



*September 2016*

*Whittier Branch Newsletter*

***President's Message***

Greetings fellow Whittier Branch Members,

I hope you all had a wonderful summer of rejuvenation and are ready for another year of working with music, both with students and for yourselves. We're off to another big start to our year of activities and events. We have a new board of directors, another great group of members putting in time and energy to keep our branch going, and we have hard-working chairs who also are planning for the year. The Whittier Branch has a 2-meeting rule now, so please plan on attending any 2 functions during the year, say a board meeting and a general meeting. (The September one is very worthwhile). But I'd love to see all of you more often at the meetings which should be informative and entertaining. So let's get started with some info on our biggest events. Please read carefully and do not hesitate to contact a chair if you need help...or want to help!

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>

Robin Curtis

***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 me 2 days beforehand if you plan on attending. Our meeting dates will be Oct 6, Nov 3, Jan 5, Feb 2, Apr 6 and May 4.

***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.

***September General Meeting-9/26/16, 8:00 PM Home of Jane Oertel***

1756 W. Las Lanas Ln Fullerton 92833

At our first meeting this year, we will have lots of info for you on various programs and events. This is a very important meeting and we hope to have you there. We will also have the Delegates' Reports from the annual Convention and the drawings for Piano and Strings Master Classes. We will also have the yearbooks, put together so wonderfully by Kay Pech. (A big thank you to Kay). If you did not order a yearbook, you can get all the same info at our website.

## *Certificate of Merit News*

The first general meeting of the year is almost here and there is much to learn about the new online system to be used for CM this year. Our plan is to provide information from the State office and to demonstrate the first steps of setting up your student lists. ***If you haven't already notified us at [raoertel@aol.com](mailto:raoertel@aol.com) that you will be there the 26<sup>th</sup>, please do so.*** If all CM teachers were to show up we cannot accommodate everyone, so we will schedule an additional meeting for the 27<sup>th</sup> if need be. If you feel adventurous and want to get a head start, here's some of the steps you need to follow.

1. Go to [new.mtac.org](http://new.mtac.org)
2. Enter your old user ID, leave password blank, click on "here" under "Forgot Your Password?"
3. Enter new password. Remember to keep track of the new password as neither we nor the State have access to it as we do in the old system. You will still need your user ID and password for the old system for some functions not yet transferred to the new system.
4. The first thing you will see is a list of your students from CM last year. That is your starting point. The student list is a list of all your students who will be involved in any MTAC State programs, such as CM, VOCE, Composers Today, etc. You are not yet entering them in CM, that is a later step. You must have the student list first.
5. You need to add the parent's email address in the appropriate field.
6. Click on Notify Student. This sends an email message to the parent telling them how to set up a user ID and password to access the Parent Portal. When they login they will be asked for the Student ID Number. You must provide that for them. The student ID number is on the initial student list you see when you login. Make a note of it and provide it to the parent for each child they have taking lessons. Let the parent know they only have a week to respond to the message, otherwise it expires and you (teachers) will need to resend it.
6. The parent will, after entering the student ID number requested, be given the chance to correct the birth date if incorrect. If birthdate is correct they can click on the "confirm" button. That is all they do now. If the student name is incorrect, only the parent can request a correction using the following directions:

Name Changes are handled by the State Office, contact Melissa at [melissay@mtac.org](mailto:melissay@mtac.org)

The parents should provide request by email only

Student ID #,

Incorrect spelling of the name,

Correct spelling of the name,

Teacher name,

Email Melissa from the parent email address that we/MTAC have on file.

7. If you have students who need to be Recalled from prior year's involvement in CM or you need to add a new student (never been in CM before). Click on "STUDENTS" near top of the Teacher Portal page. Then click on "+Add New Student". If you know student's ID, click on "YES" and enter fields requested. Click on "Notify Student". If student has never been in CM, click on "NO" and enter fields requested. Click on "Notify Student". If you want to recall student from prior year's CM, click on "RECALL STUDENT". Choose student to be recalled by clicking on circle left of the name, enter parent email near the bottom, and click on "Notify Student".

8. After you have sent all the emails via “Notify Student” to the parents you can get a list of all students whose parents have confirmed them by clicking on “STUDENTS” near the top of the page. To see the students who have not yet responded to the email message you can click on “Show Student Migration” on the “STUDENT” page. This shows you when message was sent and when the message will expire. If the message expires, meaning the parent did not respond, you can “RESEND” the message and get a new one week expiration period. You probably should contact the parent to make sure they are not having problems.

**9. Deadlines are firm. Parents must confirm students before you may enter them in CM beginning October 1st. Parents must confirm student is entering CM by October 31, 2016 11:59pm. Parents must pay CM Fees online by November 10, 2016 11:59pm.**

10. New this year, once you begin entering your students in CM on/after October 1<sup>st</sup>, you may enter repertoire data, schedule request, carpool, accompanist, Branch Honors, Convention, etc. immediately. **Deadline to complete repertoire entry is January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017.**

This gives you an idea of what we will be covering on September 26<sup>th</sup> at the Oertels. One idea to keep in mind is that some of you might want to work together in small groups as you do this on your own, learning from each other.

Again, the meeting on September 26 is important. We are not set up to be able to do individual training if you do not come or don't work with others who do come.

See you on September 26<sup>th</sup>.

Jane Oertel

### ***New from the Southern California Junior Bach Festival---***

—The Educational Lecture Series co-sponsored by SCJBF. We are one of the first (if not the first) branches to take advantage of this opportunity. Come join us for the lecture/demonstration, "Interpreting Bach on the Piano: A Look at Rhythm, Phrasing, and Articulation on the Modern Piano" by Jeff Lavner. His presentation includes demonstrations on the clavichord and harpsichord! It will be on October 24, Monday, at 8:00 PM (General Meeting) at Suzanne Wong's home. (See Yearbook or website for more info on SCJBF)

### ***Musicales***

The first of our general musicales will be November 20 at St. Andrew Lutheran Church, 11345 Miller Rd. Whittier. It will be a MEMORY OPTIONAL musicale. The students can perform holiday and pop music as well as classical. As in the past, a performance up to 5 minutes is \$4 and a performance between 6 and 10 minutes is \$6. One or two pieces may be played in the allotted time. Our chair is Jennifer Hewitt. You can fill out applications online and mail one check (covering all your students) to Jennifer at 18328 Alfred Ave. Cerritos 90703. All must be received by the Monday before the musicale, in this case, November 14. Please don't forget to have your participating students be aware of our branch Dress Code (see Yearbook).

### ***Fundraiser***

Last year our fundraiser proved a bounty of fabulous music from our own Whittier Branch teachers so we're doing it again! Save the date: November 13 at Community Presbyterian Church of La Mirada, 13701 Hillsborough Dr. La Mirada. Leslie Ho is the chair and if you'd like to perform, please contact him at [virtuosoho@hotmail.com](mailto:virtuosoho@hotmail.com). This is one great event and I'll have more info in next month's newsletter.

### *Holiday Musicale / Community Outreach*

We're looking into a holiday musicale at a local retirement home. Would you like to help plan it? Please contact Suzanne Wong and help this wonderful event get going. [swabe@hotmail.com](mailto:swabe@hotmail.com)

### *Miscellaneous News*

Our own Kay Pech was recently honored by ASTA-LA (American String Teachers Association) for her distinguished service to the organization. There was a long write-up on Kay in their Journal STRING ALONG. Kudos to Kay on being their annual award winner for 2016.

Inspiring quote of the month from Menahem Pressler. While he speaks of 'pianists,' his thoughts can be used by teachers of any instrument.

"Great pianists, looking for meaning in music, find beautiful meaning in many different ways. But it comes through love ...a persistent search of love. This love and understanding of music has to be nourished. Teachers, without you the blind cannot see. You open their eyes, their hearts, their lives."