



CERTIFICATE OF MERIT NEWSLETTER

August 2008

CM Information Chair: Amy Chen-Huey Martin, martin3750@comcast.net
October Newsletter deadline – September 30, 2008

2008-2009 CM CALENDAR

Registration

- September 15** Database is open for registration
- November 15** Registration is closed. No late registration. Branches may not make their own deadline date. Registration closes at midnight on 11/15 for all branches.
- November 16** - Fees, one teacher one check, must be submitted directly to the Branch Chair and must be postmarked no later than November 16.
- Work Contracts (if you have them) **MUST** also be submitted at this time!
- December 15** Deadline for Branch CM fees due to State Office
Check from Branch to State Office for the branch CM fees must be postmarked by 12/15 or a 1% late fee will be imposed.

Enter Evaluation Information Online

- January 2** Database is open for entering evaluation information online
Note: Individual branch will set its own deadline for teachers to enter evaluation information online
- January 15** Deadline for Panel students to drop back to Non-Panel status

CM Evaluation Dates

Feb. 21 –Apr. 5 Branch CM Evaluations North and South
Note: Teachers check with your Branch Chair for your branch’s evaluation dates

Panel Regionals

Feb. 28 –March 1 - Piano Panel Regional North [West Valley College in Saratoga \(to be confirmed\)](#)

- Piano Panel Regional South

- Strings Panel Regional South **One location only:** [Cerritos Community College \(11110 Alondra Blvd., Norwalk, CA 90650\)](#)

March 7 – 8 - Piano Panel Regional North [West Valley College in Saratoga \(to be confirmed\)](#)

- Piano Panel Regional South

Panel Finals

March 15 Deadline for Panel Final Application. No late application.

Mar. 27–29 Panel Finals South

3/27–29: Piano

3/28 Winds (North and South) & Voice (North and South)

3/29 Strings (North and South)

April 4–5 Panel Finals North (Piano) [West Valley College in Saratoga \(to be confirmed\)](#)

Convention

April 15 - Deadline for Convention Applications. No late application.

- Deadline to apply for Make up Procedures High School Students only

May 2–3 CM Council meeting

May 15 - Deadline for Completion of Make Up Procedure (MUP) Evaluations– High School Students only

- **Early Bird registration for Convention**

June 1 - Convention recitals schedules posted on the state website

- Deadline to enter MUP results. Database closes after June 1

July 3–July 7 Convention at Santa Clara Marriott. [2700 Mission College Blvd Santa Clara, CA 95054](#)

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CM Branch Chairs: please relay the following message to your teachers.
IMPORTANT REMINDER: All teachers enrolling in Certificate of Merit are asked to note the following:

Article A, Section 7 of the 2008-2009 MTAC Standing Rules

Only Individual Members in good standing may enroll students in MTAC programs and these students MUST be their own students.

Article I, Section 3 of the Certificate of Merit Policy

The MTAC teacher must be the primary teacher of all students they enter. The primary teacher is one who personally teaches a student on a regular basis for the majority of lessons.

Members who enroll students in another teacher's behalf risk the following:

- I. Being removed from good standing
- II. Forfeiting the privilege of participating in Certificate of Merit and other MTAC programs
- III. Loss of membership

Any teacher who has inadvertently broken this policy is strongly encouraged to arrange to delete any students who belong to another teacher immediately. Please be advised that any teacher who enrolls students in CM through another teacher also jeopardizes membership in the organization.

Karen S. Becker
CM Coordinator

HEADS UP FOR 2009 CONVENTION MASTER CLASSES

- 1) A third Panel MC will be presented which will focus on lesser-known Etudes (ie. no Chopin or Liszt).
- 2) Two early-intermediate to intermediate Master classes will be held next convention with Melody Bober.

- One will consist solely of her pieces (published by Alfred)
- The other will be pieces by any New Materials composer
- Eligibility: Levels 3-8 and submitted for New Materials Recitals
- Students with 5+ Convention Rating
- Excellent ratings on both Sight-reading and Technique
- A random drawing will be held to choose final participants

Teacher Work Contract

Branch Chairs,

The Council is strongly encouraging every branch to have a written CM Policy/Work Contract covering what is expected of branch members in regards to working at branch CM evaluations, per CM Policy V #9. Participating teachers should sign the Work Contract and return it with their Registration Fees by Nov. 16th

At the Branch Chair Training Session at Convention, we said we would make up a sample CM Branch Policy and Teacher Work Policy/Contract. I think this can all be included in one document.

If your branch currently has a policy in place, would you please send (email) a copy to me peggy09876@yahoo.com and I will compile the ideas into a sample for everyone.

Thanks,

Peggy Taylor, CM Evaluator Chair, South, Training & Recruiting, Chair Liaison, CCSR



News from Evaluator Chairs - Training & Recruiting

All Evaluators are now required to attend a training session every two years (and of course new Evaluators are still required to attend before they work).

In the North, check your calendars!

- August 22nd place TBA
- Fall months TBA
- January 4th in Sacramento

Please RSVP to Judi Sands-Pertel; jspmidi@aol.com for schedules/sites!



Evaluator Chairs challenge Branch Chairs!

- Branch Chairs are our best Evaluator recruiters!
- 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. And it's a paid job!
- Chairs, please consider "hosting" an Evaluator training session, AND consider applying to be an Evaluator, you know the job ... let someone fix you lunch, pay you, etc.

Why be a CM Evaluator?

Hear new music, see the sites, and meet new colleagues!
New Evaluators are always needed and appreciated!

Below are some important criteria:

- **EXPERIENCE AS A TEACHER IN PATH A CERTIFICATE OF MERIT:** Teachers who have extensive experience with their own students in CM and who have students who do well (Branch Honors, Convention, Panel, etc.) judge with standards that are high but realistic. These teachers also have a thorough understanding of the program, support and enforce CM Policies.
- **EXPERIENCE IN EVALUATING:** Applicants who have experience in evaluating other programs (Guild, Royal Conservatory, MTNA, etc.) are most successful in our program.
- **SUNNY DISPOSITION:** Evaluators must smile throughout the day, even after you've heard the same piece for the fifth time ... ☺
- **LEGIBLE HANDWRITING** for as many as eight hours of writing in a day. (There is also computer evaluator training available).
- **MOST IMPORTANTLY:** Evaluators must care about the students, also be sensitive to high school students and their desire to continue the study of music with a hectic schedule, be encouraging to all levels of students and maintain the highest standards of our program.

For application information, please contact the Evaluator Chair for your discipline. Please note that there is a different person for the North and the South. You can find their contact information by visiting the MTAC website and this publication.

News from Training Liaison

What was this sticker?



If you attended a training session at Convention you are now “in the know”. In 2010 Remain at Level will really mean remain at level!

Branch chairs, let a CM Council member explain new policies, “back you up” on your branch procedures and more.

- Would you like a CM Council member to hold a CM Teachers Training Session? We all know how carefully we listen to “an expert from out of town”!
- Contact Judi Sands-Pertel; jspmidi@aol.com the CM Training Liaison and she will start the arrangements for a Council member to visit your branch.

Panel

Nancy Daggett Jensen, Panel Chair North

- Panel is for extraordinarily talented students, artistically and technically polished to a near professional level. This is NOT the next step after Advanced Level. It is a higher level than the Convention Festival standard (6+).
- Panel is a two-step process. A piano student must be Advanced level in Grades 10-12 (Check grade requirements for voice, winds, and strings with discipline chairs as they differ). A student is registered in the regular fall registration with all other CM students. Panel evaluations are different in that students are not evaluated at the Branch level but grouped according to Branch at Regional sites. Students chosen to proceed to the Panel Finals then complete a second application and pay another fee. (Students who are not selected to proceed to Finals still receive a regular evaluation and do not have to play again at the Branch evaluations.) Those selected to proceed are evaluated by a Panel of 3 evaluators who hear all students in both the South and the North. Those students selected from this round are chosen for Panel Honors Recitals, Master Classes and Young Artist Guild. Master Classes and Young Artist Guild are for students in 11th and 12th grade who have been enrolled and passed all evaluations since 9th grade.
- NEW THIS YEAR-- The CM Council has added a 3rd Master Class that will focus on lesser known Etudes (i.e. no Chopin or Liszt).
- Please refer to the Panel guide which is listed on the MTAC website. If you have questions please call your Branch Chair.

YOUNG ARTIST GUILD

Nicole A. Burns, YAG Chair

The 2008 Young Artist Guild Recital was held in the Raincross Ballroom at the Riverside Convention Center on Friday, June 27, 2008. Eight students were initiated that evening into the Young Artist Guild with membership for 2008-2013. There were two pianists from the north, two pianists from the south, one cellist from the south, one violinist from the south, and two flutists from the south. There were a total of sixty-two YAG applicants who auditioned this year: thirty-six from the north and twenty-six from the south. Members are as follows:

- **Gary Chan**, pianist, 12th grade, *student of Edward Francis – Conejo Valley*
- **Ian Counts**, pianist, 12th grade, *student of Hyeja Chong Ganahl – South Bay*
- **Michael Delfin**, pianist, 11th grade, *student of Carol Oaks – Fresno*
- **Michael Fan**, cellist, 12th grade, *student of Charles Baker – Orange*
- **Erica Richardson**, violinist, 12th grade, *student of Gayaneh Kumar – Glendale*
- **Jenny Shin**, flutist, 12th grade, *student of Jane Masur – North San Diego*
- **Kenric Tam**, pianist, 12th grade, *student of Hans Boepple – Santa Clara*
- **Mark Teplitsky**, flutist, 11th grade, *student of Jane Masur – North San Diego*

Following the recital YAG members were each given a silk rose and a plaque plus the following awards/scholarships:

MTAC State Award: Each new YAG member received \$600.00.

Natenstedt Award (based on essays submitted by YAG members):

- Michael Delfin - \$750
- Michael Fan - \$500
- Gary Chan - \$500
- Kenric Tam - \$200
- Ian Counts - \$200
- Mark Teplitsky - \$200
- Erica Richardson - \$200
- Jae-Eun (Jenny) Shin - \$200

AMRON Dustin Koji Jefferson Award (based on essays submitted by YAG members):

- Ian Counts - \$1,000

Christine Piper Plumb Award (based on performance at YAG Recital)

- Mark Teplitsky - \$1,000

Valerie & Samuel Rodetsky Award (based on performance at YAG Recital)

- Kenric Tam - \$500

A special thank you to James Walker (winds), Jeffry Kaatz (strings), and Elvin Rodriguez (piano) the three adjudicators for the Plumb and Rodetsky awards at the YAG recital.

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The YAG Convention Recital received very positive feedback. All of the performers were top notch! My son Brandon (14 y/o) even prepared a slide show presentation of Young Artists Guild members from birth to present that was shown during intermission. It received a lot of oohs, aahs, giggles and even tears.

Being the YAG Chair is truly a rewarding experience and I'd like to thank all of the YAG teachers for their cooperation and support. Your hard work with these students is an inspiration to us all.

Please support these fine YAG members by holding a YAG Recital in your branch. All YAG information and forms can now be found on the website at www.mtac.org.

Festival Recital

Piano teachers please remember as you choose repertoire for 2009 that Festival Recital repertoire for convention must be within the 5 minute time limit. Students performing repertoire known to be over the 5 minute time limit such as the Beethoven Tempest Sonata Movement I will be dropped from the Festival Recital data base.

Sue Scofield
Festival Recital Chair

Theme Recital

Theme for 2009-2010

IRREGULAR METER - Including

Frequently Changing Meter, Unusual Meter, Uncommon Meter, No Meter, Hemiola
Path A students, Level 3 – Advanced, Solos only, 7 minute time limit
(Pieces published within the last 10 years are not excluded)

Ensemble Recitals

As teachers are planning their students' CM repertoire, they may consider using an ensemble piece for one of the selections. The Convention Ensemble recitals are designed to promote the exploration and performance of ensemble repertoire and are open to students Level 3 and above. All students in the ensemble must be registered for CM. Students do not need to be registered at the same level to participate. Students may perform repertoire for duo piano, piano four hands or more, or sonata level repertoire with different instruments. The music need not be memorized. The teacher(s) must apply and submit the online application for all students in the ensemble. For ensembles of the same instrument, the same evaluator will hear each member of the ensemble at adjacent times. For different instrument ensembles, the appropriate evaluators will hear the ensemble at different times.

For further information, contact Linda Rohmund, Lindapiano@yahoo.com, Theme/Ensemble Chair.

New Wind Chair for the North

I have enjoyed serving as the Wind Chair for Northern California for the past seven years. During that time, we have upgraded to CDs for ear training, we have revised the Wind Syllabus, added instruments (bassoon and French Horn), and have incorporated an Evaluator Training DVD as an optional part of evaluator training. Now it is time to pass the torch, and I am pleased to announce the appointment of **Kim Zamjahn**, of the Delta Branch, to the position of Wind Chair for Northern California. We look forward to a continued growing of our program, and thank Kim for her willingness to contribute her time, talents and energy to this.

I so enjoyed getting to know and work with other Wind Chairs and teachers and other members of the C.M. Council. I will miss them greatly. It is good, though, to have fresh new faces and ideas added to the mix on a regular basis. Winds: the best is yet to come!

Susan Nguyen

Outgoing Wind Chair North

VOICE NEWS

Lots of new happenings for voice:

- Please look for an addendum to the syllabus in the fall.
- There will be a book of sight reading and rhythm practices available. It will include levels 1 – 10 and follow the requirements of the syllabus. Teachers who would like to contribute exercises for level 10 must have them emailed to Brigitte Doss-Johnson (moo5@pacbell.net) by August 15.
- Ear Training testing will be part of the theory test, and will replace the scales, intervals, and tonal memory of the practical test. The practical will still include sight reading, rhythm and Vaccai.

Brigitte Doss-Johnson
Voice Chair North

Sarah Sandvig
Voice Chair South

Foundation

The mission of the Music Teachers' Association of California Foundation is to facilitate the programs of the MTAC Association through financial support. This support is given to programs such as: student scholarships and awards; MTAC members in need; community outreach through the MTAC Branches; and artistic programs of the MTAC Association.

There are many types of funds accepted by the Foundation.

- MTAC accepts donations by check from individuals, Branches and businesses.
- Members, spouses and friends can go for matching funds when one of you works for a company that has this program.
- Donations through stocks, securities, etc. are acceptable. See below.
- Donations can be designated for specific programs as so indicated, or for general use through the Second Century Fund.
- You may donate your car and designate MTAC Foundation as the recipient

Whatever prompts you to give, include MTAC on your list this year. If each of us would just donate even \$1-10 a year to our foundation, we would grow on a regular basis.

Sharon Townsend Roth, Foundation Chair

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