

Music Teachers Association of California News November 2004

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CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

On the first weekend of each May, the Certificate of Merit Council meets to refine the CM program and revisit some issues that may need attention. These twenty busy MTAC members, listed in the front of your state directory, are all active teachers with many students in CM. They are also good listeners, so if you have a suggestion for improving this outstanding program, you should contact the appropriate person before that May meeting, preferably by email.

At the 2004 meeting, some important changes took place:

- The \$75 travel grant for North Panel students to travel south for panel finals may instead be applied to the cost of professional video-taping;
- The theme for the Theme Festival recitals for 2005-2006 will be “Program Music” (see Dr. Karen Owen’s description of this interesting body of repertoire);
- Level 9 and Advanced String literature lists have been revised;
- Path A Alternative will be eliminated; Path B is a sufficient alternative to Path A;
- Advanced theory exemptions will only be granted to students in Grade 9 or above; students younger than that who already are exempt will be “grandfathered”, but their teachers are encouraged to continue to teach theory. Any age student may still be entered in Advanced Level but will not be allowed to earn the theory exemption until Grade 9;
- Eligibility requirements for Convention recitals will now include a “Good” or “Excellent” on sightreading as well as technique, and a theory score of 80% or higher.
- Important changes in the Panel program; see Sue Scofield’s article.

CM Information Chair Bobbette Cameron has prepared an “Encyclopedia for Branch CM Chairs,” an 18-page alphabetical listing of terms and procedures; and a chronology to guide Branch Chairs throughout the CM year. If you did not receive this significant opus at the Convention CM Information Meeting, contact Bobbette by email at bobbettesue@cox.net.

The 2003 Piano Syllabus was used successfully for the 2004 evaluations, and the new Technical Requirements for Piano has been prepared by Dr. Alan Oettinger and published by MTAC. This contains all the technique for each level, completely written out, with some choices in voicing of chord progressions. It is available for order from the State Office.

There are changes in the requirements for high level strings students; you should receive that information from your branch strings chair.

Congratulations to all of the fine teachers who elevate their students’ music education by their participation in Certificate of Merit.

Judith Jenkins

Certificate of Merit Coordinator

jenkinsmusic@cox.net

MTAC Convention 2005 Information

From Your Convention Chair Ruth Ann Schwan

Place: Hyatt Regency Sacramento at Capital Park
1209 L Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
Telephone: 916 443 1234

Dates: Friday, July 1st, through Tuesday, July 5th, 2005

Price: \$119.00 plus tax per night

Artists: Feature artist is pianist, Jean Philippe Collard. Marvin Blinckenstaff, Ingrid Clarfield, E.L. Lancaster, Roy Bogas in ensembles with members of the San Francisco Symphony are also scheduled to Participate including string specialists.

A panel discussion about the history of MTAC and where it is headed in the future will be lead by former historian Phyllis Villec and current MTAC historian Betty Martin. They will talk about the evolution of programs such as CM and how they are currently evolving and moving to other states.

At the time of the writing of this notice (Nov. 1st), other contracts for wind and vocal specialists are being considered. We will have them under contract for the Convention thanks to the hard work of Karen Owen and Virginia Bigelow.

Registration: Follow the instructions in the California Music Teachers Magazine for early-bird registration and other Convention offerings.

Don't miss this opportunity for musical enrichment, sharing special ideas and times with friends and colleagues and a change of scenery from your usual teaching situation.

See you in Sacramento!

Ruth Ann Schwan, Convention Chair 2005

NOW PLAYING: SACRAMENTO

Compiled by Karen Becker

Thanks to AAA *Westways* Magazine

The MTAC convention has lots to offer!! Believe it or not, so does Sacramento. The city has reasonably priced attractions, pretty riverfront scenery and loads of history. Here are a few ideas for extracurricular activities, outside of the convention.

Check out the state capitol. There is a free tour that will take you to the Senate and Assembly chambers. Other highlights are the beautiful mosaic floors and official paintings of past governors.

Sutter's Fort State Historic Park is also worth a visit. Pioneer Demonstration Days are held from May through October, so you may have a chance to see volunteers in period dress demonstrate woodworking, make candles, weave fabric and fashion iron tools as settlers did in the 1840's.

Close to Sutter's Fort is the CA state Indian Museum. It has an interesting collection of basketry, headdresses, hunting and fishing implements as well as ceremonial dance regalia.

Be sure and head to the Old Sacramento Historic District. It was here, on the banks of the Sacramento River that the modern-day city was born. The riverfront is a prime tourist center, with blocks of restored or reconstructed Gold Rush-era buildings housing museums, shops and restaurants. You may obtain a free self-guided tour brochure at the visitor's center.

For more information about Sacramento, contact the Visitors Center at (800) 292-2334 or online at www.discovergold.org

I look forward to seeing you there.

Solo/ Concerto Competition

The Solo and Concerto Competition application deadline for the South Regional auditions will be March 5, 2005. The audition date will be Sunday, April 10, 2005 at Chapman University. The application materials will be posted on the state website in December.

Suzanne Wong-Abe

Solo-Concerto Chair

Attention: All Branch Presidents

Show your support of MTAC by placing a BRANCH AD. This year, the branch ads will be published in the Convention Program Book, not the Spring Convention issue of the CMT. It is *never too early* to start thinking about your ad and submitting it. Branch ads will be accepted **anytime before April 1, 2005**. Don't wait until you are completely in the throes of your other branch projects before getting this task accomplished. Plan to discuss your branch ad at your next board meeting.

Consider showcasing the unique qualities of your branch in your ad. 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
- mentioning 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 in Microsoft Word using the ad specifications listed below. Please submit a hardcopy, laser-printed at 600 or 300 dpi (dots per inch). You can also submit a disk or CD. **Sorry, no ads can be accepted electronically.**
2. Submit a check payable to MTAC and send it to me by **April 1, 2005**

Linda Rohmund
119 Chapalita Drive
Encinitas, CA 92024

Ad size Specifications and Prices:

1/8 page	3 5/8" wide by 2 1/8" high	Price: \$50.00
1/4 page	3 5/8" wide by 4 1/2" high	Price: \$100.00
1/2 page	7" wide by 4 1/2" high	Price: \$150.00
Full page	7" wide by 9" high	Price: \$250.00

Want to use an old ad? These are on file with the printer. Kindly locate the ad in the past publication and please make note of the date and issue (i.e. Convention 2001), the Volume number, the Issue Number and the Page number where it appeared. Your help with this is appreciated.

QUESTIONS? You can contact me via email at lindarohmund@cox.net or by phone at (760) 944-3773.

Thank you,
Linda Rohmund, Advertising Manager

Attention VOCE Chairmen and Teachers

A reminder to Branch Chairmen: Please go on line to www.mtac.org click on "VOCE" then click on "Branch Chair Info Packet." You can download the Packet. Then fill out and send the "Branch Information Sheet" to the VOCE Co-Chairs:

North: Peter Thompson, 20800 Fourth Street, #3, Saratoga, CA 95070

South: Verna Balch, 6 Hackamore Road, Rolling Hills, CA 90274

Important dates to remember:

March 3, 2005 deadline for all auditions to be completed

March 7, 2005 deadline for sending all applications and fees for State Finals to Verna Balch

April 2, 2005 State Finals at Chapman College

Attention Northern California Branches. The Santa Clara Branch will host Branch Auditions for other Northern California Branches that will not have their own. That will be at Santa Clara University Concert Hall February 19, 2005, time: 4 – 7 PM. (Information will be posted with application at www.mtacsantaclara.org). Any questions contact Peter Thompson.

We look forward to hearing from all VOCE Branch Chairs. And we encourage all Teachers to support, and enter students in this top quality, rewarding program.

Verna Balch and Peter Thompson

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Is your Branch looking for outreach ideas? Check out the programs listed below and see if it meets the needs of your Branch. Contact me if you would like additional information.

The MusicLink® Foundation believes anyone who has musical potential should be given the opportunity to nurture this musical promise to its full extent.

The MusicLink® Foundation is a non-profit organization that provides opportunities for promising music students to develop their musical potential through its LessonLink and StudyLink programs. LessonLink seeks out promising music students who are unable to afford music lessons and provides ongoing music instruction to develop their potential talent. StudyLink recognizes outstanding musical achievement and creates a flexible independent study program that fits the specialized needs of musically talented students.

For more information, check out their web site at www.musiclinkfoundation.org

Friends of Today's Music & Contemporary Music Seminar

Commissioned composer Libby Larsen has just completed *Penta Metrics* for solo piano. This five-movement collection, aimed at the intermediate level student aged 10-13 will challenge the performer with its shifting meters, contrapuntal textures and rhythmic energy. Opening with an imaginative and cheerful invention, each of the five movements reflects a contrasting mood and spirit. Students and teachers will delight in the creative and pianistic elements Ms. Larsen has brought together for our project! *Penta Metrics* will be published by Oxford University Press and will be available at the MTAC Convention in July.

Students and teachers interested in premiering this work should contact the FOTM Chair for application guidelines.

Advanced level piano students should look forward to participating in FOTM in 2006 when William Bolcom will be our commissioned composer.

The Contemporary Music Seminar will sponsor a concert of music written after 1945 at the MTAC Convention in July. This program features students, teachers and guest artists performing music of our time in an informal but informative session. All teachers and students are welcome to submit applications.

Applications for FOTM and CMS due April 1, 2005!

Contact: Catherine O'Connor, FOTM/CMS Chair
(510) 581-6457
Email: cathoc@aol.com

COMPOSERS TODAY

Greetings! I would like to inform you of a few changes in the 2004-5 Composers Today Council. Ron Anderson will be the new State Contest Chair, and Pat Arand will be our Finance/Records Chair for Evaluations. David Chiu will now be Regional South Chair and Kathy Shomaker is Chair of Information and Publicity. I would like to thank Terri Kirk for remaining on as CT Assistant Coordinator. Her experience and expertise will be most helpful! We are all looking forward to a very productive year!

We are very happy to announce that all CT information and forms are available on the MTAC web-site. No Packets will be mailed this year. Terri Kirk and Paulette Albertson completed this project this summer. Thank you to you both!

Please be informed that Improvisation now has its own council. James Ramos from the Redlands Branch is the new chair and Marilyn Carstens is Transitional Chair. Congratulations and good-luck to you both!

Mary Dolen
CT State Coordinator

IMPROVISATION: THEME OF THE YEAR and GETTING READY FOR CM

The Theme of the Year for Improvisation is **The Earth and the Sky**. Check out all the suggestions for this theme at <http://www.mtac.org/>; click on *Improvisation*, then *Information, Sample Assignments and Forms*, then *Earth and Sky Sample Assignment*. Students will have fun creating their own music relating to the seasons throughout the year. You will find specific suggestions for each month for your students to try. November has suggestions for improvisations about being thankful. In December, students will create a piece about the Winter Sky or Landscape. Specific ideas, such as families gathered around a fire, skiing in the mountains, or angels singing give the students ideas for their improvisations.

The Earth and the Sky will also be the theme of the Improvisation Celebration at the 2005 MTAC State Convention. Also featured in this session will be Mozart -- the composer of the year, and music of the Renaissance period.

Improvisation in Certificate of Merit. Be sure to try some assignments from *The Improvisation Syllabus and Guide (ISG)* or *Games and Activities for Improvisation (GAI)*. Both are MTAC publications and are available from the State Office (1-800-834-3340). Any assignment from these two books may be used as the optional improvisation assignment for CM. The improvisation assignment level does not have to be the same level as their CM level. Choose any assignment at any level -- Prep through 10 -- to substitute for a scale or other multiple-key assignment on the technique chart. The improvisation will be played in one key only -- the key they are omitting from the multi-key assignment on the technique chart. Send a photocopy of the assignment from *ISG* or *GAI* with your student to CM so the adjudicator will know which improvisation assignment they will be doing. It's as simple as that!

For more information about the Theme of the Year, Improvisation in CM, or the Improvisation Celebration, you may refer to the Fall 2004 issue of the California Music Teacher journal, page 19, *A Musical Safari*. This article (look for *Improvisation Safari*) and other useful documents can also be found in the Improvisation section of the MTAC website.

Dorothy Burgess
Improvisation Publicity Chair

Adult Performance Program & Teachers' Convention Recital

1. ADULT PERFORMANCE PROGRAM NORTH (Former Adult Seminar Program) will have its Annual Performance Audition on Sunday, April 10, 2005, at California State University, Hayward, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The audition will be in all vocal and instrumental disciplines which provides coaching, master class, participation and performance opportunities for college age, older students or teachers to be screened to perform, if desired, in a special Adult Recital at the MTAC State Convention. Options are available combining individual evaluation, master classes and recital participation.

For additional information, contact the North Chair as well as the MTAC State Office.

2. TEACHERS' CONVENTION RECITAL: Open to all MTAC TEACHERS (Six from the North and Six from the South) who wish to perform at the 2005 MTAC CONVENTION. All instruments are encourage.

The 2005 MTAC Convention is to be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel and Convention Center in Sacramento, July 1st through the 5th.

The application form could be obtained on the MTAC web-site.

For additional information, contact the North Chair as follow:

E. Marta Cuadra Gonzalez, North Chair
5191 Willow Drive, Los Gatos CA, 95032
Phone / Fax: 408-978-5182
E-mail: mcuad @ aol.com

Thank you Karen, for all hard work on behalf of the MTAC.

E. Marta Cuadra Gonzalez
Adult Performance and Teachers' Performance Recital, North ChairT

