

Con Brio Newsletter

An Exciting Spring Season

A message from our Branch President, Louisa Wong...



As we are approaching March, it is the beginning of a busy season for our Branch. There are the Kathryn Gawartin Chopin Competition, Bach Festival, Certificate of Merit, Round Table....All chair people have been working around the clock to make these events happen. Thanks to Dr. Wojciech Kocyan, Rosa Wong, Sumy Takesue, Beth Marquardt, Barbara Roe....for their dedicated

work. Our website has been well maintained with the latest updates, due to the diligent work of Kathleen Summerland and David Emerson. Of course, there is our entire board who work behind the scene to make sure everything is moving along smoothly and adequately. What would we do without these dedicated members volunteering their precious time?

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MTAC-WLA GENERAL MEETING IN APRIL-A MESSAGE FROM FERRIS GLUCK

The April General Meeting will be held April 9, 2013 - 9:30 a.m. at the home of Lisa Pietruszka (Beverly Hills) We are turning the April meeting into a MASTER CLASS for Teachers!! Bring your prepared repertoire!

Craig Richey will be our Master Teacher. (short bio on page 2) Send the *timed length of the piece*, plus title, movement, opus no., composer, publisher & year to: Ferris Gluck, 1st VP Programs, via email to: girtunes@gmail.com

Participants will be accepted on a first come, first served basis.

Submit early to ensure a slot for yourself!! Deadline for submissions is: April 1, 2013.



CRAIG RICHEY - GUEST MASTER CLASS TEACHER

Craig Richey is currently on the piano faculty at the Bob Cole Conservatory of Music at CSU Long Beach. A native of North Carolina, he received his high school diploma from the N. C. School of the Arts, his Bachelor of Music degree from the St. Louis Conservatory, and his Master's degree from the Julliard School of Music. Haired by the St. Louis Dispatch for his 'No-Nonsense pianism!' he made his New York debut with pianist Pamela Mia Paul as guest duo-soloist with the New York Pops at Carnegie Hall. He has appeared in solo and chamber music recitals throughout the United States. His performances have been aired

on national Public Radio and Voice of America Radio, which is broadcast worldwide. He taught for ten years at the renowned Third Street Music School in New York City and directed their esteemed chamber music program. He is also a notable composer. His major teachers include Joseph Kalichstein and Martin Canin. For more info please visit: www.csulb.edu/depts/music/keyboard/craig_richey.html



The Alice Kitchen Memorial Scholarship Competition will be held on **May 26** at the Steinway Gallery in West Hollywood. The online application and postmark deadline is **April 27**. Please send entry fees to Louisa Wong. Visit our MTAC-WLA website for information about the rules and regulations.

The Practice-a-thon is underway! This has proven to be a wonderfully motivating event. Do you have your students enrolled?

Students and Teacher studios with the most hours and sponsors collected win donated prizes for their efforts. Top prize for students is a Disneyland pass!

Participating students gather sponsors to pledge any amount towards the # of hours practiced

100 % of all money collected is donated to the Neighborhood Music School

Participating students record the amount of time they practice daily for 15 consecutive days.

Visit the MTAC-WLA website to download forms and info.



Bravo and congratulations to the Kathryn Gawartin Chopin Competition winners and their teachers !!

Competition took place on Sunday, March 10 at Steinway Gallery in West Hollywood. There were altogether 31 contestants from different branches of MTAC, as far as Palo Alto. Our renowned judges are Eduardo Delgado, Dr. Sarkis Baltaian and Susan Svreck. There were a lot of outstanding performances which elevate the bar of the competition level. Final results are as follows:

JUNIOR DIVISION (ages 14 & under)

FIRST PLACE (\$250)

Kevin Cho (age 9) Student of **Rufus Choi**, Santa Monica Bay Branch

SECOND PLACE (\$150)

Noah Simon (age 14) Student of **Mary Ann Cummins**, West Los Angeles Branch

THIRD PLACE (\$100)

Elizabeth Sun (age 13) Student of **Bernadene Blaha**, Pasadena Branch

SENIOR DIVISION (ages 18 & under)

FIRST PLACE (\$500)

Mindy Cheng (age 16) Student of **Su-Hui Yang**, Palo Alto Branch

SECOND PLACE (\$300)

Kevin Chan (age 17) Student of **Dr. Grace Xia Zhao**, West Los Angeles Branch

THIRD PLACE (\$200)

Jason Kim (age 17) Student of **Bernadene Blaha**, Pasadena Branch

Awards will be presented at a Winners' Recital on Sunday, April 14 at 2 p.m. at Roth Hall, Crossroads School located at 1714 21st Street, Santa Monica, CA 90404. Please mark your calendar to attend this special event.

MTAC-WLA CONTEMPORARY FESTIVAL 2013

The Contemporary Festival provides students an opportunity to perform solo and ensemble music from the 20th and 21st centuries in a formal recital setting. All performing students are presented with a participation award.

This year's guest artist will be composer-violinist-violist-pianist **Mark Menzies**. He is currently a faculty member at Cal Arts. The festival will be held on Saturday, **June 1, at 2 p.m.** in **Roth Hall** at the Crossroads School.

The repertoire requirement is any solo (CM level 4 and above from the CM syllabus list for 20th/21st century repertoire) or chamber work from the 20th and 21st centuries. If you are unsure - please feel free to contact **Ming Tsu** for repertoire suggestions (including repertoire for instruments other than piano).

The online application will be available in late April/early May. The deadline to submit the online application is **May 15**.

Originally from New Zealand, **Mark Menzies** has established an important, world-wide reputation as a new music violist. He has been described in a

Los Angeles Times review, as an 'extraordinary musician' and a 'riveting violinist.' His career as a viola and violin virtuoso, chamber musician and advocate of contemporary music, has seen performances in Europe, Brazil, Mexico, Australia, Japan, New Zealand and across the United States, including a series of appearances at New York's Carnegie Hall.



MTAC-WLA NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Our MTAC-WLA Nominating Committee is presently busy selecting members to nominate to be elected to next year's board of officers and directors.

The committee members consist of Dr. Nancy Fierro, Jane Jonaitis, Dr. Wojciech Kocyan, Victoria Roizen and Masami Takahata. They will be presenting a slate of

officers to be voted upon at the next General Meeting in April. Plan to attend to cast your vote.

MTAC-WLA MEMBERSHIP NEWS-A MESSAGE FROM ANDERS MARTINSON

Please welcome two new members to our branch: **Angel Fereshteh-Adjari** and **Christine Ellen Rosander**. It's nice to have you both on board! Also a reminder to all MTAC-WLA members that Membership dues notices from the State office will be arriving in your mailboxes soon. Please remember that dues for 2013-2014 must be paid by July 31 to participate in Certificate of Merit for next year.

Please note the following members have changed their e-mail address: **Nancy Fierro** (nancyfierro@rocketmail.com), **Dr. Joanne Althouse** (jalt@roadrunner.com)

Sharon Collins' home phone number and address have been changed to 562-439-0490 and mailing address: Sharon Collins, P.O. Box 5581, Santa Monica, CA 90409-5581.

AN INTERVIEW WITH MTAC-WLA MEMBER NANNETTE KLIGER

by Kathleen Summerland

Recently many new members have joined MTAC-WLA. It is exciting to welcome new members who have moved here from other cities and others who have completed university studies and are now ready to expand their teaching studios. As a board member (along with others on our board) I also believe it is important to honor our long-term members. The following is an interview with long-term member Nannette Kliger talking about some people and events from her years of involvement with MTAC-WLA. Nannette has been very involved in our branch both serving as a member on our board and with many student participants in MTAC-WLA events. Here are some of her thoughts and memories about MTAC-WLA in the 1960's and 1970's.

KS: How did you get involved in MTAC?

NK: Alice Kitchen was teaching a class on piano pedagogy at UCLA Extension and [although going] to college and studying music, I never had a class in piano pedagogy. So I thought, well if I'm going to teach then that sounds like a good class to take! Alice Kitchen is the one who encouraged me to join Music Teachers' Association of California.

KS: Would you like to fill us in on what year-or maybe decade-this was? (laughter)

NK: I took the class probably 1962 or '63. Two other people who were in that class who are in MTAC-WLA: Nobu Fujimoto and Jasmine Keolian...I believe the three of us were in that class, we met there and the three of us joined MTAC because of Alice Kitchen.

KS: How many members were in the branch at that time?

NK: This is something I cannot remember [exactly]...it was certainly under 100. We were a much smaller group, therefore, we were able to become more familiar with each and every member.

KS: What do you like best about being a member of MTAC?

NK: The camaraderie with so many other musicians.

KS: I want to ask you about favorite memories of members of our MTAC-West LA branch.

NK: I can very definitely talk about two very important teachers, one of whom most of our

membership still knows, and the other probably not. The person that we all know was Robert Turner, who was one of our finest piano teachers and performers. I heard him perform in his home, and in St. Alban's Church in Westwood: a wonderful man. My son studied with Robert Turner, for a few years, and then he switched to oboe...[But] now he's a psychologist! He did get his college degree in oboe performance from UCSD.

KS: Does your son play anymore?

NK: Before he became a psychologist my son was a radio announcer for Classical music in Seattle, Washington area and then in Carmel,...He was music director of the radio station there [in Carmel] and then at Cal State Northridge, which had a Classical music station at the time. The other teacher who was wonderful in West Los Angeles MTAC was a violin teacher. Her name was Sybil Maxwell. My daughter studied violin with her from the age of nine to 16 and at 16 she put the violin down and said "I'm not good enough" and that ended that..She became a lawyer. (laughter) **(cont. on page 6)**





Allen Burke
Senior Division second
place winner
with
Teacher, Robert Turner
President, Nannette Kliger

KS: Would you tell us about any outstanding speakers or performers from meetings? ...the parties we had at Norma's [Futterman]? **NK:** Oh those were wonderful. I do remember we hosted a State Convention one year. My husband Jack and I went to LAX to pick up the State president and his wife; took them to our house for lunch.

KS: Can you name a guest artist invited to MTAC-WLA that made a lasting impression on you? **NK:** #1. The internationally famous pianist, Leonard Pennario whose parents were MTAC members in the Pasadena Branch. Pennario played bridge at the Cheviot Hills Country Club which is one block from my house, and best of all, he posed for a photo with his arm around me. #2. Jorge Bolet (also internationally famous), who told me that inasmuch as he is an American, he would like people to pronounce his name, George Bolett. I did not tell him he could solve that problem by changing the spelling of his name to George Bolett. #3. Adele Marcus who was the head of the Piano Dept. at Julliard in N.Y.C. **KS:** How did your involvement with MTAC help shape your career?

NK: The thing that comes to mind immediately is meeting all the other musicians and teachers, not only piano...VOCE was a

very interesting part of MTAC. I believe VOCE was started somewhere in the [San Fernando] Valley by a member named Gretchen Geber and our own Sybil Maxwell. Gretchen was a cello teacher...a cello student of hers, Barry Gold, is now with the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra. One of her other students, Cynthia Phelps, is now principal violist with the New York Philharmonic. Cynthia's sister, Stacy Phelps, is in the first violin section of the Los Angeles Philharmonic.

KS: What keeps you involved in MTAC-WLA? **NK:** I LOVE teaching and it keeps me at the piano because I'm forced...you know it's how it is when you're performing. When you're performing then it's another story, then you do practice. Otherwise, there has to be a reason to just practice piano and if you're teaching more advanced students, even though you've had the music before, you have to go over it again...to get new ideas, and new fingerings, new interpretations...things change. Don't you find that's the case through the years? **KS:** What do you think is the advantage of being a member of MTAC-WLA? How has it helped you or your students?

NK: C/M as it was rather than now. It was always an encouragement for my students to push ahead musically and pianistically. Through the years, I have been in touch with former students who still use their piano skills in one form or another, even when they have become lawyers, doctors and PhDs in fields other than music. **KS:** Where did you attend college?

NK: In New York City, one of the city colleges, Queens College...Stephen Soundheim went there, too. If you wanted to study music and finances [were an issue]...I wanted to go to Oberlin but we couldn't do it financially, and so of the city colleges, that you paid \$12 a year for... **KS:** \$12 a year?!? **NK:** either a year or a semester, I can't remember, then Queens College was the one to go [to]. I had to take several subway trains to get there, I didn't live in Queens. That's the one I went to for that reason because that was the one [Queens College] that had the best music department, second best to Oberlin! But it was a wonderful school...it did have an excellent music department. **KS:** What advice can you give to musicians new to the teaching profession?

NK: Join MTAC for the give and take of how to teach, how much to charge and mostly for the wealth of programs for their students. As I have indicated above, this is truly an encouragement, especially for piano students. Piano study is a lonely venture. **KS:** What is your favorite teaching piece or perhaps, set of teaching pieces and why? **(cont. on page 7)**



Sybil Maxwell, violinist

(cont. from p. 6) **NK:** Bach, Mozart, Beethoven, Chopin—because those four represent the soul of classical music. **KS:** Can you name a musician or composer who has made a lasting impact on your life? Perhaps there is one piece in particular that you’ve studied that has made a great impression on you? **NK:** Chopin’s Fantasie-Impromptu because I fell in love with this gorgeous work as a young teenager (or maybe younger), and played it more than any other piece of music. **KS:** What are the qualities of a great music teacher? **NK:** On the first date with Jack on my 19th birthday, I discovered he was a physicist, but played the violin—what more can I say? **KS:** I know that you are a great traveller, is there a city that you’ve visited that seems to be more musical than all the others? Prague-Dvorak and Smetana, Vienna-Mozart and Beethoven, Budapest-Liszt, Scotland-

Mendelssohn, London-Handel.

Nannette served as President of MTAC-WLA in 1973-75. She also served on the board in various capacities for several terms. Nannette served as a delegate at a number of the MTAC State Conventions and also gave a well-received talk at one Convention. She has had an active studio for decades. Over the years many of her students have participated in Certificate of Merit, Bach Festival, and in West LA branch programs such as Romantic and Contemporary Festivals; some have performed at Convention recitals and some have given Red and Gold Seal Solo Recitals. Presently, Nannette continues to serve as chair for Red and Gold Seal Solo Recitals and some of her students participate in Certificate of Merit.

MSSL NEWS

The Music Students’ Service League will be performing at the Carondelet Center on 3/24. If you have students interested in joining MSSL please contact Nancy Arnold, Jane Jonaitis or Sharon Collins.

MSSL members would also like to invite you and your students to join them and participate in this year’s practice-a-thon. One hundred percent of the money collected will be donated to the Neighborhood Music School.

Submissions to Con Brio

The deadline for submissions to the May/June Con Brio is **April 25** by 12:59 p.m. Please include dates, times and venue for you event in your article. Please send all submissions to: ShrCollns@aol.com

Calendar

- March 24-** MSSL students perform at Carondelet Center
- Oct thru April 15-** Practice-a-thon
- April 6 and 7-** Certificate of Merit
- April 9, 9:30 am-** MTAC-WLA General Meeting
- April 14-** Chopin Winners’ Recital
- April 14-** MSSL Meeting
- April 15-** CM deadline for State Convention Application; Postmark deadline for CM-MUPS
- April 21 -** CM Branch Honors Recital
- April 27-** Online application & postmark deadline for Alice Kitchen Scholarship Competition
- April 28-** Bach All-Branch String Regional Festival

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