

NOTEWORTHY NEWS

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LONG BEACH
BRANCH

President's Message

First in the spirit of Thanksgiving, we would like to give our thanks and show our appreciation to all the wonderful members of our MTAC Long Beach Branch! Our members have so many gifts, which they share gladly, and which make our Branch so special: your diverse talents plus the extraordinary generosity shown by our members.

In October, these gifts were evident in our turnout for the General Meeting (the Roundtable discussion on Sight-reading pedagogy – many thanks to **Marc Lombardino** for excellently chairing this event!). We had Branch Recitals that went very smoothly thanks to **Jessica Baptist** and **Lindsey Hundley**.

November promises to be exciting as well: **The Harold Wheeler Concert** is Sunday, November 3. Please consider attending to hear your friends perform and donating to this, our scholarship, and award. The general meeting this month is a Voice master-class at the home of **Sarah Sandvig**, 2971 Shakespeare Dr. in Rossmoor, 90720. **Sara Uriate Berry** is the Voice Master Teacher. The Theme Festival deadline has been extended to November 7. We hope to see you at these functions!!

On December 7, there will be an Ensemble Festival and we will celebrate, December 7 being the beginning of our MTACLB. Ensembles can be of any kind and parents and friends are invited to join in the fun!

Dr. Earhart always has to share some insight she's had so here it is: Louise had a dream and in that dream a woman, in very fancy dress, was having a great deal of anxiety. Louise took her hands and noticed that they were all knotted up and very painful looking. Louise thought a minute and said, "You have to get rid of all "nots." We can all aim to think more positively and reflect on our blessings in this month of Thanksgiving. Look for small things. Each tiny expression of goodness counts!!

Dr. Louise Earhart

Yukiko Nobles



Upcoming Events:

***10/31 CM Registration**
closes online

***11/5 Parent's Online CM**
payments are due.

***11/10 General Meeting**

***11/12 CM work forms,**
student lists (mail to
Jennifer Watts)

***Sun 11/3 Harold**
Wheeler Memorial
Concert at Newcomb
Academy (Jeremie
Favreau: chair)

***11/16 Theme Festival**
(Laura Dickey; chair)

***12/7 Ensemble Festival**
(Marla Devich and Ellen
Noble; co-chairs)

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***MSSL (Music Students**
Service League) October
Recitals

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Recent Branch Activities

First Branch Recital A Huge Success!

The first Branch Recital for the 2019-2020 season took place on Saturday, October 19, at Newcomb Academy. Hosted by MTAC, Long Beach Branch, the two recitals were scheduled with a combined total of twenty-two performers. The 10:30 a.m. recital was a program of solo piano performers. The 11:30 a.m. recital was a program of solo piano, voice with accompanist and vocal ensemble.

Thank you to the teachers/studios represented: **Andrea Chou-Wu, Bevinda Gomes, Adriana Manfredi, Joan Nelson and Tina Sowers.**



Several students at the 11:30 recital performed both piano and voice. Even parents and a teacher, **Adriana**, joined in for the vocal ensemble.

Our **second Branch Recital** is scheduled for **February 1, 2020**, also at Newcomb Academy. Don't let your students miss this wonderful performance opportunity.



Lindsey Hundley: Llhundley@yahoo.com or **Jessica Baptist:** baptists_church@yahoo.com.

Recital co-chairs

October MSSL Recitals

Lilia Pershina
lilia.pershina@gmail.com
MSSL Chair

We just completed the two MSSL recitals for October. These were the first recitals for the season and the residents were so excited to see this program resume. It was unbelievable how many of them thanked us and expressed their enjoyment of the performances. If you have NOT considered registering your students for this program, you are missing out. Where else can students **practice** their CM pieces, **not pay** any recital registration fees, **earn** 5 hours of community service, and **perform** in front of a great, appreciative audience? Yes! That is right! **At the MSSL recitals!**

The October 13th recital was about 40 minutes long and had 8 performers. The studios represented were Charis Nieto, Dr. Sam Chou, Rebecca Mauss, and Dr. Mark Sullivan.

The October 20th recital was 60 minutes long and had 11 performers. The studios represented were Dr. Sam Chou, Andrea Chou-Wu, Rebecca Mauss, and Dr. Mark Sullivan

The **November** recitals are scheduled for **Sunday, November 10, at 2:00 pm**, And **Sunday, November 17, at 3:00 pm**. **Registration deadline** is Midnight, the Wednesday before the MSSL recital date. Please include your student's name and the approximate time of their performance. You can find the MSSL calendar in the September Newsletter and on our Website. www.mtaclb.com



Jane and Luke Morrison



Ethan Nguyen-Khoa



Brandon Vu

THE OCTOBER GENERAL MEETING COVERED MANY TEACHING METHODS

The meeting was held at the home of Maureen Lombardino on October 11 and was well attended. Many methods books were shared as well as several different approaches to teaching technical studies. Sight reading development was discussed in great length. Many thanks to Second Vice President Marc Lombardino for scheduling our very interesting General Meetings!



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LONG BEACH
BRANCH



UPCOMING EVENTS

Our next **General Meeting** will take place on November 10, 3:30-5:30 pm, at the home of Sarah Sandvig, 2971 Shakespeare Dr., Rossmoor, 90720.

It will feature a **Voice Masterclass with Sarah Uriarte Berry**. Sarah Uriarte Berry is an acclaimed actress and singer, having starred on Broadway as Belle in *Beauty and the Beast*, and Eponine in *Les Misérables* among many other roles.

**THE MUSIC TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION OF
CALIFORNIA, LONG BEACH BRANCH**
Presents Our Annual
**WHEELER MEMORIAL AWARD
CONCERT**

Sunday, November 3rd, 2019 at 3 p.m.
Newcomb Academy Auditorium
Long Beach, CA
Donation recommended: \$10 minimum.
Contact **Jeremie Favreau**- jef72@hotmail.fr

Direction to the Newcomb Academy's Auditorium

Even though Newcomb Academy's address is 3351 Val Verde Ave. Long Beach 90808, the entrance to the auditorium where we have many events, faces on Lowe St. which is a right turn from Val Verde Ave. where the campus ends. There is a small parking lot, and street parking is permitted.

Registration Now Open for Theme Festival on 11/16

Our Theme Festival will take place Saturday, November 16, at the Newcomb Academy Auditorium, 3351 Val Verde Ave, Long Beach 90808. This year's theme is "Women Composers," and the entry fee is \$11 per performer. Recital times will depend on the number of participants, and you can request AM or PM recitals. The registration deadline has been extended to November 7.

I encourage teachers as well as students to come play and help make this a truly festive event celebrating music composed by women. This program is not just for piano students - all instruments and voice are welcome, as are ensembles including teachers, friends, and family members. Join us on the 16th!

**Musically Yours,
Laura Dickey-
Theme Festival Chair**

Ensemble Festival: December 7

Co-Chairs: **Marla Devich**, 562-433-3545 and **Ellen Noble**, 562-431-6740

This year's Ensemble Festival coincides with the date of our branch founding, December 7, 1941. We plan to celebrate with a branch birthday cake and with singing! Come join the fun!

The Branch Ensemble Festival is for everyone who enjoys making music together. It is open to all MTAC students and teachers. Family members are welcome as part of the ensemble. Holiday music is welcome on the program. There are no repertoire restrictions or memory requirements.

This year's festival is Saturday, December 7, at Newcomb Academy. The deadline to enter is Saturday, November 23. The entry form is online www.mtaclb.com. There is a \$6.00 fee for each participant, including teachers.

Bach – So. Calif. Jr. Bach Festival (SCJBF) Long Beach Branch Baroque Festival

Dr. Mark Sullivan & Charis Nieto, Co-Chairs

Event: **Saturday, February 8, 2020** from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm* (Newcomb Academy)

Entry Deadline: **Saturday, January 18, 2020**

Entry Fee (per student): **\$30**

* Time varies depending upon number of participants.

This year the Long Beach Branch is combining the Baroque and Bach Festivals into a single event. Participating teachers must enter students for the Bach and Baroque festival by using the registration system at scjbf.org. Please contact Mark Sullivan ahead of the Jan. 18 entry deadline if you need assistance.

All participating students will be evaluated and receive written comments by the three judges.

Piano students who participate in the Festival with original keyboard works composed by J.S. Bach will be eligible for selection to compete at the SCJBF Region III keyboard festival on Sunday, May 17, 2020. At least 50% of eligible pianists will be selected for Regional.

Singers, strings and winds players, together with pianists performing Baroque repertoire that is not eligible for the Keyboard Regional Festival will be considered for Honorable Mention.

Pianists selected for the SCJBF Regional Keyboard Festival, together with strings and winds players, pianists and singers who receive Honorable Mention, will be invited to perform at the Long Beach Branch Bach/Baroque Winners Concert to be held on Sunday, March 1, 2020.

Pianists and instrumentalists are eligible through age 18. Singers are eligible through age 25.

Please note: SCJBF organizes All-Branch Regional Festivals for Strings and Winds/Voice categories. These events combine both Branch and Regional levels and usually take place in April and May. There is no prerequisite to enroll.

CONVENTION REPORTS

Hanna Yi, 2019 Convention Delegate

In the summer of 2019, I was fortunate to attend the MTAC convention in Santa Clarita. It was such a privilege to attend a well-organized and informative event and to be a representative of our Long Beach Branch. One of the seminars that stood out to me was the seminar by Max Mueller on how to create digital notation files. He explained this process very well to the audience using a projector and a computer. He also included members of the audience as participants. I also attended the concerto competition which was very impressive to see and hear. I really enjoyed how the cameras were faced on their fingers and were projected on the screen. Overall, I had an amazing experience, but I feel the most rewarding experience was to see all my old friends, who I grew up studying with and competing against, come together as educators. It was lovely to see my generation passing on to the next set of students. Thank you for the opportunity.

Hannah Yi

Marla Devich, 2019 Convention Delegate

One of the best decisions I ever made was to attend my first MTAC convention more than 20 years ago. That initial experience was more invigorating than I could have imagined it would be. Looking over the convention schedule was like perusing a menu in your favorite restaurant...which delectable "entrée" (session) to select...several times a day! Should I attend one of the many sessions offering teaching tips on a variety of topics? Hear a Masterclass led by a well-known musician? Go to a Showcase (where I would receive free music from one of the publishers?!)

Such choices are available to convention attendees every year. And the 2019 Convention in the beautiful Santa Clara Hyatt Regency did not disappoint. This year's topics and presenters included "Storytelling Through Music" by Gwendolyn Mok; "Technology for Your Teaching Studio" by Andrew Cooperstock; "Piano for Life" by Dr. E. L. Lancaster; "Great Thoughts by Noted Musicians" by Dr. William Wellborn...just a few of the wonderful sessions offered!

Every evening at convention is capped by a fabulous performance: Friday night we heard the amazing new YAG inductees perform; Saturday evening we were treated to the Piano Concerto Competition; Sunday night gave us the VOCE Recital; the final performance on Monday night featured convention artists Dr. John Roscigno, Opus Two, ACE Trio and the MTAC Honors Orchestra.

The 2020 convention will be held at the LAX Hilton (July 3-7.) This is the perfect opportunity to open the door to an exciting new experience... looking forward to seeing many of you there!

Marc Lombardino, 2019 Convention Delegate

Having only been in the piano teaching world for a little under a decade, I'm always trying to find ways to improve my methods and teaching philosophy. For newer teachers like myself (and for our seasoned veterans, I assume) our yearly convention provides several opportunities to explore new ideas to incorporate into our own unique curricula. This year, I found myself drawn to programs on improvisation. In my own playing career, the ability to improvise has been an essential skill, but I have not found myself able to effectively teach this skill. However, rather than approach teaching

improvisation as a skill separate from other aspects of piano teaching, the programs I attended at convention encouraged a more wholistic approach--one where improvisation is not some lofty skill, but rather an essential part of the music-making experience.

Our own Jennifer Watts, on Sunday, gave a version of a talk she has been perfecting over the last few years (and which she so graciously shared at our branch meeting in October 2018). Jen advocates using improvisation as a method for teaching the technical and theoretical requirements of CM. When students have an immediate and practical application for music theory and technique, it makes them more likely to remember them and potential more enthusiastic to practice them.

I also attended the improvisation Masterclass and performance by Yuko Maruyama and her jazz combo. The students in the masterclass came with a broad array of improvised pieces to perform, with accompaniment by Yuko's combo. Yuko's training in both classical and jazz piano is reflected in her own teaching and performance styles. She is influenced by Oscar Peterson (she performed his "Bach Suite" in her recital). Her career, and indeed the career of many performing artists today, shows that the jazz/classical divide continues to erode--improvisation, after all, is not exactly a new concept in the world of music performance. Many classical traditions outside of our own revolve around it (Arabic, Indian, and Indonesian Gamelan music come to mind) and most of the canonical composers (Bach, Beethoven, et al.) were known for their improvisatory skills in their time.

I'm very happy to see that MTAC is encouraging improv, but if we want to really bring it to the fore, many of us, myself included, will need to learn not only how to adopt these practices ourselves but develop our own pedagogical devices for teaching it. We'll have to wait and see what the improv programs look like at MTAC in 10 years!



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 Linda Pryor at:
pryornotes@hotmail.com

Don't forget to check out our website:

www.mtacb.com

for past newsletters, forms, maps, calendar, and more!



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.

Long Beach Branch

Newsletter "Noteworthy News"

Editor: Linda Pryor

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