



**Karen S. Becker, CM Coordinator**

500 Carnation Place  
Oxnard, CA 93036

September 2009

Dear Parent,

The Music Teachers' Association of California (MTAC) sponsors a study program entitled *Certificate of Merit*. Initiated in 1933, this prestigious program now involves over 30,000 students annually statewide. There are study guides and performance opportunities for students of piano, violin, viola, cello, flute, oboe, clarinet, saxophone, bassoon, horn and voice. The goals of the program are these:

- *To provide a systematic and comprehensive plan to develop performance skill, technique, ear training, sight reading and understanding of music theory*
- *To develop practical goals to help students maintain a steady and focused approach to their musical studies*
- *To encourage students to strive for musical excellence*
- *To create opportunities in which students may share their music with others*

Students who are enrolled in *Certificate of Merit* participate in an annual evaluation held from mid-February through early April. Registration is from mid-September to mid-November.

- Experienced evaluators hear students perform selected literature, technique elements and sight reading. Each student receives a comprehensive assessment of progress.
- Students also complete a written exam, which includes an ear training component.
- Each student receives a certificate for successfully completing all segments of the examination.
- Senior medallions are awarded to eligible high school seniors.
- Students who demonstrate exceptional skill may be selected to perform at the annual MTAC State Convention

CM uses an online database system where student information is processed. This database is secure. You can ask your teacher for more information if you have any questions.

I know that you and your children will benefit tremendously from this wonderful educational opportunity and experience. Your teacher will supply all additional information.

Sincerely,

Karen S. Becker  
CM Coordinator