



Music Teachers' Association of California Orange Coast Cities Branch Newsletter - September 2003

President: Carol Sporleder

Editor: Rena Kerimova

Layout: Judy Jenkins

Calendar

September

- 17 Wednesday
Branch Meeting – 9:30 am
Dr. Richard Grayson
Workshop & Keyboard Improvisation
MISSION VIEJO LIBRARY
- 26 Friday
CM Informational Meeting
9:00 am
JUDY JENKINS' HOUSE

October

- 4 Saturday
Community Service Recital entries
due to Patrice Diana
- 8 Wednesday
Branch Meeting – 10:00 am
MISSION VIEJO LIBRARY
Theme Festival Entries Due
- 19 Saturday
Community Service Recital
2:00 pm
Alterra Wynwood, Laguna Hills
- 27 Sunday
Showcase Recital
MISSION VIEJO LIBRARY

Branch Meeting

September 17th – 9:30 am
Mission Viejo Library

Dr. Richard Grayson: Workshop & Keyboard Improvisation

Richard Grayson received his Ph.D in composition from UCLA and from 1969 to 2001 was on the faculty of Occidental College in Los Angeles. His specialties are keyboard improvisation and live electronic music. Since 1980 Richard has given improvisation concerts and seminars for the Yamaha Music Education Foundation and has been invited to Tokyo three times to perform and teach. He has also been a featured performer at two national Piano Pedagogy conferences and taught master classes at the Oficina de Musica Festival in Curitiba, Brazil. In September of 2001 he gave a solo concert improvisation and visual-electronic music at LACMA, and was a featured performer at the 2002 and 2003 MTAC annual conventions in Riverside and Santa Clara. Since Fall 2001 he has taught Music Theory at the Crossroads school and Keyboard Studies at the New Roads school, both in Santa Monica.



*Deadline for the October Newsletter is Sept. 20th
Submit information and articles to:
Rena Kerimova, 6526 Adobe Cir. Rd, Irvine 92612
Email: TAbasov@gsm.uci.edu
Articles should be formatted and ready to print.*



Carol's Corner (President's Message)

by Carol Sporleder

Welcome back! I hope everyone had a relaxing summer. As always, it is over too fast. I just returned from an exciting trip to Europe and I need a vacation to rest from my vacation! I am very excited about the upcoming year. We have seen many old friends transfer to the new Orange Coast Cities North branch, but we will continue to be a large and very strong branch and will offer all of the same programs as in past years. We hope to maintain a close relationship with the OCC North branch, and we invite their members to attend our meetings, as they have also extended that invitation to our members. Our meetings are generally the second Wednesday of the month, and they will hold theirs the third Wednesday at OrchePia in Irvine.

For those of you who do not know me, I'd like to offer a little background information. I am originally from Chicago, and moved to Laguna Niguel with my husband and two children in 1988 when my husband's job transfer brought us here. I received a Bachelor of Science and Master of Science Degree in Education from Northern Illinois University. I taught elementary school for 10 years and actively worked in Children's Theatre and many musical productions. I began playing the piano at three years of age. I come from a musical family with four generations of professional musicians. I also play the guitar, flute, and alto sax and am currently playing alto sax in the Laguna Community Concert Band with Bobbette Cameron. Although I had studied piano, performed and accompanied for many years, I became involved in the excellent piano pedagogy program with Nakyong Chai at Saddleback upon moving to California, and decided the time was right to begin accepting students, and begin teaching in my home in 1992. Shortly after, I became a member of MTAC. I began by assisting with festivals and hospitality, eventually becoming Newsletter editor and a member of the board. I STRONGLY ENCOURAGE all members, especially new members, to become actively involved in our wonderful organization. I am amazed at the number of man-hours that are required to provide the CM program and our many festivals and recitals. Unfortunately only a very small number of members give a great deal of their time to provide these services for all of us.

The state convention in Santa Clara was a great success. The theme this year was "MTAC Celebrates Seventy Years of Certificate of Merit." OCC member Judy Jenkins is the state CM coordinator and was involved in a very interesting panel discussion about the evolution of CM featuring Clarice Lincoln and Dr. Bob Bennett speaking about the many changes in CM over the years. (The new syllabus is now available for purchase, and Anne Prestridge will have several available at the meeting.) State historian Betty Martin prepared a very informative display of CM materials throughout the years including tests that our own Bobbette Cameron had taken as a piano student in the 1960s. (Little did she know then that she was destined to become the Queen of CM for OCC!) Many of our members attended the convention, and we were very well represented at the annual business meeting with all 9 of our allotted delegates in attendance! Many of our members also had students performing at the convention. After attending the Presidents' breakfast where the branch presidents meet and discuss the various programs taking place in their branches, I felt especially proud to represent the Orange Coast Cities branch which is without question one of the finest and strongest in the state of California. We also received two awards at the convention. Congratulations to Laurie Meinhold for submitting our branch scrapbook which won the "Popular Choice" award. We were also given an award for our newsletter for "Outstanding Presentation of CM News". Congratulations goes to Bobbette Cameron for keeping us informed of anything and everything that has to do with CM.

Community Service Recitals
Beginning October 18, 2003

Six (6) recitals throughout the year will be held at 2 assisted living retirement facilities in South Orange County (Alterra and Paragon Gardens). 20 students are allowed per recital, and teachers may enter up to 4 students who may perform, serve as ushers, or both. Students gain the experience of performing in front of an audience without suffering the anxiety of being judged and critiqued. They also learn the invaluable gift of giving back their music to a community that greatly appreciates their talent and their energy.

Performance pieces can be solos or ensembles, and must be memorized and highly polished. Students may only perform one piece, and time is limited to 3 minutes per piece. Performers earn five (5) hours of community service credit, and ushers earn three (3) hours of credit. The fee is \$5 per student (none for ushers unless participating as a performer), and \$6 per ensemble. (Performing siblings are only \$5 per family). Registration forms for the October 18 recital must be received by October 4, 2003. Please mail to: **Patrice Diana, 27967 Ivory, Mission Viejo, CA 92691**. For more information, call **Patrice Diana, 949-770-2410**, or **Laura Combs, 949-499-5368**. The instructions, application form, and maps are in this newsletter. Please save them for future use.

Congratulations to our branch winners!!

SOUTHWESTERN YOUTH MUSIC FESTIVAL:

Open categories:

Student of Yoshie Akimoto and Itoe Honda Akimoto:
1st place Lisa Iwaki
Students of Dr. Valentina Gottlieb:
1st place Albert Zhu, Sarina Zhao (2)
3rd place Albert Zhu
Students of Betty Liu:
1st place Steven Duan
3rd place Natalie Chieng
Students of Pamela Worcester:
1st place Jean Lee, Tiffanie Yu
2nd place Hannah Ahn, Lynn Worcester, Jean Lee
3rd place Mai Cao, Tiffany Yu
4th place Hannah Ahn

Qualified categories:

Students of Yoshie Akimoto and Itoe Honda Akimoto:
1st place Christopher Vidmar, Youmi Park,
Remy Harris, Wiki Park
2nd place Renna Harris
3rd place Kasumi Chung
4th place Mokichi Kawaguchi, Katie Chen
Students of Dr. Valentina Gottlieb:
2nd place Tracie Hara, Eugene Ko
4th place Sarina Zhao
Students of Betty Liu:
1st place Samantha Wai
4th place Carl Liu, Sabrina Yen
Students of Pamela Worcester:
1st place Rachel Wan
2nd place Aiko Hojo, Jenna Ahn
3rd place Connor Carreras, Kaori Ishii

College Artist Guild Recitalist:

Student of Yoshie Akimoto and Itoe Honda Akimoto:
1st place Yuko Suzuki

Young Pianist category:

Student of Prof. Leonid Levitsky:
3rd place Vijay Venkatesh

~~~~~  
Student of Prof. Leonid Levitsky, Vijay Venkatesh:  
International Russian Music Piano Competition, 3<sup>rd</sup> place  
Young Musicians Foundation Scholar  
Talent Search Competition, Youth Expo of Orange Co. winner

Students of Pamela Worcester:

**Cypress College Piano Competition:**

Grand prize: Brian Kim; 2<sup>nd</sup> place, Mai Cao; 3<sup>rd</sup> place, Tiffanie Yu

**Emerging Artist Competition (Solo Piano Division):**

1<sup>st</sup> place: Mai Cao, Brian Kim; 2<sup>nd</sup> place: Jean Lee

## CERTIFICATE OF MERIT (CM)

We have all started our fall teaching schedules with new energy and inspiration gleaned from the 2003 Convention in Santa Clara. Fall also means CM Registration time. By now you are used to the online registration, which will be available on or about September 15. The question is...do you remember your password? Remember you can have your password emailed to you by clicking on "Forgot Password". This also means you need to update your email address if it has changed! Bobbette can get your password if your email address has changed but it will take a while.

**READ ALL OF THE REGISTRATION MATERIALS!!!!** There are changes every year. Remember: 1) There will be no late registration. 2) YAG students will be screened at Regional Panel. and the biggie: 3) There is a new piano syllabus! See the info elsewhere in this newsletter. Especially notice that improvisation is included as an optional element for piano only. However, there are guidelines that must be followed; see the announcement elsewhere in this newsletter! Be sure to read the Policy Pamphlet, available in the Registration packet and online at MTAC.org. Other registration instructions and information are also available online. If you do not get a Registration Packet at the meeting, you can pick one up at **Katy Dougherty's** in Mission Viejo, or **Bobbette Cameron's** in Laguna Beach.

### STATE CERTIFICATE OF MERIT THEME RECITALS 2003-2004

Too good to be missed!

The Theme Recitals for the years 2003-2004 will feature music of excellent lesser-known composers. Students may select any piece by a composer from this list of composers. Single movements must be 7 minutes or less. Multi-movement works must be 5 minutes or less.

#### Piano Composer List:

J.C. Bach, L. Gottschalk, R. Muczynski, C.P.E.Bach, E. Granados, V. Persichetti, W.F.Bach, G.F. Handel, O. Pinto, S. Barber, S.Heller, G. Platti, G. Binkerd, F. Fensel, E. Satie, W. Bolcom, P. Hindemith, Clara Schumann, Amy Beach, L. Janacek, A.Scriabin, A. Berg, Th. Kirchner, B. Smetana, H. Cowell, A. Liadoff, A. Soler, N. Dello Joio, E.MacDowell, J. Strauss, M. de Falla, B. Martinu, A. Tansman, G. Faure, G. Menotti, L. Tomasek, J. Field, N. Medtner, J. Turina, C. Franck, D. Milhaud, H. Villa-Lobos, N. Gade, M. Moussorgsky, J.H. Vorisek

**MAILING LIST:** You are receiving this newsletter because (1) you have paid dues to MTAC-OCC; (2) you have not indicated that you are leaving MTAC-OCC; or (3) you are an honored special recipient (branch prez, prospective member, etc.) If at least one of the above is not true, please notify Judy Jenkins, 949-859-8849 or [jenkinsmusic@cox.net](mailto:jenkinsmusic@cox.net). If you know of someone who should have received this glorious publication and didn't, also please notify Judy.

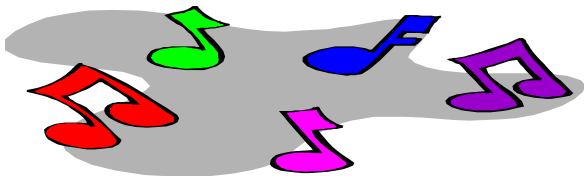
**Orange Coast Cities  
Branch Board  
2003-2004**

President: **Carol Sporleder**  
First Vice President: **Cathy Tibbitts**  
Second Vice President: **Christine Jones**  
Treasurer: **Anne Prestridge**  
Recording Secretary: **Nilou Sarraf**  
Corresponding Secretary: **Rena Kerimova**  
Web Site Coordinator: **Maxine Casper**

Directors:

Past President: **Valerie Radlick**  
Certificate of Merit: **Bobbette Cameron**  
CM Strings: **Shelley Johnson**  
Festival Administrator: **Pamela  
Worcester**  
Director: **Heidi Jones**

\*\*\*\*\*



**OCC BRANCH WEBSITE**

**View the Newsletter on the Internet**

If you have internet access, visit the  
Orange Coast Cities Branch Home page:

**[members.cox.net/mtacocc](http://members.cox.net/mtacocc)**

**(DO NOT USE WWW.)**

You can contact the  
Web Master at **[bcasper@cox.net](mailto:bcasper@cox.net)** or  
**[mtacocc@cox.net](mailto:mtacocc@cox.net)**

**THE NEW PIANO SYLLABUS IS OUT!!**

It is required for the 2004 CM Evaluations! Some will be available at the September meeting at a bargain price!. Or you can order it from the State Office at \$22 including tax and mailing. It comes packaged in a loose-leaf format with three holes punched to be put in a three ring binder with dividers for the different sections.

**Section 1:** Be sure to check out the first ten pages. There is a lot of general information given. It will save you from asking lots of questions later!

**Section 5:** Please examine the Reference Section at the back of the Syllabus. It starts on page 77. There is a list of the composers separated into chronological periods. There is an extra category added on to the Twentieth Century period. It alphabetically lists the Pedagogical Composers of our day. These composers are also contemporary, and should not be considered a separate group.

The **Literature Index** on pages 90 through 101 is a great help! Pages 90 to 98 combines all of the music in the Single Composer section of each level into one index. You can have an overview of pieces and books at all levels for each composer. Pages 99 to 101 compiles the Collections section of each level into one index.

A few **updates (and more to follow):**

On Level 8 Technique, the keys for the Major arpeggii should be Db and Gb, not D and Gb. Please make that correction on page 13 and 62.

The Celebration Series, published by Harris, has been issued in a new edition, Piano Odyssey. All editions of this fine series are approved for the syllabus and CM performance.

The Technical Guide that was published by MTAC and available at the State Office is no longer current. In case you have one at home, know that it does not conform to the new syllabus requirements.

## VOCE INFORMATION

Go to MTAC.org and click VOCE. In the guidelines you will find the deadlines and also the application. Teachers are supposed to print to application on YELLOW paper, back-to-back, since it is a double-sided application.

The deadlines are as follows:

|                |                                                            |
|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| March 7, 2004  | Branch auditions must be completed                         |
| March 15, 2004 | All applications and fees postmarked & sent to State Chair |
| April 4, 2004  | VOCE State Finals at Chapman University                    |

## Improvisation is part of CM!

Well, it's an option anyway. Here are some of the guidelines to use improv with your students who are interested, and there will be a more complete article in the upcoming California Music Teacher magazine. But for now, here's some things you might like to know.

- Improvisation is optional and not rated by the Evaluator.
- Improvisation is limited to 5 - 45 seconds maximum.
- The resources for all Improvisation used in CM will be from "The Improvisation Syllabus and Guide" (ISG) or the "Games and Activities for Improvisation" (GAI) books available from the MTAC State office.
- Improvisation may substitute for one Technical Item of a multi-key Category. Any Improvisation Project, Game or Activity may be played "in lieu of" a required scale, chord

## OCC Theme Festival

Let's **M**ake Music(k)!!! is the theme for this year's Theme Festival, featuring **U**nic of the Classical and Romantic eras by composers whose last names begin with the letters M, U, S, I, C, or K. Only pieces in their original forms may be entered; no arrangements are acceptable. Applications can be dropped off at either the September or October meeting.

Deadline: Wednesday, October 15  
Festival Date: Saturday, November 8

Location: Saddleback College  
Chair:: Chris Jones  
27444 Sereno  
Mission Viejo, CA 92691  
949-859-7463

progression, etc. in one of the required keys. (next column →)

- Improvisation may be any level from the ISG or GAI and is independent of the students' registered CM level. Example: A CM Level 5 student may play an Improvisation Assignment, Project or Game from Level 2 or 7 or any level.

## **Community Service Recital Application**

Please remove the previous CSR Application from handbook and replace it with this Form.  
(Keep this form and photocopy as needed)

Send the completed form with one check for \$5.00 per student (\$5.00 per family of siblings) or \$6.00 per ensemble made out to MTAC Orange Coast Cities, to **Patrice Diana, 27967 Ivory, Mission Viejo, CA 92691** at least two (2) weeks before the scheduled recital to secure placement in the program. Only 4 students are allowed per teacher and there is a limit of 20 students per recital. Only the first 20 applications received will be honored, so REGISTER EARLY! Students are to perform one piece or movement. There will be no exceptions! Repertoire must be at least 16 measures in length, with a maximum time of 3 minutes per piece. Pieces are to be memorized, polished and performance ready. (This is not a venue to "try-out" a piece in front of an audience).

Please share the following information with each participant:

Teachers are welcome to attend these recitals to assist MSSL members and senior residents of the care centers.

Since there is not space for parents to attend, children should be DROPPED OFF 15 minutes before the recital begins, and PICKED UP after the recital, usually about an hour later. Teachers and high school MSSL members will supervise young children. Do not park in the retirement facility parking lot since parking spaces are for residents and their guests only. Performers MUST stay for the duration of the recital.

Performers are requested to dress as nicely as possible to convey respect for the occasion. Casual attire, jeans, t-shirts and athletic wear are not appropriate. Check MSSL dress code in [www.MTAC.org](http://www.MTAC.org). NOTE: In the best interest of the senior citizens' health, performers who are sick with cold or flu are requested not to perform and inform their teacher. Five hours of Community Service Credit will be awarded to each performer. Three hours of Community Service Credit will be awarded to ushers and assistants who contact Patrice Diana at (949) 770-2410 at least 2 weeks before each recital. They are required to dress appropriately as well, or may purchase a MSSL polo shirt for \$17.00 to wear for the occasion. Approximately 3-4 ushers will be needed at each recital.

### DRIVING DIRECTIONS FROM THE 5 FREEWAY:

#### **Alterra Wynwood**

24962 Calle Aragon, Laguna Woods

Exit 5 Fwy. at **El Toro** and go west to **Moulton**, approx. 1 mile.

Turn left on **Moulton** and go approx. .1 mile to **Calle Aragon**.

Turn left on **Calle Aragon**, and make immediate right into the community center. (Do not go through the gate.)

#### **Paragon Gardens**

27783 Center Dr., Mission Viejo

Exit 5 Fwy. at Crown Valley and go east to Marguerite, approx. 1 mile.

Turn right on Marguerite and make a left at the first traffic signal, Center Drive, approx. .1 mile. (Look for the Home Depot sign.)

Take Center Dr. to the bottom of the hill and turn left into Paragon Gardens. Go to the back of the facility for the main entrance, which is also the recital hall.