



LONG BEACH
BRANCH

MTAC Long Beach Branch

1941 75 YEARS 2016

November 2016

President's Notes

Happy November!

The fall term seems to be moving at Warp speed! I'm happy to report that our branch's piano is now in its new home at Newcomb Academy in east Long Beach! Our first event there will be the Branch Recital on November 19. I hope you are all planning to enter some students so we'll have a good crowd to "initiate" the new venue! Deadline to enter is November 9, entry fee \$11. Our webmaster will have the online registration form up on our website very soon. Branch Recital Director Lilia Pershina can help with any questions you have.

The second event will be the Ensemble Festival on December 10. The online registration form is already live on our website; deadline to enter is 11/19, entry fee \$6 per performer. I encourage you to be creative in putting together ensembles for this event! Line up parents and siblings to participate on any instruments/voice they know, and plan to perform yourself! You can even create an ensemble by adding rhythm instruments to an "ordinary" solo. This is a fun event that includes, but isn't limited to, holiday music. Think festive!

I hope all survived the transition of CM registration to the new website. CM Chair Yvonne Chen has been cheerfully assisting any teachers with problems migrating students, and I believe all were successfully moved. Remind your CM parents that they must go online to pay and electronically sign the waiver no later than November 10, or their child will not be able to participate. And don't forget to send your student list and work agreement to Yvonne by November 12.

Our November meeting on Wednesday, 11/9 will be presented by member Lisa Kato on the subject of Improvisation. Hope you all can attend to learn more about this important skill, whether you currently teach it or just want to know more about it! We will meet at 9:30 am, with the program beginning at 10:00. The meeting will be at Lisa Kato's home at 6731 E. Wardlow Road, Long Beach, 90808.

If you missed the October General Meeting, you missed out on a real treat! CSULB professor and composer Dr. Carolyn Bremer spoke on Composition and Contemplative Practice to a small but responsive group.

I was saddened to learn a few days ago of the death of long-time member Elaine Levy. Elaine was very involved with the Southern California Junior Bach Festival as well as CM and local MTAC events. Although I believe she had completely retired from teaching, she maintained an active membership in our Branch and was present at our September potluck.

The Wheeler Memorial Concert, originally scheduled for November 13, is being moved to a later date, probably in late January. The new date will be posted on the website as soon as we secure the venue. Chair Jeremie Favreau will be organizing the program; contact him if you are interested in performing.

Save the afternoon of December 4 for our 75th Anniversary Celebration! The planning is still in progress, but it looks like we will be meeting at 1pm at the home of Lyn Pohlmann in Seal Beach for lunch/high tea, a concert on Lyn's twin Fazioli grands by the Orpheus Duo (our member Althea Waites and Mark Uranker, both on the piano faculty at CSULB), and a presentation on our Branch's history. Reservations will be limited to 30 attendees due to the size of the venue. As soon as the ticket price is finalized we will let you know how to make your reservation.

Our Branch offers many opportunities for student performance and for teacher enrichment. I encourage you to make the effort to attend the meetings yourself and to encourage your students to participate in some of our recitals, festivals, and contests. See you there!

Musically Yours,
Laura Dickey, President

Upcoming Events:

11/19-Branch Recital #1

12/4-MTAC-LB 75th Anniversary Celebration

12/10-Ensemble Festival

1/14-Theme (Styles) Festival

For more details, please go online to our website:

www.mtacb.com

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OUR PIANO HAS A NEW HOME

Our Mason and Hamlin piano has been moved and it now at Newcomb Academy!! All branch events will now be held at Newcomb with our first event coming up on November 19th. Below you will find a map of the campus. You can see that the auditorium is located at the south entrance of Newcomb. There is a small parking lot there as well as plenty of street parking on Lowe St. Chairpersons and teachers, please advise students and families to use the south entrance for all events. The main entrance at the front will be locked. So it may be helpful if chairpersons made some signs.



NEWCOMB ACADEMY

Main gate/entrance (will be closed)

Val Verde Avenue

Auditorium

PRIVATE RENTAL

The board has approved allowing members to rent the facility under the umbrella of our branch. Anyone wishing to rent the auditorium for their own private studio recitals, please contact Mary Inui at jminui@gmail.com. The district must have at least 30 day notice of time and day. Rental fees are \$49/hr with 4-hour min on weekends. Extra custodial fee for 6+ hours.

South Entrance

Lowe Street

With Carolyn Bremer



On October 9, 2015, we held our second general meeting of the year at Maureen Lombardino's home. Carolyn Bremer, Professor of Composition at Cal State Long Beach, gave an engaging presentation on how contemplative practices can help one in practicing and teaching. Contemplative practices are simple acts like breathing exercises and meditation. When done correctly, these are deliberate practices that force the contemplator to focus inward and thus achieve some level of clarity about the musical problem they are engaging with.

Dr. Bremer deals mostly with college students who often find themselves practicing for hours with no goal in sight, which is perhaps a different problem than many of us as teachers of grade schoolers experience. Many of us would be thrilled just to know that our students practice at least a half hour daily! However, Dr. Bremer's point is that through carefully guided, short exercises, we learn deliberation and discipline.

Adult students (us teachers included!) could always use reminding of what the point of studying music is, and performing short exercises and meditations can be very useful in focusing our practice sessions. For our younger students, teaching them to begin with such exercises will hopefully, in the long run, show them that musical practice itself is a stimulating contemplative practice.

Dr. Bremer has several pithy sayings one can use as focus for brief contemplations, which I've included here:

Do your best. Let that be enough. Be right there continuously.

Concentration isn't bearing down. It is non-distraction.

Stop playing like you're the performer and start playing like you're the listener

Music is about practice, not perfection

Music is made through relationships among the notes and among people.

"Relax" doesn't mean to do nothing. It means to not struggle in the doing.

Think *IN* music, not about music

Any type of change can be difficult; it takes us away from who we are. Learning can be perceived this way. Sometimes boredom or not liking something is a reaction to not wanting to change / learn.

Understand the difference between aspiration and expectation.

A trained musician's mind is flexible and malleable with access to whatever he or she needs.

Learn to practice under all conditions

You're not studying music, you're studying you.

MUSIC STUDENTS' SERVICE LEAGUE 2016-2017

To participate, RSVP to Liam Watts 3 days before recital day at wattsdojn@earthlink.net Recital attire preferred.

Artesia Christian Home

11614 183rd St, Artesia, CA 90701

October 2 @ 2pm SUNDAY

November 6 @ 2pm SUNDAY

December 4 @ 2pm SUNDAY

Katella Manor

3952 Katella Ave, Los Alamitos, CA 90720

October 15 @ 3pm SATURDAY

November 19 @ 3pm SATURDAY

December 17 @ 3pm SUNDAY

Seal Beach Health and Rehab Center

3000 N Gate Rd, Seal Beach, CA 90740

October 9 @ 3pm SUNDAY

November 13 @ 3pm SUNDAY

December 11 @ 3pm SUNDAY



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Thank you for your ongoing participation!

Liam Watts, Student Chair 2015-2017

Music Teachers Association of California-Long Beach

Background: the Music Students' Service League (MSSL) was formed so that students of MTAC members may have the opportunity to serve the community through music. MTAC awards students community service credit for their time, efforts and talents. These awards, in turn, help students to fulfill their graduation requirements of their schools and other service organizations. Students share their gift of music with the community by giving recitals in senior citizens' homes and by helping with other musical activities. MSSL is a student-run organization under the guidance of an MTAC teacher.

Teacher Notes

Looking for private students during school hours?

Teach HOMESCHOOLERS!

Available during the day

Eager to learn

Frugal

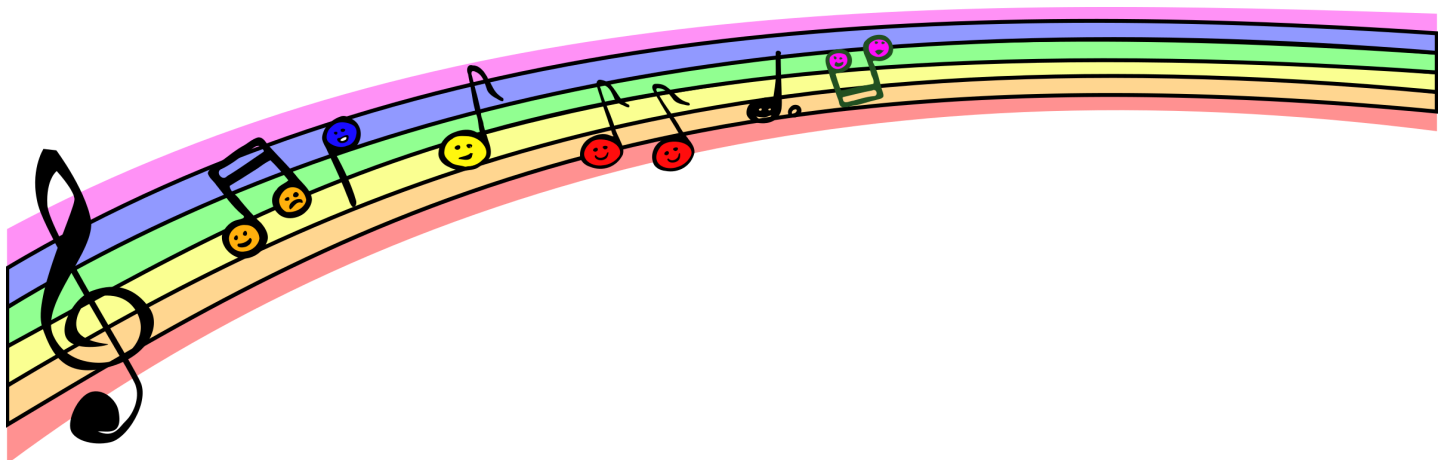
Advertise directly to the SoCal homeschool community through Playground Pass. Ad must include a daytime discounted rate.



Contact Lori Chew

MTAC member, Homeschool Mom, and Founder of Playground Pass

lori@playgroundpass.com



Long Beach Branch Newsletter

Editor: Mary Inui
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MISSION STATEMENT AND GOALS

The mission of the Music Teachers' Association of California (MTAC) is the pursuit of excellence in music education:

- To promote the stability of the music teaching profession,
- To maintain the high professional standards of our members,
- To maintain the exacting qualifications for membership in the organization establishing the active member as a qualified, accredited teacher, and
- To promote the development of musical potential and ability in students.

*Don't forget to check out our
website for past newsletters,
forms, maps, calendar, and
more!*

www.mtacb.com

Please submit all Noteworthy News by the 25th for publication in the following month. Please have photos as jpeg files and provide all heading/captions/story in MS WORD format. No PDF's please.

Email all submissions to Mary Inui at jminui@gmail.com.