Welcome to March Madness month! (You thought this only applied to college basketball, but I think it works for CM preparation too.) Undoubtedly, your CM students are enthusiastically studying for their theory tests and trying to perfect their pieces/technique. Just a reminder: there will be no branch meeting this month.

Saddleback College has been our home for music festivals since this branch was chartered in 1974. We have had a wonderful 40 year relationship which I hope will continue for many decades to come. Starting in March 2014, the Campus Police have decided to enforce the 24/7 parking permit rule. This has been in existence for the last ten years. We always request to get free parking in Lot 12 (not staff spots) for MTAC OCC events and have been very fortunate that they allowed this to happen. Because the Campus Police are no longer being subsidized by the state, their only source of income has to do with parking permit sales. Please understand why you now must purchase a $2/day parking permit from one of the five yellow parking permit dispensers located on the Saddleback College campus. There is more info about this in this newsletter. Please let your CM students know about this too!

We had an amazing experience last month. Jane Bastien presented an elementary and early-intermediate level master class to some of our branch members’ students. She offered very useful suggestions and was able to correct errors on the spot. I always enjoy hearing her count and sing the rhythm with her special “quarter, quarter, half-note” speak. It was a true delight to have Jane in our presence. She even gave each performing student a gift (a collection of Valentine’s Day pieces that she wrote). After the master class, our members enjoyed speaking with Jane and her daughter, Lori. I think everyone left feeling a little more educated about teaching beginning level students. In addition, I learned that many members like the idea of a Sunday afternoon meeting. The Board and I will keep this in mind for next year’s schedule.

I must thank the many members who answered my email regarding hospitality help for last month’s branch meeting. It is not often that a president has to decline offers of assistance! Nancy Lau, Jo Ellen Vandruff, Nilou Sarraf, and Laura Combs ended up being the chosen ones. They created a beautifully set table with flowers and just the right amount of refreshments.

Our Bach Branch Festival was a complete success thanks to the efforts of our phenomenal Bach chair, Itoe Akimoto. We have been infinitely fortunate to have her running this festival since 2005! I also want to commend our branch teachers for producing such fabulous Bach players! I really enjoyed hearing everyone perform. I hope this festival will continue to grow in numbers.

There will be no Community Service Recital this month in honor of CM. The recitals will resume in April and May. Laura Combs will let us know the exact dates once she has secured them at Freedom Village in Lake Forest.

Our branch made a $1,000 donation last month to the MTAC Foundation. We gave $500 to the Gretchen Gerber VOCE Fund, $250 to the Second Century Fund, and $250 to Composers Today. I hope you are as proud as I am to belong to such a powerful and gracious branch! Best of luck to you all with CM!!!

~Pam
MARCH

1 Sat, BACH FESTIVAL, Geneva Presbyterian Church, Laguna Woods.
8 Sat, CM Strings and Theory Evaluations, Saddleback College.
9 Sun, CM Piano Evaluations (additional day).
15-16 Sat-Sun, CM Piano Theory testing, Saddleback Room, Mission Viejo Civic Center.
15 Sat, CM Voice Evaluations (Day 1), Faith Episcopal Church.
16 Sun, CM Voice Evaluations (Day 2), Saddleback College.
22 Sat, CM Piano Evaluations (Day 1), Private Studios.
23 Sun, CM Piano Evaluations (Day 2), Saddleback College.
29 Sat, CM Piano Evaluations (Day 3), Saddleback College.
28-30 Fri-Sun, PANEL FINAL AUDITIONS (South).

APRIL

6 Sun, 2:00 PM. SHOWCASE RECITAL, Saddleback Room, Mission Viejo Civic Center.
9 Wed, 10:00 AM. BRANCH MEETING, Laguna Hills Community Center.
26 Sat, BRANCH HONORS RECITAL, LHCC.
27 Sun, CONTEMPORARY MUSIC FESTIVAL, Saddleback College.

DEADLINES

- March 10: CM Panel Final Application (postmark), CM Panel student theory tests to be completed and score inputted into database.
- March 15: Composers Today Improvisation Celebration application. See mtac.org.
- March 18: Showcase Recital. See page 10.
- March 30: Composers Today State Contest entry. See mtac.org.
- April 1: Contemporary Festival. See page 6-7.
- April 2: Branch Honors Recital. See page 5. Anniversary Scholarship applications for Saddleback College students. See page 8.
- April 26: Branch Senior Recital. See page 10.

ACCENT Piano Service

“Quality Pianos at Great Prices!”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Piano Type</th>
<th>Finish</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Steinway M</td>
<td>Satin Black</td>
<td>$21,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steinway A III</td>
<td>Mahogany</td>
<td>$29,800</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Steinway B      | Black Satin | $28,500  | SOLD!
| Baldwin 5'2"    | Mahogany  | $4,300   |
| Weber 6'        | HG Black  | $8,900 (With player) |
| Lurgenstein 5'7" | HG Black | $9,000 (With player) |

Rental Pianos starting at only $35/mo.

Larry Pisano, RPT
949-240-7568
ACCENTPIANO.COM

For maps & directions to all venues: mtacocc.org/maps.htm
CERTIFICATE OF MERIT INFORMATION

Anne Prestridge, Piano and General Chair anneprestridge@gmail.com
Marina Sakach, Piano Repertoire Expert marina@innertech.com
Gloria Liu Traullé, Strings Chair gltraulle@gmail.com
Kathleen Martin, Voice Chair voiceclassics@cox.net

CM Documents Posted on Branch Website mtacocc.org:
- Student Evaluation Schedule (Master Teacher Schedule)
- Locations & Directions Form
- Teacher Work Schedule

Branch Honors Recital program scheduling will be done on the branch website mtacocc.org. There will be no form to download, print, fill out and send in. (See page 5.)

CM PIANO EVALUATIONS & THEORY TESTING DETAILS

CM Piano Theory Testing: Saturday and Sunday, March 15th and 16th at the Mission Viejo Civic Center, Saddleback Room (not to be confused with Saddleback College)

- Directions to the Mission Viejo Civic Center are on the back of the “Locations & Directions” letter
- Check-in opens 8:30 AM – 3:00 PM. 3:00 PM is the latest time a student can start a test. High level students should start their test no later than 2:00 PM. Students can arrive at anytime within the time frame on either day to take their theory test.
- No cell phones allowed in the testing room. Phones will be checked at the door.
- Have students use the restroom before they take their test. If they need to use the restroom during testing, a room monitor will escort them.
- Students have as long as they need to take the test. A paper/plastic keyboard will be available for them to use for reference.

CM Piano Evaluations at Saddleback College Music Department, March 9, 23, 29, and March 22nd at Private Studios and one church

- Directions to Saddleback College Music Department and all Private Studios (and one church) are on the back of the “Locations & Directions” letter.
- Emphasize to students and parents that their assigned evaluation time is absolutely firm.
- Tell parents to plan enough driving time to accommodate any traffic delays.

REPRESENTATIVE CM DATES

March 8: STRINGS Evaluation and Theory, Saddleback College
March 9: PIANO Evaluations, Saddleback College (additional day)
March 10: Postmark deadline for the Panel Final Application. Deadline for Panel student theory tests to be completed and score inputted into database.
March 15: VOICE Evaluation, Faith Episcopal Church
March 16: VOICE Evaluation, Saddleback College
March 15 and 16: PIANO THEORY Testing, Mission Viejo Community Center, Saddleback Room
March 22: PIANO Evaluations, Private Studios
March 23: PIANO Evaluations, Saddleback College
March 29: PIANO Evaluations, Saddleback College
April 7: Branch Honors Recital info to be inputted online at mtacocc.org
April 26: BRANCH HONORS RECITAL, Laguna Hills Community Center
April 15: Convention Application Deadline
April 15: Deadline to apply for MUP’s
May 31: Deadline for MUP’s to be completed
May 31: Last day to check for student result errors
June 1: Convention recital schedules posted online
June 27 - July 1: 2014 MTAC CONVENTION, Hilton Los Angeles Airport
- Have your students check in 20 minutes before their scheduled evaluation time.
- Saddleback Evaluations: Tell parents to wait for their students in the patio, not the parking lot. There is no supervision between the Music Department and the parking lot. We want the students to be safe.
- Private Studios: Remind parents to be courteous to neighbors when parking. It is best for parents and siblings to wait in the car while the student is having their evaluation.

**TEACHER WORK SCHEDULE**

It is every teacher's responsibility to manage and follow through with your work assignment. If you must change your work schedule, you must find someone yourself to swap work assignments. Both teachers must notify Keiko for a final OK. Use the Master Teacher Work Schedule to find a person that is assigned a day and time that you are able to work and then contact them. Email addresses and phone numbers can be found in Branch Directory and on the Branch Website mtacocc.org.

**SADDLEBACK PARKING**

Due to changes in campus policy, prepaid parking permits will no longer be available. Everyone will need to purchase a $2 parking permit from one of the five yellow parking permit dispensers. Please refer to the campus map for the yellow stars. The most convenient machine to use is the “drive-up” box near the Medical Center Road entrance. Parking dispensers will only accept $1 bills and credit cards.

*Thank you, Keiko, for the arduous work you put into tailoring the computer program so we can use it to schedule teachers. Thank you for accommodating us teachers by honoring, as best you can, our scheduling requests.*

*With much gratitude,*

*Anne*
BRANCH HONORS RECITALS
Recital date: April 26, 2014 at Laguna Hills Community Center (*please note change of venue*)
Entry Deadline: April 7
Contact: Laurie Meinhold, LEMeinhold@cox.net

BRANCH HONORS REQUIREMENTS
Piano, Strings, Winds: level V or above.
Voice: Level IV. 1st Grade.

Repertoire rating must be good or excellent. Must score Good or Excellent in Technic, Sightreading & Repertoire and pass theory test. Students with a 5 or 5+ rating will be selected to perform. Students that receive a 5- and a yes from the evaluator will receive an honors sticker and will be listed in the program if their name is entered in the database.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Gather evaluation results on the students that you had applied for Branch Honors: Go to mtac.org and login to your Teacher Home Page. Point cursor on CM Students, click on Student Evaluation Info & Results. Find out which students received honors and what piece was chosen by the evaluator. Contact your students who received a 5 or 5+ rating, to see if they wish to perform, and to check their availability. Time their pieces. Students must perform the piece chosen by the evaluator.

2. Go to mtacocc.org.
   a. Teacher Login
   b. Go to "My Students" and enter the names of all students who received honors. (Unless their names are already in your database.)
   c. Go to MTAC Events and register in the Branch Honors Recital of your choice. Choose which hour you wish to enter the student. If that hour is full please choose another.
   d. Enter the name of the piece chosen by the evaluator, the composer, and performance length. (Please be accurate).
   e. Type in names of students not performing who received honors where indicated.
   f. Comment on your availability to help/announce at the recital.

For cancellations, questions, contact Laurie Meinhold at LEMeinhold@cox.net.
CONTEMPORARY MUSIC FESTIVAL
Sunday, April 27, 2014 at Saddleback College
Application Deadline: Tuesday, April 1

Festival Chair: Lisa lwaki arioso.notes@gmail.com
Co-chairs: Itoe Akimoto akimoto@cox.net & Diana Chu shiowchi@gmail.com
Helper: Catherine Grimball
Hospitality: Tiiu Marie Jankowski

REPERTOIRE GUIDELINES
- The Contemporary Festival is open to all repertoire of the 20\textsuperscript{th} and 21\textsuperscript{st} Century composers, and to works of those composers listed in the CM Syllabus as “Transitional: Impressionist / Early 20\textsuperscript{th} Century.” Ragtime in its original form (not simplified or arranged) is acceptable. Arrangements and music derived from TV, movies, and other sources are \textbf{not} acceptable. If in doubt, contact the festival chair.

- A maximum of two pieces per student are allowed only if they are by the same composer and from the same collection. Each piece must be under two minutes in length.

- No concerti will be allowed.

- Music should be in its original form, \textbf{NOT} simplified or transcribed.

- No prepared piano or electronic enhancement is permitted.

ENTRY RULES & OTHER INFORMATION
- The Contemporary Festival is open to all levels of piano, instrumental, and voice students, both solos and ensembles. Two pianos will only be available for duos with the combination of one grand and one upright piano if the chair is notified in advance.

- Students are \textbf{not} allowed to enter two festivals with the same piece.

- All music must be memorized with the exception of duets, ensembles, and accompaniments.

- There is a five minute time limit per performer. Pieces longer than five minutes may be ended by the presider.

- Teachers may not accompany their own students.

- Teachers are limited to 8 students each. \textit{Contributory Members} may NOT enter students.

- Each student must actually study with the teacher who is entering him/her in the festival, and should have studied with the teacher for six months prior to the festival, unless permission is given by the previous teacher, or the teacher change was necessary because of a geographic move.

- Grounds for festival disqualification include failure to bring music for the judges, bringing photocopied music, performance of a piece other than the piece entered, and incomplete or inaccurate entry applications. Accompanists must use the original music (no copies).

- Students will receive awards of medals, ribbons, and certificates based entirely on adjudicators’ decisions. Students are separated into the following age categories: ages 11 and under, ages 12-14, ages 15-18, and adult.
The top 25% of students in each age category receive 1st Place Medals, the next 25% of students in each category receive 2nd Place Blue Ribbons, the next 25% of students receive Honorable Mention Red Ribbons, and the next 25% receive a Yellow Participation Ribbon.

- Teachers are expected to work at the festivals in which they have entered students; failure to do so may result in a monetary fine or other penalties.
- Parents may only videotape their son or daughter’s performance. Videotaping of the entire recital program will NOT be allowed.
- On the Festival day, make sure that each student knows the rules for recital etiquette, dresses appropriately, and brings a copy of the music (NO PHOTOCOPIES) for the adjudicators. Following the festival, certificates and evaluation sheets will be mailed to the teachers. Medals and ribbons may be picked up at the branch general meeting or from the chairperson or may be mailed if sufficient postage is included.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

A. You must first register yourself and students’ information by going to LOG IN at mtacocc.org. Then go to MTAC EVENT…Contemporary Music Festival. Type in all necessary information.

- The title of the piece needs a key and opus number to avoid confusion among similar titles.
- Composer’s name – Please use the full last name. Abbreviated first names are acceptable.
- Accompanists name – Please use the full name.
- Teachers may request AM or PM if absolutely necessary, and siblings’ info online by typing in the registration site’s comment box. More specific scheduling requests cannot be accommodated.

B. Please mail the following items in a 9x12 or larger envelope to the festival co-chair: Diana Chu, 14 Wesley Way, CA 92691 by the April 1st deadline. There will be NO March 2014 branch meeting. Please plan ahead!!!

1) 1 copy of the Student List printed from the website.
3) One check for registration fees made payable to MTAC, Orange Coast Cities.
   a. Solo entries: $25 each
   b. Duet/ensembles: $25 for the first student + $12.50 for each additional student
4) Please include postage according to the number of students entered if you cannot pick-up your teacher envelope after the festival...
   1-2 entries $1.00 
   3-4 entries $1.75 
   5-6 entries $2.50 
   7-8 entries $3.25

Note: Registration fees and postage are non-refundable.

Teachers may request AM or PM if absolutely necessary. More specific time requests cannot be accommodated. It is acceptable to request siblings be placed in the same program.

Absolutely NO CHANGES, ADDITIONS, OR LATE ENTRIES will be accepted after the April 1, 2014 deadline.
MTAC OCC BRANCH SCHOLARSHIPS 2014

HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP
For graduating seniors who intend to do a Music major or minor in college.
Chair: Pennie Foster, 858-0214, pjfoster@att.net


REQUIREMENTS:

- Applicant must be performing at a very advanced level on his/her instrument.
- Applicant has studied with an Orange Coast Cities Branch member for the past year.
- Applicant plans to Major or minor in music at the college level.
- Application must be accompanied by a letter of recommendation from your primary instrument teacher.
- Scholarship recipients are requested to perform in the Senior Recital.

2014 MTAC OCC ANNIVERSARY SCHOLARSHIP
For Saddleback College Music Students
Contact: Pamela Worcester, pocky@cox.net
Application Deadline: Postmarked by April 1, 2014.

This $500 scholarship was established in 1999 by the Music Teachers’ Association of California, Orange Coast Cities Branch, in honor of their 25th Anniversary. It will be awarded annually by the end of the spring semester.

AUDITIONS:  These will be held on Sunday, April 27, 2014 for qualified applicants only.

DEADLINES & PROCEDURES:
Applications, including all required materials, must be postmarked by Tuesday, April 1, 2014. Mail applications to Pamela Worcester: Saddleback College, Division of Fine Arts & Media Technology, 28000 Marguerite Pkwy, Mission Viejo, CA 92692.
CM Senior Scholarship
Application

Students who earn the Certificate of Merit Senior Medal, receive a 5+ or 5 rating for branch honors, and perform in Branch Honors or the Senior Recital are eligible to receive a $50.00 scholarship from MTAC Orange Coast Cities Branch. Any student who is a “NO SHOW” for their performance is disqualified. To receive the scholarship, fill out this form and submit it to the Branch Honors chairperson or the Senior Recital chairperson.

Student Name ________________________________
Address ____________________________________
Phone ____________________________
Performed in _______ o’clock Branch Honors recital (or)
Performed in the Senior Recital _________ (mark yes or no)
Senior in High School at ______________________ school.
Earned senior medal, passing level __________ of Certificate of Merit.

Teacher name_________________________________________
Address_____________________________________________
Phone____________________________

Branch Honors Recital Chair or Senior Recital Chairperson signature:
The above named student performed in Branch Honors, or the Senior Recital and qualifies for the MTAC Senior Scholarship award.

Signed __________________________ Date ________________
Chairperson please forward completed forms to the branch treasurer.
OCC BRANCH RECITALS

SENIOR RECITAL 2014
Chair: Nilou Sarraf, 858-4275, nilousarraf@gmail.com
Hospitality chair: Ji Yoon, 751-7554, jiyoonpianostudio@yahoo.com
Sunday, May 18, 2014 at 2 PM at the Laguna Hills Community Center
Application & Bio deadline (Two-step process): April 25, 2014

ANY senior may perform a polished, well prepared selection, but it must be memorized. Senior CM Medallions and scholarships will be handed out to those who qualify. The printed program allows for a 100 word bio for each performing student. Please let your students know that their bios may be edited due to space limitations. Email these to Nilou Sarraf at nilousarraf@gmail.com.

Please enter the student name, piece selection, and time (length) of the piece on our branch website at mtacocc.org. (Be sure to log-in and go to “MTAC Events” on the branch website.) The deadline for both bios and title of selections to be performed is April 25, 2014.

Teachers must help at the recital. Please email Ji Yoon at jiyoonpianostudio@yahoo.com to let her know what you can bring (food, desserts, drinks, flowers, etc.).

SHOWCASE RECITALS
Chair: Ana de Vries, 499-1065, anaherb93@gmail.com
Sunday, April 6, 2014 at 2:00 PM at the Mission Viejo Civic Center, Saddleback Room
Application Deadline: March 18, 2014

The fees are $15 per student. If there any ensembles, each student in the group will pay $15. (For example, a duet will be charged $30 total.) Register online at www.mtacocc.org. Send fees and student list printed off the web registration page to Ana de Vries. Refer to the online registration page for guidance. The deadline will be 3 weeks prior to the recital or the first 15 students to register (whichever happens first). No performance certificate will be given if solo music is not memorized. There is no longer a 3 minute time limit for this recital.

Reminder: Teachers may enter only 2 students per recital. Please do not enter the same student twice (solo + duet) in one recital. (Two duet teams per teacher are allowed.) Teachers are not allowed to perform duets (four-hand piano music) with their students. It is acceptable for teachers to accompany their students for different instruments or voice.

PLACING AN AD?
If you would like to see your advertisement here, please contact Lisa (newsletter editor) at arioso.notes @ gmail .com. As a courtesy, please submit requests by the 20th before the next month’s newsletter.

For non-commercial and educational events, free for both OCC members and non-members. For commercial, buy & sell, and business advertisements, there is a $20 fee/issue (9 issues/year) for a partial space of the page. Only advertisements which are beneficial for members’ professional life will be published.

All advertisements subject to approval by the branch.
NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEWS FROM MTAC STATE OFFICE

- **Member Address Updates** – If any member has moved recently, please contact the MTAC State Office ASAP with your updated address. This is necessary so everyone can receive their invoice renewal.

- **Membership Application & Reinstatement Beginning March 1** – For all new applicants and reinstating members, we’ll accept all forms and payment for the 2014-2015 membership term starting March 1. The submission deadline for all items for Certificate of Merit eligibility is July 31- no exceptions.

- **Branch Transfers Accepted April 16 - August 31 Only** – For members wishing to transfer Branches, they may contact the State Office only during this time period. No forms are necessary for members; they may phone or email the State Office directly.

- **Membership Renewals begin in April** – Invoices will be sent to qualifying members. Student, Provisional and CalPlan members who have memberships that will expire in 2014 may be blocked from renewal. Students who do not provide verification with official transcripts may also be blocked from renewal until verification is obtained by the State Office. All membership status inquiries can be directed to Melanie Doyle at mdoyle@mtac.org.

MTAC-WLA CONCERTO COMPETITION

Our MTAC-WLA branch would like to invite Southern California MTAC branch members to enter students into the orchestral instrument category of the new MTAC-WLA concerto competition. The orchestral instrument category is open to flute, violin and violoncello students ages 14 to 18. First Place winners will have the opportunity to perform with the Culver City Chamber Orchestra at a Young Artists concert on May 17, 2014.

**Auditions:** Sunday, April 27, 2014, Steinway Piano Gallery, West Hollywood. Please see attached competition guidelines for eligibility, repertoire list and application information or go to http://mtacwla.org/mtac-wla-branch-concerto-competition/ for more details. Questions or inquiries about the competition may be directed to the Concerto Competition committee:

Nancy Fierro nancyfierro@rocketmail.com or Sharon Collins shrcllns@aol.com.

UPCOMING SADDLEBACK COLLEGE CONCERTS

**MASTERCLASSES & RECITALS** by visiting artists including:

- Pianist Starla Hibler-Raley
- Steinway Artist Natsuki Fukasawa

...as well as performances by Saddleback’s own faculty members!

For more information, visit: http://saddleback.edu/arts/documents/SCArts Springbroch14.pdf

VOCE OCC BRANCH RESULTS

**Jr. Solo Strings:**
Stefan Kosmala-Dahlbeck - 1st place
Shannon Zhuang - 2nd place
(Students of Dr. Jerzy Kosmala)

**Intermediate Solo Strings:**
Kasia Kosmala Dahlbeck - 1st place
(Students of Dr. Jerzy Kosmala)

**Intermediate Voice:**
Katie Ahmann - 1st place
Niko Mancera - 2nd place
(Students of Kathleen Martin)
Therese Brown - 3rd place
(Student of Susan Wong)
Christiaan Westerkamp - Honorable Mention
(Student of Kathleen Martin)

They all performed beautifully! We wish all the best to our first place winners as they advance at the state finals in April!
SOKA PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
SOKA UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA

TICKETS: $20
Net Proceeds to benefit the Music Teachers Association of California - Orange Coast Cities Branch

Sunday
April 13
3:00 PM

Umi Garrett
Solo Piano Recital

Umi Garrett has transcended the word “prodigy” to become a powerhouse piano player. This performance celebrates the release of her latest recording.

SOKA PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
1 University Drive, Aliso Viejo, CA 92656
949.480.4278 | tickets@soka.edu
www.performingarts.soka.edu
Yamaha C-3 Grand Piano
FOR SALE

6’1” - high gloss black.
Purchased at Field’s in 1991.
Has had very light use; in excellent condition
Serial #E4900855

$13,000/offer
Contact: Jim
(949) 552-3467

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO LIST YOUR INSTRUMENT FOR SALE

Please include:
• Your name, contact information you would like listed
• Description of instrument for sale
• Photograph of instrument

...and email Lisa (newsletter editor) at arioso.notes@gmail.com. As a courtesy, please submit requests BY THE 20th BEFORE THE NEXT MONTH’S NEWSLETTER.

Guidelines for advertisements will apply. See previous page.