



October 2016

## Whittier Branch Newsletter

**President's Message:** Greetings fellow Whittier Branch Members, I hope your teaching is going well. I have news and announcements to report. As before, I won't be mentioning everything in this newsletter. Please check in the yearbook or at our Whittier Branch website for more info. <http://www.mtacwhittier.org> Thank you. Robin Curtis

### **Certificate of Merit:**

As we write this CM article there are 21 days left to enroll students in CM, Panel, or YAG and meet the deadline of October 31, 2016. To date, 14 teachers have entered 72 students for CM, that's less than 20% of our typical enrollment.

Have you created your initial roster of students who will be participating in MTAC State programs such as CM, VOCE, Composers Today, etc.? Have you clicked on the "Notify Student" button for every student to notify the parents to confirm you as the teacher of their child? Did you give the parents the students ID number and Parent instructions for them to use the online system? Have the parents confirmed you are the teacher of their child? Once the parent has confirmed you as teacher, have you enrolled the student in CM, Panel, or YAG? This is the minimum you have to do by October 31<sup>st</sup> to enroll your students in CM programs.

If you haven't seen "Basic Instructions for Teachers for CM Enrollment in the Online System" I've asked Robin to attach them to the newsletter along with "Instructions for Parents for Online Account Setup (Revised 09/30/2016)" and "Instructions for Parents CM Application" (How to pay between Nov. 1 & Nov. 10). All these are available on the Teacher portal under "Resources".

It is recommended that you work with other teachers if you have not started or you are having problems with any part of the process for getting your students enrolled for CM. If after that you are still having issues or just have questions, please contact us at [raoertel@aol.com](mailto:raoertel@aol.com) or call Roger at 714-686-6760. Remember, the part that may take the longest is getting the parents to respond to the email from MTAC to confirm you as their child's teacher. You need to follow up if you do not see the student on your list and available to be enrolled in CM. The October 31<sup>st</sup> 11:59pm deadline is firm. If you do not get the student enrolled in CM by then they cannot do CM for 2017. If you wait until the last few days to start you likely will not meet the deadline. A process that has worked well for a few teachers is to have the parents do the confirmation at your studio. That means they need to be able to access their email accounts on your computer to click on the link to start the online application.

After getting the student enrolled in CM you may immediately start entering the "CM Application Details" noting whether student is being nominated for Branch Honors or Convention. If Convention is checked you must also enter "Convention Details" noting which Convention Recital and other required information. You may also start entering the Repertoire List information that includes checking whether the piece is the Syllabus piece, or Convention piece, or Etude. You will have until January 15, 2017 to complete these tasks.

From January 2, 2017 to January 15, 2017 you may enter scheduling information such as carpool or accompanist. You may also request, for piano, the specific date (March 4 or March 5) remembering that you cannot request the same date for more than half your students. All disciplines may request AM/PM evaluation times. Keep in mind the more specific requests we have the higher chance that we will not be able to accommodate them all. Please do not ask your students when they want to come, have them ask you for a specific day or AM/PM. Reminder, parents can change the student birthdate in the student profile. Name changes must be submitted by the parent via email to MTAC state office. The procedure is in the September Branch newsletter.

The online process is different from prior years but it can be done as demonstrated by the teachers that have already enrolled their students in CM. Please don't wait to get this done, the deadline is firm. Your support is absolutely necessary for CM to succeed for your students.

Thank you,

Jane Oertel

**October General Meeting:**

Interpreting Bach on the Piano: Unleashing Bach, and Breaking Rules!

This lecture/demonstration by Jeff Lavner will look at rhythm, phrasing, and articulation on the modern piano. It will also include demonstrations on the clavichord and harpsichord. Please join us for this exciting program at the home of Suzanne Wong on Monday evening, October 24, at 8 PM, 3017 N. Milagro Way, Fullerton. This lecture is co-sponsored by the Southern California Junior Bach Festival.

**Jeff Lavner's** musical career began as a jazz pianist playing professionally at the age of 15. Upon entering Syracuse University initially as an Electrical Engineering major, he transferred to music studies and received a BMus in Piano Performance, studying with George Pappastavrou. At Syracuse, he won The Lena Fausey Prize for outstanding undergraduate pianist, and continued his studies with Gabriel Chodos and Bela Nagy after graduation. Moving to the west coast, he received his MM in piano performance under Daniel Pollack at USC, and received the June Davidson award for outstanding graduate. He continued his harpsichord studies with Malcolm Hamilton, and William Neil Roberts. He served as harpsichordist for Harmonia Baroque, and is currently performing with the Los Angeles Baroque Players since 2007. He has performed frequently in the SoCal area, with performances at LACMA, the Norton Simon Museum, the Getty, and Huntington Library. Previously on the faculties of Santa Monica College, and Golden West College, he is currently chair of the Piano Department for the Colburn Community School. Mr. Lavner also teaches at the Colburn Academy and keyboard skills at the Colburn Conservatory.

**Gala Fundraiser:** The date for our fabulous Gala Fundraiser is November 20, 4:00, at the Community Presbyterian Church, 13701 Hillsborough Dr., La Mirada. Volunteer performers are needed. Please call Leslie Ho (626) 274-8768 or email him @ [virtuosoho@hotmail.com](mailto:virtuosoho@hotmail.com) if you would like to perform. If you don't wish to perform, at least come to cheer us on! Invite

your students, your family, and your friends. All tickets are \$10 adults and \$5 students. We will have them available for purchase at the October 24 meeting, or you may purchase them by sending a tax-deductible check payable to "MTAC Foundation" to Leslie Ho: 2007 Prowse Street, Placentia, CA 92870. Tickets will be available at "Will Call" at the concerts.

**Musicale:** The next musicale will be held November 20 at St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Whittier.

**Bach Festival:** Regional will be held May 21. Contact Suzanne Wong if you have questions.

**Piano Music Festival:** **Important Note:** The date has been changed to February 5, 2017. Time and place are still the same.

**Yearbooks:** Many, many thanks to Kay Pech for the time and effort she took to put our wonderful yearbook together. Also, thanks to the Whittier Branch Board and Chairs who helped significantly with their many reviews.

**Whittier Branch Board Meetings:** The branch board will be meeting on Thursdays this year. The general membership is invited to these meetings, to be held at Jerri Lee Owen's home. Please contact Robin Curtis two (2) days beforehand if you plan on attending. Our next meeting will be Nov 3.

**Newsletters:** If you would like to add something to the newsletter, please contact me, Robin Curtis, by the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month to ensure the info gets added.

**Correction:** In the yearbook, the area code for Leslie Ho is mistakenly listed as 714. Please change your yearbook listing to 626.

**Miscellaneous:** Our yearbooks were paid for by 4 advertisers: Fields Pianos, Johnny Thompson Music, Morey's Music and John Wu. If you use any of them, please thank them for their support of our branch.