

Music Teachers' Association of California
San Francisco Branch
2010-2011 Board of Directors
Bonnie Knight, President; Melissa Smith, Treasurer;
Yelena Sonyants, Membership Secretary; Vanessa Polgar Sonne, Recording Secretary;
Heather Carothers, Carol Ferrando, Heidi Hau, Shari Levinger-Jacobs,
Robert Schwartz and Crystal Wong, Directors

MTAC-SF Newsletter
June 30, 2010

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**1. A. The Election. B. The Installation Tea and New Members Party.
C. 2010-2011 volunteers.**

A. The Election. The MTAC-SF Branch has approximately 100 voting members. This year, there were 36 ballots, a huge increase from last year. 31 members voted for all the Board of Directors candidates. 5 members voted for some of the slate. All the candidates were elected and their names are now atop the masthead of this newsletter.

B. The Installation Tea and New Members Party. Hospitality Chair **Maya Gorodetsky** graciously opened her beautiful home on Sunday, June 20, 2010, for the Installation Tea and New Members Party. Although the party was a potluck she prepared a table of delicious food.

Esther Chan installed the new officers with good cheer and dignity. Esther has a long history of leadership with the Branch as former Vice President, longtime Certificate of Merit Co-Chair, CM Panel Judge, teacher of many students in the monthly recitals, performer at the Teachers Fundraising Concert.

One new member came to the party, **Boris Solodkin**. Everyone is pleased to meet you!

Crystal Wong's charming young daughters, Angelina and Milayna, were present and playful.

A good time was had by all.

C. Here is a list of the Board and other positions for 2010-2011:

President: **Bonnie Knight**

Treasurer: **Melissa Smith**

Membership Secretary: **Yelena Sonyants**

Recording Secretary: **Vanessa Polgar Sonne**

Director: **Heather Carothers**

Director: **Carol Ferrando**

Director: **Heidi Hau**

Director: **Shari Levinger-Jacobs**

Director: **Robert Schwartz**

Director: **Crystal Wong**

(No one has yet volunteered to be Vice President.)

Other positions:

VOCE: **William Wellborn**

Solo Competition: **Heidi Hau**

Composers Today: **Bonnie Knight**

Community Outreach: **Bonnie Knight**

Master Class: **Bonnie Knight**

CM Venue Liaisons:

Crystal Wong has been the longtime CM Venue Liaison. She is participating mightily this year and also training **Vanessa Polgar Sonne**, who is the new CM Venue Liaison.

Assistant CM Venue Liaison: **Bonnie Knight**

There is a new CM Chair, but she has asked me not to publicize her name until September. Watch this space in the Fall!

Webmaster and Branch Directory Brochure creator: **Keiko Banks**

After School Keyboard Program: Teacher, **Shari Levinger-Jacobs**.

Administration of ASKP: **Keiko Banks**, who applies for SF Unified School District permits.

2. The MTAC State Convention is this weekend. It is entitled, "**Our 100th Convention: A Century of Education and Service.**" See www.mtac.org for details or if you do not have email, call the State Office. The Convention is from Friday, July 2, through and including the morning of Tuesday, July 6, at the LAX Marriott Hotel. Each year, the MTAC State Office treats one Branch member who has never before attended to the registration. This year, that member will be violin teacher, **Anne Chen**. Bonnie Knight will represent the Branch at multiple meetings and as a delegate voting on the new proposed State Bylaws. Several other San Francisco Branch members plan to attend the Convention, too.
3. Welcome new branch members who joined this year: **Julie Barwick, Susan Bates, Eve Marie Bordoli, Julia Ann Herndon (who has since moved to New Mexico) Monica Lee and Boris Solodkin.**

4. **Audrey Vardenega**, Pianist, Student of **Robert Schwartz**, is performing with the Midsummer Mozart Festival.

Program I,

Symphony No. 15 in G major,

K. 124; Piano Concerto No. 21 in C Major, K. 467, **Audrey Vardanega**, pianist

Violin Concerto No. 4 in D major, K. 218

Robin Hansen, violinist

Symphony No.40 in G minor, K. 550

JULY 15 - 8:00PM – [Mission Santa Clara](#), SCU Campus,
Santa Clara

JULY 16 - 8:00PM – [San Francisco Conservatory of Music](#)
Concert Hall, San Francisco

JULY 17 - 6:30PM – [Gundlach Bundschu Winery](#),
Sonoma (outdoors)

JULY 18 - 7:00PM – [First Congregational Church](#),
Berkeley

5. A giant thank you to the volunteers who have donated time since the last Newsletter on April 6: (I hope I have remembered everyone! Apologies in advance for any oversight.)

Certificate of Merit: Hard working Co-Chairs 2010, **Millie Siu and Phyllis Pan** and all **the 30+ teacher volunteers**, who participated in CM on March 27, 28 and the CM Honors Recitals on April 11.

Recital Chairs: The talented **Millie Siu, Dun Yin Liu, and Janis Lee**.

Recital Certificates: Thank you, **Robert Schwartz**, for your good work.

Teachers' Fundraising Concert Hosts and Performers:

Our wonderful hosts were **Carol Ferrando** and her mother, **Louise**

Ferrando, at their lovely piano studio within their home on Lyon Street.

They graciously allowed the use of their very European space, with a beautiful garden and artwork, room for 30 people, and a Hamburg Steinway.

The stellar performers were **Carol Ferrando, Julie McComas, Esther Chan, Heidi Hau and Robert Schwartz**. The music was phenomenal and the event was our most successful fundraising event of the year.

The Solo Competition Co-Chairs and Volunteers: Co-Chairs 2010: Our talented students benefited from the great work of Co-Chairs **Heidi Hau and Crystal Wong**; Committee Members, **Heidi Hau, Crystal Wong, Esther Chan, Juliet McComas and Millie Siu**; the Venue Provider, **Ronald Gipson** (thank you, Ron, for opening your piano and your home!); the Venue Volunteers: **Scott Pratt and Heather Carothers**. [The judges were **Dr. Roger Woodward** and **Nancy Jensen**.]

CM Venue Liaisons: **Crystal Wong** and **Vanessa Polgar Sonne** are negotiating all this month to secure SFSU at a price the branch can afford. **Bonnie Knight** is assisting.

Design of the MTAC-SF Branch greeting in the State Convention Program Book: Hats off to 2009-2010 Board Member **Susan Blinderman**. She enlisted the design talents of her husband to create an elegant and unique advertisement for our Branch with beautiful graphics, combining illustrations of the great composers, with beautiful fonts. (Members with email, see attachment.) Thanks, too, to **Shari Levinger-Jacobs** for suggesting the text, which notes that the San Francisco Branch is the State's oldest.

Research on Bulk Mail Rates: Thank you for delving into USPS arcane rules, **Susan Blinderman**.

Webmaster and Branch Directory creator: our resident computer whiz, **Keiko Banks**. Thank you, Keiko, for showing our branch online to the world with your good designs!

Barbara Bannett and **Phyllis Pan** for editing the April 6 Newsletter, and **Yelena Sonyants** for distributing all the Newsletters to members without email.

Not a volunteer, but definitely worth a grateful mention: Business affiliate member, **Rob Mitchell**, Piano Technician, ably tuned the pianos for all our events at a substantial discount all year. Thank you, Rob!

8. A public thank yous! Appreciation to the 2009-2010 Board for serving this past year: **Bonnie Knight**, President; **Phyllis Pan**, Vice President and Recording Secretary; **Melissa Smith**, Treasurer, **Yelena Sonyants**, Membership Secretary; **Susan Blinderman**, **Carol Ferrando**, **Heather Carothers** (since March 20, 2010), **Heidi Hau** and **Shari Levinger-Jacobs**, Directors. **Jill Wenzel** also served as a Director for the first three months of the school year. Thank you to every teacher in the branch who dedicated time and talent to preparing a student for our programs! Your work is at the heart of the San Francisco Branch's mission. Thank you to every teacher who made a donation or solicited donations from your studio! Your generosity is appreciated. Private thank you notes and TAX ID letters are in progress.
9. The 2009-2010 year in review: There were many accomplishments of which to be proud in our Branch.
- Treasurer **Melissa Smith** spent 40 hours putting the books in order and establishing systems for complete and clear bookkeeping.
 - There was dramatically increased volunteerism, as evidenced above.
 - Two charitable concerts were added to our yearly calendar, one on Christmas Day at The Heritage and one in Spring at Laguna Honda.
 - Our Branch now participates in Composers Today. Students of **Allan Davidson** and **Bonnie Knight** are performing in CT programs at the State Convention.
 - The new Teachers Fundraising Concert was a success artistically and financially.
 - Fundraising donations were substantial.
 - The regular programs: the monthly recitals, the Young Artist Concert, the Master Class with the wise and perceptive **Jeanne Stark**, the CM evaluations and concerts and the Solo Competition all fostered the talent of our students and showcased the dedication of our teachers.
- Note: We still have a long way to go to have an ideal budget in 2010-2011. We do have a large deficit. Members have donated generously, and that helped a great deal. The Board has brainstormed all year on ideas to cut expenses and increase revenue, and I hope that this time next year, the Branch can see a balanced budget.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Knight, President and the Board of Directors
MTAC-San Francisco Branch

Note: this Newsletter is being disseminated without editing in the interest of time, since the MTAC-SF Branch academic year ends today.

Have a great and musical summer!