



DELTA BRANCH

May 14, 2014

Editor: Barbara Schnieder  
2013/2014 Volume 4

# Delta Branch MTAC Newsletter

## THE AUDIENCE FACTOR

### Upcoming Events

#### June Luncheon and Meeting

Saturday, June 7, 2014

Meeting, 10am

Luncheon, 12 noon

Student Recitals  
at LMC Recital Hall

May 17, 2014

For any questions about how to enter a student, please contact Maureen Honegger, Recital Chair ([moznotes@aol.com](mailto: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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At what point in our teaching and/or our performing does the aspect of the audience come into play? Certainly not within the hours and hours (probably thousands) we spent practicing in college. Certainly not in preparing for our own lessons as adults (I may be speaking for myself), or in teaching the basics to our students. But since most musicians do not totally perform in a vacuum, nor is it the intention of any parent paying for lessons that the child only perform for himself ... at some point we simply must take into account the effect an audience has on a performance, and the effect a performance has on an audience. In an academic setting, audiences are made up of fellow students and teachers, and perhaps a few locals from the community --- but basically a group of listeners required to attend. These listeners are "in the know", meaning they are fully aware of what the performer is trying to accomplish, and not particularly interested in audience appeal. Does this mean that the general audience post-graduate school, or, more specifically, the general audience at our monthly recitals, is less educated, less judgmental and/or critical, and therefore their opinions don't really matter in the larger world of "trained" musicians? Not necessarily.

When I attend San Francisco Symphony concerts (or any other major performing group in the Bay Area), I find it amazing to hear various comments from fellow audience members about the performance. The person commenting may simply be a fan of music, an enjoyer of music, and not in the least sense a professional musician ... yet this person is able to distinguish a piece as boring, or too long, or that the soloist simply was not playing her best.

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## The Audience Factor.....continued

He may not know why he has these feelings, but such feelings are the true barometers of audience appeal. This may give us a few things to think about with regard to our audiences ... both for our own programming in performances, and the programming of our students in recitals:

- (1) It is important to program music that a performer will enjoy, but also that an audience will enjoy.
- (2) The performer must always prepare to the best of his ability, because if he doesn't, the audience will know it, even the musically uneducated audience.
- (3) See your audience as part of the event. This is important in any activity with an audience (certainly in sports as well), but especially in music. Train your students (and yourself) to not fear the audience, but to pull the audience into the performance, and onto the side of the performer. It's an exhilarating feeling.

You see, without an audience, we could just all go home. There would be no need for a concert, or a recital in the first place.

Just thinking about the May 17<sup>th</sup> Student Recital and what fun this will be!

Susan Clark, President  
Delta Branch



## **2014-15 DELTA BRANCH BALLOT**

We have four Board positions open for the 2014-15 MTAC Delta Branch Board of Directors (August 1, 2014 to July 31, 2015):

Treasurer, Membership Secretary, and two Directors-at-Large

Our Nominating Committee has put together an election slate, and you will be receiving this ballot by mail in early May. PLEASE VOTE.

You may vote one of these ways:

- (1) Fill in the ballot when you receive it, and mail it to Recording Secretary Julie Mae – 1213 Jasmine St., Brentwood 94513
- (2) Fill in the ballot and bring it to the June 7<sup>th</sup> General Membership Meeting/Luncheon, at which time ballots will be counted

According to our bylaws, we must have a quorum of eight (8) voting members at the General Membership Meeting, and passage of this slate of officers will be approved with an affirmative vote by the majority of votes cast. You may vote only once, and no proxy voting is allowed.

# Young Artist Competition Winners



Ysabelle Clarice Valdez, seated on the left  
Sara Chin-Jew, seated on right  
Katie Crowe, Standing on left  
and Eric Mou

Thank you to all students and studios who participated in the 2014 Rachel Reilly Young Artist Competition held on April 5, 2014. This year, 11 pianists competed in categories 1 and 2. All students performing played with the highest quality and our judges and audience thoroughly enjoyed listening.

## **Category One Winners**

Sara Chin-Jew, First Place  
Studio of Catherine Thompson

Ysabelle Clarice Valdez, Second Place  
Studio of Grace Edwards

## **Category Two Winners**

Katie Crowe, First Place  
Studio of Geri DiFrancesco

Eric Mou, Second Place  
Studio of Kathleen Flemming

Congratulations to all winners and their teachers!

Grace Edwards, Chair  
Young Artist Competition

## Delta Branch Scholarships Awarded to Los Medanos College Music Majors

This year we were very pleased to have a large number of excellent candidates for the Delta Branch Scholarship Award. The quality was so high the committee chose to split the award between two applicants: Timothy Combs and Raquel Johnson. Both of these LMC students ranked very high musically, academically and personally. We are happy to award \$600.00 to each of them.

Nancy Bachmann, Chair  
Delta Branch Scholarship Committee



Raquel Johnson and Timothy Combs with Nancy Bachmann  
at the Los Medanos College Scholarship Reception on May 9, 2014

# MTAC CONVENTION

Los Angeles Hilton Hotel at LAX June 27 – July 1, 2014

You won't want to miss this year's Convention! It will be held at the Los Angeles Hilton and the lineup of presenters is one you won't want to miss.

Here are the details about registration:

Early bird registration: \$210 if paid before May 15, 2014

Pre-registration: \$250 if paid before June 15, 2014

After June 15: \$290

Reduced prices are available for spouse, relative, or college students

There are three ways you can register:

- 1) When you receive an email invitation from the MTAC State Office to register
- 2) Use the registration form in the upcoming *California Music Teacher* magazine
- 3) Register on the MTAC website

MTAC has been able to negotiate a great room rate of only \$94 at the Los Angeles Hilton. You can make your reservation through the MTAC website. Also, we offer a great opportunity for new members. Any new Branch member who was approved after August 1, 2013, can receive \$40 off the full convention registration rate. The State Office must receive this discounted convention registration application on or before June 15, 2014. This is a great opportunity for a new member to meet and network with members throughout the state.

At Convention the Branch Membership Secretaries' Meeting will be on Saturday, June 28, 2014 from 2pm-3pm in the Marina Room.

The Branch Treasurers' Meeting will be on Sunday, June 29, 2014 from 3pm-4pm in the Marina Room.



## **DELTA BRANCH JUNE LUNCHEON AND MEETING**

**Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup>**

**10:00 a.m. - General Membership Meeting**

**12:00 noon - Luncheon**



**at the home of Maureen Honegger  
4019 Boulder Drive - Antioch 94509**

**Bring a large salad to share.  
Drinks and Dessert will be provided**

*rsvp: [moznotes@aol.com](mailto:moznotes@aol.com) or 754-7216*

### **JUNE MEETING AGENDA**

At the June General Membership Meeting  
we will be covering the following agenda:

#### End-of-Year Reports

Membership

Proposed Budget for 2014-15

CM

Community Outreach

Composers Today/Improvisation

Directory

Hospitality

Library

Newsletter

Publicity/Advertising

LMC Scholarship

Student Recitals

Teachers' Recital

Seminar (Adult)

Seminar (Teen)

Website

RR Young Artist Competition

### Proposed Programs for 14-15

Teacher Recital

Master Class - Nancy Fierro

### Voting for Delta Branch Board 14-15

Ballots are mailed in May.

You may vote by mail, or vote in person at  
the June meeting.

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The June Meeting is an overview of the previous year, and time to look forward to the upcoming year. It is a pat-on-the-back time for successful activities completed, and a brief time for suggestions to make other activities even better. It's a time to present your concerns, and also your hopes for new programs/activities to take place. It's a time when we ask for help for the coming year, and also thank those who were so gracious with their assistance this past year.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

## May Student Recital

**The May 17<sup>th</sup> Student Recital** is our one recital each year which allows tasteful arrangements of pop music, show tunes, and original or arrangements of gaming music. Memorization is not required. The time restraints per teacher still apply, as do the fees for registering a student for this recital (deadline to Susan Clark is May 10<sup>th</sup>). We have a lot of fun at this recital – so gather up your students who wish to perform something more from the pops repertoire, and who may have trouble with memorization, and let them end the year with this highlight of student talent in our Branch. Of course classical repertoire is allowed as well. Any questions regarding repertoire should be addressed to Maureen Honegger ([moznotes@aol.com](mailto:moznotes@aol.com)).

## New Members Current Member Renewals

The State Office is starting the peak application season. This is the time of year that a new member may join or a former member may reinstate and his or her membership dues are paid through July 31, 2015.

If you know anyone whom you feel would be a great addition to our organization, this is a wonderful time for this person to apply. You may refer any interested applicant to the State Office. We will gladly explain all the qualifications and deadlines.

Please keep in mind that July 31 is the deadline for CM eligibility and to be listed in the MTAC State Directory for new and reinstating members.

If you need any assistance, please contact Melanie Doyle our Members Service Associate at [melanied@mtac.org](mailto:melanied@mtac.org) or Alicia Montgomery, our Member Services Assistant at [aliciam@mtac.org](mailto:aliciam@mtac.org)

