

Branch Update

B R A N C H N E W S . . .

GENERAL MEETING

Our general meeting on Sunday, January 18th, held at Kaza Maza in Norco, was a wonderful success, as we doubled in size since last year (last year 4 people showed up, this time we had 8). The conversation revolved around ways that we can include more members in our events, and just catching up with each other. We also shared some fun ideas of techniques used to teach students of all ages, abilities and musical instruments. The food was great, and we had a wonderful time together. Hope we can double again next year. Here's to 16 teachers showing up next year!!!!

BACH FESTIVAL UPDATE

The Bach Festival will be held on Sunday, February 22 at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Riverside. Here are some important things to remember regarding the Bach Festival this year:

- At this point, the website is almost closed for registration (February 1 at midnight).
- Only music from J.S. Bach will be allowed to be performed, and also music from Anna Magdalena Notebook. The music from Anna Magdalena is not eligible to be chosen for the regional festival.
- Riverside Branch belongs to Region VI; however, teachers may choose any other region to register their students. Whatever region they choose, all of their students must be in that region. A teacher cannot choose more than one region.
- Judging will not be based on a percentage any longer. Any student receiving the minimum score of 270 from the rubric judges use universally will be chosen for the regionals. Therefore, students are competing with this score and not with other students.
- Teachers no longer have to belong to MTAC to participate. Any teacher is welcome.
- The date for the Regional Festival is Sunday, April 26 at University of Redlands.

We hope to have good participation this year!

INLAND EMPIRE PIANO FESTIVAL

The Inland Empire Piano Festival will be held on Sunday, February 1, 2026 at University of Redlands, and will feature music from the Contemporary Period. Information on this event is available at iepianofestival.squarespace.com. The deadline for this coming year's event has already passed, and the IEPF board is hard at work on the scheduling for this event. This is also a great opportunity for any teachers and/or students that are interested in participating in the future, to go and check it out. The event is all day, open to the public, and free! There are six solo divisions, three duet divisions and one concerto division.

If you have any questions about IEPF, please contact Linette Rodríguez at LNRESR@GMAIL.COM

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Our branch is always looking for volunteers who would like to help with our events. Please consider helping in some way this year. You can contact any of the board members to get you connected.

DIRECTOR NEEDED: And speaking of needs, we are still in need of a Director in our board. The job description of a Director is very simple: attend the meetings, 3 in person, 2-3 online via Zoom, throughout the year. Directors just need to be listening to what is going on in the branch, they are welcome to give any input if they wish (or not), and they vote on matters pertaining to the branch. If you are willing to get a little more involved in the branch without committing to a major commitment, this is your opportunity. Please contact Cindy Abts, our president, at cindy@cindyabts.com

MESSAGE TO ALL EVENT CHAIRPERSONS

To all our wonderful teachers that chair events for our branch, first of all, THANK YOU for what you do! Please send a little report to our Corresponding Secretary, Linette Rodríguez (LNRESR@GMAIL.COM) with the attendance for the event and a small summary of how things went. We would like to publish these events in our Branch Update each month. Thank you!

MTAC Riverside Branch VOICE COMPETITION

On Saturday, January 24th, the Riverside Branch MTAC VOICE Competition took place at Solid Rock Church in Rancho Cucamonga. Fifteen students took part and Carin Gilfry and Bruce McClurg were the judges. Collaborative Pianists were Tammy Flanders, Susan Miyamoto, and Evangeline Wuchner. Due to a generous donation, each first place winner received a \$50 prize.

Results

Elementary

1st Place Victoria Guadelupe Rodriguez, student of Tammy Flanders

2nd Place Jordyn Smart, student of Kate Rubke-Foxworth

3rd Place Marina Lin, student of Tammy Flanders

Honorable Mentions: Charlotte Oshiro and Isabel Oshodi, students of Kate Rubke-Foxworth

Middle School (grades 6-9th)

1st Place Arwen Wuchner, student of Kate Rubke-Foworth

2nd Place Karun Nair, student of Tammy Flanders

3rd Place, Gloria Guadelupe Rodriguez, student of Tammy Flanders

Honorable Mentions: Norah Bucharelli and Madison Escobar, students of Tammy Flanders

High School

1st Place Ella Collins, student of Tammy Flanders

2nd Place Riley George, student of Kate Rubke-Foxworth

3rd Place tie: Kelyn Nair and Travis Nguyen, students of Tammy Flanders

After the competition, the judges stayed to chat in a question and answer format and gave wonderful advice to the young singers.

The VOICE Competition was a great success and special thanks to Tammy Flanders for her excellent work in chairing the event.

Thank you to the support of the MTAC Riverside Branch Board for their support of the event!

Kate Rubke-Foxworth

C E R T I F I C A T E O F M E R I T . . .

The Certificate of Merit Evaluations are well on their way. Teachers and students are most likely working hard to get the requirements done on time. Here are important dates for CM 2025/2026:

January 24 - February 3 — CM Media submission deadline for Riverside Branch.

March 15-April 15 — Convention applications accepted.

April 1-April 15 — Requests for Makeup Evaluations accepted.

May 15 — Convention Recital final schedule is posted.

July 31 — Last day to download and print the CM detailed results from online system.

Remember to refer to the MTAC website (new.mtac.org) for complete instructions and schedules for not only Certificate of Merit, but many other events as well. There are teacher videos provided by the CM Council that explain how to use the new online syllabus and the CM evaluation process. It includes an optional quiz to test yourself on your CM knowledge. There is also a help line in case you have a question that has not been answered in the Policies and Procedures. We encourage teachers to use these resources. Best wishes for a great CM year for you and your students!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	Event	Time & Place
February 1 — Sunday	Inland Empire Piano Festival	University of Redlands 1200 E. Colton Ave, Redlands
February 22 — Sunday	Riverside Branch Bach Festival	Immanuel Lutheran Church 5455 Alessandro Blvd, Riv.
March 1 — Sunday	Steinway Junior Festival	steinwayriverside.org
March 8 — Sunday	Steinway Senior Festival	steinwayriverside.org
March 9 — Tuesday	Postmark Deadline for Spring Recital	
March 15 — Sunday	Spring Recital	Trinity Lutheran Church 5969 Brockton Ave, Riverside
April 12 — Sunday	Young Pianists' Competition	Immanuel Lutheran Church 5455 Alessandro Blvd, Riv.
April 26 — Sunday	Branch Honors AND YPC Winners' Recitals	Immanuel Lutheran Church 5455 Alessandro Blvd, Riv.
April 26 — Sunday	Bach Regionals	University of Redlands
May 17 — Sunday	Year-end General Meeting	Rodriguez Residence 11879 Dellvale Place, Riverside
June 26-29	MTAC Convention	Hilton Los Angeles Airport

*** * NEWSLETTER DEADLINE ****

For those that would like to make announcements in the newsletter, please send all your info to Linette Rodriguez at LNRESR@GMAIL.COM by the 25th of the month. Thanks.