

NOTEWORTHY NEWS



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LONG BEACH
BRANCH

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Hello and welcome back to some Zoom meeting and some meetings together! How exciting! We had a new members' meeting at the El Dorado Golf Club Restaurant on Studebaker in Long Beach, 90815. It was so good to be together, have lunch together and to celebrate life. Co-President Yukiko Nobles handed out our new Bright Green Directory. If you could not attend, the Directories will be on Louise Earhart's front porch, 2237 Radnor, Long Beach, from 9/27 to 10/27 from 8 am to 8 pm as well as on Yukiko Noble's front porch at 5155 Harvey Way in Long Beach 90808.

We welcome two new members to MTACLB: Nancy Carr, who has agreed to be our Newsletter Editor, and Malila Hollow-Gonzalez, Co-Director of the Young Artist Guild Concert. We're glad that you have chosen Long Beach Branch and thank you for serving MTACLB!!

We have two events in October: On the 8th from 10:00 am to 11:30 am, Barbie Wong will present "Engaging parents for student Success." The meeting will be on Zoom and Marc Lombardino will be host. Also, on Zoom we will have the first of three yearly branch recitals on October 23rd, hosted by Andrea Chou-Wu & Marc. Looking ahead, we will meet live on November 9th at the home of Mark Sullivan for a Bach lecture/demonstration with Craig Richey, a member of MTACLB.

As a reminder, CM will be completely virtual, and the important dates are listed on the website. Don't forget to take the Teachers' Quiz so that you can register your students in October. Parents must make their payment for CM by November 5. Long Beach is South Region 3, and our Media Submission due Date is March 1, 2022.

So please come to the Zoom meeting on October 8 and enter your students in the Zoom recital on October 23. See you soon. Enjoy the fall weather and enjoy Life!!

Yukiko Nobles and Louise Earhart
Co-Presidents, MTAC Long Beach



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UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, October 8, 2021 10:00 am – 11:30 am

General Meeting: Barbie Wong presenting “Engaging parents for student success”

Where: Zoom Meeting

Saturday, October 23, 2021 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Branch Recital #1 (Andrea Chou-Wu & Marc Lombardino: Chairs)

Where: Zoom Recital with a pre-recorded performance

2021-2022 Directory now available for pickup

The hard copy of the 2021-2022 branch directory is available now. You may pick it up from the front porch of Louise Earhart, 2237 Radnor Ave. Long Beach, 90815 from Monday, September 27 - Wednesday, October 27 between 8 am - 8 pm. Please park on the street and not on the driveway. If you prefer to pick it up from the house of Yukiko Nobles, 5155 Harvey Way, Long Beach, 90808, please email at yukikonobles@gmail.com or text at 562-896-1984 when you would like to come. You can also send a self-stamped, self-addressed envelope (no smaller than 6' x 9') to Yukiko on the above address if you would like her to mail it to you.

Please correct on p. 20: Hollow-Gonzalez, Malila -Piano; her email address: malilahollow@gmail.com. Please let Yukiko know if there are more corrections to be made.

The directory is also available on our website in the member section. Please read the email from Sarah Sandvig titled Membership Directory posted on mtaclb.com and find the password.

MSSL RECITALS are Virtual for Fall/Winter

Due to the recent rise in Covid numbers and restrictions from the state, our MSSL recitals will be virtual again. We are anticipating that it will remain this way till at least December.

For those in need of community service hours, we will again leave it up to teachers to print out a certificate of participation. If you need a certificate, please let us know.

We will start off the season with our first recital in October. Please have all submissions in by the 10th of each month. If you have any students who would like to participate, email videos to Thalia Inui at thaliainui1@gmail.com. We also need the performer's full name, along with the name of the piece and composer. You may submit links to videos from any platform, but please make sure that access is allowed.

Once videos are edited into a recital format, we will mail out the recital to Artesia Christian Home and Katella Manor.

October 10- Deadline for October Recital

November 10- Deadline for November Recital

December 10- Deadline for December Recital

Mary Inui, MSSL Chair

Branch Recital (October 23, 2021)

It's time to enroll your students for the first branch recital (open to all students and teachers of MTAC-LB) of the year on October 23, 2021. The recital will showcase pre-recorded videos shared online via Zoom meetings. It is a good chance to give students who will participate in CM an opportunity to get one or two of their pieces recorded well ahead of time.

Deadline for registration is Wednesday, October 13, 2021 at 11:59 P.M.

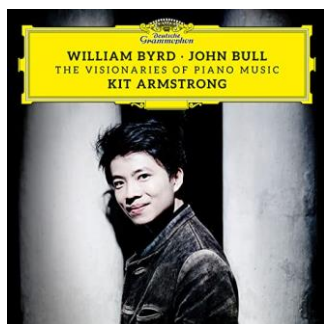
To register your students, please visit www.mtacb.com, select the tab "recital registration," then select the "branch registration" button to complete the online registration form. Registration fees will be announced in advance of the deadline to registered students.

Student video submissions can be sent to mtaclbrecitals@gmail.com. If a video file is too large to send via email, you may share the file via cloud service, such as google drive, dropbox, icloud, etc. You may also send the file using WeTransfer or Dropbox Transfer. The subject line should read October Branch Recital - (Student Name). The body of the email should include the title of the piece and composer. For example: October Branch Recital - Jane Doe. Fur Elise by Beethoven.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the event chairs, Marc Lombardino - marclombardino@gmail.com OR Andrea Wu - wubc@hotmail.com

Branch Recital co-chairs: Marc Lombardino and Andrea Wu

First Release on Deutsche Grammophon for Former Long Beach Branch Student



Kit Armstrong, former student of Long Beach Branch teacher Dr. Mark Sullivan, has just released a two-CD set of works by late-Renaissance English composers William Byrd and John Bull on the Deutsche Grammophon label. At the time of this writing, the album is listed as #32 of Amazon's 100 best-selling classical recordings! The DG CDs follow Kit's earlier releases on the Sony Classics label and are also available for streaming and download through iTunes, Spotify and other services.

While in quarantine from March to June of 2020, Kit performed, recorded and provided commentary for one piece every day for 100 days. He presented these performances from his residence and atelier, the Church of Sainte-Thérèse-de-l'Enfant-Jésus, Hirson, France. The videos comprise a series called "Musique ma patrie!" and may be viewed on YouTube or accessed from Kit Armstrong's website, kitarmstrong.com. There you will also find a series of 5 short and exceptionally clear lectures on the music of Byrd and Bull. Those who are interested can find more information about the Church of Sainte-Thérèse, and its transformation into a concert hall, on Wikipedia.

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

CM and Panel/YAG Enrollment

September 15 – October 25 Virtual Teacher Training made available to teachers. Training component must be completed to be unblocked. Teacher will be unblocked within 48 hours after completion **and** passing quiz.

October 1 MTAC Online System opens for Student Enrollment.

October 31 Deadline to submit Special Needs Accommodation Request Form online. No late requests accepted.

October 31 MTAC Online System closes for Student Enrollment. No late Enrollment exceptions.

October 1- November 5 Parent Payment Period in the Online System. No late payments accepted after November 5.

Enter Evaluation Information Online and Panel Input

October 1 Online System opens for entering student evaluation information and Repertoire online.

January 15 Deadline for all Teachers, Panel and non-Panel, to enter Repertoire in the Online System.

January 15 Deadline to submit YAG Letter of Intent and Repertoire in the Online System.

CM Evaluation Dates

CM Evaluations Media Submission Deadlines. Note: Teachers check your Teacher Portal to confirm your region and submission deadline.

2/8 North Region 5, North Region 7, South Region 4

2/15 South Region 2

2/22 North Region 1, South Region 1, South Region 6, South Region 8, South Region 9

3/1 North Region 4, South Region 3

3/8 North Region 3, South Region 5, South Region 7, South Region 10

3/15 North Region 2, North Region 6

Panel Regionals Dates

February 1 Panel Regional Video Evaluation Media Submission Deadline. Evaluation videos for Panel Regional Evaluations for all instruments must be uploaded by this deadline. No late submissions will be accepted.

February 1 Deadline for Panel applicants to complete online theory test.

Panel Finals Dates

March 10 Deadline for Panel Final Application to be submitted online. No late applications.

March 22 Panel Final Auditions Submission Deadline. Evaluation videos for Panel Final Auditions for all instruments must be uploaded by this deadline. No late submissions will be accepted.

Convention and Other Year-End Deadlines

April 4 Theory test materials will be released statewide.

April 10 Deadline for teachers to report Evaluation results errors in the Online System. No changes made after this date.

April 15 Deadline for Convention Applications. Deadline for Parents to pay Convention Application Fee. No late payments accepted.

April 15 Deadline to apply for Make-up Evaluations (MUP) for both Performance and Theory in the Online System for all students, with valid excuse.

April 30-May 1 CM Council Meeting.

May 10 CM Make-up Evaluation (MUP) Media Submission Deadline.

May 15 Convention Recital Final Schedule posted in the Teacher Portal at www.mtac.org/login

July 1 - July 5 Convention 2022 at the Hyatt Regency Orange County

Wessell, Nickel, & Gross High Performance Piano Action – Lilia Pershina



I wrote this article because I want to share a wonderful piano experience that I recently had, with other branch members. I thought, “Maybe some would find this article interesting. While a few others would find article beneficial.” Whatever you think, I hope you like it.

A few months ago, I wanted to upgrade my Estonia Grand to a first tier piano manufacturer. The Estonia has served me well for over 12 years. It has good tone and a beautiful finish, but I really wanted to upgrade the performance and perhaps to reward myself for all my hard work. So I began the process of investigating different brands, conducting research on what makes first tier manufacturers different from each other, and of course the fun part, playing various first tier pianos in the showrooms.

After a few weeks, I was ready to begin the search for my perfect piano. I narrowed down my selection to three firms that appealed to me: Shigeru Kawai, C. Bechstein, and Mason Hamlin. Before I took the final step, I needed to sell the Estonia before purchasing a new one. No matter how hard I wished, I don't have enough room for three pianos in my studio. :-) Email notifications were sent to members of our (Long Beach) and other local MTAC branches that my piano was for sale. I also placed advertisements in some other venues. The next step was to call my CPA. I needed to know what tax effects, if any, would be for my decision. Well ... the news wasn't good. The tax consequences really surprised me. Since I depreciated the Estonia already, I would need to claim all of the sale price as current INCOME! Then when I purchase the new piano, I would also be paying 10% CA sales tax for the purchase!

What I thought and was planning for: \$80,000 (new piano) - \$25,000 (sale of old piano) = **\$ 55,000 out of pocket for a new piano**

The reality was: \$80,000 (new piano) + \$8,000 (sales tax) - \$25,000 (sale of old piano) + \$7,500 (Income tax) = **\$70,500 out of pocket for a new piano**

I was disappointed that total cost for the upgrade was \$15,500 higher than I originally thought. The additional cost made me reevaluate the idea about buying a new piano. I needed to think about alternatives or give up on my desire to have a piano upgrade. The Mason Hamlin salesman, as part of his sales presentation, emphasized the fact that Mason Hamlin pianos used “Wessell, Nickel and Gross” Advanced Composite piano actions in their pianos. I thought, “If Mason Hamlin thought they were good enough for their pianos, maybe I should investigate replacing the action in my Estonia with a WNG action. Maybe I would get a performance upgrade without buying a new piano?”

Visiting Wessell, Nickel & Gross' web page, I discovered two things: first, Dr. Mark Sullivan uses and endorses their actions and second, that Bruce Stevens is one of the three authorized technicians authorized by WNG to install their actions in the Southern California area. This gave me confidence.

I called Bruce to schedule a visit. When Bruce arrived, he did a thorough inspection of my piano, especially the action, to determine the current condition. Bruce then gave me several options, with different price points, which would improve the performance of my piano. I decided to replace the entire

action with a WNG Advanced Composite Action. I did not want an incremental change, but the maximum improvement.

After a few weeks, Bruce returned with the action, ready for installation. He worked diligently and passionately for 6 hours (I think that is the only way Bruce knows how to work ...with passion) to make sure everything was perfect and that I was happy.

The final result? I could not believe it. The result was like night and day. It is now a completely different piano, much better than before. I was planning to play it a week before giving Bruce any type of feedback, but after only two days ... I had to let him know how pleased I was.

The final thought I got my performance upgrade, ***for the price of the "Sales Tax" that I would have paid on a new piano***, PLUS will be taking a tax deduction for making an improvement on studio equipment. Not a bad outcome.

The action replacement did not turn my Estonia into a first tier piano, however, the improvement did make it play better than when I originally purchased it new! Changing the action of a piano may not be for everyone, but it could be an excellent option for some. If you would like more information about my experience than what is written in this article email me at lilia.pershina@gmail.com. If you want more information about the WNG actions call Bruce at (562) 335-8281 or use a search engine to find Wessell, Nickel & Gross' web page.



New Members Luncheon September 25, 2021 – El Dorado Golf Club Restaurant

WHO CAN I CONTACT?

Here is a quick list of Board Members who can help with any questions you may have.

Sending Emails/Announcements to the Branch

Contact: Dr. Mark Sullivan: sullivan03@sprynet.com

Referral Service (If you need students or your studio is full)

Contact: Mary Inui: jminui@gmail.com

Reimbursements for Branch Expenses:

Contact: Rebecca Mauss: rjmauss@gmail.com

Program, Masterclasses

Contact: Marc Lombardino: marclombardino@gmail.com

Membership

Susan High: susanhigh@gmail.com

Certificate of Merit

Contact: Sarah Sandvig: sarahsandvig@gmail.com

Andrea Chou-Wu: jou_hsiang_en@hotmail.com

Newsletter

Contact: Nancy Carr carrmusicstudio@gmail.com

Additional Questions/Concerns

Contact: Yukiko Nobles yukikonobles@gmail.com

Dr. Louise Earhart louise.earhart@charter.net

Long Beach Branch Newsletter

“Noteworthy News”

Editor: Nancy Carr

carrmusicstudio@gmail.com

Please have photos as jpeg files and
provide all heading/captions/story in
MS WORD format, not PDF files.

**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.

