



CERTIFICATE OF MERIT NEWSLETTER

December 2007

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February Newsletter deadline – January 31, 2008

2007-2008 CM CALENDAR

Enter Evaluation Information Online

January 2
January 10

Database is open for entering evaluation information online

Deadline for North & South Piano and South Strings Panel students to enter repertoire and evaluation information online

Note: Individual branch will set its own deadline for teachers to enter repertoire and evaluation information online

January 15

Deadline for Piano & Strings Panel students to drop back to Advanced Level, Winds & Voice to Levels 9 or 8 respectively

CM Evaluation Dates

Feb. 23 –Apr. 6

Branch CM Evaluations North and South

Note: Teachers check with your Branch Chair for your branch's evaluation dates

Panel Regionals

Feb. 23 –24

North (Piano) at West Valley College in Saratoga

South (Piano) 2/23/2008 (CSUN), 2/24/2008 (Whittier College)

South (Strings) at Cerritos Community College

March 1 –2

North (Piano) at West Valley College in Saratoga

South (Piano) **3/1/2008 (Whittier College), 3/2/2008 (CSULB)**

Note: Sat. 3/8/2008 South Strings at Valley College, Van Nuys

Sun. 3/9/2008 South Strings at AMAC in Arcadia

Panel Finals

- March 15** Deadline for Panel Final Application
- Mar. 28–30** Panel Finals South at Cal Poly Pomona
3/28–30: Piano
3/29 Winds (North and South) & Voice (North and South)
3/30 Strings (North and South)
- April 5–6** Finals North (Piano only) at **West Valley College in Saratoga**

Convention

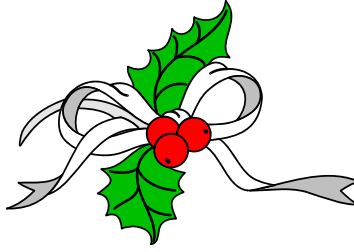
- April 15** Deadline for Convention Applications
Deadline for Make up Procedures High School Students only
- May 2–4** CM Council meeting
- June 1** Convention recitals schedule posted on state website
- June 27–July 1** Convention at Riverside Convention Center. Celebrating the Music of America, featuring Oxana Yablonskaya

Summer Break

- August** CM Council in hiatus 🤖

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Patrick Taylor

1947-2007

Our heartfelt thoughts and prayers go out to Peggy Taylor and her family, whose husband, father and son, Pat, passed away from a sudden heart attack on November 16. He will be sorely missed. In lieu of flowers, the family has requested donations be sent in Patrick's name to the American Heart Association at:

http://honor.americanheart.org/site/TR/Events/General?px=1061941&pg=fund&fr_id=1030

On a positive note, Peggy is a new grandmother! Her first grand child was born this morning, December 11, 2007. A special welcome to Tristan Austin Taylor and congratulations to Peggy who got to hold her new grandson just fifteen minutes after he was born!!

Our thoughts and prayers are with you Peggy. We are here when you need us. Take care,
Karen S. Becker & CM Council

Dear Branch Chairs,

Kudos to everyone for your excellent work in helping to ensure a smooth registration period. Many teachers did wait until the last few days to finalize their registration. Branch chairs, CSR's and CM Council members were ready for the rush and handled everything with their usual aplomb; way to go!

Registration numbers are slightly higher this year by just over 200 students. Last years total registration was 29838 and this year it is at 30055. To give you a quick break down by instrument:

Keyboard – 26546

Strings – 2095

Winds – 929

Voice – 485

We could never handle these types of numbers without our amazing database and without the incredible work of every CM Chair. Thank you for all you do!!

Two quick items to pass on to your teachers:

1-Please alert your teachers to the Level 8 modulation change for technique. Refer them to question #5 on page seven below. The old modulation from the previous syllabus is not to be used.

2-In the **Instructions for Entering Evaluation Information Online** at mtac.org, please make a correction to #4 (**Required Syllabus Piece**). *Students are required to select at least one piece from the syllabus at their level. ~~Advanced Level students should use the Etude as the Syllabus Piece.~~* (delete this part with the strikethrough)

Piano Advanced level students should use a piece from the syllabus lists on pages 88-91. The Etude may be used if the student is applying for the Convention Festival Recital.

Thanks!!

Have a wonderful holiday season! Enjoy time with your friends and family and take a lovely break from all things CM! Take care,

Karen S. Becker
CM Coordinator

"Last Call to Keyboard Evaluators"

All Keyboard Evaluators are required to attend a training session before they work this 2008 CM Season!

Northern California

Sunday, January 6th training in Sacramento

Please RSVP jspmidi@aol.com for time and address info.

Evaluator Chair Training & Recruiting North

News for the South

LAST CALL FOR EVALUATOR TRAINING:

JANUARY 20TH AT 2:30 PM, FIELD'S PIANOS, SANTA ANA

No assignment information will be available until after this final
Evaluator Training session on Jan. 20th.

January 25: Assignments will be sent to South Keyboard evaluators. Each evaluator given an assignment needs to confirm with Linda Rohmund by January 30th.

February 3: List of keyboard evaluators will be sent to Branch Chairs. A reply from each branch chair to Linda Rohmund is requested upon receipt (by February 7th).

Regards,

Peggy Taylor
CM Evaluator Chair, South: Recruiting and Training
Linda Rohmund
CM Keyboard Evaluator Chair, South: Scheduling





String theory 2008

String teachers: check the MTAC website for an outline of changes made to the theory tests. Although most of the levels are the same, there are significant changes for Levels 2 and 3. Also, the new ear training CDs **will** be used this year, so make sure your students study the material in the syllabus. Contact Lori Jensen if you have any questions. music-maker@sbcglobal.net

Theory Deadline for All Panel Finalists

Attention all CM Chairs,

Please note that all students selected for the Panel Final auditions **MUST** complete their theory test by the deadline of March 15, as it is imperative that they must pass the theory portion with an 80% score to be eligible. Branches that will be doing their CM after the 15th must notify the teachers involved about this particular deadline and kindly arrange accordingly for the student to take the test by this deadline. Thank You.

Rosemary Yang
State Panel Chair, South



Panel - North

The Regional Panel evaluations will be held February 23, 24, March 1 and 2 at West Valley College in Saratoga. Reminder: January 15th is the deadline for dropping Panel and moving to a regular evaluation. Branches will be assigned to a specific weekend after January 15 but students should leave both weekends open until that time. Teachers must enter repertoire on line by January 10.

Panel finals will be held at West Valley College in Saratoga on April 5 and 6.

Questions--contact Nancy Jensen at nanchopin@sbcglobal.net



Questions from Branch Chairs

Question #1. Beethoven's 6 Eccossaises

A Level 4 student is working on Beethoven's 6 Eccossaises. The question has to do with how much he must and/or is allowed to play: unlike other groups of dances, this seems to be a single piece with 6 numbered sections - the same "B" section appears in all 6 dances and, at least in Henle, the end-of-piece double bar appears only at the end of #6. (Each of the 6 dances is 32 measures long: his teacher would be perfectly happy to have him play only one of the 6.)

Answer. If only 1 Eccossaise is played, it sounds truncated. This seems to be a single piece with 6 numbered sections - the same "B" section appears in all 6 dances. The consensus of the Council is to play all 6 Eccossaises by Beethoven.

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### **Question #2. Composer Nin-Culmell**

Why is the composer Nin-Culmell no longer in the syllabus? (His "Tonadas" used to be listed under Levels 7-9). Is it because these pieces are out of print? Or because of an error? Regarding the decision to eliminate out-of-print pieces: It seems that instead of eliminating them altogether, it would have made sense to include them but label them "out of print" so they could still be used as a syllabus piece, but new teachers would still know not to try to order them.

**Answer.** Yes, the Tonadas are Permanently Out of Print (POP). There was some discussion about keeping POP's in the syllabus, but the music stores discouraged it. Some teachers would still try to order it, even if we said it was OP. Better to support what is in print so we don't lose that too. Publishers are having a rough go. If it's out of print, then we have the whole photocopy issue and letters from the publishers, too.

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Question #3. Convention Recitals

My level 2 student CANNOT apply for the theme recital because the Celebration Series "The Piano Odyssey" is NOT listed in the syllabus, correct?

But, my level 2 student CAN apply for the Festival Convention performing a piece from the "Anna Magdalena Bach Notebook", correct?

Answer. There's a little confusion here. First of all, a level 2 student can only enter the New Materials Festival recital; all other Recitals require level 3 or higher. The New Materials recitals are for pieces published within the past 10 years. Secondly, the Celebration Series, Piano Odyssey is a syllabus group, only it's listed under the name Celebration Series, Perspectives. This is a new edition that will be issued in March, but the Odyssey series is accepted until then and therefore for the 2007-08 CM. If your student were in level 3, either the Anna Magdalena piece or an Odyssey piece would be acceptable for the Festival Recital. The Theme Festival this year is for American composers, or those who spent the majority of their career in the United States. This theme changes every two years, and this is the second year for it.

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**Question #4: Transfer Student**

A couple of members from our branch raised the question of whether a high school transfer student is eligible to participate in YAG. Is it true that a student must be enrolled with the same teacher in order to apply for YAG?

**Answer:** A high school transfer student is eligible for YAG if the student has enrolled, evaluated and passed in CM Path A in consecutive years since 9th grade with an MTAC teacher in good standing. The student does not need to be enrolled with the same teacher.

If the student has transferred from another branch or teacher, it is important that the current teacher notes that fact during online registration because the CM Assistant Coordinator must document each student's progress in CM throughout high school. If a student changes teachers after registering for any level of CM including panel, the new teacher must have the consent of the previous teacher in order for the student to continue participating in Certificate of Merit for that year. If the transfer occurs before November 15, the registration deadline, the new teacher may re-register the student with or without consent of the previous teacher. If a transfer student is selected to perform at convention, then the names of both teachers will be listed in the program. -- Panel Information p.3-4



**Question #5: Follow the Modulation progression in Piano Syllabus p.22**

I have studied everything on line for the answer to this, and I don't see it spelled out clearly. A teacher asks if, in the modulation for Level 8, she can have her students do something different from the technical example in the syllabus, or must she adhere to the example exactly? She wants to insert an extra IV chord to make it come out better rhythmically, or simply use the example from the previous syllabus which feels better rhythmically than the one in the new syllabus. I assume this is OK because these technical examples are "suggestions" according to the "Meet the New Syllabus" overview, but I thought I better check with you. It would help to have it clarified exactly how far we can stray from the technical examples.

**Answer: Please note that teachers must follow the progression I(C Major)-IV-V7-I-V7/V-I (G Major)-ii6-I6/4-V7-I as shown in the Piano Syllabus p.22 for 2008 CM evaluation!**

The reason I-IV-V7 is added before I-V7/V is that the teacher needs to understand the purpose of the exercise - to hear the change of key. The old example didn't establish the tonic key, so the modulation wasn't really a modulation. It sounded like a progression that started on an IV chord and stayed in the same key. If the teacher wants to make the example more appealing rhythmically, then I would suggest changing the note values of some of the chords (for example, lengthen the final two chords).



## Questions from Teachers

### **Question #1. Addendum**

On Addendum for 2007 Piano syllabus p. 84, 90, 123 List Ned Rorem (20th Century, American Composer) as the composer for The Barcarolles (1949). Will the Level and the Publisher stay same?

**Answer:** Yes.

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Question #2: Addendum

p. 91--Starer, R. Four Etudes, Op. 7, Should be listed under Stravinsky
Stravinsky, I or Stravinsky, S?

Answer: Igor Stravinsky.

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### **Question #3. Addendum**

p. 118--Level 10 Add: Granados, Goyescas Do you mean just add the name to the syllabus?

**Answer:** Yes, add the piece Goyescas under Granados, the composer.

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Question #4: Keyboard Syllabus

2007 Syllabus on Page 73 (Level 7) Muczynski, R's 6 Preludes, Op.6 is listed at Level 7. On Page 84 (Level 9) Muczynski, R's Six preludes, Op. 6 is listed for Level 8-9
Does it mean the work is good for Level 7 to 9?

Answer: Yes.

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### **Question #5: Strings Theory Test**

I'm a private violin teacher new to the CM system. I'm interested in knowing more about the CM for violin students. I've got the syllabus from the MTAC SF office. However, it's not clear to me how the theory part of the exam is going to be done. Is there a specific series of theory books that we can follow (as I know that the piano teachers adhere to a same series of theory books) to best prepare the students for the CM theory exam? Is the theory exam for strings the same as the one for piano students, or are they given separately?

**Answer:** The best way to prepare for the theory exam is to look at last year's tests which are also available from the State Office. The format of the tests is similar to the piano ones but students will be tested on the information from the syllabus. As of now, there aren't any theory books to help prepare but I'm planning on writing one with another teacher. I don't think it'll be ready in time for this year but hopefully next year.

Hope this helps!

Lori Jensen

CM Strings Chair, North