

Music Teachers' Association of California
SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH
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Yelena Sonyants, Membership Secretary; Phyllis Pan, Recording Secretary;
Susan Blinderman, Heidi Hau, Shari Levinger,-Jacobs, Carol Ferrando; Directors

MTAC-SF Newsletter
February 1, 2010, New Information and Reminders

This page is the annotated Table of Contents – details follow in the body of the Newsletter.

There are 14 topics:

1. IMPORTANT! CLARIFICATION ON RECITAL APPLICATION PROCEDURE
2. General Meeting, Sunday, February 7, 2010, 2:00 p.m. – very short meeting, please be punctual.
Knuth Hall, Creative Arts Buildings, SF State University
 - ❖ Nominations for new member(s) for the Board;
 - ❖ Increasing volunteerism,
 - ❖ Discussion of Laguna Honda Community outreach concert (see Item 6)NEW BRANCH MEMBERS ESPECIALLY URGED TO ATTEND.
3. Master Class by Jeanne Stark, Sunday, February 7, 2010, 2:30 to 4:30 p.m., Knuth Hall, Creative Arts Bldg., SF State University.
See description below for a list of student pianists, repertoire and Jeanne Stark's biography.
4. CM News: Scott Pratt has resigned as CM Co-Chair. His successor is new CM Co-Chair, Millie Siu; assisted by new CM Committee member, Hui Chong Kim
Deadline to enter repertoire online for CM: February 15, 2010.
Teacher volunteers who do NOT have their students in CM are needed to help on March 27 and March 28. Please come forward! Contact Co-Chairs Phyllis Pan phuzzyphil@gmail.com or Millie Siu milliegsiu@hotmail.com.
5. Two concerts by MTAC-SF Branch Member, Dr. Vanessa Polgar Sonne:
 - 1) March 1, 2010 at 8pm a 200th Birthday Tribute to Chopin featuring alumni SFSU students, Knuth Hall, Creative Arts Bldg., SFSU
 - 2) April 6, 12:30 p.m., Noontime Concert at Old St. Mary's, 15 Piano Etudes
6. Next MTAC-SF Branch Community Outreach Concert: Laguna Honda – Saturday, March 13, 2010, 2:00 p.m. 6th Floor Mission Alcove–John Chan, Entertainment Director of Laguna Honda has requested in addition to classical piano, POP MUSIC (Broadway show tunes, folk song, Disney songs) in addition to classical piano, INSTRUMENTS OTHER THAN PIANO; students and teacher volunteer performers Requested! Participation is FREE.
Community Outreach Recital Chair: Bonnie Knight, Bonnie.Knight@att.net
7. Calling volunteer member teachers to perform at fundraising concert to benefit the MTAC-SF Branch on Sunday, May 23, 2010, at 3:00 p.m.
Deadline to submit recital application and to RSVP as audience member: Sat. 4/24/10.
8. MTAC Composers Today information. Deadline: February 15, 2010.
9. William Welborn is the new VOCE Chair.
10. Calendar for the Year, including venue updates.
11. Participate in your Branch! A note to teachers who enter students in MTAC-SF Branch recitals; your Branch needs your help at the recitals!
12. Fundraising Letters
13. THANK YOU to those members who donated time and talent to the Branch in December.
14. Other non-MTAC-related music activities.

1. IMPORTANT! CLARIFICATION ON RECITAL APPLICATION PROCEDURE

The recital application instructions have not been consistent and also we have a significant number of teachers without internet access. The Board of Directors addressed these two issues at our Board meeting on the evening of January 30, 2010. *The following instruction replaces all previous communications regarding recital applications.*

For Branch recitals, via U.S. Mail, send your completed recital application and your check for \$20 to one person only, the Treasurer, Melissa Smith, at her new address:

Melissa Smith, Treasurer
MTAC-SF Branch
1504 Whipple Avenue
Redwood City, CA 94062

Melissa will transmit the repertoire to the Recital Chairs. Members with internet access can find the recital application online at www.mtac-sf.org under "Branch Programs." Members without internet access can ask the Recital Chair to mail them a recital application.

The only exceptions to this policy are the Community Outreach Concerts, such as Laguna Honda on March 13, which are free in which to participate. Recital applications for community outreach concerts that involve **NO CHECKS** go to Bonnie Knight, 2546 Great Hwy., S.F., CA 94116-2613. See Item 6 for more about the Laguna Honda concert.

2. General Meeting, Sunday, February 7, 2010, 2:00 p.m. Knuth Hall, Creative Arts Buildings, SF State University NEW BRANCH MEMBERS ESPECIALLY URGED TO ATTEND.

The three agenda items will be:

❖ **Nominations for new member(s) for the Board.**

Jill Wenzel has resigned from the Board due to family responsibilities. The Board needs to fill the vacancy and would also appreciate additional new members. Please nominate your colleagues or volunteer to serve on the Board. The Board will vote on the nominations at the next Board meeting on February 20.

❖ **Increasing volunteerism.**

The same dozen people wear many hats in the Branch and do the lion's share of the work. **The Branch especially needs at least 8 volunteers at Certificate of Merit who have not enrolled students in the program to help!** Specifically, we need teachers to sell packaged treats, bottled water and MTAC-SF Certificate of Merit souvenir pencils in the Casablanca room in the Creative Arts Building at SFSU on March 27 and March 28 for two hour shifts from 8:00 a.m.-Noon and 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

❖ **Discussion of Laguna Honda Community outreach concert on Saturday, March 13, 2:00 p.m., 6th Floor Mission Alcove, a 60 minute concert.**

Teachers, this is the perfect chance to give your students who perform pop music a chance to shine! Also, non-pianists especially wanted. See Item 6 for further details about Laguna Honda concert.

3. Master Class by Jeanne Stark, Sunday, February 7, 2010, 2:30 to 4:30 p.m., Knuth Hall, Creative Arts Bldg., SF State University.

Websites about Jeanne Stark:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jeanne_Stark-Iochmans;

<http://www.fourseasonsconcerts.com/Stark-Iochmans.htm>;

<http://www.scene4.com/archivesqv6/mar-06/html/infocusstendhalmar06.html>

[Click here: Classical Voice of North Carolina](#)

(October 27, 2009 rapturous review of concert)

The students performing in the Master Class are listed below, along with their repertoire. Each student will be on stage for 30 minutes.

Susanna Kwan, Age 17, Student of Keiko Banks,

Chopin, Ballade in F Major, Op. 38

Emma Marriott, Age 15, Student of Machiko Kobialka

Chopin, Ballade No. 1 in g minor

Hilda Huang, Age 13, Student of John McCarthy

Variations serieuses in d minor, Opus 54 by Mendelssohn

Audrey Vardenega, 14, Student of Robert Schwartz

First movement of the Prokofiev Second Sonata in d minor, Op. 14.

[Alternate (in the event one of the students above cannot perform):

Chloe Roddy, Age 15, Student of Juliet McComas

Beethoven Sonata Op. 2, No. 2, First Movement]

Jeanne's biography: [Note: Jeanne recently shortened her name from Jeanne Stark-Iochmans to Jeanne Stark.]

JEANNE STARK-IOCHMANS graduated from the Royal Conservatory of Brussels with the highest marks of the previous 20 years and received the conservatory's most coveted award: The Prix de Virtuosite avec Grande Distinction. Born in Belgium, Ms. Stark-Iochmans won the Laure Van Cutsem Prize, appeared as soloist with her country's national orchestra and was selected to represent Belgium at an international festival of modern music in Bayreuth. An International Queen Elisabeth scholarship brought Ms. Stark-Iochmans to the United States for advanced study with Mieczyslaw Horszowski and Edwine Behre.

Following a highly acclaimed debut in New York's Carnegie Recital Hall, Ms. Stark-Iochmans has delighted audiences in France, Canada, Mexico, Belgium and the United States. She has given recitals and appeared with the New Haven Symphony, with the Boston Civic Orchestra, in Virginia, in New York's Town Hall and on WNYC in New York. She has also performed extensively with the Berkeley Symphony Orchestra, including a performance of Messiaen's Turangalila with Kent Nagano conducting. For several years, Ms. Stark-Iochmans served as both teacher and performer in the festivals at Montauroux in Southern France and was a member of the Adamant Summer Piano School in Vermont. Ms. Stark-Iochmans has served at Bryn Mawr College as guest lecturer on the works of Olivier Messiaen and was Assistant Music Director for Mozart's Marriage of Figaro at Bryn Mawr.

With Today's Artists Concerts' Distinguished Artists Series in San Francisco, she has performed Mozart's Concerto No. 23, K. 488 under the baton of Kermit Moore, and Franz Liszt's Piano Concerto No. 1 under the baton of Urs Schneider, both with the Berkeley Symphony Orchestra, and several solo recitals. In 1985, she performed a solo recital program at Carnegie Recital Hall and gave recitals at Alice Tully Hall in 1988 and 1992, both also under the auspices of Today's Artists Concerts. In 1996, she performed Bach's Goldberg Variations at Alice Tully Hall, under the auspices of Four Seasons Concerts and in 2001, she was presented in her Carnegie Hall debut recital also under the auspices of Four Seasons Concerts.

For 23 years, Ms. Stark-Iochmans has been Artist-in-Residence at Four Seasons Concerts' Yachats Music Festival in Yachats, Oregon. She performs regularly with Four Seasons Arts in their Distinguished Artists Series in the San Francisco Bay Area.

In 2002, 2004 and 2005, Ms. Stark performed in Turkey. For the last three years, she has performed recitals in cities and towns throughout the United States under the auspices of the Adams Foundation Recital Series, an organization dedicated to restoring the piano recital in communities throughout the United States.

Ms. Stark can be heard on Arch Records' label in Debussy's *Preludes, Books I and II*. Also available are her CD

recordings of Bach's *Goldberg Variations*, of Beethoven's *Last Three Sonatas, Op. 109, 11 and 11*, of Debussy *Etudes* and of Debussy *Preludes, Book I* and Debussy *Preludes, Book II*. Her most recent CD is a live recording of her 2008 recital at the Herbst Theatre in San Francisco, featuring works by Schubert, Debussy, Beethoven and Chopin.

Jeanne Stark is regarded with the highest esteem for her superb musicianship and deeply spiritual interpretations of classical music's most challenging repertoire for the piano. Her artistry has earned her the praise of some of the great musical masters of our time, including composers Darius Milhaud, Olivier Messiaen and Lou Harrison.

4. Scott Pratt has resigned as CM Co-Chair due to family responsibilities. The new CM Co-Chair will be Millie Siu, milliegsiu@hotmail.com ; she will be assisted by new CM Committee member, Hui Chong Kim, hckpianist@yahoo.com . Millie will be in Asia from February 6 to February 20. In her absence, Hui Chong Kim will help the other CM Co-Chair, Phyllis Pan, phuzzyphil@gmail.com . Also on the CM Committee are Esther Chan, pianistchanesther@sbcglobal.net and Keiko Banks, sbanks@sonic.net . The deadline to register repertoire online for your student list is **February 15, 2010.**

CM Updates from the State CM Council

The most recent CM Newsletter from Judi-Sands Pertel and earlier CM newsletters from the State MTAC Council are posted on the www.mtac.org website. Click on "Certificate of Merit," and then on the link entitled, "CM Newsletters."

5. Two concerts by MTAC-SF Branch Member, Dr. Vanessa Polgar Sonne

1) March 1, 2010 at 8pm a 200th Birthday Tribute to Chopin featuring alumni SFSU students, Knuth Hall, Creative Arts Bldg., SFSU;

2) April 6, 12:30 p.m., Noontime Concert at Old St. Mary's.

Fifteen Piano Etudes by Casadesus, Clementi, Chopin, Czerny, Debussy, MacDowell, Mendelssohn, Moszkowski, Liszt, Prokofieff, Rachmaninoff, Schumann, Scriabin, Szymanowski and Thomson.

6. Next MTAC-SF Branch Community Outreach Concert:

Laguna Honda – Saturday, March 13, 2010, 2:00 p.m.; 6th Floor Mission Alcove –

John Chan, Entertainment Director of Laguna Honda has requested POP MUSIC (Broadway show tunes, folk song, Disney songs) in addition to classical and INSTRUMENTS OTHER THAN PIANO; students of all ages and teachers are invited to perform! The concert is 60 minutes long. Participation is FREE because the Branch does not need to rent a hall or pay for piano tuning.

Teachers, many of you teach on Saturday, but Laguna Honda would only give us a Saturday date. Please mail recital applications (there is NO CHECK) by the deadline, Saturday February 27, 2010, to

Bonnie Knight, Community Outreach Chair

MTAC-SF Branch

2546 Great Highway

San Francisco, CA 94116-2613

7. Volunteer, performer teachers, on Sunday, May 23rd, and help make the MTAC-SF Branch finish the year in the black! There will be a concert of MTAC-SF Branch *teachers* playing to raise funds for our Branch. A tip o' the hat to Heather Carothers, who made the suggestion at the General Meeting in October and to Carol Ferrando who rallied the Board of Directors to action. The venue and length of the concert will depend on the number of teachers who volunteer to play and the number of

audience members who RSVP. Since the Board needs to secure a venue in advance and to determine if the concert can be held in a home or if a recital hall must be rented, **AUDIENCE MEMBERS NEED TO RSVP BY SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 2010.** The suggested donation is \$20, or whatever you can afford.

The admission tickets will be sold at the door. Volunteer performers should submit a recital application form and \$20 to Melissa Smith, Treasurer (address above.) Currently, the Recital Chair is Bonnie Knight. If a volunteer performer would like to step forward to organize the program, please write to Bonnie.Knight@att.net.

8. MTAC Composers Today – This program gives professional feedback and performing opportunities at the State Convention to student composers. The syllabus is available from the State Office. The Branch CT Chair is Bonnie Knight, Bonnie.Knight@att.net. The Branch fee, in addition to fees mailed to the State, is \$5.00. Compositions must be received by the State by February 15, 2010. Consult www.mtac.org for more information and click on "Composers Today."

9. William Wellborn is the new VOCE Chair. VOCE stands for: *V*ocalists, *O*rchestral instrumentalists, *C*hamber music, *E*nsembles. The deadline for this year has passed for official programs, but if you have any questions about this program for the future or regarding this year's Convention, contact him at pianoleg@aol.com

10. UPDATED AND REVISED CALENDAR FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR:

Venue Information:

Map to the Main Post Chapel, Building 130, Fisher Loop in the Presidio.

http://www.interfaith-presidio.org/map_directions.html

http://74.125.155.132/search?q=cache:IuKqBmfnuL8J:www.interfaith-presidio.org/map_directions.html+Interfaith+Presidio+San+Francisco+directions&cd=1&hl=en&ct=clnk&gl=us&ie=UTF-8

Map to St. Stephens Church, 601 Eucalyptus Drive, San Francisco

[Click here: Map of 601 Eucalyptus Dr San Francisco, California by MapQuest](#)

<http://www.mapquest.com/maps?city=San+Francisco&state=CA&address=601+Eucalyptus+Dr&zipcode=94132-1548&country=US&latitude=37.731132&longitude=-122.479146&geocode=ADDRESS>

- **Application form for recitals and checks** should be mailed to:

Melissa Smith, Treasurer
MTAC-SF Branch
1504 Whipple Avenue
Redwood City, CA 94062

The application form, recital guideline, and fee information is accessible at our branch website, www.mtac-sf.org. Click on "Branch Programs." Remember to read the guidelines carefully, write clearly all the information of your students' pieces, and **accurately time them using a stopwatch**, being considerate knowing that other students need to play as well. This is important if we were to run our programs smoothly and in a timely fashion.

Sunday, 2/07/2010

2:00 General Membership meeting (details at Item 2 above), followed by
Master Class, 2:30-4:30 p.m.

Knuth Hall, Creative Arts Building, SF State University

Artist: Jeanne Stark, Pianist

(Details about Jeanne Stark and student pianists at Item 3 above)

Sunday, 2/15/2010

Reminder: **Deadline for Composers Today applications** to be received by the State. Do include \$5 for the Branch fee in addition to the fees to the State.

Reminder: Also Deadline for CM Evaluation Information to be entered online.

Sunday, 2/21/2010, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. CM-Panel Exams

Location: Home of Maya Gorodetsky, 1239 - 39th Avenue, S.F.

Thank you, Maya!!

Sunday, 2/28/2010 Times to be announced.

Student Recital. New venue: St. Stephens Church, San Francisco

Deadline to apply: February 6, 2010.

Mail applications and \$20 check to Melissa Smith (see new address in Item 1.)

Recital Chairs: Millie Siu and Dun Yin Liu will organize the program.

Sat. 3/15/2010, 2:00 p.m.

Laguna Honda Community Outreach Concert (see Item 6 for details.)

Perform on the 6th Floor at the Mission Alcove.

Recital Chair: Bonnie Knight, Bonnie.Knight@att.net

2546 Great Highway, S.F. 94116-2613

Deadline for Laguna Honda Recital Applications, Saturday, February 27, 2010.

Sat. 3/27/2010 and Sun. 3/28/2010 (all day both days)

Certificate of Merit Evaluations. SFSU, Creative Arts Building.

CM Co-Chairs Phyllis Pan phuzzyphil@gmail.com and Millie Siu milliegysiu@hotmail.com

CM Committee: Esther Chan, pianistchanesther@sbcglobal.net; Keiko Banks, sbanks@sonic.net; Hui Chong Kim hckpianist@yahoo.com

Sunday, 4/11/2010 Times to be announced.

CM Honors Recital, Main Post Chapel

Building 130, Fisher Loop in the Presidio.

Recital Chair: William Wellborn pianoleg@aol.com will organize the programs.

Sunday, 4/18/2010

Solo Competition at the home of

MTAC Member Ron Gipson, 195 Westgate Drive, San Francisco (*Thanks, Ron!*)

Solo Competition Co-Chairs are

Crystal Wong, talk2crystal@hotmail.com and Heidi Hau classic_hau@yahoo.com .

4/25/2010

Solo Competition Winners and Panel Honors Combination Recital,

Main Post Chapel, Building 130, Fisher Loop in the Presidio.

Applications and checks are to be mailed to Melissa Smith (see address above).

Janis Lee, bjt@yahoo.com , will be the Recital Chair.

5/16/2010

Student Recital; After-School Student Recital; Adult Student Recital.

St. Stephens Church, 601 Eucalyptus Drive, San Francisco

Application and checks are to be mailed to Melissa Smith

(see address above). **Deadline to register: April 25, 2010.**

Millie Siu, milliegysui@hotmail.com , will be the Recital Chair.

5/23/2010

Fundraising Concert Performed by MTAC-SF Branch Teachers

Suggested donation for audience members: \$20.00 or what you can afford
Venue to be announced after the recital applications and RSVPs are received.

Performers, please submit recital applications and your check for \$20.00 to
Melissa Smith (see address above). Audience members must RSVP to
Bonnie.Knight@att.net so that the Board can choose a venue of the right size.

Teachers, please ask your students to let you know if they are attending. **Deadline for recital applications and audience RSVPs: Saturday, April 24, 2010.** (The deadline is so early to allow time to book a hall, if needed. If the concert is small, it will be held in a private home.)

A date in June to be announced: Installation Dinner of Board of Directors

11. Volunteers are helpful at Student Recitals: To the teachers who enter their students in the MTAC-SF Branch student recitals. Please ask your Recital Chair (see calendar for list) if he/she needs any help before or during the program with recital-related tasks!

12. FUNDRAISING!

You will receive two fundraising letters via U.S. Mail. If every teacher contributes \$25, our Branch will be in the black. Also, please photocopy and distribute the second fundraising letter to your student families. Some teachers have already donated funds from when these letters were first sent via email in December. **THANK YOU!**

13. Appreciation

- ✚ Thank you to **Maya Gorodetsky**, volunteer host supreme of the Holiday Party, Young Artist Guild Concert. Her newly remodeled home sparkled and her homemade food was delicious and plentiful. Her warmth set the tone for the affair.
- ✚ Thank you to **Ivana Taratula** for bringing her talented and charming student vocalists to the Holiday Party/YAG Concert all the way from the East Bay.
- ✚ Thank you to **Crystal Wong** for countless hours spent towards securing SFSU as a venue for the Master Class and CM days. Crystal, the Branch is grateful!
- ✚ The Heritage (assisted living facility) have asked us to make the Community Outreach concert on December 25 an annual tradition. A thank you to the performers at the first MTAC-SF Branch Community Outreach Left to right **Vanessa Polgar Sonne, Rachel Hutchings, Sophia Sauvageau and Christopher Sauvageau**. A tip o' the hat to **Jill Wenzel** for the photograph.



14. Other non-MTAC Music Activities:

- * **2010 CMTANC Youth Music Competition.** The website for the Chinese Music Teachers Assn. of Northern CA <http://www.cmtanc.org/english/> has a flier and a detailed description of how to participate. If you have questions, contact Anna Lin, yunghsueh@hotmail.com Deadline April 20; Competition on June 5 at San Jose State University.

- **School of the Arts, San Francisco, (free public arts high school) auditions for piano majors for Fall 2010.** The 2nd round of auditions are Saturday March 6, 2010. SOTA is seeking Intermediate /Advanced to Advanced level pianists with good sightreading skills and a passion for music. 8th graders primarily, but will accept High School students, 9th, 10th and 11th grade transfers. The audition requirements and further information can be found at sfsota.org The Piano Department Head is Ava Soifer, avasoifer@yahoo.com

- **John McCarthy**, Director of Preparatory and Extension Divisions at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music announces **the 26th season of Summer Music West**. Established in 1984, **Summer Music West 2010**, sponsored by the **San Francisco Conservatory of Music**, features these select programs: **String & Piano Academy, Chamber Music, Composition, Gilbert & Sullivan Scenes, and Musicianship**. Each summer approximately 140 talented young performers, aged 9-20, explore excellence in music in a positive, supportive environment. Admission by auditions; sessions begin June 21, 2010. All programs will be held in the Conservatory's state-of-the-art facility in San Francisco's Civic Center. For complete information and an application, visit Summer Music West at www.sfcm.edu/summer or contact Laura Reynolds, Summer Programs Coordinator, by phone (415) 503-6254, fax (415) 503-6299 or email: smw@sfc.edu.

- **Out of Africa – Into Europe**

Effect of Africa's music on Europe - Presented by Frank French (50 minutes)
 Although we tend to think of Jazz as the melting-pot of musical culture in America, historical evidence indicates that the music of Africa was having an influence in Europe much earlier in our history. Folk music having an influence on Art music seems to be evident in the music of composers like Beethoven and Schubert, and other ethnic styles show up in the music of Chopin. These are generally regarded as being European in origin. Yet even traces of Turkish music show up in Mozart in the late 18th century.

As early as the time of the Renaissance it can be shown that the influence of Africa was finding its way into Europe. We can even see this in Shakespeare's Othello. But there are also indications in music as early as the 16th century. Some dance music that later shows up in the suites of Bach is alleged to have origins in street music sung and danced by Blacks in Spain and Italy much earlier. In the 19th century the influence of Africa shows up again, first in literature and later in music, and by the beginning of the 20th century composers such as Debussy and Albeniz are employing Africanisms in their piano music.

Frank French (see bio) presents this program for schools, music teachers and general audiences. Musical examples and literary sources will be cited. The program is 50 minutes in length. For further information please contact him at 415-731-8611 or frank.french@att.net

www.frankfrench.info

- See December 7 Branch newsletter for information about summer at Tanglewood. It is posted at mtac-sf.org, click on Newsletters.

Thank you all for your active involvement with the MTAC-SF.

Best wishes,
 Bonnie Knight, President &
 MTAC-SF Branch Board of Directors

Credit and appreciation to Yelena Sonyants for the U.S. mail Newsletter distribution!

FOR COMMUNICATION WITH THE BRANCH: Phone: 905-6252;

Email: mtac-sf@att.net

See us at our website: www.mtac.org

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