



DELTA BRANCH

January 17, 2014

Editor: Barbara Schnieder

2013/2014 Volume 2

Delta Branch MTAC Newsletter

Delta Branch celebrated its 30th year (1983 to 2013) at the November Teachers' Recital. See photos page 4.

Upcoming Events

2014

Student Recitals at LMC Recital Hall

January 25, (entry on 1/13)

February 22, (entry on 2/15)

March 8, (CM Branch Honors)

April 12, (entry on 4/15)

May 17, (entry on 5/10)

For any questions about how to enter a student, please contact Maureen Honegger, Recital Chair (moznotes@aol.com). All recital entries go directly to Susan Clark. All monies are sent directly to Maureen. Recital entry forms are available on the website.

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MUSIC AS WE AGE

I don't know about you, but I seem to be developing music-dementia at the beginning of my old age — not only my mental, but also my physical memory is slipping away! It takes forever to warm up on the flute these days, and to recover all that which I was able to do the day before. This was never the case years ago, with my having been able to go on stage in a pinch without even playing a peep. I think this may be similar to the balance between the organized construction and destruction of brain cells, which goes on constantly in life. With my flute playing, I'm simply losing my ability (as modest as this ability may have been) quicker than my talent lets me grow, or so it seems. This happens despite my inventing new strategies for practicing the flute, with the intended result of attaining and retaining my perceived ability. My flute students seem to absorb rhythms and methods, technique and musicality, and have these abilities even before I can put this in a sentence form! It quite simply takes me a while to get myself to the point of constructive practice, and surely constructive results. And because I don't have all the time I'd like for this, I feel sometimes as though I'm barely treading water. (Can any of you relate to what I'm saying?)

This past fall I prepared and performed a program of flute duo with piano, and also continued to play principal flute in the Diablo Symphony Orchestra. We have a new conductor this year - and the repertoire is extensive and demanding. When I think I have one of the licks down pat, I move on to the next one, and even though I may be happy with the practice results, I find that tomorrow I must once again start on the other side of the universe. Why doesn't this stick anymore? Sometimes I'm not at all confident that I'll be able to render the work anywhere near how I'd like, or even close to how I may have performed it 40 years ago. Oh, my ... I think I have a problem!

Continued on p. 2

Music as We Age.....continued from p. 1

As I continue to struggle with the learning curve of aging fingers and mental acuity, and as I also continue to teach whipper-snapper young students who absorb their lessons like a sponge, I can only hope that although my ability may diminish, my appreciation for music and love of teaching stays strong. I continue to perform (although surely not at the level of my college years), but now choose repertoire according to my present ability, and not the ability of my memories. And I find that I encourage myself, just as I encourage my students. I'm exceedingly proud of our Delta Branch Teachers who performed last October on the Teacher Recital, as we brought our level of performance and our love of music to our fellow teachers, our students, and our community. Encouragement of each other is a great thing: the blind can hear it; the deaf can see it; and everyone needs it ... especially each of us ... and most especially me.

Wishing you all a
Happy and Musical New Year in 2014.

Susan

DELTA BRANCH WEBSITE

Please remember that our new Delta Branch website address is www.deltabranch.org. The site was developed just this past fall, and holds information about the Delta Branch and also about MTAC. If you would like something posted on the website regarding your particular Branch chairmanship, please let Susan Clark know at tubaflute@comcast.net and she will do her best to comply. There is also a way to send a message via the website via the "contact us" link at the top of the page. Try this out! You may also give our website address to students and parents to see what our Delta Branch is doing.

What I do with this or that aspect of my life is ancillary rather than central. What is important is that my life itself be related to music, that my ability to be involved and productive remains undiminished. Music is my passion.

... Leon Fleisher (b. 1928) –
American piano virtuoso and teacher

Delta Branch Presidents Spotted in Arizona

This past October, Susan Clark, current President of Delta Branch, visited former Delta Branch President Bonnie Jolly (2003-2004). Bonnie now lives in Gilbert, Arizona, and sends her greetings to all Delta Branch members. Many of you will remember her. She looks great, and although she has taken a break from teaching piano, she plays in a piano quintet (five pianos) on a regular basis. She's thinking about getting back into teaching piano - maybe one student at a time. Good for you, Bonnie!



Certificate of Merit

Happy New Year! The CM database is open for you to enter your students' repertoire, with a deadline of February 2. Instructions have been emailed, and are also in your branch directory on pages 16 – 17. Since we have two full days of piano evaluations, and I would like to start scheduling soon, please let me know (email is best: catherine@thompsonmusicstudio.com) if you must stick to just Saturday or just Sunday, or if I can schedule you for part-day both days. We will have a full house both days (three piano evaluation rooms plus the testing room) and woodwinds on Sunday as well, so will need teachers to work during the time they have students attending. Happily, we will be able to stay in just the Music area of LMC on both days. Strings will be going to Stockton on Saturday and can take the written part there as well, so will not need to come to LMC at all this year. Check with your students regarding CMEA, Chinese school, or other events that may be happening on Saturday, March 1 so we can schedule them on the 2nd instead.

Our honors requirements have changed just a bit this year, so I want to remind you of the requirements:

- Honors students must be Level 2 or higher
- Honors piece must be memorized (piano students only)
- Only ratings of 5-, 5, or 5+ will be accepted
- "All Pieces Well Performed" must be a "Yes"
- Technique: Good or Excellent
- Sight Reading: Average, Good, or Excellent
- Theory score: must be 80% or higher

5 minute time limit on the chosen Honors piece

These will be provided to each evaluator, in writing, in advance! For information on what constitutes a "good" or "excellent" on technique and sight reading, check your syllabus – there is a page there explaining what the evaluators must look for to give these ratings (keyboard syllabus pages 16-17).

Don't hesitate to call or email me with any questions or concerns, especially about repertoire. Remember that Romantic and Impressionistic are one category this year, so a Level 3 or higher student cannot play a piece by Schumann and another by Debussy and have them count as different categories. . . ! In fact, here is a list of composers who are now in the "romantic" category, simply because that category now includes "impressionistic:" Albeniz, Czerny, Debussy, Dohnanyi, Faure, Gliere, Joplin, MacDowell, Rebikov, Ravel, Schubert, Schytte, Sibelius. . . you get the picture!

Catherine Thompson

Teachers' Recital 2013

Celebrating Delta Branch
30th Anniversary



Jane Travale, Hospitality Chair with Amelita Guevara



CATHERINE THOMPSON WITH KIM GRIFFITH-FRALEY, TEACHERS' RECITAL CHAIR

Young Artist Competition

This year's Rachel Reilly Young Artist Competition will be held on Saturday, April 5, 2014 beginning early morning. The competition is open to all students of active members. Please encourage your students to participate in this valuable event. Application must be postmarked and mailed to Grace Edwards by March 22, 2014.

We will be looking for 2 adjudicators for this event. We are open to suggestions if you know of anyone who will do an outstanding job evaluating our students. Please contact Grace Edwards by January 20 if you have a potential adjudicator in mind.

The Guidelines and Application Form may now be downloaded from our website, www.deltabranch.org under the *Programs* tab. It is also attached (p.13 and p. 14) in this newsletter.

Thank you for your support and participation!

RRYAC Committee

DELTA BRANCH SCHOLARSHIP

The LMC Scholarship applications are now available!
This year the scholarship award is \$1,200.

The deadline for submission is April 2, 2014. The winner will be notified no later than April 30, 2014. Award money will be available for the winning student at the college to be attended in fall 2014, and may be used for any college-related expense in the fall semester, 2014, including tuition and books. Guidelines for applicants and the application for the scholarship are attached to this newsletter (p15, 16). Please email any questions to Nancy Bachmann (NancyBachmann@comcast.net)

Nancy Bachmann, Chair
Delta Branch Scholarship Committee

BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE CHANGE

The next Delta Branch Board Meeting will be held on
Friday, February 21st, 9:30 a.m., at the home of
Barbara Schnieder.

Teen Seminar

On behalf of the MTAC Delta Branch, Eric and Catherine Thompson will host another Teen Seminar on February 8. These events are open only to teenagers (ages 13 through 19) and are an informal performance opportunity. Teens often have pieces that take longer to prepare, so they get less chances to perform. This is a way for them to "try out" a piece or pieces that may not be completely prepared for a formal recital. Parents and teachers can but do not need to stay (and actually, it's less pressure on the students if the parents do NOT stay!) and students can bring a friend (even a non-musician friend) so they feel more comfortable. Along with the performances, we talk a little about the styles of music, history regarding the composers and time periods, or even just things like how to adjust your bench so you know if it is going up or down! Then we share food and watch a bit of a performance video or musical cartoon for some social time. Students of all studios are invited, and they do not need to be CM students to participate. Please copy and distribute the flyer (attached to this newsletter on p. 12) to any students you think might be interested or who would benefit from this opportunity!

Adult Seminar

Sunday, January 26, 2014

3:00 PM

At the home of
Kathleen Flemming
2112 Randolph Court
Antioch, CA 94509
Ph. 754-7915

RSVP to Maureen: ph. 754-7216

Or Email: moznotes@aol.com

Use the flyer attached to this newsletter
on p. 11 to print and distribute

INFORMATION AVAILABLE

Please take advantage of the information available to you via the www.mtac.org website. Particularly check out the MTAC NEWS - accessible through your teacher login, then left-hand sidebar MTAC, then "newsletters." In the November issue there are details about the convention, a job opportunity (paid) for writing CM Theory Tests and Sight-Reading exams, details about how to donate to the Foundation, including who has already donated (our Delta Branch is among the donors for 2013-14), details for all State Programs (should you have a student interested and eligible), and much more. A new MTAC NEWS will be published in January. This is a wealth of information.

Barnes and Noble Memories

December 7, 2013





COMPOSERS TODAY

COMPOSERS TODAY (CT) is an annual MTAC-sponsored program that encourages development of musical composition and improvisation skills. There are three programs of which you should be aware:

1. **EVALUATIONS:** A non-competitive learning experience where students receive a written response, in the form of constructive comments and ratings, from two professional evaluators. Submissions are now done online using .pdf, .mp3, and .wav files. Compositions from the Evaluations can be submitted for performance in one of several State Convention Symposium recitals based upon the two evaluators' ratings. Teachers may also submit compositions and perform in the Symposium.

Deadlines: Evaluations, January 15, 2014;

Symposium, April 15, 2014

2. **STATE CONTEST:** This competition offers a 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place trophy for each of the eight students and teacher divisions based on age as of March 30. First Place winners will receive a monetary award. Two professional adjudicators provide constructive written comments and judge compositions. Winners perform their pieces (or have someone perform them) at the State Convention. Honorable mentions will be listed on the website and their pieces and pictures will be displayed with the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners at the convention. Submissions are now done online using .pdf, .mp3, and .wav files.

Deadline: March 30, 2014

3. **YOUNG COMPOSERS GUILD:** The Guild provides a special format for serious young composers who plan to pursue music composition as a career. Students who have had their work performed at MTAC State Convention at least once during their high school years may apply for membership in the YCG. Students may be selected to perform at convention and by invitation for various branches throughout the state.

Deadline: January 15th

For more information and details check out the state website (www.mtac.org) or contact MTAC, Delta Branch CT/Improvisation Chair, Sara Harris at learningtree.2@gmail.com

MTAC Convention 2014

Please be aware that our Annual MTAC Convention for 2014 will be held June 27 to July 1 at the Los Angeles Airport Hilton Hotel. Hotel rates are reasonable (\$94), and even more so when you have a roommate. Air fares to Los Angeles are cheap. Since the convention moves from North to South each year, this is our year for holding it in the South - which sometimes is even better because we can't run home at night! We must stay right there and enjoy each and every event. Plan now to attend — find someone to go with you — look for early registration to open on the www.mtac.org website — and put away a few bucks each week to save for this event. What a wonderful way to spend five days enjoying music. If you've never been to a convention, that's even better! Make this the year to begin. The theme is ***Music Brings Us Together***, and I can't think of a more appropriate title.

MTAC, Delta Chapter

Adult Student Seminar

Sunday, January 26, 2014

3:00 PM

At the home of

Kathleen Flemming

2112 Randolph Court

Antioch, CA 94509

Ph. 754-7915

RSVP to Maureen: ph. 754-7216

Or Email: moznotes@aol.com

Please bring a snack to share.



TEEN SEMINAR

A chance to try out your CM or other pieces, without being on recital. Meet other teens and hear what they're playing. Share some food and drink and maybe catch a video. Ask CM theory questions and get helpful shortcuts or hints from other students. Get performance tips. Have some fun!

**Saturday, February 8
4:00 - 6:00 PM**

at Thompson's
2628 St. Andrew's Dr., Brentwood
take Foothill off Balfour into Deer Ridge

All instruments welcome.

Feel free to bring a friend!

You don't have to play to participate.

Teachers welcome but not required to attend.

Pizza, pasta, and beverages provided. No charge!

then take the first right

RSVP 513-7156

by February 7

RACHEL REILLY YOUNG ARTIST COMPETITION
Delta Branch, MTAC
Saturday, April 5, 2014

- Purpose:** The purpose of this competition is to give students audition experience, to give them the benefit of an experienced musician's comments, and to reward excellence.
- Categories:** Category I: Grades up to and including Grade 8 - \$100 (1st place) & \$50 (2nd place)
Category II: Grades 9-12 - \$150 (1st place) & \$75 (2nd place)
- Fees:** Each application for any division must be accompanied by a non-refundable fee as follows: Category I - \$10; Category II - \$20. **Please make checks payable to MTAC Delta Branch.**
- Auditions:** **Saturday, April 5, 2014, beginning early morning.** Applicants will be notified regarding their specific audition time. No request for special time will be honored.
- Place:** Los Medanos College Music Department Recital Hall.
- Eligibility:** Competition is open to piano, instrumental, and vocal performers who are currently studying with a member of the MTAC, Delta Branch, whose primary membership is with this branch. Students of contributory members are not eligible to compete. *Winners may not compete on the same instrument if they have won 1st place in the same category in the prior year's competition.*
- Judging:** Two adjudicators are selected to hear the auditions. They will select winners for each category and give written comment sheets to each performer. Only one winner will be selected for each designated prize. Prizes will be awarded solely on the basis of their music performance.
- Repertoire:** Category I: 10 minutes maximum; 2 contrasting pieces or movements from larger works, both which must be memorized.
Category II: 15 minutes maximum; 2 contrasting pieces or movements from larger works, both which must be memorized.
Please note: Students are to perform music from the traditional classical literature.
- Recognition:** Winners will be presented in concert and prizes awarded on **April 12, 3:00 p.m.**, at the LMC Recital Hall. If a 1st place winner is absent, that award will be given to the 2nd place winner.
- Deadline:** The application form must be signed by the teacher. Completed application forms and fees must be **postmarked no later than Saturday, March 22, 2014**, and mailed to: Grace Edwards, 1840 Buck Mountain Court, Antioch 94531. For more information, call Grace at 778-2686.

RACHEL REILLY YOUNG ARTIST COMPETITION

Saturday, April 5, 2014

APPLICATION

Please check where appropriate:

____ Division 1 (piano)

____ Division 2 (other instrumental/voice)

____ Category I (grades through 8) \$100 (1st place) & \$50 (2nd place) Application Fee \$10

____ Category II (grades 9-12) \$150 (1st place) & \$75 (2nd place) Application Fee \$20

NAME _____ PHONE _____ GRADE _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ ZIP _____

EMAIL _____ TEACHER _____ INSTRUMENT _____

List the works, or movements, you will perform.

(Category I - 2 works or movements of contrasting style, both memorized - 10 minute time limit; Category II - 2 works or movements of contrasting style, both memorized - 15 minute time limit) Students are required to play traditional classical literature.

Title _____ Movement _____

Composer _____

Title _____ Movement _____

Composer _____

Exact timing of the combined pieces: _____

Auditions will be held on **Saturday, April 5, 2014**, beginning early morning, at the LMC Music Department Recital Hall. You will be notified by email of your audition time. The competition is open to the public. All winners will be notified by telephone at the conclusion of the auditions, and winners will be presented in performance on **Saturday, April 12, at 3:00 p.m.** Monetary awards and certificates will be presented at this time, and winners **must** be present to receive their awards.

Make your check out to **MTAC, DELTA BRANCH**, and return with this application to:

Grace Edwards
1840 Buck Mountain Court
Antioch, CA 94531

APPLICATION MUST BE POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN SAT., MARCH 22, 2014.

Teacher Signature

DELTA BRANCH (MTAC) SCHOLARSHIP Guidelines for Applicants

The Music Teachers' Association of California (MTAC) is a California organization incorporated in 1897 for the purpose of establishing excellence in the music teaching profession. The Delta Branch of MTAC, located in the East Bay Area, has been in existence since 1983. We offer private music lessons, instruction in music theory, opportunities for recitals and competitions, as well as the Certificate of Merit individual testing program for overall musical knowledge. We are proud to be able to offer this \$1,200 scholarship to a student majoring in music at LMC.

Qualifications:

1. **Full-time** students at LMC, with a declared major in music.
Part-time declared music majors are eligible IF they are carrying 6 or more music units AND can show by transcripts: LMC Fall 2013 and two or more other semesters (from LMC or other college) that their music and general education requirements are on track for transfer.
2. Must be entering a 2nd, 3rd or 4th year at LMC in the fall of 2014, with plans to transfer to a four-year college or university upon completion of courses at LMC,
OR must already have acceptance at a four-year college or university for transfer from LMC in the fall of 2014, with a declared major in music.
3. Members of MTAC are ineligible

Amount of Scholarship

\$1,200

Deadline for Submission of Application

April 2, 2014 - postmark deadline mailed to:
Nancy Bachmann, MTAC Scholarship Chair
4427 Pampas Ct.
Antioch, CA 94531

Application must include:

1. Completed application form (on reverse of this page)
2. Two letters of recommendation from members of the LMC music faculty.
Letters of recommendation may be mailed with the application form OR, if the faculty members prefer to send confidential recommendations, they may be mailed separately, postmarked no later than April 2, 2014.
3. Brief statement from the student about his/her goals in music and how the MTAC scholarship would help the applicant pursue those goals.
4. Required documents: **Full-time** music majors: 2013 Fall LMC transcript and a copy of your Spring 2014 class registration.
Part-time music majors: transcripts from Fall 2013 LMC and two or more other semesters (from LMC or other college) demonstrating that your music and general education requirements are on track for transfer. Also, a copy of your Spring 2014 registration showing enrollment in 6 or more music units.
5. If transferring to a four year institution in the fall of 2014, applicant must send verification of acceptance to said college or university and proof that student will be a declared major in music at that school.

Notice of Recipient and Disbursement of Scholarship Money

The winner will be notified no later than April 30, 2014. Award money will be available for the winning student at the college to be attended in Fall, 2014, and may be used for any college-related expense in the fall semester, 2014, including tuition and books.

Please email any questions to Nancy Bachmann (nancybachmann@comcast.net)

DELTA BRANCH (MTAC) SCHOLARSHIP
Application Form

NAME (please print or type clearly) _____

ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

STUDENT ID # _____

Major Area of Musical Study:

- ☐ Instrumental Performance (major instrument: _____)
- ☐ Vocal Performance
- ☐ Music Education
- ☐ Composition/Theory
- ☐ Music History

Are you currently taking private music lessons? _____

Who is your teacher? _____

ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED WITH THIS FORM:

- ☐ Two letters of recommendation from members of LMC music faculty
(may be mailed separately, but must be postmarked no later than April 2, 2014)
- ☐ Applicant's statement of personal musical goals and how the MTAC scholarship would help.
- ☐ Documents: Full time music majors: 2013 Fall LMC transcript and a copy of your Spring 2014 class registration.
Part-time music majors: transcripts from Fall 2013 LMC and two or more other semesters (from LMC or other college) demonstrating that your music and general education requirements are on track for transfer. Also, a copy of your Spring 2014 registration showing enrollment in 6 or more music units.
- ☐ If transferring Fall 2014, verification of acceptance for transfer to a 4-year college in Fall 2014 as a music major.

All items must be postmarked no later than: APRIL 2, 2014

Mailed to:

Nancy Bachmann, MTAC Scholarship Chair
4427 Pampas Ct.
Antioch, CA 94531