



CERTIFICATE OF MERIT NEWSLETTER

October 2008

CM Information Chair: Amy Chen-Huey Martin, martin3750@comcast.net
December Newsletter deadline – November 30, 2008

2008-2009 CM CALENDAR

Registration

- September 15** Database is open for registration
- November 15** Registration is closed. No late registration. Branches may not make their own deadline date. Registration closes at midnight on 11/15 for all branches.
- November 16** - Fees, one teacher one check, must be submitted directly to the Branch Chair and must be postmarked no later than November 16.
- Work Contracts (if you have them) **MUST** also be submitted at this time!
- December 15** Deadline for Branch CM fees due to State Office
Check from Branch to State Office for the branch CM fees must be postmarked by 12/15 or a 1% late fee will be imposed.
- Enter Evaluation Information Online***
- January 2** Database is open for entering evaluation information online
Note: Individual branches will set their own deadline for teachers to complete their online evaluation information
- January 15** Deadline for Panel students to drop back to Non-Panel status

CM Evaluation Dates

Feb. 21 –Apr. 5 Branch CM Evaluations North and South
Note: Teachers check with your Branch Chair for your branch’s evaluation dates

Panel Regionals

Feb. 28 –March 1 - Piano Panel Regional North [West Valley College in Saratoga](#)
- Piano Panel Regional South
- Strings Panel Regional South **One location only:** [Cerritos Community College \(11110 Alondra Blvd., Norwalk, CA 90650\)](#)

March 7 – 8 - Piano Panel Regional North **March 8 only at San Jose State University**
- Piano Panel Regional South

Panel Finals

March 15 Deadline for Panel Final Application. No late application.

Mar. 27–29 Panel Finals South
3/27–29: Piano
3/28 Winds (North and South) & Voice (North and South)
3/29 Strings (North and South)

April 4–5 Panel Finals North (Piano) [West Valley College in Saratoga](#)

Convention

April 15 - Deadline for Convention Applications. No late application.
- Deadline to apply for Make up Procedures – High School Students only

May 2–3 CM Council meeting

May 15 - Deadline for Completion of Make Up Procedure (MUP) Evaluations – High School Students only
- **Early Bird registration for Convention**

June 1 - Convention recital schedules posted on the state website
- Deadline to enter MUP results. Database closes after June 1

July 3–July 7 Convention at Santa Clara Marriott. [2700 Mission College Blvd Santa Clara, CA 95054](#)
2009 Convention Theme: Got Rhythm?

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Scarlatti Sonatas – Keyboard

Scarlatti Sonatas of advanced difficulty are now allowed for CM Advanced Level. The following resources may help determine whether a particular Sonata qualifies for Advanced Level:

- CM Piano Syllabus 2007: Guidelines for Choosing Repertoire, pages 34-37
- Hinson, Maurice: Guide to the Pianist’s Repertoire, 3rd Edition (Indiana University Press)
- Magrath, Jane: The Pianist’s Guide to Standard Teaching and Performance Literature (Alfred Publishing)

If in doubt about whether a Sonata is acceptable, don’t use it.

Multi-Movement Works: Suites – Sonata/Sonatina – Preludes and Fugues – Variations

The teacher should keep the length of the evaluation in mind when choosing longer works.

- No double dot repeats
- D.C. and D.S. al Fines are OK
- 1st and 2nd Endings OK

Suites

- Generally, evaluators will hear only one movement of a Suite

- However, a student may prepare more than one movement of a Suite if applying for Convention Theme or Ensemble Recitals. Then the evaluator must hear all prepared movements within the 7 minute time limit

Sonata/Sonatina

- The evaluator will hear only one movement of a Sonata or Sonatina

Preludes and Fugues

- The student may prepare either the Prelude or the Fugue
- The evaluator will hear only the Prelude or the Fugue, but not both (Except the Panel/YAG audition)
- Multiple movements are not allowed for Convention Festival Recitals or Convention Materials Recitals

Variations

- Students need not prepare all the variations of a longer work, but should prepare enough variations to demonstrate the student’s abilities and show the varied characters. (For example, if playing Mozart’s “Twinkle Twinkle, “ just use 2 or 3 minutes worth of music...maybe 3-4 variations plus the theme and the closing variation.)
- Evaluators will hear only the variations the student has prepared.

Q & A

Question #1: Can music by David Lanz be used for CM?

Answer: Music by David Lanz may be used for CM, but may not be used as a Syllabus piece.

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**Question #2:** Will the Celebration “Odyssey” series be allowed for Piano Syllabus pieces since the “Perspective” series has now replaced it?

**Answer:** To simplify the process, both the Odyssey and Perspective books are acceptable as Syllabus pieces for the designated levels.

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Question #3: A teacher in our branch has high school students as assistant teachers. She oversees, but they teach. She would like to enter a couple of the students taught by the high school assistants in Path B. Is that allowed?

Answer:

No, absolutely not. These high school assistants must each apply and be accepted for an individual MTAC membership in order to enter students in MTAC programs including CM Path A and Path B. And these students must be their own students. Please read Article A, Section 7 of the MTAC Organizational Standing Rules, page 25 in the 2008-2009 Reference Guide & Membership Directory – Only Individual Members in good standing may enroll students in MTAC programs, and these students must be their own students.

Article I, Section 3 of the Certificate of Merit Policy – The MTAC teacher must be the primary teacher of all students they enter. The primary teacher is one who personally teaches a student on a regular basis for the majority of lessons.

Members who enroll students in another teacher's behalf risk the following:

- I. Being removed from good standing
- II. Forfeiting the privilege of participating in Certificate of Merit and other MTAC programs
- III. Loss of membership

Any teacher who has inadvertently broken this rule and policy is strongly encouraged to arrange to delete any students who belong to another teacher immediately.

Please be advised that any teacher who enrolls students in CM through another teacher also jeopardizes membership in the organization.

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**Question #4**

Theme Recital: How much of the piece must have irregular or whatever meter to qualify? Will 1-2 measures of hemiola qualify? Will 1-2 changes of meter qualify? etc.

**Answer:**

A large amount of a piece must include hemiola, not one or two measures; the meter must change frequently, not once or twice.

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Question #5: I have two repertoire questions and hopefully you can research them for me.

There is a Bastien graded series called Piano Literature. In the old syllabus, Volume 4 was good for levels 6-8 or 6-9 (don't remember which) but in the new syllabus it's only good for levels 6-7 (even though there're all sorts of level 8 pieces in it). There is a new Volume 5 out but it is not yet in the syllabus. Does it count for levels 8-9?

Also in the Kjos series edited by Snell, there are volumes of Piano Repertoire for different eras (Baroque and Classical, Romantic and Contemporary) at each level P-10. There is a new series out called Essential Piano Rep. which has selections from each era in a single volume for each level, levels P-10. Can we use these as CM books for the designated level?

Answer: These pieces can be used as non-syllabus pieces. We are not adding any more collections to the syllabus until the next revision. If the pieces are not leveled use the following resources to help you level the pieces in this book

- Repertoire Guide in the 2007 Piano Syllabus pages 33-37
- Repertoire lists in the Syllabus
- "The Pianist's Guide to Standard Teaching and Performance literature by Jane Magrath" (Alfred Publ.)

The single composer list overrides the anthologies. This works both ways - a piece may be included in a higher CM level, or in a lower CM level. Council suggests that the teacher who uses a piece from an anthology that is at a higher level than the anthology's listing in the syllabus, but is in the single composers list, then put the single composer collection and page number on the evaluation form. It would even be smart to send the single composer book with the student to the evaluation if the teacher is really worried.

Here is the pat answer for teachers asking specific piece or repertoire.
CM Council cannot answer each specific repertoire question.

"When in doubt, do not use the piece for CM". We recommend the teacher uses the piece for a studio recital. The piece may or may not be appropriate for CM evaluations, but most probably not worth the risk of a student/Evaluation being questioned or Remain at Level.

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**Question #6:** For New Materials Convention Recital, would a piece written within the past 10 years be from 1999-2009 or 1998-2008?

**Answer:** The cut off dates for 2009 New Materials is from 1999-2009.

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Question #7: As I was going through the Power Point Presentation that is on-line, I read that teachers should take a copy of the student's theory test and evaluation form. Does that mean to take a copy of the entire 8-12 page test or just the score of the test? Does that mean for all students or those in high school or those being considered for Convention recitals?

Answer: Just the Copy of the front page of the theory test which contains student's name, score, level, year, etc. Only for the high school students and convention recitals applicants.

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**Question #8:** As students begin to select their pieces for CM at this time of year I'd like to be able to tell them definitively whether pieces from my self published books are eligible for CM performance.

**Answer:** On page 5 of the Syllabus, the very last paragraph on the page. It says:  
2. Original unpublished compositions. Privately published compositions are eligible if they are copyrighted and available for purchase. Students may not play their own compositions."

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Question #9

Is Bumble Boogie a piece that can be used for CM at Level 9? If so, would it be Contemporary?

Answer:

CM Council cannot answer each specific repertoire question.

Here is our "pat answer".

We recommend the teacher uses the piece for a studio recital etc.... "when in doubt, do not use the piece for CM". The piece may or may not be appropriate for CM evaluations, but most probably not worth the risk of a student/Evaluation being questioned or RAL.

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The new improved Evaluator Availability Form has been released!

Please watch for emails from the Evaluator Chairs

The deadline for input is October 31st.

Dear Evaluators,

The Evaluator Availability Information form is now open. Evaluators can choose trainings, enter information to help us schedule carpools and then choose which branches and dates they would like to evaluate. The forms are now completely online and do not use the pdf format as in previous years. The system works similar to your student CM registration.

**Deadline for input is October 31<sup>st</sup> at midnight.**

**Log on** to your Teacher Home Page (as you would to register students) go to the link **Evaluator Availability Form**

There are 2 main pages for your input:

- Read the instructions at the top of page one.
- Click on evaluator trainings in your area and proceed to check the boxes and enter the data for number of days, carpools and so on.
- Click Submit to enter the data in the database and verify that that your entries are correct.
- After you click Submit the first time, a link to page two – Evaluator Choice Form, will appear.
- Page two - **Evaluator Choice Form**, to choose your dates and branches. The first time you see Evaluator Choice Form there won't be any branch dates listed.
  - To see the possibilities, click the update button.
  - You will then see the choices for your state zone (Northern or Southern California) and instrument(s) on this Evaluator Choice Selection Form.
  - Make your choices and check the boxes.
  - Review your choices, read the agreement at the bottom of the page and click update.

- If you do not want to make any changes click the cancel button. Both the update and cancel buttons return to the Evaluator Choice form so that you can review your choices.
- When you are satisfied with your selections, print out a copy for your records. *(Remember, if you want to work on a specific weekend, you must give us as many site choices as possible; one date and one site will limit your opportunities.)*
- click the links at the bottom to return to the Teacher Home Page or to Logout.
- **Remember to click UPDATE at the bottom of this page every time you make any changes!**

You will be able to review your choices at any time, but no changes can be made after midnight on Oct. 31. Your evaluator chair will contact you in January by email about your assignments.



### **News from Evaluator Chairs - Training & Recruiting**

- **All Evaluators** are now required to attend a session every two years
  - **New Evaluators** are still required to attend before they work

If you did not attend a training session last year or at this summer's convention, you must attend training before evaluating.

#### **Northern sessions** ~ Judi Sands-Pertel, Evaluator Chair Training and Recruitment

- Saturday, October 18th in the central San Jose area at 10:30 a.m.
- Sunday, November 2nd in the Danville area at 2:30 p.m.
- Sunday, January 11th in the Sacramento area at 2:30 p.m.

RSVP [jspmidi@aol.com](mailto:jspmidi@aol.com) for details/address information

#### **Southern sessions** ~ Peggy Taylor, Evaluator Chair Training and Recruitment

- Sunday, November 9th 2:30pm (This session is mainly for New Evaluators)
- Sunday, November 16th 2:30pm (This session is mainly for Experienced Evaluators)

Both at the home of Peggy Taylor, 11322 Eloise St., Cerritos, CA 90703

Home Phone (562)402-4010 Email [peggy09876@yahoo.com](mailto:peggy09876@yahoo.com)

## Panel North

Panel Regionals will be held on the following dates:

February 28, March 1 at West Valley College in Saratoga

March 8 at San Jose State University

Those students needing a Saturday evaluation please contact the Panel Chair at [nanchopin@sbcglobal.net](mailto:nanchopin@sbcglobal.net) by January 5, 2009.

Branches will be assigned to a certain weekend once Registration is completed.

Panel Finals will be held April 4 and 5, 2009 at West Valley College.

Please consult the Panel requirements posted on the MTAC website under CM Forms and Information (Convention and Panel).

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## Voice

Attention voice teachers! We wanted to clarify a few things...

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1. For the new ear-training format, students will listen to examples (sung recordings on a cd) of intervals, scales, dynamics, terms and ear-training (all level appropriate). These written examples are on the last page of the theory test. Students will look at two possible answers for each question and circle the one they hear on the recording. This is the same format as the piano ear-training.
2. Panel voice students must sight-read.
3. All voice students will do the following with the evaluator:
  1. Sightread both melodically and rhythmically
  2. Vaccai (levels 4 and above)
  3. Announce their songs, periods and composers and give brief translations if required.
4. An addendum will be posted soon!
5. Voice Sight Singing and Rhythm Practice book is now available. Teachers may copy the levels for their students. Please mail a check for \$22.00 made out to Singer's Heart Studios, 3341 Pruneridge Ave. Santa Clara, CA 95051. If you have questions, please email Voice Chair North, Brigitte Doss-Johnson, at [moo5@pacbell.net](mailto:moo5@pacbell.net)

## **Ensemble Recitals**

As teachers are planning their students' CM repertoire, they may consider using an ensemble piece for one of the selections.

- The Convention Ensemble recitals are designed to promote the exploration and performance of ensemble repertoire and is open to students Level 3 and above.
- All students in the ensemble must be registered for CM.
- Students do not need to be registered at the same level to participate
- Students may perform repertoire for duo piano, piano four hands or more, or sonata level repertoire with different instruments.
- The music need not be memorized.
- The teacher(s) must apply and submit the online application for all students in the ensemble.
- For ensembles of the same instrument, the same evaluator will hear each member of the ensemble at adjacent times.
- For different instrument ensembles, the appropriate evaluators will hear the ensemble at different times.
- If you are using more than one piano for your ensemble, you must notify your branch chair by November 1<sup>st</sup>.

For further information, contact Linda Rohmund, [Lindapiano@yahoo.com](mailto:Lindapiano@yahoo.com),  
Theme/Ensemble Chair

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### ***New Link – 2008 Convention Recording***

You can listen to 16 clips of video recordings from the 2008 convention, mainly Piano Solo and the Young Artist Guild recital, at <http://mtac.org/recordings>. These recordings are the first of a total four phases. More will be posted online in the future.