



DELTA BRANCH

November 21, 2014

Editor: Barbara Schnieder

2014/2015 Volume 2

# Delta Branch MTAC Newsletter

## PIANO MASTER CLASS

Dear Delta Branch Teachers,

I am delighted to tell you that we will have **Dr. Nancy Fierro** as our Master Teacher this year in a Piano Master Class for the Delta Branch. You may view Nancy's bio and hear some of her playing at [www.nancyfierro.com](http://www.nancyfierro.com)

The Master Class will be held on Saturday, January 24, 2015, at Los Medanos College, beginning at 9:00 a.m. until noon.

The fee will be \$40 for a student to perform, CM level 6 and above only accepted. Only one student per studio is allowed, and we will accept the first six applicants in the order of receipt of the applications by email. When six student applications (with all information included, as requested) have been received, the teachers will be informed of the payment due. Each student will have a 20-minute master lesson with Dr. Fierro. After we have received six qualified student applications, we will form a waiting list, should a student cancel. Students on a waiting list will not need to pay unless they are chosen to perform. Dr. Fierro will be open to questions following the Master Class, and also has promised us a bit of performing by her as well.

### GUIDELINES

- (1) Student must be Level 6 or above (CM ratings)
- (2) Piece to be performed must be from standard piano repertoire. If piece is over 10 minutes in length, it might not be heard in its entirety.
- (3) Only one student will be accepted per studio.
- (4) Applications should be submitted by the teacher.
- (5) Students will be accepted beginning on December 1, 2014, at 6:00 p.m., according to the time on the email submission, until all spots are filled. No applications accepted prior to this date and time. This is a first-come, first-served process.

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## Upcoming Events

### Student Recitals at LMC Recital Hall 2015

January 17, 3pm

February 21, 1:30 & 3pm

March 7, 3pm (CM Honors Recital)

April 18, 3pm (YAC Winners Presented)

May 16, 3pm

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 at [www.deltabranch.org](http://www.deltabranch.org)

### Piano Master Class January 24, 2015

### Young Artist Competition April 11, 2015

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# Nancy Fierro



Performs both nationally and internationally and has recorded four commercial albums. Legendary musician Nadia Boulanger praised her as a “real pianistic talent with deep musical understanding.” Her pioneering performances of music by women composers have won several awards including a Certificate of Honor from the Third International Congress of Women in Music. For five consecutive years, she was selected as a Touring Artist by the California Arts Council. In addition to concerts in the United States, Germany and France, Nancy has also lectured regularly on the symphonic repertoire for the Los Angeles Philharmonic’s Upbeat Live series, the Pasadena Symphony and Pacific Symphony orchestras. She was a long-time member of the piano faculty at Mount St. Mary’s College in Los Angeles. Nancy holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Southern California and a Certificate in Piano, Theory and Analysis from the American Conservatory of Fine Arts in France.

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## APPLICATIONS MUST INCLUDE:

- (1) Name of teacher
- (2) Name and age of student
- (3) Name of piece to be performed, composer, CM level (if one movement of a larger work, please indicate which movement)
- (4) Length of piece
- (5) Application accepted by email only – no postal mail – to [tubaflute@comcast.net](mailto:tubaflute@comcast.net). Please put “Master Class Application” in the subject area.

This Master Class is open to anyone for auditing at no charge (teachers, non-performing students, families). Dr. Fierro is also offering time for private lessons at \$100 per hour on Saturday and Sunday afternoons, January 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. She will teach any level, any age, but probably intermediate to advanced students would gain the most from her lessons. Teachers are invited to take advantage of her teaching also. Times to sign up for private lessons will come later.

Please let me know if you have any further questions.

Susan Clark



## NEXT MTAC CONVENTION JULY 3 – JULY 7, 2015

The 2015 MTAC Convention will be held July 3 -- July 7 at the Fairmont Hotel in San Jose. This is a new location for the MTAC Convention. The Fairmont is located in downtown San Jose, close to many great restaurants and entertainment opportunities, including the Tech Museum and the Discovery Museum, making this is a great family vacation destination. If you would like to check out the facility, here is a link to their website: [www.fairmont.com/san-jose/](http://www.fairmont.com/san-jose/)

We have negotiated a **room rate of \$99 per night** for Convention attendees.

For Convention registration, be sure to take advantage of the **early bird convention registration rate of \$240** if registered on or before May 15, 2015. After May 15, the rate increases to \$280. Onsite registration for the convention is \$320.

**Make your plans now to attend the 2015 Convention at the Fairmont Hotel in San Jose.  
You will not want to miss it!**

### ADULT PERFORMANCE AT CONVENTION

Have you ever wanted to perform at a convention as an adult? Well, convention performances are not only for children & students! It can indeed be you! The State Adult Performance Program offers opportunities for adults to perform on either the "Adult Performance Recital" or the "Teacher Performance Recital". You may also participate at the evaluation level, without the thought of going to convention, but to simply be evaluated. Please check out this information below, and also on the website:

The 2015 Adult Performance North Program is scheduled for Saturday, March 14, 2015, at Contra Costa College in San Pablo, CA. You will receive an individual evaluation, master class participation, and the possibility of a performance opportunity at convention. Performers for the State Convention are chosen from this event. Adult participants meeting the following requirements are encouraged to register:

- \$ Adult student at Intermediate level or higher (avocational)
- \$ College student majoring in music; professional performer (vocational)
- \$ MTAC teacher performer

The enrollment deadline is February 15, 2015. Please contact the State Chair **Jennifer Griest (north)** at [jgriest@contracosta.edu](mailto:jgriest@contracosta.edu) for further information, or visit the MTAC website at [www.mtac.org/adult-performance/](http://www.mtac.org/adult-performance/). We hope to see you there!

## Friends of Today's Music at Convention

### FRIENDS OF TODAY'S MUSIC CONTEMPORARY MUSIC SEMINAR

Friends of Today's Music have commissioned composer **Joan Tower** to write a new work for solo piano aimed at advanced level students. Teachers wishing to submit students to perform the world premiere during the 2015 State Convention (several students are selected to perform the same work) should contact the State Chair for application guidelines. This new work will be available in early January 2015. For information, please contact **Cathy O'Connor, 510-581-6457** or email: [cathoc@aol.com](mailto:cathoc@aol.com)

**Joan Tower** is widely regarded as one of the most important American composers living today. During a career spanning more than 50 years, she has made lasting contributions to musical life in the United States as composer, performer, conductor, and educator. Her works have been commissioned by major ensembles, soloists, and orchestras, including the Emerson, Tokyo and Muir quartets; soloists Evelyn Glennie, Carol Wincenc, David Shifrin, and John Browning; and the orchestras of Chicago, New York, St. Louis, Pittsburgh, and Washington D.C., among others. You may read a full bio at [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joan\\_Tower](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joan_Tower)

If you would like to see the music in advance, to see if you have a student who would like to compete for the chance to perform - contact Cathy O'Connor. At the very least, if you are at the 2015 State Convention, be sure and catch the FTM performances where Joan Tower will be present for comments, and to work with each performer. It's a wonderful experience.

## CERTIFICATE OF MERIT NEWS

On Friday, September 26, 2014, we held our Mandatory CM Meeting at LMC, with Ryan Huo (member of the State CM Council) presenting. It was attended by 17 of our Delta Branch teachers - and we learned so much about CM, even though many of us have done this for many years! There are always changes and updates, and Ryan allowed time for questions as well. What a great presentation, just prior to CM registration in October.

Thank you to Catherine Thompson for arranging this.



Ryan Huo presenting Delta Branch Members with important CM information



Delta Branch members listening to Ryan Huo

### A Note from your CM Chair (mostly applicable to piano, but possibly useful for winds and strings):

With CM registration successfully completed, it's time to think carefully about the repertoire we are choosing or have already chosen for our students. Here are a few suggestions for successfully choosing repertoire. First, find your syllabus piece. This is the piece you must list when you input repertoire in January. The piece must be from the list for the level the student is in. If you plan to apply for Convention Festival Recital, this piece must also fulfill the requirements for Convention, so check timing and student level. Once you have your syllabus piece chosen, build the rest of the student's program around it: at levels 3 and up the pieces must be from different composers and different periods. It's always safest to choose the entire repertoire from the syllabus list, so look there for suitable pieces from the four periods. An easy answer to having suitable repertoire from each period is to choose all pieces from an anthology (listed after the composer/period list at every level), such as Bastien Piano Literature, Vol. 3. For Level 5, every piece in that book is acceptable, except the Burgmuller Arabesque. Choosing everything from one book also solves the problem of students' remembering to bring all their books to lessons AND to CM, and eases the requirement of having a second copy for any piece that is not memorized.

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Speaking of the memory requirement, consider that as we get closer to CM day, and be sure you have multiple copies for any piece that might not be played from memory. If you'd like to use a piece that is not in the syllabus, look at pages 54-57 and see if the piece contains elements listed for that level. You could also compare the piece to another piece that is listed at the level, and see if the two are similar in difficulty. Remember, it's always OK to use repertoire from a higher level, but at least one piece must be on the list FOR the level. Anthologies can help here, as well. Repertoire entry begins in January, and we will have a complete rep-check this year to eliminate any problems of possibilities of a student failing or receiving an "Ineligible for Certificate!"

Catherine Thompson, CM Chair

## Composers Today

**COMPOSERS TODAY (CT)** is an annual MTAC-sponsored program that encourages development of musical composition and improvisation skills. A state-published *Composers Today Syllabus* and six levels of the student *Composition Workbooks* support composition instruction. Through the state-sponsored CT Evaluations (noncompetitive) and the State Contest, students and teachers have access to professional feedback and opportunities for state-convention performance and awards.

- ▶ 2015 CT Evaluations open for online applications on December 1, 2014 and close January 15, 2015.
- ▶ 2015 CT State Contest opens for online applications on January 15, 2015 and closes March 30, 2015.

**Composers Today Improvisation Program** provides an opportunity to enhance your students' musical creativity through improvisations. The state-published *Improvisation Syllabus and Guide* along with the *Improvisation, Games & Activities* provide curriculum and support for teachers. Our state website also provides an annual monthly-themed improvisation assignment document with creative improvisation suggestions and tips. Improvisation may be included in Certificate of Merit evaluations; and in the state-sponsored Improvisation Evaluation program, students receive professional feedback and may apply for state-convention performance opportunities.

- ▶ 2014 Standard Improvisation Evaluation has a downloadable application from the state website, and must be postmarked by March 15, 2015.

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



## Rachel Reilly Young Artist Competition

At the general meeting in September, a suggestion was made to waive the memory requirement for the Piano Division of RRYAC. The committee decided to send an email to the membership to get their pulse on this issue. On October 8, an email was sent to the membership for a vote on whether to keep the memory requirement or waive it. Membership was asked to vote no later than October 15<sup>th</sup>. A total of 9 people responded, 5 in favor of keeping the memorization requirement and 4 for waiving it. Since the majority of those who responded voted to keep the memory requirement (and because very few thought to respond to any change regarding memory requirements), the requirement for the piano division will stay the same. Both audition pieces are required to be memorized. However, as per the decision of our instrumental teachers at the general meeting in September, there will be no memory requirement for the instrumental division. The complete guidelines and application form for the 2015 Rachel Reilly Young Artist Competition will be posted on our website in January. The competition is scheduled for the morning of April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015. We encourage all studios to participate in this valuable event.

Your RRYAC Committee

## Teen Seminar

We had a wonderful time last Sunday at our Teen Seminar! There were 15 or more teens who attended, and almost everyone played at least once. Eric of course added his commentary and the students learned a bit about their pieces, compositional styles, composers, eras, and a few CM helpful hints. Then we shared a pizza and pasta bar, veggies and salad, sodas, juice, and cupcakes while we watched The Art of the Violin and a couple of Victor Borge clips. A very fun time was had by all!

Catherine Thompson, Chair

## Teen Seminar



Great food and a video, too!



Mesmerized by the music making



Playing a composer-naming game



Listening to Eric expound



# Teachers' Recital

We had a wonderful time at our Fall Teachers' Recital on Sunday, November 16. Everyone played beautifully and the audience was very appreciative. The reception after was a special treat, with so much good food to share! Thank you to Jane Travale for taking care of the reception, to all the teachers who helped out, and to the performers for sharing their time and talent to make this event a success.



Kim Griffith-Fraley, Kathleen Flemming, Grace Edwards, William Hobbs, Catherine Thompson, Eric Thompson

## The Voyage of Mary Magdalene

### A chamber opera with words and music by Nancy Bachmann

On Saturday November 15, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. Grace Edwards, Kathleen Flemming, Barbara Schnieder and Diane Maltester attended the premier of selections from the new opera The Voyage of Mary Magdalene. An entire performance of the beautifully written words and music will be presented on March 21, 2015. For further information you may inquire at:

[magdaleneopera@nancybachmann.com](mailto:magdaloneopera@nancybachmann.com).

#### Performers included:

Julia Nielsen (Mary)  
Lisa van der Ploeg (Martha)  
Bradley Kynard (Lazarus)  
Clayton Valley Presbyterian Choir under  
the direction of David Huff  
Villa Sinfonia Chamber Musicians  
David Ryther, Violin  
David Wishnia, Cello  
Nancy Bachmann, Piano

The Voyage of Mary Magdalene is a project of the Vocal Arts Institute, a California 501(c) (3) non-profit corporation. Tax ID #68-0335928



#### PIANO FOR SALE

Royal Cincinnati Piano, made by Werner Industries Co. in the early 1900's, is for sale for \$200. This is an upright piano in fair condition. Please call Anna at 427-1495 to see the piano. Moving must be arranged by the buyer.

**DELTA BRANCH CHRISTMAS GATHERING**  
**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19<sup>th</sup> - 7:30 p.m.**

*at the home  
of Barbara Schnieder  
214 Pistachio Pl. - Brentwood*



**Come join your fellow Delta Branch teachers and enjoy  
some Christmas spirit - just before Christmas week!**



**Bring your spouse, partner, or  
significant other.**

**Bring some finger-food to share.**

We haven't had a Christmas get-together  
for several years, and would like to  
do it once again.

**PLEASE** rsvp directly to Barbara at  
925-516-7119 or [bjsch@comcast.net](mailto:bjsch@comcast.net)  
no later than December 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Bring your piano-playing fingers  
for Christmas Carols,  
your Christmas singing voice,  
your appetite for Christmas goodies,  
and your attitude for fun! See you there!**

# Barnes & Noble Bookfair

**Saturday Dec. 6th 2014, 10am – 6pm**  
**Barnes & Noble 5709 Lone Tree Way Antioch, CA**  
**Delta Music Teachers Association**  
**Recital & Fund Raiser**

NOOKS count towards the book fair!!! ASK about bulk NOOK discounts!!  
CHEESECAKE from the CHEESECAKE FACTORY!!! STARBUCKS COFFEE!!!  
We also have a variety of sandwiches, treats, and cookies that all help benefit the Fund Raiser!

## Can't attend our bookfair at Barnes & Noble?

Purchases made between December 6-11 will benefit our Music Teachers Scholarship Fund. Just mention our Music Teachers Association or give the Book fair ID **11450129** when making purchases in-store or online at **bn.com/book fairs**.

Come hear some beautiful music, eat some cheesecake and get some Christmas shopping done!

MTAC, Delta Branch

# Adult Student Seminar

Sunday, January 26, 2015

2:00 PM

At the home of

Kathy Crowe

545 Canyonwood Drive

Brentwood, CA 94513

Phone: 516-5609

RSVP to Maureen: ph. 754-7216

Or Email: [moznotes@aol.com](mailto:moznotes@aol.com)

Please bring a snack to share.

