



DELTA BRANCH

January 23, 2015

Editor: Barbara Schnieder

2014/2015 Volume 3

Delta Branch MTAC Newsletter

YEAR OF THE LISTENER

2015 - The Year of the Listener

In Chinese culture, 2015 is *The Year of the Sheep*, and begins on February 4th. Although I don't pay particular heed to the Chinese horoscope, MTAC has hundreds of Chinese members who do pay close attention (including our current MTAC State President) and I have begun to notice these horoscopic years more closely. Characteristics of the Year of the Sheep include being more caring, kind, and sensitive with each other ... developing a gentle heart, and being open to love and acceptance on all levels. Another theme of the Sheep year is to express your creative side. If you ever wanted to further explore your creative side, this is your year! I would like to suggest that we all take advantage of the year 2015 and become more creative listeners!

The difference between "hearing" and "listening" is worth noting. Background music permeating an elevator or a store can be relegated to simply "hearing" music ... but attendance at a concert should move us to the active level of "listening" to music. This can be compared to one listening carefully when speaking with someone who has a strong accent, where the apt attention demanded to understand this person is necessary to fully receive the message. How often do we fully, actively listen at a concert, a recital, or even to ourselves practice or teach?

As a flutist, I most frequently listen to music from the top down. My husband, who plays tuba, listens from the bottom up. But most often the heart of the music lies neither at the top or bottom, but instead in the register where we are least comfortable, and which requires listening from the middle out. Give it a try. LISTEN (really listen) to music in a new way. In a symphony, listening to the viola line is a good start ... or in a chorus, listen to the altos. Hone in on the middle of the texture and try listening from the inside out in both directions at the same time.

Continued on the next page.....

Upcoming Events

Student Recitals 2015 at LMC Recital Hall

February 21, 1:30 & 3pm

March 7, 3pm (CM Honors Recital)

April 18, 3pm (YAC Winners Presented)

May 16, 3pm (pops music accepted, no memorization requirement)

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 at www.deltabranch.org

Piano Master Class January 24, 2015

Certificate of Merit Evaluation February 28, March 1, 2015

Young Artist Competition April 11, 2015

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For solo piano pieces, focus on the inside texture (not just the top or bottom) and be totally aware of the importance of this middle part of the compositional sandwich. Have students practice the middle voices ... which are supported by the bass line, and decorated with the treble line, but ultimately are the meat of the composition.

Try attending concerts of genres not normally peaking your interest. When was the last time you attended the ballet ... and listened to the music behind the dancers? The San Francisco Symphony has begun a new series of playing movie music during the silent showing of movies — a most excellent way to truly listen to the importance of the music behind the motion. Go to a guitar concert, and hear the intricacy of the inner voices on the strings. Truly listen to the accompaniment of a soloist, and not just the solo voice. Close your eyes and listen ... you'll be amazed at what you hear.

In 2015, I challenge you to become a better and more savvy listener who hears and understands the inner workings of the music which has become our profession. Oh yes ... and wear more green (the color of *The Year of the Sheep*)!

Susan



Master Class with Nancy Fierro

Please join us as the Delta Branch sponsors a Piano Master Class on Saturday morning, January 24th, beginning at 9:00 am at LMC, featuring Dr. Nancy Fierro (www.nancyfierro.com).

Six students have been selected to perform that morning, benefitting from the excellent instruction of Dr. Fierro. We, the audience, are auditors, listening both to the performance of the students and learning from the teaching suggestions from the master. Auditing is free. Please encourage your own students, parents, and friends to attend as well. This is such a wonderful opportunity for us all. The Master Class will

have a brief time for questions to Nancy, and she has promised us a short performance of her own at the end. Dr. Fierro is also offering private piano lessons at \$100 per hour (a bargain). She will teach any age, any level, but probably more advanced students will gain the most from her instruction. To schedule a lesson that weekend, please contact Kathleen Flemming at musicakrf@sbcglobal.net or phone 925-754-7915.

Rachel Reilly Young Artist Competition

We know that everybody is busy preparing students for CM, but it might not be too early to think of the upcoming Rachel Reilly Young Artist Competition on April 11, 2015. We hope that your studio will offer this wonderful opportunity to your students.

In this newsletter are the separate Guidelines and Application forms for Division I (Piano) and Division II (Instrumental and Voice). Both repertoire selections performed for the Piano Division must be memorized. Instrumental Division competitors may use music on both pieces. The fees are non-refundable. A minimum of three entries is required for a category competition to take place, otherwise, it will be cancelled and refund will be given only to students who will not be able to compete due to the cancellation of the competition.

Application must be postmarked March 28, 2015 to:
Grace Edwards, 2582 Talaria Dr. Oakley CA 94561.

Your RRYAC Committee

STATE FOUNDATION DONATION

Would you consider making a personal donation to the MTAC Foundation this year? For it to be within the MTAC fiscal year, you need to donate prior to July 31, 2015.

The goal of our current State Foundation Chair, Joyce Osborn, is to have 50% of all MTAC members make a donation to the MTAC Foundation. You may make a donation of any amount – even \$5 helps.

Donations are accepted through PayPal or by writing a personal check, with specific information as follows: <http://www.mtac.org/foundation/#howToDonate> Joyce has set an overall goal of \$115,000 for the 14-15 MTAC years in Foundation donations.

The MTAC Foundation funds all student programs for the State, including Composers Today, Friends of Today's Music, Improvisation, Music Study Assistance Grant, Piano Concerto/Solo, VOCE, Young Artists Guild, and Young Composers Guild. You may designate your donation to any specific area, or donate to the 2nd-Century Fund, which is a general donation to the Foundation where the money will be used where it is most needed. The Delta Branch, as a Branch, regularly donates as well.

To see the function and benefit to our students of each of the above programs, please check the MTAC website at www.mtac.org

Thank you in advance for any personal donation you give. Personally, I give a donation each year.

Susan Clark, President, Delta Branch, MTAC

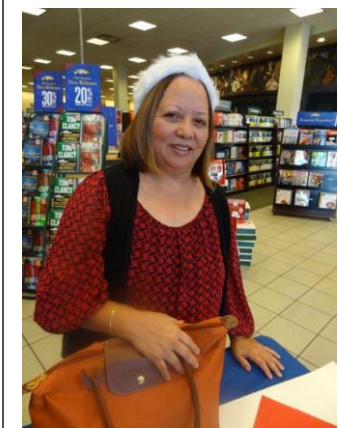
tubaflute@comcast.net

Barnes and Noble Fundraiser a Success!

Yay! Our best year ever for the Barnes and Noble fundraiser! The amount we made from sales benefits and gift-wrapping was \$1,126.61. After subtracting \$150.00 for our sound technicians, our profit is \$976.61. Thanks to all who helped to make the fund-raiser a success. Will we do another Barnes and Noble fundraiser next December? You betcha!

Carole Main





CERTIFICATE OF MERIT NEWS

The Certificate of Merit Delta Branch Fee for 2016 will be raised from \$10 per student (2015) to \$15 per student (2016). The MTAC State has previously allowed the Branch to retain \$5.75 per student from the State CM fees. This will not take place in 2016, as the State is constructing an entire new database for Certificate of Merit, and the money is needed for this major expense. The Branches have been told this far in advance, so we have the time to make a decision how to proceed. The Delta Branch Board of Directors has decided to raise the Branch CM Fee by \$5 per student (making it \$15 per student) effective at registration in the fall of 2015, for the 2016 CM, to cover our CM Branch expenses. Teachers will see this slight fee increase on the payment voucher when registering students for CM.

MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR DELTA BRANCH

Delta Branch dues for 2015-16, which will be paid prior to the deadline of July 31, 2015, will be \$35 for all members – this includes all Active Members (including over-age-70 and over-age-80) and Student Members and Contributory Members. In the past, the over-70 dues and the Student dues have been ½ of the Active Member dues, and the over-80 dues have been entirely waived. These discounts will still be in effect for State dues --- but for the Branch, we need the \$35 from each and every member to be able to operate the programs in our Delta Branch. The Delta Branch Board of Directors has decided to make this change. (**Please note --- if you fall into one of the previously-discounted categories, and this raise of dues causes undue financial hardship for you, please let the Delta Branch President know. We surely do not wish to lose any member.)

<u>14-15 Branch dues</u>		<u>15-16 Branch dues</u>
Active Member	\$35	\$35
Over-70 Active	\$17.50	\$35 (a raise of \$17.50 per year)
Over-80 Active	\$0	\$35 (a raise of \$35 per year)
Student	\$17.50	\$35 (a raise of \$17.50 per year – currently we have no student members)
Contributory	\$35	\$35

ASCAP

Please remember that all recital programs, including programs from private studio recitals, are requested to be sent to the MTAC State Office so that the pieces performed may be recorded with ASCAP --- so that composers and arrangers who are ASCAP members may be paid for the performance of their compositions. You may give one copy of your programs to Susan Clark, as she mails in programs to the State from our student recitals --- or you may mail them in yourself to the MTAC State Office, at the address below.

Thank you for your attention to this detail of making music a profit for those who deserve it – our composers and arrangers of music. (This only concerns MTAC Delta Branch members – for any recital of your students, or in which you participate yourself. If you are in a chorus, orchestra, or band --- that organization already takes care of the ASCAP requirement.)

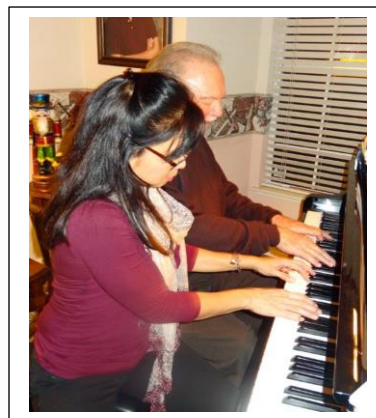
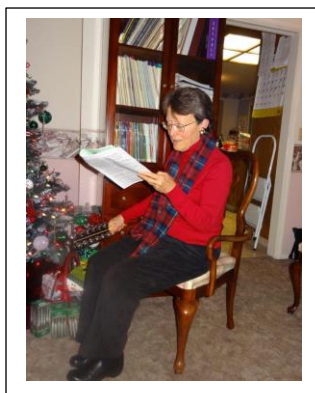
**MTAC State Office
833 Market Street, Suite 900
San Francisco, California 94103**

Christmas Party

Delta Branch Holiday Gathering

What fun we had on the evening of Friday, December 19th, during the Holiday Gathering at the home of Barbara and Ron Schnieder. We ate and played Christmas Carols with chimes and ate and visited and ate and finally sang Christmas Carols with the most excellent accompaniment of Grace and William (wow, what a pair on the piano!). If you weren't there, we missed you. If you were there, you know what fun music can bring to the holiday season.





MTAC STATE CONVENTION

MTAC State Convention is right around the corner. Are you saving your pennies? It's near us this year, at the San Jose Fairmont Hotel, July 3-7, 2015. Please check out details on the MTAC website at <http://www.mtac.org/events-information/convention/>.

Room rate is only \$97 per night, and with several people in a room, this is cheap! Artists are stellar, and workshops and master classes and recitals and evening concerts abound. Early Bird registration gives you a cheaper convention rate, so watch for when convention registration is open. Theme this year is "Joy of Music", and you don't want to miss this event.

Delta Branch Scholarship

The Delta Branch MTAC Los Medanos College Music Major Scholarship
will be accepting
applications starting in the month of January.
The deadline for submission of applications is April 3, 2015.

The award is \$1200.00.

Eligibility is as follows:

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 2014 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 2015, 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 2015, with a declared major in music.
3. Members of MTAC are ineligible

Applications will be available soon in the Music Office at LMC and on the Delta branch
website: www.deltabranch.org

Nancy Bachmann, Chair, Scholarship Committee

Grace Edwards has moved!
Please make a note
of the change in
your Membership Directory
of her new
address below:

Grace Edwards
2582 Talaria Drive
Oakley, CA 94531

Land Line: To Be Determined
Cell Phone: (925) 348-5498

Adult Seminar

We had a wonderful Adult Seminar on Sunday, January 18. Nine people shared their music with each other. Most were piano, but we also had flute and voice. Four teachers were in attendance: Barbara Schnieder, Kathleen Flemming, Susan Clark, and Maureen Honegger. Two other teachers represented by their students were Nancy Bachmann and Sara Harris. Four family members also came to offer support. The music was widely varied from beginners to advanced as well as in style.

There is some interest in a more informal group that gets together more frequently, and not necessarily attended by teachers. If your student is interested, contact Maureen. We would like to schedule another Adult Seminar for June 14, Sunday afternoon at Maureen Honegger's home. Feedback is welcome on this date.

Maureen Honegger
Adult Seminar Chair

RACHEL REILLY YOUNG ARTIST COMPETITION

Delta Branch, MTAC, Instrumental/Vocal Division Guidelines

Saturday, April 11, 2015

- 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 – \$200 (1st place) & \$100 (2nd place)
A minimum of 3 entries per category is required for a category competition to take place.
- Fees:** Each application must be accompanied by a non-refundable fee as follows: Category I - \$10; Category II - \$20. Only when a category is cancelled will entry fees be refunded. **Please make checks payable to MTAC Delta Branch.**
- Auditions:** **Saturday, April 11, 2015, 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 instrumental and voice students 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 may not be memorized

Category II: 15 minutes maximum; 2 contrasting pieces or movements from larger works, both may not 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 18, 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 28, 2015**, and mailed to: Grace Edwards, 2582 Talaria Dr., Oakley, 94561. For more information, call Grace at 349-5498 or email her at grazndelta99@comcast.net

RACHEL REILLY YOUNG ARTIST COMPETITION

Saturday, April 11, 2014

DIVISION 2 (INSTRUMENTAL and VOICE) APPLICATION

Please check where appropriate:

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

____ Category II (grades 9-12) \$200 (1st place) & \$100 (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, 10 minute time limit;

Category II - 2 works or movements of contrasting style, 15 minute time limit.

Students are required to play traditional classical literature. Both pieces may not be memorized.

Title _____ Movement _____

Composer _____

Title _____ Movement _____

Composer _____

Exact timing of the combined pieces: _____

Auditions will be held on **Saturday, April 11, 2015**, 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 18, 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
2582 Talaria Dr.
Oakley, CA 94561

RACHEL REILLY YOUNG ARTIST COMPETITION

Delta Branch, MTAC, Piano Division Guidelines

Saturday, April 11, 2015

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- Categories:** Category I: Grades up to and including Grade 8 - \$100 (1st place) & \$50 (2nd place)
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- Place:** Los Medanos College Music Department Recital Hall.
- Eligibility:** Competition is open to piano students 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.*
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- Repertoire:** Category I: 10 minutes maximum; 2 contrasting pieces or movements from larger works, both memorized.

Category II: 15 minutes maximum; 2 contrasting pieces or movements from larger works, both 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 18, 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.
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RACHEL REILLY YOUNG ARTIST COMPETITION

Saturday, April 11, 2014

DIVISION 1 (PIANO) APPLICATION

Please check where appropriate:

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

___ Category II (grades 9-12) \$200 (1st place) & \$100 (2nd place) Application Fee \$20

NAME _____ PHONE _____ GRADE _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ ZIP _____

EMAIL _____ TEACHER _____

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 11, 2015**, 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 18, at 3:00 p.m.** Monetary awards and certificates will be presented at this time, and winners **must** be present to receive their awards.

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