



LONG BEACH  
BRANCH

# Noteworthy News



September 2014

## President's Notes

### Upcoming Events:

- 9/21- Potluck and short CM meeting
- 10/1- Deadline for Branch Recital #1
- 10/1—CM registration opens
- 10/5- SCJBF Complete Works Audition
- 10/5- General Meeting
- 10/11- Deadline for Theme Festival
- 10/18- Branch Recital #1
- 10/18- Complete Works Audition Awards
- 10/19- Wheeler Memorial Fund Concert
- 10/22- Board Meeting
- 10/31:CM registration closes

For more details and full calendar, please visit our branch website, [www.mtaclb.com](http://www.mtaclb.com)

### Inside this issue:

- President's Notes **1**
- New Board of Directors and New Members **2**
- CM News **3**
- MSSL News **4**
- Teachers' Notes **5-6**
- 2014 Convention Delegate Reports **7-8**
- Information **9**

Hi MTACLB members!

I hope you had a wonderful summer! I am absolutely thrilled to serve as your President this year. As we all prepare for our Fall teaching and performing schedules, I wanted to take a moment to share some of the exciting events we have coming up this year in our Branch.

Our welcome back potluck and CM meeting will be on Sunday, September 21st, at Maureen Lombardino's home. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet our new members and catch up with our current members.

We have several Master Classes scheduled this year, with the first scheduled for Sunday, October 5th with Master Voice Teacher Elizabeth Pehlivanian. Our general meetings will also include working with students with special needs, an academic colloquium and more.

In addition to our fabulous Theme Festival, Sonata/Sonatina Festival, and Styles Festival, we have added a "Play-a-thon" and a "Certificate of Merit Mock Evaluation" event. I would also like to encourage you to introduce our MSSL (Music Students Service League) to your students. It's a wonderful opportunity for our young musicians to experience community service outreach, and touch the lives of many people who aren't able to get out into the community on their own.

As always, you can view our calendar of events, register for competitions/festivals, and view newsletters on our website: [www.mtaclb.com](http://www.mtaclb.com).

And thanks to Mary Inui for the beautiful newsletter! The new format is so easy to navigate and read. Thank you as well to the Board for your support and fantastic ideas this summer.

I look forward to seeing you all in a few weeks at our Potluck! Have a wonderful September,

Sarah Sandvig  
MTACLB-President



President: Sarah Sandvig

will be passed out at the CM Potluck and Information Session. Those not in attendance will receive their directories by mail.

“Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination and life to everything.”

—Plato



## Announcing our New Board of Directors

**President:** Sarah Sandvig

**1st Vice President:** Rachel Grizzel Rue

**2nd Vice President:** Marc Lombardino

**Recording Secretary:** Adriana Manfredi

**Corresponding Secretary:** Christine Ho

**Treasurer:** Beejell Soco

**Membership Secretary:** Jessica Baptist

**CM Director:** Ellen Noble

**Newsletter Editor:** Mary Inui

**Branch Recital Dir:** Maureen Lombardino

**Parliamentarian:** Becky Mauss

**Honorary Advisors:** Marla Devich

Clorinda Moore

## Welcome New Members

We have several new members joining our branch.

Welcome to Tasha Locke, Pheaross Graham , Janelle R. A. Barrera, and Hannah Heis.

## Certificate of Merit Information

### Sunday, Sept. 21 Pot Luck and Mandatory CM information session

The CM Council is requiring that any teacher who wishes to enter students in CM must attend their branch CM information meeting. Following the potluck dinner our branch will use an interactive quiz to meet this requirement. If you are unable to attend this meeting you must take the quiz on your own and submit it to me before you can enroll students in CM. Let me know if you cannot attend the meeting.

### **CM Online Registration October 1 - 31**

### **CM Evaluations March 28/29 2015 at CSULB.**

#### **General CM information**

- Consult the MTAC website, [www.mtac.org](http://www.mtac.org), for specific CM information. This includes CM Policy, form letter to parents, Syllabi Addenda, fee schedules etc. You will need to login to your teacher home page with your user name and password to access this information.
- Please remember the line of communication. As your CM Branch Chair I am the person you call with any issues and or questions. The CM Council does address questions from members. I, on the other hand, will be happy to do my best to answer your questions. Email is a great way to contact me. [ellen.m.noble@gmail.com](mailto:ellen.m.noble@gmail.com)
- Now is when you want to start preparing your students for a successful evaluation. It is not too early to choose their repertoire.

I am counting on all of you for your help and support to make CM a success for our students and our branch. Long Beach is known for having a well run CM Weekend. That is only possible because of the contributions that each and everyone of you make. Thank you in advance. I am looking forward to a great year!

Ellen Noble

CM Director

# Music Students Service League

## 2014-15

To participate, RSVP to Clare Courter 3 days before recital day. Recital attire preferred.

[cfcourter@gmail.com](mailto:cfcourter@gmail.com)

### Artesia Christian Home

11614 183rd St, Artesia, CA 90701

(562) 865-5218

August 30 @ 3:00

October 5 @ 3:00

November 15 @ 3:00

December 13 @ 3:00

### Katella Manor

3952 Katella Ave, Los Alamitos, CA 90720

(562) 596-2773

September 14 @ 3:00

October 19 @ 3:00

November 23 @ 3:00

December 20 @ 3:00

### Country Villa, Seal Beach

3000 N Gate Rd, Seal Beach, CA 90740

(562) 598-2477

September 27 @ 3:00

November 1 @ 3:00

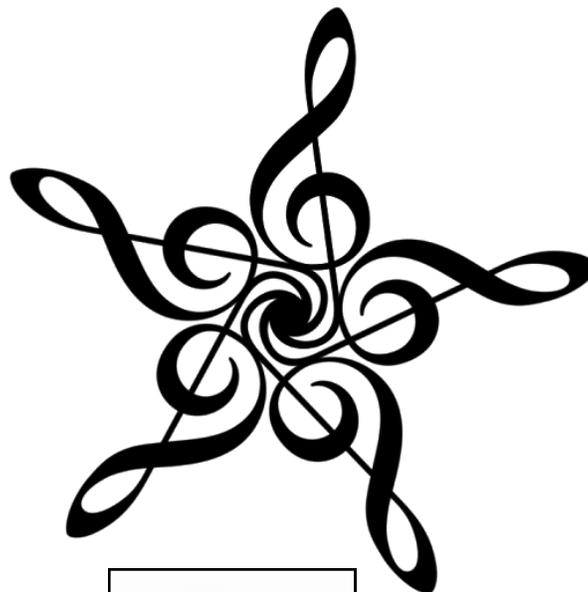
December 7 @ 3:00

December 21 @ 3:00

Thank you for your ongoing participation!

Clare Courter, Co-Chair, 2014-15

Music Teachers' Association of CA- Long Beach Branch



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.

## From the studio of Adriana Manfredi

The voice and beginning piano studio of Adriana Manfredi celebrated summer studio progress with a Summer Salon in August 2014 at Belmont Heights UMC. With a nod to Schubertiads and salons of yesteryear, students presented their pieces in creative ways, some even dressing up thematically for their pieces. Family ensembles titled "The Family Band" presented pop and folk tunes, playing a variety of instruments.

- Adriana Manfredi



## Teachers' Notes

Our MTAC-Long Beach Branch Corresponding Secretary and Branch Historian, Christine Ho, just started her new job as the Assistant Store Operations Manager of Keyboard Concepts in Fountain Valley, CA on August 28, 2014! She is in charge of the Piano Sheet Music Department and also helps out the Managers with their day-to-day duties at work.

If you are in the Fountain Valley area, you are welcome to stop by to say hello to her, and to check out the Keyboard Concepts Piano Store from Mondays-Fridays from 10 AM - 7 PM at 18285 Euclid Street, Fountain Valley, CA 92708. Her store offers Teacher Discounts on Piano Books. If you, a Student, or anyone else you know is interested in purchasing a piano or Yamaha Clavinova, you may reach her at her work at [\(714\) 544-0088](tel:7145440088) and/or drop by her store during normal business hours, 7 days a week. Please note that Christine is off on the weekends, so if you shop over there on the weekends, please let the Staff know that Christine Ho referred you. Her store carries many different brands of acoustic and electric pianos, makes and models, both new and used.



Dr. Louise Earhart's students won 3rd place in the pre-qualified duet category at the 2014 SYMF at CSULB on July 20th. Madison Nguyen is 11 years old and Thalia Inui is 10 years old.



## From the Luna Studio

There will be a chamber concert which will feature one of our Luna Studio violinists: Daichi Horiguchi, who will perform the 3rd movement of the Mendelssohn Violin Concerto with a small chamber group. Daichi recently was a first place winner at SYMF with his performance of the Mendelssohn.

A couple of other wonderful young violinists will also be featured at this concert, so it should be an inspiring evening for music lovers, especially students. Please save the day and support these young players by attending. Tickets are \$15 at the door or online ([www.grandvision.org](http://www.grandvision.org)), or Mrs. Horiguchi can get them for our studio (presale) for \$ 10. Let us know if you want some.

Congratulations to Daichi for this opportunity. We look forward to his performance and are proud of his achievements.

—Janice & Phil Luna

## Teachers' Notes

the **Porta Caeli**  
Chamber Players  
Under the Direction of Tony Tripp  
Present  
"The Beauty of Music"  
A night of beautiful classical & contemporary music  
that ANYONE can appreciate and enjoy!  
Sunday Oct. 5th, 7:30pm  
Warner Grand Theater  
478 W 6th St, San Pedro, CA 90731  
General Admission Tickets  
\$10 - Presale  
\$15 - online & at the door  
M  
For presale tickets contact Tony Tripp - tonytripp@live.com  
For online Tickets visit - <http://www.grandvision.org>



## Delegate Report — Marc Lombardino

The 2014 MTAC convention was a first for me on several levels. This was my first year as a member of MTAC, and as such my first convention as a teacher rather than a student. This was also the first time I had been to a meeting of colleagues all there to improve themselves as teachers. I come from an academic background, so the talks and presentations most interesting to me were the ones focusing on original research and ideas put forth by the presenters, but I attended my fair share of masterclasses and performances as well.

For me, the most engaging events at the convention were the presentations of a more scholarly nature. The first of these that I attended was Katrin Arefy's seminar on the Russian tradition of piano teaching titled "Exploring Artobolevskaya's Teaching Philosophy." In this presentation, Arefy went over some of the basics of the Russian school's approach to the teaching of young children, namely focusing on individual fingers starting with the third and learning to play folk tunes. While one might expect this tradition to be especially strict, given the perhaps deserved notoriety of the Russian school, the focus of the whole presentation was that one's musical training should be a part of one's development as a person. Arefy focused on the Russian pedagogue Artobolevskaya's personal teaching philosophy: instilling a love of music should always be the teacher's primary goal. I'm certain most, if not all of us teachers subscribe to this ideal, but I feel it bears repeating as I know from personal experience that it is easy to get lost in minutiae and miss the forest for the trees. (... I'm going to guess you've already ascertained that from my writing style.)

Another seminar I attended was on the interpretation of new music given by Gloria Cheng of UCL. Her focus was largely on understanding where the aesthetic of a new composition comes from. That is to say, just as we learn the history of Bach, Beethoven, and Brahms to understand how to interpret their work, so should we do for composers alive today or recently passed. Many of Dr. Cheng's examples tied back into the larger artistic movements of the twentieth century, but also the strange combination of violence, hope, advancement, and regression that have marked recent history. Serialism, minimalism, even John Cage's chance music all come from a world advancing technologically at an unprecedented pace while worldwide conflicts cause untold destruction. As depressing as this all sounds, her introduction and explanations allowed those of us listening to hear things in the recordings (mostly her own) that we could have missed otherwise. Among her recordings was the last in a series of pieces called Seven Memorials by Steven Andrew Taylor. The name of this particular piece was titled "Satellite." It was a beautiful movement, depicting a lone satellite orbiting the earth after some sort of horrible cataclysm, a lasting monument of human achievement outlasting humanity. In my studies I've performed quite a bit of new music, and Dr. Cheng's lecture has helped me better understand the nature of the music I'm trying to communicate.

I suppose I should mention the masterclasses and performances I attended as well. I was wowed at the recital given by Sean Chen, and greatly enjoyed the antics of Anderson and Rowe on the final night. However, I hold a soft spot in my heart for Scriabin, so for me Dmitry Rachmanov's all Scriabin recital was a special highlight. While I don't have synesthesia (the "crossing" of certain senses, so that one might see certain numbers and letters as hues or sounds for example) I can appreciate the intricate color system Scriabin developed as his music left the idea of a tonal center behind and forgotten. I could hear all of this in Dr. Rachmanov's performance, as if he was painting one of those abstract landscapes we see on the cover of science fiction novels, but with colors that our eyes have not evolved to see. He was wonderful as a master teacher as well, encouraging the students to listen carefully to the harmonic complexities of their own pieces in order to prepare and bring out those fleeting but quintessential moments of a piece; the kind of music-making that separates a good performance from a sublime one.

All in all, I was inspired by this convention, and hope to attend many more in the future. It was invigorating and humbling at the same time; as a teacher and a student, it can be overwhelming to realize how much there is to learn in the musical world, but it is a continuously rewarding experience to be involved in it.

## Delegate Report – Mary Inui

Our 104<sup>th</sup> annual MTAC Convention for 2014 was held at the Hilton-Los Angeles Airport from Friday, June 27<sup>th</sup> through Tuesday, July 1. Check-in and registration, plus, all of the small lecture halls were on the second floor of the hotel. The two larger performance halls were on the main floor and the exhibit hall was on the basement floor. Having majority of the rooms on a single floor made it easy to get from one session to another. Added to the convenience were rooms in close proximity to one another.

The convention kicked off right away early Friday morning with a full day's schedule of lectures, showcases, master classes, panels and recitals. With traffic and parking issues, the first session I was able to attend on Monday was at 11:00; a session titled, "Effortless Trills and Tremolos," presented by Fred Karpoff. By live demonstrations and videos (showing theory in action) I came away with some key ideas on how to help my students. One particular suggestion I used right away in the practice room with my daughter; the idea of using a knocking motion to show students how a trill need not/should not be static. He also broke down the trill into essential components and gave exercises to help with trills and tremolos.

The lecture, "Cognitive Benefits of Music Instruction," was an eye-opening lecture. In the session, Dr. Janet Soller showed that many of the cognitive benefits of music that we believe to be true are actually "myths." For example, it has NOT been proven that students who study music have higher standardized test scores or reading scores. However, science has shown that musicians have a larger anterior corpus collosum (communication link) in the brain. Brain scans show that the more a musician practices, the bigger the change in the brain. Dr. Soller then went on to show how we can use this information to help students and parents as well as applying this information in marketing our own studios.

There were many more lectures, sessions, showcases, and workshops that were informative and engaging. Keith Snell gave an informative lecture on the Chopin preludes and we got an inside glimpse of Lori Bastien's studio, along with tips on how to build a studio community throughout the year. However, I have to say that the performances were by far the highlights of the weekend. The VOCE and Young Artist Guild recitals featured an amazing group of young artists. Then my favorite recital, and my children would agree, was the astounding performance of the piano duo, Anderson and Roe. Their performance on Monday evening brought the whole room to their feet not once, not twice, but three (and maybe four?) times in the evening. They even graciously performed three encores as a response to our enthusiasm. Anderson and Roe also had CDs and sheet music available during intermission for a suggested donation. They concluded the evening with post-recital photos and autographs for those willing to wait in line so late in the evening.

Then there were the masterclasses where I always learn something new and leave inspired. This year, there were several of our own students who were selected to participate in these masterclasses. Luna Violin Studio students Robert Gleiser and Erin Hsiao were in a panel violin masterclass with Nathan Cole. I also attended the piano concerto masterclass, with renowned Jerome Lowenthal, that included Christopher Maldonado, a CSULB student of Craig Richey.

The convention began with some bumps, but I think it came to a close on a high note with Anderson and Roe's performance and their masterclass the next morning. This time around, it was also lovely to have spent time with fellow Long Beach Branch teachers in the sessions and at meals. It was great to get to know one another and to share in the experience with conversations outside of sessions. I also had the opportunity to make new friends with members from other branches. I believe having a common experience with a group of people is valuable and think convention provides an opportunity to make connections with people whom we would otherwise not see in our often lonely music teaching profession. I believe my sentiments are in line with this year's convention theme, "Music Brings Us Together." Although the hotel itself didn't present an ideal situation as a venue, the breadth of offerings from sessions, panel discussions, masterclasses and performances by major artists made the convention a success. I look forward to another year of inspiration and connection at next year's annual convention in northern California.

## Long Beach Branch Newsletter

Editor: Mary Inui  
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LONG BEACH  
BRANCH

## 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](http://www.mtacb.com)

Please submit all Noteworthy News by the 15th for publication in the following month. Please have photos as jpeg files and provide all heading/captions/story in WORD format.

Email all submissions to Mary Inui at [jminui@gmail.com](mailto:jminui@gmail.com).

THANK YOU!