

Music Notes



MTAC work is Team Work



The Monthly Newsletter of the Music Teachers Association of California, Whittier Branch

Volume 7, Issue 2 - October 2010

Convention 2010 reports

Highlights of our delegates' reports reviewing what a great Convention we had in July **Page 2**



October 18 Meeting

Mark Uranker performs a "Chopin Celebration"

It's time to plan your students' activities for the year. If you don't have your Whittier Branch Yearbook yet, come to our October 18 meeting to get yours.

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2010-2011 Officers and Directors and Committee Chairs



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Certificate of Merit News

Online Registration closes Nov. 15. Get your Student Listing, Student Fees List, Work Agreement and Check to Jane Oertel by Nov. 16

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President's Notes

It was great to see all the members who attended the General Meeting in September. Thank you, Joan Cain, for inviting us to your lovely home. Everyone enjoyed the beautiful settings and the delicious food. Thank you so much! And thank you to everyone who shared your culinary talents! I couldn't stop eating...



Tammy Tsai
President of the Whittier Branch

This year is the 200th birthday of Frederic Chopin. Come and enjoy his wonderful music at our next General Meeting on October 18, performed by Mr. Mark Uranker,

renowned pianist and faculty of Cal State Long Beach. And don't forget—the Master Class drawings will take place at the conclusion of the meeting.

Our new website is now being developed thanks to the work of Eric Lan and Caroline Su. You can see it at www.mtacwhittier.org and they are eager for more photos. Send them to Caroline.

Yours truly,

Tammy Tsai



Convention Reports

were presented at our Potluck Meeting on Sunday, September 26
from our Delegates: Lilitana Hsueh-Gutierrez, Jane Oertel, and Caroline Su

2010 MTAC Convention Celebrated our 100th Convention: a Century of Education & Services July 2-6. Oral reports were given by Jane Oertel and Caroline Su at our September 26 Branch meeting. Delegate Lilitana Hsueh-Gutierrez' report follows:

This year MTAC celebrated the 100th Convention so several highlights were added due to this occasion.

Silent Auction. At the first day I walked into the Convention, the first thing that caught my eyes was the silent auction. Sharon Townsend Ruth coordinated many lovely gift baskets, filled with various interesting items, displayed next to the escalator, very eye-catching, and at the end of the day a little more than a thousand dollars were raised.

Oakton Six Piano Ensemble. For a very rare occasion, we had the Oakton Six Piano Ensemble recital conducted by Glenna Sprague. They set up six grand pianos on a temporary stage. The performers associated with this ensemble from 8 years to 25 years, played pieces arranged from works by Mozart, Bach, Khachaturian, Dvorak, and Joplin.

Concerto Competition with Orchestra. The State Finals of the Concerto Competition and Friends of Today's Music were a joint activity, so they hired the Thousand Oaks Philharmonic. It was one of the peak events of the weekend. All eight fabulous winner student pianists gave a fantastic performance. They were followed by Concerto No. 2 of Samuel Adler, a commissioned piano concerto, which was quite technically demanding and intriguing composition performed by four high school pianists from four different studios. Bravo to all, there is nothing can compare to hear the Concerto Competition with an orchestra.

Summary of past 100 conventions. Former president Irene Brown and her husband presented a summary of the 100 conventions titled "From Talking Machines to Twitter." When the MTAC State Office moved to a new location a few years ago, in order to gather all those materials, they spent many months in the storage room, digging and sorting piece by piece all the old flyers, pictures, convention materials, artist photos, and more, then all these documents materials were organized chronologically and preserved electronically by scanning each one of them into the computer. The MTAC Conventions first began in a country club, attendance has increased from 100 and reached the highest number at over 800 attendees, registration cost has also increased from about twenty dollars to two hundred dollars. I salute these people who contributed their time, effort and research. I am very proud to be a member of this association and to be part of this historical moment.

Sessions I attended or I was sent to as our Branch delegate:

Community Outreach. Per Caroline Su's request, I stepped in for her to attend the Community Outreach meeting. Four or five branches' representatives were there, but West LA and Santa Clarita Branches made the most impressive activity reports. Santa Clarita had its high school youth leaders from the Music Students Service League give their report. Most of the branches have established some recitals in Senior Centers; some do seasonal concerts such as for Christmas, Thanksgiving, and Spring/Easter; some hold last Friday of the month recitals in Senior Convalescent Home. One branch in the San Joaquin Valley had scholarships for families with socio-economic difficulties—they have strategic interviews and a thorough process for qualified applicants, proof of income tax, recommendation of school music teacher, annual scholarship fund raising concert. Those who qualify receive a partial to full scholarship. Ideas presented included an annual donation drive at CM test weekend; students bring good condition clothes, toys, stationery and nonperishable food to donate to families in need. West LA branch also had a very impressive way of fundraising and

purchasing instruments for grammar schools without music programs, setting up a volunteer who teaches group violin classes. As for our Whittier Branch, we have done some seasonal musicales in community convalescent homes, but I think there is room in the future to develop further.

State Meeting. I represented Whittier Branch at the delegate meeting. President Susan Clark conducted a very good and smooth meeting. MTAC now has 4718 members (Active, Cal Plan, Students and Merchants). We welcomed two new branches (now 65 Branches), passed a few bylaws and we listened to the annual report from each State Chair. Wind and Voice will have Regional Panel CM starting in 2011. Concerto Competition had 123 registration from South and 111 from North; eight 1st prize regional winners competed in the State Final at the Convention. MTAC insurance does not necessarily cover the insurance for the Branches' activities, so all Branches need to provide some kind of coverage for their own activities. Membership will now be handled by State office. The Film Score State Chair showed us the winning DVD of an original short film – "Love Bus"; the story, the acting and the music score arranged were very funny, entertaining and very well done considering all were done by students.

Robert's Rules. Out of curiosity, I also attended "Effective Meeting: Robert's Rule of Order," presented by MTAC Parliamentarian Nancy Elsner. It was about the basic parliamentarian rules of conducting meetings. These rules include procedures and terminology used for running and facilitating the meeting that all Branch presidents should be using. Yes, we are all volunteers and all have our own role and responsibility to act and perform, therefore we all need to learn proper ways to run the meeting, to know our boundaries and contribute according to our responsibilities and duties in order for our branch to perform more effectively.

Jazz sessions. I went to all 3 interesting presentations on Jazz, discovering the repertoire from Sacred and Classical to Jazz and pop, how to connect pedagogical perspective of jazz to today's music teaching market. Since my music background is from a very European traditional training, to see and hear these new harmonic vocabularies, new colors and materials in the presentation, I decided to treat myself with more jazz color and flair in my own leisure and my relaxation.

If you are interested in teaching jazz, another interesting workshop was led by Christopher Norton who developed a progressive jazz method edited by Scott McBride Smith. He developed a series of 11 levels; each level comes with Repertoire, Skill, Etude, Technic and Christmas, all with an instrumental backing CD to accompany your playing. I found this set of jazz method very practical and enjoyable for students, and it is helpful for teachers to check with him on the websites:

<http://www.nvmusicgroup.com/NV/Home.html> or

<http://www.christophernortonconnections.com>.

Music Teaching. The session "Building Healthy Self Confidence: the Right Way to Compete," presented by **Deborah How** was especially interesting. Being an Asian music teacher, she shared a lot of perspective about parents' pressure on students to achieve, the willingness of the students to face the

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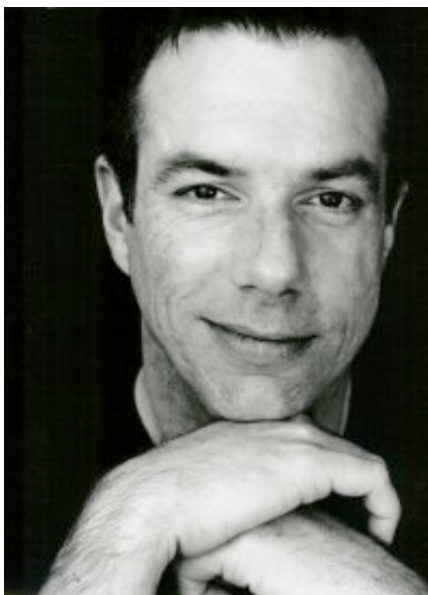
Officers & Directors

2010-2012

- President:** Tammy Tsai
Vice President: Earnestine Tu
Recording Secretary: Ellena Yong
Corresponding Secretary: Jane Oertel
Membership Secretary: Marguerite Wu
Treasurer: Caroline Su
Board of Directors:
 Robin Curtis, Tom Strout,
 Patricia Lawson, Diana Chang

Committee Chairs 2010-2012

- Advertising**
 Caroline Su, Robin Curtis
- Bach Festival**
 Keyboard: Suzanne Wong
 Flute: Christina Ho
 Strings: Diana Chang & Davit Sargsyan
- Certificate of Merit**
 Keyboard: Jane Oertel
 Instrumental: Diana Chang
- Branch Honors**
 Wai Meng Leong & Robin Curtis
- Certificates**
 Roger Oertel
- Community Outreach**
 Julie Bai
- Composers Today**
 Tammy Pease Ordaz
- Branch Concerto**
 Art Mautner
- Contemporary Festival, Piano**
 Ardes Abad
- Winter Festival for Strings**
 Tammy Tsai
- Courtesy/Hospitality**
 Jane Oertel
- Entertainment Books**
 Tom Strout
- Master Class**
 Keyboard: Lisa Szu Huang
 Flute: Patricia Lawson
 Strings: Sarkis Salamanyan
- Musicales**
 Irina Piliposyan
- ASCAP**
 Robin Curtis
- New Member Orientation**
 Marguerite Wu
- Newsletter**
 Kay Pech
- Program Chairman**
 Earnestine Tu
- Senior Competition**
 Kaining Lin
- VOCE**
 Sarkis Salamanyan & Kay Pech
- Website**
 Eric Lan
- Yearbook**
 Ardes Abad, Robin Curtis, Caroline Su,
 Tammy Tsai & Ernestine Tu



Mark Uranker enjoys a varied career as a pianist, harpsichordist, chamber musician, and composer. With pianist Althea Waites, he tours as the Orpheus Duo, a two-piano ensemble dedicated to performing standard works of the repertoire as well as championing new works.



He gave his New York premiere as a harpsichordist at the prestigious "Midtown Concerts" Early Music Series. During the summer in New York City, Mark performs and rehearses with the American Ballet Theatre. He has composed for both theater and dance—his works include incidental music for Moliere's *Bourgeois Gentleman*, Peter Shaffer's *Royal Hunt of the Sun* and music for prominent choreographers. Mark composed and directed the music for the Gala Opening of the Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach. Mark is a member of the Music Faculty of California State University, Long Beach.

Join Us on Monday, October 18 for a Presentation "Chopin Celebration" by Mark Uranker

10:00 a.m. Meeting
 followed by Uranker's
 Chopin Celebration and the
 Master Class Drawing
 at Tammy Tsai's home,
 12940 Essex Place, Cerritos

Following the Chopin presentation by Mark Uranker, there will be the annual Master Class drawing. Only teachers who are up to date on attendance requirements may submit your names for the drawing and you must be present in order to submit your name. If a teacher has a professional conflict at the time of the October meeting, he/she may submit a written request for proxy representation to the Master Class Chair and the Branch President. Piano teachers whose students performed last year may not submit your names this year, unless there is a shortage of teachers who have met the attendance requirements. Master Class chairs are Keyboard: Lisa Szu Huang 562.924.5835; Flute: Patricia Lawson 562.941.8550 or 562.481.1477; Strings: Sarkis Salamanyan 909.444.9542

The Yearbook

Come to this meeting to get your yearbook, listing all of our programs and projects for this year.



Enjoying Great Food and Friends at the MTAC-Whittier Branch Potluck at Joan Cain's on September 26

Mark Your Calendar

Deadline

November 4, 2010 Winter String Festival;
info & application form available online at
<http://www.mtacwhittier.org/forms.php>

General Meetings

October 18, 2010, Monday at 10 a.m.

Chopin Celebration: Mark Uranker

Tammy Tsai's, 12940 Essex Place, Cerritos

November 15, 2010, Monday at 10 a.m.

Doris Morioka's, 1475 Bonnie Jean Rd, LaHabra Hts

December 5, 2010, Sunday at 3:30 p.m.

Community Outreach, Rosewood Home, Fullerton

January 16, 2011, Sunday at 2 p.m.

Piano Master Class at 2 p.m., Arts Developmnt Schl

Flute Master Class at 3 p.m., Joan Cain's, La Mirada

January 23, 2011, Sunday at 6:30 p.m.

String Master Class, Tchaikovsky School, Walnut

February 28, 2011, Monday at 10 a.m.

Deborah How, Building Health Self-

Confidence: The Right Way to Compete

Jane Oertel's, 1756 W. Las Lanas Lane, Fullerton

16th Piano Ensemble Festival at

Fullerton College focusing on the piano duet/duo will be held on Saturday, January 29, 2011. Application form and registration fee must be postmarked by Monday, December 6, 2010. Please visit <http://music.fullcoll.edu/pianofestival> for more information (including Application form, Registration fee, and required Repertoire List).

Whittier Branch Newsletter

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Web www.mtacwhittier.org

Deadline your news must received by the
Wednesday following each monthly board meeting:

Board meeting	News Deadline
November 1	November 3
December 6	December 8
January 3	January 5
February 7	February 9
March 7	March 9
April 4	April 6
May 2	May 4
June 6	June 8

Send your articles, photos, and teacher news as .doc or .pages attached to email if possible. You may also send them to Whittier Branch Newsletter
10711 Ashworth Circle, Cerritos, CA 90703-2600

Certificate of Merit

This information is also at the MTAC website, www.mtac.org
Our Whittier CM Dates are
March 5-6 for piano at Cal Poly
March 5 for strings & flutes at
Whittier College



Some quick reminders:

- Online registration started Sept. 15. If you have forgotten either your ID or password for the CM online database, please contact CM Chair Jane Oertel at (714) 879-1533 or raoertel@aol.com
- **Registration Closes Nov. 15 at 11:59 PM. Fees and registration forms must be to CM Chair Jane Oertel by Nov. 16** or postmarked by Nov. 16. No late registration, per the MTAC State Office.
- "2011 Registration Instructions" for CM and "Fees and Evaluation Lengths" are available on the "Teacher Section" after logging into the MTAC database at www.mtac.org and going to "CM Information", then "Documents" and finally the "Registration" line.
- **The Whittier Branch Teacher Work Agreement** is added to this email edition and being mailed to those who need a hard copy. Teachers enrolling students in CM are required to sign it and send it in with **your CM 2011 Student Listing, CM 2011 Student Fees list, and your check due November 16 to CM Chair Jane Oertel.**
- **CM Panel Program Instructions/Timelines for all disciplines** – available on the "CM Information" and "Documents" page at www.mtac.org
- The State office has requested that all teachers have an email address for their State records. If you do not have email, use a trusted friend's email address. Update your email address online on the "Teacher Information Page." All teachers should check/update their email addresses in the State database.
- Repertoire input Jan 2 - Feb. 6, with the exception of Panel students whose deadline is January 10.

~Jane Oertel

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challenges, and the teacher's position being in the middle of all of this. Learn how to build healthy confidence for competitions with child's willingness, parents' support, and diligent accompaniment of instruction and preparation from the teacher, dealing with oriental culture. Some children do succeed under this pressure, but once they achieve their goal, they are "finished" with music for the rest of their life, they rarely touch the piano anymore—they only studied the piano to fulfill the goals of someone else rather than their motivation of own personal interest and enjoyment. Some parents feel money invested should have some winning result, some teachers also take the incentive to build their own fame, while the weaker student is ignored and pushed to the back. Personality and physiologically, all are off balance. As teachers we do have to make the wise and just decision to make the best out of student's interest as whole person, not just in competitions.

The "Music and the Brain" session presented by **Dr. Vanessa Cornett-Murtada** explained, from the physiological analysis of our brain, how it functions in learning music, how to memorize pieces, and emotionally connecting to brain, how nutrition and stress affect the brain. She taught us how the brain manages performance anxiety. In order for the child to have a good lesson, balanced meal, fluids, rest and outdoor exercise are necessary.

Performances I was excited to finally hear violinist **Nai Yuan Hu's** performance. His solid musical thoughts and flawless playing really convinced me that he is a very mature musician. I enjoyed his performance very much and was very proud that he is a Chinese international artist from Taiwan. When I saw him coach the Violin Master Class, it was evident in how he performed as a musician he was trying to demonstrate how to unify all the musical phrase, singing tone and inspiration in his playing and deliver them in his expressive performance. Our Branch President Tammy presided smoothly and eloquently at these events.

The attractive sound of a Bach Prelude and Fugue pulled me into the piano recital by pianist **Yevgeny Milyavsky**. I hadn't planned to attend this recital, I was on my way to dinner, but I could not resist going in to his performance. The way that he played Brahms was simply effortless, so rich that rather than being fed by a meal I felt no more hunger and was satisfied by his performance. In the richness of harmonic and counterpoint languages by Brahms in four lengthy movements, I just simply let myself soak in and let music splash me and quench my thirst. The audience applauded so enthusiastically that he offered a couple of exquisite Scriabin preludes as encores.

I attended the evening recital by pianist **Joseph Banowetz**, who gave a completely different repertoire and style of playing. His interaction with audience made an evening recital on the 4th of July more personal. Mr. Banowetz modified the second half of the concert by playing four-hands on the 4th of July theme. It was entertaining—instead of admiring the fireworks over the Santa Monica peer, we had a patriotic piano celebration mode. The Studio Policy and Career Development workshop by Kristine Yost titled **How I Made \$100,000 My First Year** as an Independent Music Teacher" presented Kristine's story about her way of establishing her Studio and the system of charging in a developing suburban city in Texas, sounded very bold, exciting and prosperous, but in reality of California's economy, I don't know if it would be applicable here.

I thank the Branch for giving me this assignment to be the delegate and participate in the 100th MTAC Convention.

~Liliana Hsueh-Gutierrez