



Branch Update

BRANCH NEWS...

Branch Potluck – September 27th

Our first meeting of the year was held on Sunday, September 27th at the home of Elvin and Linette Rodriguez. We had 13 in attendance, and we enjoyed some awesome food. We welcomed one of our newest members, Suola Zhu, and were very happy to meet her. Welcome to our branch, Suola. We also had our new bookkeeper, Mary Jo Macias, come and we all enjoyed meeting her. Thank you, Mary Jo, for attending and for being willing to help our branch.

Our branch meets in person only 3 times a year, so we hope more of you will make time to come and fellowship together. Our next in-person meeting will be on Saturday evening, January 23, at Kaza Maza Mediterranean Grill. Look for more information on this in the December Branch Update.

Board Members for 2026-2027 school year

These are the board members for this school year. These are the teachers you can turn to for help or questions regarding our branch or any of our events. Thank you to all the board members for your service to the branch.

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 above.

October Harvest Recital

Our first event of the year is coming up on Sunday, October 25th at Trinity Lutheran Church (see Calendar of Events below for address). All applications must be submitted via the following link to Cindy Abts (applications are encouraged through this link):

<https://forms.gle/Q7VgiTXyeFc2Lvm48>

The deadline to send these is Monday, October 12th. The fee is \$10 per student. Fees can be sent via Zelle at mtacriversidebranch@gmail.com. If checks are used, please mail them to Cindy Abts at 2542 E. Crane Court, Ontario, CA 91761.

Handbook Corrections

For those of you who attended our first meeting, you received your new Handbook with all the information of our events and our members. We already have some corrections or additional information to add to the handbook as follows:

- 1) The Holiday Recital will be held on December 6, not December 13 as stated in the handbook. The venue will be Trinity Lutheran Church, 5969 Brockton Avenue, Riverside.
- 2) All three student recitals will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church this year.
- 3) On page 14 of the handbook (Student Recitals) it says to contact Abraham Fabella for information on availability of time. The person to contact is Cindy Abts. Her contact information shows up on page 15.
- 4) The Zelle address for our branch is mtacriversidebranch@gmail.com. It shows up incorrectly in several places.

Bach Festival Information

The Bach Festival this year will be regionalized again with the Redlands Branch, and will be held on Sunday, March 14th. The online portal will open on December 15th. A very important thing to remember is that SCJBF (Southern California Junior Bach Festival) is now capping each event at no more than 100 students. If the online system reaches 100, it will automatically close and the teacher will be assigned another branch to attend. This could mean anywhere in Southern California. To avoid this issue, we highly recommend that anyone interested in putting their students in Bach Festival do so early, preferably in December. Another very important change this year is that video recordings will not be allowed in any of the festivals, not even at the branch level.

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT...

CM NEWS:

Our CM enrollment period has already ended as of September 30th. For those of you who enrolled students in CM, 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):

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. Also, do not refer only to this calendar. This is a summary only; you should review the complete CM calendar online. Here's to an awesome CM year for you and your students!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	Event	Time & Place
October 5 - Sunday	Deadline for parents to pay CM applications	
October 12 – Monday	Postmark Deadline for Harvest Recital	
October 25 – Sunday	Harvest Recital	Trinity Lutheran Church 5969 Brockton Ave, Riverside
November 23 – Monday	Postmark Deadline for Holiday Recital	
December 6 – Sunday	Holiday Recital	Trinity Lutheran Church 5969 Brockton Ave, Riverside
December 11 — Friday	Application Deadline for Inland Empire Piano Festival	
January 7 — Thursday	Application Deadline for VOCE	
January 23 — Saturday	General Meeting (Board members 6:00 pm)	7:00 pm Kaza Maza Mediterranean Grill 2395 Hamner Ave., Norco
January 30 — Saturday	VOCE	Solid Ground Church 9974 19th St., Rancho C.
February 7 — Sunday	Inland Empire Piano Festival	University of Redlands 1200 E. Colton Ave, Redlands
March 1 — Monday	Postmark Deadline for Spring Recital	
March 7 — Sunday	Steinway Junior Festival	steinwayriverside.org
March 9 — Tuesday	CM Medial Submission Deadline	
March 14 — Sunday	Steinway Senior Festival	steinwayriverside.org
March 14 — Sunday	Bach Festival with Redlands Branch	TBA
March 14 — Sunday	Spring Recital	Trinity Lutheran Church 5969 Brockton Ave, Riverside
April 4 — Sunday	Young Pianists' Competition	Immanuel Lutheran Church 5455 Alessandro Blvd, Riv.
April 18 — Sunday	Branch Honors AND YPC Winners' Recitals	Immanuel Lutheran Church 5455 Alessandro Blvd, Riv.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS, continued

May 16 — Sunday	Year-end General Meeting	Rodriguez Residence 11879 Dellvale Place, Riverside
June 29-July 2	MTAC Convention	Hyatt Regency Monterey Hotel and Spa

*** * NEWSLETTER DEADLINE ***

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