



Music Teachers' Association of California News

September 2004

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Adult Performance Program

The Adult Performance Program, South, will be held on March 6, 2005, at California State University, Long Beach. The application is on the website and the application and rules must be followed carefully.

The Teachers' Convention Recital is open to all MTAC members, six from the south, and six from the north on a first- come, first- served basis. Ensembles are encouraged as are seldom-heard or unusual compositions.

Dr. Louise Earhart, Adult Performance South Chair

MTAC Convention 2005 News

Begin now to make plans to attend the 2005 Convention to be held at the elegant Hyatt Regency Hotel and Convention Center in Sacramento. Room rates are at an all-time low at \$119.00 per night! Dates are July 1st through the 5th. Please do all you can to promote this convention through your branch newsletters, meetings, or whatever means you have. We would like to have a great turnout this next year, especially among members who have yet to attend a convention. Once they attend, then they will want to come back year after year. Spread the word!

Ruth Ann Schwan, Convention Chair

MTAC Convention 2005 Artists

The MTAC Convention Artist list is not completely in place at this point in time, but the ones who have agreed to participate are: Ingrid Clarfield for an intermediate master class and lecture, E. L. Lancaster and his wife for two lectures that they are also planning to do at the Australian Convention--also next summer, and Marvin Blickenstaff who will be the keynote speaker.

More information about the Artist Recitals, Master Classes, etc. will appear in future editions of Mason Street News and also in the California Music Teachers Magazine.

Ginny Bigelow and Karen Owen
Convention Program Co-Chairs

Scrapbooks and Awards Program

"Every branch should participate in the state sponsored Programs, Newsletters, Directories and Scrapbook Awards Program this year! Branches can submit copies of their branch newsletters, recital programs and directories/yearbooks any time from now through May. Individual branch teachers are also welcome to submit copies of their recital programs. All submissions will be evaluated on content and appearance for special awards to be presented at the 2005 State Convention. Branches should also plan now to display their yearly branch scrapbook for judging during the convention.

The new State Chair of this program is Erika Scheidel Ramos (Redlands Branch). Mail any submissions for consideration (except scrapbooks) to her at P.O. Box 10986, San Bernardino, CA 92423. If you have any questions regarding this awards program or wish for help getting your branch starting in its participation, you may write to her at the address above, phone her at (909) 792-5009, or email her at esr.pianostudio@verizon.net."

VOCE Information

Welcome VOCE teachers to a New Year. A new co-chair is on board, but we have the same great program which you all have become use to experiencing. And, whereas we cannot imagine hearing as outstanding a VOCE recital which we were treated to at the Convention this year, with your participation, we certainly will expect ever higher and higher achievements for this program. We have just learned from the Olympics that records are there to be broken!

With lots of help from Joyce Osborn, outgoing chair, and with the swift hand and expertise of Robert Garcia at the State Office, all of the VOCE forms are now updated and on line. All you have to do is go on line at: www.mtac.org click on "VOCE" (from the left list) then click on "Guidelines & Application Form" this will bring you to all the rules and the application. To fill out the application on your computer you will need to "select text" on your computer. You can also print out the application. In either event, please remember that you must send in your applications on yellow paper. If you are a VOCE chair you will also want to click on "Branch Chair Info Packet" which will give you all the information and forms you will need for your Branch Auditions.

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 TBA (will be posted with application at www.mtacsantaclara.org) Any questions contact Peter Thompson.

We look forward to a rewarding year.

Peter Thompson and Verna Balch

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

Verna Balch, 310-377-3288 vernabalch@aol.com

Composers Today State Contest Information

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*State Contest Chair returns all adjudicated compositions and convention information for all winners to Branch Chair (or individual teacher ONLY if there is no Branch chair). It is URGENT that this information is passed on to teachers and students immediately.

* Winners and Honorable Mentions will be announced ON-LINE. Teachers, students and/or Branch chairs must check MTAC web-site for posted results of State Contest.

Composers Today Coordinator, Mary Dolen

Assistant Coordinator, Terri Kirk

Friends of Today's Music commissions
Libby Larsen and William Bolcom

Friends of Today's Music has commissioned composer Libby Larsen to write an intermediate level piano solo work aimed at students aged 10-13 for the 2005 MTAC Convention in Sacramento. Libby Larsen is one of America's most prolific and most performed living composers. She has created a catalogue of over 200 works spanning virtually every genre from intimate vocal and chamber music to massive orchestral and choral scores. Her music is noted for its dynamic, deeply inspired, and vigorous contemporary American spirit. Constantly sought after for commissions and premieres by major artists, ensembles and orchestras around the world, Libby Larsen has established a permanent place for her works in the concert repertory.

Pulitzer prize winning composer, William Bolcom, will compose an advanced level piano solo work for students aged 14-18 and premiere at the 2006 MTAC Convention in Los Angeles. The eclecticism at the heart of American music takes a vital new twist in the work of contemporary composer, William Bolcom, for whom non-specialization has become a *raison d'être*. A composer of songs, operas, and instrumental works, a pianist of distinction who frequently accompanies his wife mezzo-soprano Joan Morris in recital, an artist who has worked in a variety of idioms from classical to cabaret, Bolcom is a fresh voice on the American music scene.

This is an outstanding opportunity for students and teachers to study a new piece and meet and work with these prominent composers of our time. Teachers may look at the score before submitting applications. For questions and application guidelines contact:

Catherine O'Connor, Chair
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