

MUSIC TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA

833 Market Street • Suite 900 • San Francisco, CA 94103 • California Only 800-834-3340 • 415-978-9668 • Facsimile: 415-978-9695 • www.mtac.org



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Dear Parent,

The Music Teachers' Association of California (MTAC) sponsors a music study program entitled *Certificate of Merit* (CM). Initiated in 1933, the CM Program now involves approximately 30,000 students annually statewide. There are evaluation opportunities for students of Piano, Violin, Cello, Viola, Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Saxophone, Bassoon, Horn, Voice and Harp.

The goals of the CM Program are:

- To provide a systematic and comprehensive plan to develop performance skill, technique, ear training, sight reading/singing and understanding of music theory.
- To develop practical goals to help students maintain a steady and focused approach to their musical studies.
- To encourage students to strive for musical excellence.
- To create opportunities in which students may share their music with others.

How the CM Program Works:

- A detailed CM Syllabus has been created and designed for each of the above-mentioned instruments. There are specific set requirements for each of the eleven CM levels. Your child's teacher will decide on the level that is appropriate.
- Student Registration takes place from September 15 through November 15. Your child's teacher will register your child through a secure online database. Students must be age 5 or older as of November 15 (the CM Registration Deadline) to participate in the CM Program.
- Students work with their teachers on selected literature, technique elements, sight reading, theory and ear training for their enrolled level.
- Registered students participate in an annual evaluation held from mid-February through April.
- From the evaluation, students receive a written assessment.
- Students will also complete a written theory exam, which includes an ear training component.
- Upon successful completion of all segments of the evaluation, students receive an official MTAC CM Certificate.
- Senior medallions will be awarded to eligible high school seniors.
- Students who demonstrate exceptional skill at his/her evaluation may be selected to perform at annual MTAC State Convention Recitals.

I know that you and your child(ren) will benefit tremendously from this wonderful educational opportunity and experience. Please consult with your child's teacher for more information regarding registration and preparation.

Sincerely,

Judi Sands-Pertel
CM State Coordinator