
MTAC NEWS

SEPTEMBER, 2005

MTAC NEWS is published the months of September & November, 2005, and January, March, and May, 2006. 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 make sure relevant information is published in your Branch Newsletter, so that this news may reach all members.

2006 ADULT PROGRAMS, SOUTH

The Adult Performance Program, South, will be held on Sunday, April 2, 2006, at Cal State, Long Beach. The deadline for submitting applications is February 15, 2006.

The Teachers' Convention Recital, South, is limited to the first six applications from MTAC Teacher/Performers. The deadline is June 1, 2006.

The MTAC Convention will be held at the Los Angeles Biltmore Hotel, June 30-July 4, 2006.

For further information and applications for these programs for Southern California, please go to the mtac.org website and click on the Adult Programs.

Send applications for both programs to: Dr. Louise Earhart, 2237 Radnor Ave., Long Beach, CA 90815.

VOCE

Good News - Lowell Webster has all the VOCE forms online. You will find the Guidelines - please note the suggested fee changes for Branch Auditions; the Application - fill out online and print out on yellow paper; and the Branch Chair Packet.

Important Dates -

Feb. 28, 2006 - all branch auditions concluded

March 7, 2006 - all applications, fees, and necessary items sent to Verna Balch for State Finals

April 15, 2006 - State Finals at Chapman Univ.

July 2, 2006 - probable date for VOCE at convention

Questions - contact vernabalch@aol.com. If you do not have email, please phone 310-377-3288

FUND-RAISING

All Branch Presidents and Treasurers should have received a form for Branch donations. It should have come either by email or snail mail. Please encourage your Branch to give as healthy a donation as possible. We still did not have EVERY Branch give a Branch donation last year, although all Branches were represented with either the Branch donation or an individual donation. Any amount is acceptable, but we encourage you to increase your amount this year, even if it is by a small amount. If you did not receive a donation form, please contact me and I will send one to you. Many thanks in advance.

Joyce Osborn
State Fundraising Chair
UPBOW3@aol.com

SOLO & CONCERTO COMPETITION

The MTAC Solo & Concerto Competition has changed three of the age divisions for 2006:

Division I - ages 12 or younger on June 20, 2006

Division II - ages 13, 14, 15 on June 20, 2006

Division III - ages 16, 17, 18 on June 20, 2006

Division IV - ages 19-24 on June 20, 2006

It is expected that these changes will result in a more even distribution of participants in the different divisions. All other rules and guidelines for this competition remain unchanged.

Suzanne Wong-Abe (southern chair)

Hans Boepple (northern chair)

FRIENDS OF TODAY'S MUSIC

Each year, Friends of Today's Music commissions an internationally-known composer to write and publish a new work for our student musicians. This year, we are honored to have William Bolcom as our commissioned composer. Mr. Bolcom has finished his new work, "Nine New Bagatelles" for solo piano. This collection of miniature sketches requires an outstanding technique, imagination, and sensitive touch. Students interested in premiering this new piece and working with Mr. Bolcom at the 2006 MTAC Convention in Los Angeles should have their teacher contact the State Chair as soon as possible. Further information on William Bolcom may be found on the MTAC website under the Friends of Today's Music link.

The Contemporary Music Seminar will be scheduled at the upcoming MTAC convention. This program features music written after 1945, for all instruments, performed by students, teachers, and guest artists in an informal but informative session. Anyone interested in participating should contact the State Chair for details and information.

Friends of Today's Music and Contemporary Music Seminar

Catherine O'Connor, State Chair

(510) 581-6457 cathoc@aol.com

MTAC POLICY FOR PREPARED-PIANO PIECES AT CONVENTION

This policy is in effect beginning Convention, 2006.

In accordance with restrictions requested from Yamaha Corporation, it is necessary that MTAC apply the following policy regarding the types of pieces performed on the pianos provided by Yamaha at our yearly conventions.

Beginning in 2006, nothing extra may be inserted into the piano strings or on the piano keyboard during a performance. This includes Prepared-Piano pieces, which may include fingers or other items used on the strings for strumming.

We are asking that all MTAC State Chairs forward this new policy to any students and/or teachers who may be submitting such pieces for performance at the convention. Should a student and/or teacher feel strongly about wanting to perform such a piece, that student and/or teacher must make arrangements to supply a separate piano, not from Yamaha Corporation. Please coordinate such a request with the Convention Piano Chair.

The Piano Chairman for the 2006 convention will be Susan Clark, tubaflute@comcast.net

IMPROVISATION NEWS

New Improvisation Policy for CM: The procedure for Improvisation in the 2006 Certificate of Merit Evaluation has been simplified. Instead of replacing a technical element of the technique chart, Improvisation will now be an optional performance element. Any improvisation assignment from the *Improvisation Syllabus and Guide* (ISG), *Games and Activities for Improvisation* (GAI), or other officially approved source listed on the State website, may be played during the performance portion of the evaluation. More details about the simplified procedure will be available on the MTAC website in late September.

Website Update: In late September, the MTAC website will be updated with new information regarding the Improvisation Program. Check the website for more detailed information and additional improvisation assignments for your students.

Include Improvisation in your Studio and in your Branch: Look for the upcoming California Music Teacher (CMT) article on improvisation. Improvisation Council members share ideas on how to include improvisation at the branch level or in your personal studio.

James Ramos, Improvisation Council Chair

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

The database is now open for CM registration. Please ask your teachers to double-check their student list after their registration is completed. An accidental change of level can seriously affect a student! Also, remember that the website (MTAC.org - Certificate of Merit) is loaded with good information for teachers and branch chairs. Check there and read everything before making phone calls!

On the CM Council list that was included with the Mailing #1 recently received by Branch Chairs, please correct Karen Becker's email address in both locations that it appears (Assistant Coordinator and Interim Evaluator Chair South). Her correct address is keys2muzc@msn.com

In addition, the Registration Instructions for CM 2005-2006 and the Panel Information sheet should be duplicated for each member, and are reimbursable. They should have been listed in the "Master Copies" list of items to be duplicated. It is not necessary to duplicate the Change of Teacher form nor the Transfer Between Branches form for each teacher.

Judy Jenkins, CM Council Chair (jenkinsmusic@cox.net)

NEW CM EVALUATORS NEEDED

New CM Evaluators are being recruited. We need bright, energetic persons with positive attitudes! Who would you want to evaluate your own students? Think about this, and we're sure you know teachers in your Branch or neighboring Branch who would do a great job. Please let the Chairs know your recommendations, or contact Karen Becker (keys2muzc@msn.com) in the South or Judi Sands-Pertel (jspmidi@aol.com) in the North for applications and reference materials.

Training sessions are scheduled in the North and South in the Fall and also in January; for the North, the training is on October 16th at 2:00 p.m. in Berkeley - rsvp to Judi. Contact Karen for the training schedule in the South. Thank you for considering doing this. CM Evaluators are paid, and we greatly appreciate all they do.

*Judi Sands-Pertel, CM Evaluator Chair, North
Karen Becker, CM Evaluator Chair, South*

COMPOSERS TODAY

Greetings from your CT Council! We hope you all were able to pick up your CT information packets for your individual branches at the convention in July. Thanks also to all of you who stopped by the CT table to find out a little bit more about this wonderful program. We know many of you had a chance to see excellent student and teacher compositions performed at the many recitals.

Listed below are the deadlines for Branch Chairs to help you more easily navigate CT territory for this next year:

February 15, 2006 - Young Composers Guild deadline

February 15, 2006 - Evaluations deadline

March 30, 2006 - State Contest deadline

April 15, 2006 - Symposium deadline

Composers Today information and forms can be found on the MTAC website. Forms will no longer be sent out to you. If you are a *teacher*, click on the teacher information for each program. If you are a *Branch Chair*, click on the "Instructions and forms for Branch Chairs."

As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to call or email any of the CT Council or myself for assistance.

Kathy Shoemaker, CT Information Chair
promusicat@yahoo.com

GALA BENEFIT CONCERT **Sunday, October 9, 2005 - 3:00 p.m.** **First Presbyterian Church of Inglewood** **100 N. Hillcrest Blvd., Inglewood, CA 90301**

MTAC member M'Lou Dietzer and YCG member Jeffrey Moore will be among those featured at a special gala benefit concert. It is being sponsored by the William Kapell Piano Foundation for Contemporary Music and Musicians.

The program will include music by Chopin, Debussy, Moore, Fininger, DeRogatis, Barber, Burge, and more. Other pianists featured include Mario Feninger, Carolyn Pope-Kobler, and Michael Sellers. The suggested donation is \$20.

The Kapell Foundation has supported several YCG members in the past, providing commissions for piano works, and concerts throughout the Southern California area. The Foundation is in need of financial support in order to continue to help support young composers. The YCG members do not get enough opportunities to share their talents. As chair of the young Composers Guild, I encourage each branch to consider supporting the Kapell Foundation.

Additional donations may be sent to:

the William Kapell Piano Foundation for Contemporary Music and Musicians
2309 Observatory Avenue Los Angeles, CA 90027

Judith Moore, YCG Chair

UPDATE FROM OUR WEBMASTER

- 1) The CM Database is now open for CM 2006 registration.
- 2) Please email any updates to information and changes to documents on the website to Lowell Webster at lwebster@redshift.com