year are master classes for Composers Today, with Melody Bober ... and an Improvisational Master Class with Christopher Norton. Back by popular demand are a variety of master classes, encompassing all levels. These master classes include elementary piano, intermediate piano, advanced piano, piano ensemble, flute, clarinet, violin, and cello.

You will not want to miss this lineup:

Jane Bastien	Melody Bober	Bonnie Blanchard	Hans Boepple
Rebecca Bogart	Deborah Brenner	Viviana Guzman	Dr. Deborah How
Dr. Gary Ingle	Gail Lew	Helen Marlais	Jon Nakamatsu
Christopher Norton	Terrence Rust	Heather Schmidt	Michael Schneider
Chen Yi	Dr William Westney	Dr. Scott McBride Smith	Arthur Campbell

Preparing for an MTAC Convention is a vast and expansive collaborative effort. Our convention theme, “Got Rhythm?” suggests a direction, but rest assured that a variety of subjects and topics will be included for the interests of all. Board members, teachers, information gathered from the surveys, and all those friends and professional connections made throughout the year, help to bring you programs that will be of artistic and educational interest to all.

Sharon Townsend Roth, Convention Program Chair

ONLINE CONVENTION REGISTRATION

Online convention registration will open before Christmas this year. It will be the same process as last year. Look for the new category of registration rates — **Early Bird Registration**. Early Bird prices will be in effect through May 15, 2009. They are a true discount! After May 15th, the Pre-Registration rates will apply. The Pre-Registration rates will be in effect from May 16 - June 15, 2009. You will also be able to book your hotel from a link on the website.

Convention attendance does not require pre-registration. You may register at the convention for the on-site rates. All of the rates will be posted online, and also in the next issue of the *California Music Teacher* magazine. There will also be a registration form in the magazine, if you wish to mail or fax it in to the State Office.

**A PERSONAL INVITATION
TO ATTEND THE 2009 CONVENTION**
from our Convention Chair, Amy Martin

Come and celebrate our 99th Convention, to be held July 3-7, 2009, at the Santa Clara Marriott, 2700 Mission College Blvd., Santa Clara, located in the center of the Silicon Valley.

The State Board just held their October board meeting at the hotel, where board members and staff greatly enjoyed the stay. The rooms are beautifully renovated with new flat-screen televisions, easy internet access, and the beds are a dream! There are many sitting areas in the lobby and also outdoors for you and your friends/colleagues to sit, relax, and chat. The swimming pool looks absolutely inviting under the crystal blue sky.

We also were impressed with our dinner experience at Parcel 104. Executive Chef, Robert Sapirman, is always looking for ways to push the limits of the restaurant's innovative and cutting edge cuisine. His passion for organic small farms and artisan products is showcased with a daily menu creation. Parcel 104 is aptly named after the original lot number on which it sits — a once-thriving Barlett pear orchard, operated in the late 1800's.

There are many exciting sites nearby for you, your family, and your students to visit. In fact, California's Great America is right next door (you can actually see the roller coaster ride from the hotel windows!). Intel Museum is down the road, at 2200 Mission College Blvd. Triton Museum of Art is 4 miles away at 1505 Warburton Avenue. Children's Discovery Museum, one of the largest museums of its kind in the nation with over 150 inter-active exhibits which lead visitors to explore, understand and enjoy the world in which they live, is located at 180 Woz Way in San Jose. Raging Waters San Jose, a water park with water slides, family play areas, and a 350,000 gallon wave pool, is located at Tully Road, Lake Cunningham Park, in San Jose.

Our program chair, Sharon Townsend Roth, has put together a fabulous convention program. Please read her article in this newsletter, and watch for further updates in the CMT.

All the recital and meeting rooms are conveniently located on one floor, the ground floor of the hotel. Some of the rooms are parallel to each other, separated by a wide hallway. There are no stairs to climb and no courtyard to walk across to access any of the convention programs at the Santa Clara Marriott. The exhibits are located right outside the main recital halls, in a huge tent, like a circus tent, fully air conditioned, and a sight to see.

Congratulations to **Marilynn Carstens** (Santa Clara Branch) and **Sue Shannon** (Santa Clara Branch), both of whom we will be honoring at the Friday night banquet with the Outstanding Service Award. They are truly distinguished members who have helped make the Composers Today and Improvisation programs what they are today. We are proud to bestow this honor upon these MTAC members. Plan to attend the Friday night banquet, and help us celebrate with them.

I look forward to seeing you at the 2009 Convention.

Amy Martin

FRIENDS OF TODAY'S MUSIC

Friends of Today's Music has commissioned composer Chen Yi to write a new work for violin and piano specifically for advanced level young musicians. The new piece will be published by Theodore Presser Company and will be available for purchase at the 2009 convention.

Students interested in premiering this work at the convention next July should have their MTAC teacher contact the chair for applications and information. This is an outstanding opportunity for young musicians to learn a new composition and meet and work with the composer in front of an audience.

Recipient of the prestigious Charles Ives Living Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters (2001-04), **Chen Yi** has served as the Lorena Searcey Cravens/Millsap/Missouri Distinguished Professor in Music Composition at the Conservatory of the University of Missouri-Kansas City since 1998. Prior to her current appointment, Chen served on the composition faculty of Peabody Conservatory at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore (1996-98) and as Composer-in-Residence with the Women's Philharmonic, Chanticleer, and Aptos Creative Arts Center in San Francisco (1993-96), supported by Meet the Composer's New Residencies Program. She was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2005.

For information regarding Friends of Today's Music contact:
Catherine O'Connor, Chair
Email: cathoc@aol.com
Ph: (510) 581-6457
www.mtac.org/programs/fotm