



Branch Update

President's Message

Dear Colleagues,

As we begin a new teaching year, I want to extend a heartfelt welcome to each of you—and share how honored I am to serve as your president of the MTAC Riverside Branch. Thank you for entrusting me with this opportunity to serve and lead alongside a talented, passionate and dedicated community.

Whether you teach in a private studio, at a school, or in your students' homes, your work as a music teacher holds a lasting impact. We are often our students' first introduction to music literacy, discipline and artistic expression. What a privilege and a responsibility that we carry!

We are a community rich in experience, creativity and passion. I hope this year we can find even more ways to support one another through workshops, performance opportunities, mentorship and shared resources.

To kick things off, I invite you to join us for our **first meeting of the year, a Welcome Back Potluck!**

Date: Sunday, September 27

Time: 6:00 pm board members, 7:00 pm general meeting

Location: Home of Elvin & Linette Rodríguez (11879 Dellvale Place, Riverside)

I hope you will attend this meeting so you can reconnect, meet new members, share ideas and, of course, enjoy some great food.

Thank you for your continued dedication to your students, your craft and to the art of music teaching. I look forward to meeting many of you at the potluck and working together to make this a meaningful and music-filled year.

With appreciation and excitement,

Cindy Abts

BRANCH NEWS...

Branch Potluck – September 27th @ 7pm

At the home of Elvin and Linette Rodríguez, 11879 Dellvale Place, Riverside, 92505. Board members will meet at 6:00 pm before the general meeting at 7:00 pm. A few reminders for our upcoming potluck meeting:

1. Please bring your own serving utensils and come with your dish ready to serve.
2. Our MTAC Riverside Branch Handbook will be passed out on this evening. If you have any updated personal information, please pass this along to Sara Rosenthal (berkeleyalumni@hotmail.com) no later than **September 10th**. If you are a new member, please send Sara a picture of yourself to include in our handbook. If you are a previous member and want to change your picture, you can do so by sending it to Sara by the same deadline.

We look forward to celebrating with you at the Rodriguez residence!

New “Proposed” Board Members for 2026-2027 school year

An email was sent out by our Corresponding Secretary, Linette Rodríguez, asking members to vote on the new board members for this year. If you have not submitted your vote, please do so as soon as possible. The email was sent on August 27th with a link to send in your vote.

President	Cindy Abts	abtscm@gmail.com
Vice-President	Sara Rosenthal	berkeleyalumni@hotmail.com
Recording Secretary	Lisa Siebelink	siebelink6@gmail.com
Corresponding Secretary	Linette Rodriguez	LNRESR@gmail.com
Treasurer	Elvin Rodriguez	esrlnr@fastmail.com
Membership Secretary	D’Laney Jevas	dlaneymusician@gmail.com
Director	Mark Peterson	mark2marie@yahoo.com
Director	Tatyana Maslova	tatyana@ca.rr.com
Director	Tammy Flanders	tammysmusic@att.net

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.

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

Welcome Back!

A new school year has begun and with that a new CM year commences as well. For those interested in the CM evaluations, please refer to the detailed information on these dates, and others such as Panel, YAG and in-person evaluations, at the new.mtac.org website. Here is a summary of important dates for CM 2026/2027 (not including Panel/Yag; please look up the calendar for those important deadlines):

August 20 — CM Teacher Information videos and quiz made available to teachers.

September 1 — CM Enrollment begins (includes Panel, YAG, Special Needs requests)

September 30 — Enrollment deadline (state database closes for all applications) ***There is NO Late Enrollment—no exceptions can be made!***

September 1 - October 5 — Parent payment period in the MTAC online system. ***No late payments will be accepted.***

October 5 — Deadline to request a change of level or grade. Changes to a student's level may incur a cost.

November 30 — Submit a Scheduling Request for In-person evaluations only.

December 15 — Deadline for ALL repertoire to be entered into the online system (this includes Panel and YAG, including letter of intent). Also includes Change of Teacher request, last day to withdraw student from CM, and last day to remove a student from the teacher roster.

January 30-31 — In-person evaluations at Claremont Community School of Music.

February 27 - March 9 — 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.

June 29-July 2 — Convention 2027 at the Hyatt Regency Monterey Hotel and Spa.

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

Please note that the media submission window for our branch is February 27 to March 9th. Here's to an awesome CM year for you and your students!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	Event	Time & Place
September 27 – Sunday	Beginning of the Year Potluck	7:00 pm Rodriguez Home 11879 Dellvale Place, Riv.

Please come to the Potluck meeting to receive your handbook with all the important dates and deadlines to our events for this year. A more complete calendar of events will be published in the October Branch Update. Hope to see you all on September 27th.

**** 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.