

*September 2017*

## *Whittier Branch Newsletter*

### **President's Message**

Greetings, fellow Whittier Branch members! I hope you have had a good summer and are ready to start up with our branch activities. We may have fewer events this year than in the past, but we're still going. I'd like to introduce my illustrious board and chairs, always hard at work for you – and we hope that if you have never taken a branch post, such as chairing one of our traditional events, you will consider volunteering. Or maybe you held a post many years ago and have enjoyed a nice break. We can use the help now. Please see the requests for opportunities in this newsletter and pitch in, otherwise, a number of our student events may not happen. (We don't want our branch to fold.)

President : Robin Curtis  
Vice President: Earnestine Tu  
Treasurer: Jerri Lee Owen  
Recording Secretary: Ellena Yong  
Corresponding Secretary: Jane Oertel  
Membership Secretary: Jennifer Hewitt  
Director: Dr. J. Tom Strout  
Director: Patty Lawson

And I want to acknowledge a HUGE supporter and CM helper, Honorary Member: Roger Oertel

CM Chairs: Jane Oertel and Leslie Ho  
Bach Festival Chair: Tom Strout  
Concerto Chair: Leslie Ho  
Piano Master Class Chair: Lisa Szu Huang  
String Master Class Chair: Sarkis Salamanyan  
VOCE Chair: Sarkis Salamanyan (and looking for a co-chair to keep the event)

I thank all these volunteers. Robin Curtis, [rcurtispiano@aol.com](mailto:rcurtispiano@aol.com)

**General Meeting** Our first meeting of the school year is the most important one. It will be Monday, September 25, 8:00 pm and be held at the home of Jane and Roger Oertel, 1756 W Las Lanas Lane, Fullerton. There will be a lot of info to give you and that includes CM information. If you cannot attend this meeting, the Oertels are gracious enough to open their home on Tuesday evening, the 26<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 pm, for you to get this information. You must attend one of these meetings in order to participate in CM. The MTAC State Office has locked everyone out of the CM system until Chair Jane Oertel confirms you did attend a meeting.

At the September meeting we will have the drawing for **keyboard master class**, which will be Sunday, January 21, time and place to be announced later. Five teachers' names will be chosen for CM levels 5 through Advanced.

**Certificate of Merit** This year Whittier Branch will hold CM at Whittier College in uptown Whittier. Keyboard evaluations are March 3 and 4 and Instrumental is March 10. There will be

no Branch Honors recital this year for keyboard, however, all students who are selected for Branch Honors will receive a blue rosette and a gold honors seal for their CM certificates.

**Keyboard Branch Junior Bach-Baroque Festival** This event is scheduled for April 8, 2018 and will be held at the First Methodist Church in Whittier. The deadline for the application and fee is March 8.

**Concerto** Our concerto program, chaired by Leslie Ho, is in limbo at the moment. We need to raise more money for the event and we do not have a chair for our fundraiser. Would you be willing to do this? You would get lots of help and your efforts would culminate in a spectacular event in June. Please call or email Robin Curtis if you are interested.

**Yearbooks** This year there will be no yearbooks. It was not a decision made lightly. Therefore, all information will come from newsletters, and that means you must read them in order to get the most up-to-date info on any upcoming event. There will be a roster of teacher info for all of us online. It will not be available to anyone other than Whittier Branch members.

**Chair Reports** All chairs, please remember to keep a written report of your event. These reports will be read at the May business meeting and will go into our branch files. Please be specific as to student/teacher numbers, dollar amounts collected and spent, and general overview of the activity.

**Piano Music Festival** We are looking for a new chair for this event. If you are interested in this post, please contact Robin Curtis. This event is typically held in late January but can be moved if the chair requests it. If you have never been a chair, please consider taking on the position. You will get help and do the branch a valuable service.

**Holiday Musicale** The branch is looking for a chair for the December Holiday musicale. You can choose the venue (such as a retirement home). This event is typically held on a weekend in the early part of the month. Music can be Christmas or classical and memory is not required. This is also considered our Community Outreach program. Please contact Robin Curtis if you are interested in this event at 562.699.2571 or rcurtisplano@aol.com.

**Senior/Junior Competition and Recital** Will you have a senior or junior this coming school year who might want to participate in this event? Maybe you have more than one student who would be interested. We did not have enough enrollees last year and are wondering if this event will become an every-other-year event. Please let Robin Curtis know if you will have students planning for this in 2018 so we can decide how we're going to handle it. Better yet, why not chair this event? You will have help!

**VOCE** Sarkis Salamanyan, the chairperson, needs a co-chair to make this event happen. Do you want your students to participate in this wonderful program featured next year? Please consider co-chairing this program. Contact Robin Curtis if you would like to help your branch.

### **Other News**

I'd like to welcome our newest members, Hyun Jung Hwang (composition, piano), Joyce Moon (piano), Teresa Escobar Chen (piano) and Lawrence K.C. Leung (violin). Welcome to our branch!

**Musicales** We are hoping to have 3 musicales this school year, Nov, Feb and Apr. But we also are looking into another venue for our musicales for 2017-2018. If you know of a church or another place with a grand piano that could accommodate us, please contact Robin Curtis. We have insurance and will pay for the use of the facility.