

NOTEWORTHY NEWS



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LONG BEACH
BRANCH

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy September, members of MTACLB!

I am thrilled to once again serve as your President and bring some fresh and exciting new events to you and your students.

Many thanks to our Board and committee members for volunteering your time to provide so many opportunities to everyone. Thank you, especially, to Nancy for putting together these wonderful newsletters!

Our kick-off potluck is on **Saturday, September 13th at my home at 5pm**. Please click on this link to RSVP if you haven't already done so: [MTACLB Potluck RSVP](#). We'll have a chance to meet new members, catch up together and pick up a hard copy of the directory if you requested one.

I'm really excited about our **Piano Masterclass with Dr. Grace Fong on 9/28 (at 5pm)** at Bethlehem Lutheran Church. Make sure to email Hannah Yi by Friday, September 12th with any students who wish to apply to play! Encourage your piano students to attend and observe. There is plenty of room at the church. Thank you, Hannah, for bringing this to our teachers and students!

Our new **Fall Festival will be held on October 18th** with two wonderful judges. **Registration opens on Monday, 9/8** on our website and it's open to all students, all instruments, all levels! Please see more details later in this newsletter.

This year promises new opportunities for our students and wonderful presentations and masterclasses for all of us. Please reach out to me at any time if you have questions about our Branch, CM or for anything at all.

Here's to a wonderful year in the Long Beach Branch!

Sarah Sandvig

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **September 1** (Mon): Certificate of Merit (CM) Registration Opens
- **September 13** (Sat): MTACLB Potluck
 - ⌚ 5:00pm | 🍴 Sarah Sandvig's House (2971 Shakespeare Dr. Los Alamitos, CA 90720)
 - 👥 All members invited: Please click on the following link to sign up for a dish to share: [MTACLB Potluck RSVP](#)
- **September 14** (Sun): MSSL Recital
 - ⌚ 3pm-4pm | 🍴 Westmont Senior Living Center: 4889 Katella Ave. Cypress, CA
- **September 16** (Tues): MTACLB Board Meeting
 - ⌚ 10:30am | 🍴 Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4452294595>
Zoom ID: 445-229-4595
- **September 28** (Sun): Piano Master Class with Grace Fong, director of keyboard studies at Chapman University
 - ⌚ 5:00pm 🍴 Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Los Alamitos — All instruments
- **September 30** (Tues): Certificate of Merit (CM) Registration Closes
- **October 1** (Wed): CM Evaluator Applications open
- **October 5** (Sun): CM Registration Fee Due
- **October 18** (Sat): MTACLB Fall Festival (Contemporary Music) (Jordan Boggess & Sarah Sandvig, Chair)
 - Evaluators: Shannon Kauble & Anthony Lopez
 - 🍴 Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Los Alamitos (3352 Katella Ave.) — All instruments
- **October 19** (Sun): MSSL Recital
 - ⌚ 3pm-4pm | 🍴 Westmont Senior Living Center: 4889 Katella Ave. Cypress, CA
- **October 21** (Tues): MTACLB Board Meeting
 - ⌚ 10:30am | 🍴 Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4452294595>
Zoom ID: 445-229-4595

MTACLB Potluck and Meet & Greet

Please mark your calendars for our MTACLB kick-off event on Saturday, 9/13! We will gather at my home for a dinner potluck, get the chance to meet new members, catch up with each other and pick up your paper directory if you requested one (you still can). Details and RSVP link are below:

September 13 (Sat): MTACLB Potluck



5:00pm |



Sarah Sandvig's House (2971 Shakespeare Dr. Los Alamitos, CA 90720)



All members invited: Please click on the following link to sign up for a dish to share: [MTACLB Potluck RSVP](#)

See you there!
Sarah Sandvig

Upcoming BRANCH FESTIVALS

We are excited to announce our upcoming Branch Festivals:

- **Fall Festival** – *October 18, 2025* (1 Contemporary selection)
- **Theme Festival** – *November 15, 2025* (*Music in Nature*, 1 selection)

Both festivals are open to **all students and instruments**. Each will feature evaluators who provide written feedback, winners selected for each recital, and will be held at **Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Los Alamitos**.

Please begin selecting repertoire with your students so they have the opportunity to participate. If your students are also preparing for **Certificate of Merit**, you may be able to select pieces that fulfill both Festival and CM requirements.

Registration Dates

- Fall Festival opens Monday, **September 8- on our website mtaclb.com**
- Theme Festival opens Tuesday, **October 7- on our website mtaclb.com**



Fall Festival – “Contemporary Music”

Chairs: Jordan Boggess & Sarah Sandvig

Date: Saturday, October 18, 2025

Location: BLC – Sanctuary

Entry Deadline: October 8, 2025

Entry Fee: \$35

This competitive branch festival is open to all levels of keyboard, instrumental, and voice students. Students will perform **one piece from the Contemporary period**, which may include Classical, Pop, Jazz, or other modern genres. Performances are held in recital format (with an audience), grouped by age. Multiple recitals may be scheduled depending on enrollment. Evaluators will provide written comments for all participants and award **1st, 2nd, and 3rd place**, with honorable mentions at the judges' discretion.



Theme Festival – “Music in Nature”

Chair: Sarah Sandvig

Date: Saturday, November 15, 2025

Location: BLC – Sanctuary

Entry Deadline: November 7, 2025

Entry Fee: \$35

This annual competitive branch festival is open to all levels of keyboard, instrumental, and voice students. The festival theme changes each year; this year's theme is **Music in Nature**. Performance length should not exceed **five minutes**. An evaluator will provide written feedback for all performers and award **1st, 2nd, and 3rd place**, with honorable mentions as appropriate.

Dr. Grace Fong Piano Masterclass

We're thrilled to host Dr. Grace Fong—internationally acclaimed pianist and educator—for a piano masterclass on **Sunday, September 28 at 5:00 PM** at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Los Alamitos. We're inviting student performers to participate.

Event Details

- Clinician: Dr. Grace Fong
- Date/Time: Sunday, Sept 28, 5:00–7:00 PM (performers please arrive by 4:30 PM to warm up)
- Location: Bethlehem Lutheran Church: 3352 Katella Ave. Los Alamitos, CA 90720
- Audience: Open to all—observers welcome

Performer Info (limited slots)

- Level: Intermediate to advanced
- Repertoire: 3–8 minutes of a polished solo work (movement/excerpt OK)
- Bring: A clean score (with your markings) for Dr. Fong
- Piano: Acoustic grand on site; no page turner provided
- Dress: Concert casual

How to Apply

Please email Hannah Yi (hannahsue127@gmail.com) by **Friday, Sept 12** with:

1. Student name & age/school
2. Teacher's name
3. Piece & composer (movement/key) + timing

Observers do not need to register, but seating is first-come, first-served. This is a fantastic chance to receive high-level coaching and hear peers perform—hope many of you will take part!

Certificate of Merit

CM news: September 1st- Registration is now open! Remember, if you are adding new students, copy the Student ID that pops up on the screen after adding the student. Send that ID to the new parent, then they can confirm with MTAC by using that ID. Once all students are in your database, you may enroll/register them for CM. Parents can pay the registration fee as soon as the student is enrolled, and have until October 5th. Not late registration payments will be allowed after 10/5.

Harold Wheeler Memorial Benefit Concert

Our annual Wheeler Memorial Concert will be on Sunday, January 24, 2026 at 3 pm at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Los Alamitos. Please consider participating in the benefit concert. This fund-raising event is for the scholarship our branch gives every spring to a qualified high school senior/junior, and it has a history of more than 30 years. Lately we have not received many non-piano performers even though we have string, woodwind, and vocal teachers in our branch. The concert will be more exciting if it represents the diversity of our branch teachers and will show your students that teachers also practice and perform.

Please contact me if you have any questions or if you plan to perform at the concert:
yukikonobles@gmail.com.

Long Beach Branch Elected Officers

President	Sarah Sandvig
First Vice President	Yukiko Nobles
Second Vice President	Hannah Yi
Recording Secretary	Lynne Graham
Corresponding Secretary/Honorary Advisor	Vanessa Dokko
Treasurer	Mary Inui
Membership Secretary	Susan High
Certificate of Merit Advisor	Sarah Sandvig
Parliamentarian	Gary Beaston

Long Beach Branch Appointed Chairpersons

ASCAP	Samara Rice
Branch Recitals	Sharon Collins & Sarah Sandvig
Community Outreach/MSSL	Andrea Chou-Wu
Composers Today/Improvisation	Lisa Kato-Fitchett
Directory	Yukiko Nobles & Sarah Sandvig
Ensemble Festival	Lynne Graham
Fall Festival	Jordan Boggess & Sarah Sandvig
Spring Festival	Sarah Sandvig & Shannon Kauble
Newsletter	Nancy Carr
Piano Curator	Sarah Sandvig
Piano Sonata/Sonatina Competition	Willie Chen
MTACLB Baroque Festival	Sharon Collins
Teacher Referral Service	Website/Sarah Sandvig
Theme Festival	Sarah Sandvig
VOCE	Nancy Carr
Webmaster	Sarah Sandvig
Website	www.mtaclb.com
Wheeler Memorial Concert	Yukiko Nobles
Wheeler Scholarship Selection	Marla Devich & Vanessa Dokko

SCJBF Summer Newsletter

The Annual SCJBF General Meeting will take place on via Zoom.

Topic: SCJBF General Meeting on 9-7-25 at 2:30 pm

Time: Sep 7, 2025 02:30 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82268386057?pwd=nYZQtrrWqhaRfbSKtdvhAEzLrm4UCH.1>

Meeting ID: 822 6838 6057

Passcode: 796862

I have some exciting news to share! SCJBF is now running the Branch Festivals independent of MTAC and will pay for the festival venue, insurance, judges and hospitality expenses. All competition rules remain about the same. The new restructuring will make the festivals more streamlined and efficient.

1. Teachers will pay a \$35 SCJBF Annual Teacher Participation Fee then select the SCJBF Branch Festival where they want their students to compete. There are now 19 SCJBF Branch Keyboard Festivals. Please see the attached PDF.
2. SCJBF Branch Festivals will have a 100-student cap. Overflow students will go to another SCJBF Branch Festival in the same region. Branch Festivals are meant to be a qualifying round. Students are evaluated on how well they perform their piece according to the standards set by SCJBF.
3. Teachers can still enter students in AMB or with non-keyboard instruments at the Branch level but students cannot be selected as Winners (only Honorable Mention is possible). ***SCJBF will no longer allow works composed by other Baroque composers.***
4. Branch Bach Festivals must be completed by March 31, 2026.
5. SCJBF Regional Festivals will also have a 100-student cap.

SCJBF would like to know which 2025 Branch Festival Chairs would like to continue helping with the SCJBF Branch Festivals. Please look for an email from Deborah How regarding this.

Other exciting news...there is now an **SCJBF Harpsichord Region!**

Upcoming dates:

- **Complete Works Audition:** Sunday, September 28, 2025, 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM at California State University, Long Beach. This will be held in an open live audition format. ***Schedule information will be emailed to CWA teachers by September 15th.***
- **Complete Works Awards Concert:** Saturday, October 11, 2025, 2:00 PM at Covenant Presbyterian Church, Long Beach, 607 E. 3rd Street (at Atlantic Avenue), Long Beach 90802.

Cordially,

Pamela Worcester, General Chair

Southern California Junior Bach Festival *scjbf.org*

2025-2026 Music Students' Service League (MSSL)

This year, the Music Students' Service League will begin in-person recitals in September, and end in April of next year. There will be one recital each month hosted on the third Sunday at 3 PM. The recitals will be located at Westmont of Cypress (4989 Katella Avenue, Los Alamitos, CA 90720).

Recitals will last approximately one hour and we highly encourage students to stay until the end for Group photos if they are available. In order to sign up, please register through the Google Forms link attached below. Keep in mind that the deadline for signups will be a week prior to the recital date (the second Sunday of the month). All students who sign up will receive 5 hours of community service for every performance. Thanks so much!

Submission Form: <https://forms.gle/kt8cRX8WE1tqrwm18>

If you have any questions, feel free to contact us at: musicstudentsserviceleague@gmail.com

MEMBER NEWS

Pianist Althea Waites will present a concert in the Daniel Recital Hall at CSU/Long Beach on Sunday, September 14 at 4 PM. The program will include works by Margaret Bonds, Mozart, Chopin and Frederic Rzewski. Dr. Shun-Lin Chou, Associate Director of the Cole Conservatory, stated that she is being honored as a long-time faculty member and for 60 years as a concert artist and teacher. Admission is free and a reception will follow this special event.

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. No PDF's please.

Don't forget to check out our website:
www.mtaclb.com
for past newsletters, forms, maps, calendar, and more!

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: Yukiko Nobles: yukikonobles@gmail.com

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

Contact: Sarah Sandvig: sarahsandvig@gmail.com (to be added to our online database)

Reimbursements for Branch Expenses:

Contact: Mary Inui: jminui@gmail.com

Program, Masterclasses

Contact: Hannah Yi: hannahsue127@gmail.com

Membership

Susan High: susanhigh@gmail.com

Certificate of Merit

Contact: Sarah Sandvig: sarahsandvig@gmail.com

Newsletter

Contact: Nancy Carr carrmusicstudio@gmail.com

Additional Questions/Concerns

Contact: sarahsandvig@gmail.com

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.