



MTAC OCC NEWSLETTER

President's Message

Dear MTAC-OCC Teachers,

Spring is in the air! With the beautiful weather and warm sunshine around us, it truly feels like a season of renewal. After the busy and often stressful Certificate of Merit season, we can finally take a deep breath. The long hours of preparation, uploading videos, and completing theory and sight-reading exams are behind us — and it is time to celebrate all that has been accomplished. Thank you all for your dedication, perseverance, and care for your students. Now we can enjoy this beautiful season together.

We look forward to seeing everyone at our 4th Branch Meeting on **Wednesday, March 11, 2026**, featuring special guest speaker Mallory Byers, Product Manager at Alfred Music, who will present exciting new materials and innovative teaching resources.

We also have a wonderful lineup of upcoming events:

Saturday, March 14: Bach Festival – Saddleback College
Thank you to Nancy Shao for chairing this treasured tradition.

Sunday, March 22: Showcase Recital #3, 2:30–3:30 pm – LHCC
Chair: Lan Vu

Saturday, April 18: Achievement Celebration Recital, 12:30–4:30 pm – LHCC
Thank you to Laurie Meinhold and Kara Ahmann for chairing this special event.

Saturday, April 25: Community Service Recital #3, 2–3 pm – Freedom Village
Thank you to Laura Combs for chairing.

Contemporary Music Festival – Saddleback College
Thank you to Anne Prestridge and Priscilla Chang Pai for chairing.

Popular Music Recital – Saddleback College
Thank you to Anne Prestridge and Sally Honda for chairing.

Sunday, April 26: Coda Evaluations – Pianoforte Studio
Thank you to Paula Sabin for chairing.

Sunday, May 3: Composers Today Branch Composition Recital, 2–3 pm – LHCC
Thank you to Su-Shing Chiu and Keiko Ikeda for chairing.

Sunday, May 17: Branch Senior Recital, 2–3 pm – LHCC
Thank you to Nilou Sarraf and Kaii Lee for chairing.

It is a full and exciting season ahead! I am so grateful for the many dedicated chairs and volunteers who make these meaningful opportunities possible for our students.

Let's welcome spring with renewed energy, celebrate our accomplishments, and continue building beautiful musical experiences together.

Warmly,
Lan Vu
MTAC-OCC Branch President

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CALENDAR

March 2026

- 1 Contemporary Music Festival online registration opens at mtac-occ.org
- 1 **Popular Music Recital** online registration opens at mtac-occ.org
- 11 **Wednesday, 10:00 am. Branch Meeting, LHCC**
Program: Showcase of new piano materials and fresh compositions from favorite composers
Presented by Mallory Byers, Alfred Music Publishing Product Marketing Manager
- 14 Bach Festival, Saddleback College
- 16 CM Results Published to Teachers' Portal.
CM Honors Recital Registration opens at mtac-occ.org.
- 17 CM Panel Final Audition Submission Deadline
- 19 Composers Today Branch Recital online registration opens at mtac-occ.org
- 20 Deadline for CODA Registration. Contact Dr. Paula Sabin at paulasabin@csulb.edu.
- 22 Showcase Recital #3, Sunday 2:30-3:30 pm, LHCC

April 2026

- 3 Branch Senior Recital online registration opens on mtac-occ.org.
- 4 Deadline for Contemporary Music Festival online registration and payments.
- 4 Deadline for Popular Music Recital online registration and payments.
- 8 Deadline for CM Honors Recital online registration.
- 15 Deadline for Scholarship applications to Pennie Foster at mtac-occ.org.
- 15 Deadline for Convention Performance State Contest Winners Recitals and Deadline for Composers Today Symposiums at new.mtac.org.
- 18 Achievement Celebration Recital, Saturday 12:30-4:30 pm, LHCC
- 19 Deadline for Composers Today Branch Composition Recital online registration and payments.
- 25 Contemporary Music Festival, Saddleback College
- 25 Community Service Recital, 2:00-3:00 pm, Freedom Village Retirement Community
- 25 Popular Music Recital, Saddleback College
- 26 CODA Evaluations, Pianoforte Studio, Irvine

May 2026

- 3 Deadline for Branch Senior Recital online registration on mtac-occ.org. Email student bios to Nilou Sarrat.
- 3 Composers Today Branch Composition Recital. Sunday, 2:00-3:00 pm, LHCC
- 13 **Wednesday, 10:00 am. Branch Meeting, LHCC**
Program: Differences between Fugue, Canon, Fantasie, and Toccata
Presented by Dr. Mark Sullivan
- 16 Bach Regional Festival, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church. Julie Nakamura, Bach Region V Chair, Pam Worcester, General Chair
- 17 Branch Senior Recital. Sunday, 2:00-3:00 pm, LHCC

Note: All events and dates subject to change.

MARCH BRANCH MEETING

Wednesday, March 11th at 10:00 AM

LHCC = Laguna Hills Community Center

[25555 Alicia Parkway, Laguna Hills, CA 92653](https://www.lhcc.org/25555-Alicia-Parkway-Laguna-Hills-CA-92653)

Program: Showcase of new piano materials and fresh compositions from favorite composers

Presented by Mallory Byers, Alfred Music Publishing Product Marketing Manager

Join Alfred Music's Mallory Byers as we celebrate new piano materials that bring creativity and excellence to your studio. This year's exciting new music releases showcase a range of vibrant works from diverse composers, alongside an important anthology highlighting underrepresented voices. Also featured is the immersive and adventurous Saga Land collection, drawing inspiration from video game soundtracks. Additionally, a six-book, multi-author series delivers fresh compositions from favorite composers, and the lineup is completed by dynamic recital showstoppers specifically designed to energize and spotlight young pianists. Attendees will all receive a free gift and be entered to win a doorprize.

About Mallory Byers

Mallory Byers comes from a family of musicians and has been running a vibrant piano studio in Los Angeles since 2012. She is passionate about helping students fall in love with music and keeping them engaged in their learning, she specializes in teaching young beginners and popular styles in addition to the standard repertoire. She has been featured by Piano Bench Magazine, the Upbeat Piano Teachers, and the Piano Parent Podcast.



SHOWCASE RECITAL #3

Showcase Recital #3

Chair: Lan Vu, (949) 390-4084, lanphuongvu@hotmail.com

Sunday March 22, 2026

Arrival Time: 2:20 pm

Performance Time: 2:30-3:30 pm

Location: Laguna Hills Community Center

Deadline to sign up: Registration is now closed

Dress Code: Dressy Apparel



ACHIEVEMENT CELEBRATION RECITAL

Achievement Celebration Recital

Chair: Laurie Meinhold, lemeinhold@gmail.com

Saturday April 18, 2026

Performance Time: 12:30-4:30 pm

(TBA, dependent on number of students enrolled)

Location: Laguna Hills Community Center

Deadline to sign up: April 8, 2026

Dress Code: Dressy Apparel

Every year we celebrate the achievements of our students who have participated in CM. If your student received honors and is level 5 or higher, they are invited to play in the Achievement Celebration Recital, performing one of their examination pieces by memory. Enter on the branch website at mtac-occ.org. This is a local Orange Coast Cities branch event, not connected with the State Certificate of Merit program or website. Participation is free.



COMMUNITY SERVICE RECITAL #3

Community Service Recital #3

Recital Chair: Laura Combs, (949) 233-2806, lauralinda@cox.net

Recital Administrator: Lan Vu, (949) 390-4084, lanphuongvu@hotmail.com

Saturday April 25, 2026

Arrival Time: 1:45 pm

Performance Time: 2:00-3:00 pm

Location: Freedom Village Retirement Community, (949) 472-4700
22442 El Toro Rd., Building 1
Lake Forest, CA 92630

Online Registration Opens: Wednesday March 11, 2026 at mtac-occ.org.

Deadline to sign up: Friday April 10, 2026, or until registration reaches maximum capacity (18 students).

Registration Fee: \$10 per student. (Example: a duet will be charged \$20 total)

Dress Code: Dressy Apparel.

- Teachers may enter up to 3 students per recital.
- Teachers are **not** allowed to perform duets (four-hand piano music) with their students. It is acceptable for teachers to accompany their students for different instruments or voice.

This Recital is a wonderful opportunity for students to share their music that will brighten the day for so many, bring joy to the residents, and experience the true spirit of giving through performance. Community Service Recitals are always a heartwarming highlight for both performers and audience.

Sign up your students early and be part of this meaningful event.

CONTEMPORARY MUSIC FESTIVAL 2026

Contemporary Music Festival 2026

Chair: Anne Prestridge, (949) 533-7194, anneprestridge@gmail.com
Chair: Priscilla Chang-Pai, (714) 600-6232, priscilla.chang77@gmail.com
Festival Administrator: Pam Worcester, (949) 683-3293, pocky@cox.net
Hospitality: Kara Ahmann

Festival Date & Location:

Saturday April 25, 2026 @ Saddleback College

Application & Festival Deadline:

Opens: March 1, 2026

Closes: April 4, 2026

Online registration and payments at @ mtac-occ.org

Application Fee: Solo entries: \$50 each, Duet: \$40 per performer, Ensembles: \$35 per performer

Contemporary Music Festival Rules

The purpose of the Contemporary Music Festival is to celebrate repertoire of the 20th and 21st Century composers and the works of those composers listed in the CM Syllabus as “Transitional: Impressionist /Early 20th Century.” Ragtime in its original form (not simplified or arranged) is welcome. However, arrangements and music derived from TV, movies, and other sources are not acceptable. Musical theatre selections for voice students are also ineligible for this festival. If in doubt, contact the festival chairs. A helpful list of transitional composers can be found below.

The Contemporary Music Festival is open to all levels of piano, instrumental, and voice students, both solos and ensembles. Two grand pianos will only be available for duos if the chair is notified in advance.

Please keep in mind that the purpose of the MTAC OCC branch festival is to provide an opportunity for students to perform in a recital while gaining supportive comments from the judges. In this festival, students will also have the opportunity to hear music from the Contemporary Period. The event is not meant to be a highly competitive experience, but rather a way for students to be acknowledged for their hard work and gain helpful feedback to further their music studies.

Consequently, new this year is also the option to choose the Non-Competitive category, for those students who would solely like to join for performance experience and to receive helpful feedback from judges. Their performance will only receive comments and not be considered for a prize.

CONTEMPORARY MUSIC FESTIVAL, cont.

Contemporary Music Festival Rules, cont.

Students will receive awards of medals, ribbons, and certificates based entirely on adjudicators' decisions. Students are separated into the following age categories: ages 11 and under, ages 12-14, ages 15-18, adult, and Non-Competitive. The top 25% of students in each age category (except for non-competitive) receive 1st Place Medals, the next 25% of students in each category receive 2nd Place Blue Ribbons, the next 25% of students receive Honorable Mention Red Ribbons, and the next 25% receive a Yellow Participation Ribbon.

Also new this year, teachers are limited to 12 students each instead of the previous 8 students. However, Contributory Members may NOT enter students.

For all other rules and to apply, please go on our webpage <https://mtac-occ.org/contemporary-music-festival/>.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact any of the festival chairs. We look forward to receiving your applications and your students' wonderful performances!

MTAC-OCC Contemporary Festival: Eligible Transitional Composers **(Post-Romantic/Impressionist/Post-Impressionist)**

Isaac Albéniz	Louis Durey	Olivier Messiaen	Camille Saint-Saëns
Georges Auric	Manuel de Falla	Nikolai Miaskowsky	Carlos Salzedo
Alfredo Barili	Ernest Fanelli	Darius Milhaud	Erik Satie
Paul Benoit	Gabriel Fauré	Frederic Mompou	Cyril Scott
Ernest Bloch	Reinhold Gliere	Carl Nielsen	Alexander Scriabin
Sergei Bortkiewicz	Alexander	Selim Palmgren	Jean Sibelius
Lili Boulanger	Goedicke Enrique	Gabriel Pierné	Karol Szymanowski
Nadia Boulanger	Granados	Eduard Poldini	Germaine Tailleferre
Ernest Chausson	Reynaldo Hahn	Manuel Ponce	Toru Takemitsu
Claude Debussy	Arthur Honegger	Francis Poulenc	Nikolai Tcherepnin
Frederick Delius	Mary Howe	Sergei Rachmaninoff	Ralph Vaughan Williams
Ernst von Dohnányi	John Ireland	Maurice Ravel	
Paul Dukas	Karl Wilhelm Kern	Ottorino Respighi	

If you don't see your composer listed here and would like to check eligibility, please contact the chair of the festival.

For a full list of Contemporary Period composers, please refer to the CM Syllabus.

NEW: POPULAR MUSIC RECITAL

New Performance Opportunity!

Popular Music Recital

Co-Chair: Anne Prestridge, (949) 533-7194, anneprestridge@gmail.com

Co-Chair: Sally Honda, (617) 270-6300 hondabos@gmail.com

Saturday April 25, 2026

Location: Saddleback College

Online Registration Opens: Wednesday March 1, 2026 at mtac-occ.org.

Application Deadline: April 4, 2026

Registration Fee: \$25 per student



Popular Music Recital Guidelines

This annual recital provides students an opportunity to perform a popular music selection that they have chosen from a wide variety of musical styles to share with their peers and the audience. It is a celebration of non-classical music as well as the student's creativity through improvisation. All instruments and vocals are welcomed as are duets and ensembles. These recitals are non-competitive with no evaluations.

While the term "popular" generally means new, current, or top-ten music, we have expanded the meaning of the term to incorporate a large variety of selections and styles, such as bluegrass, blues, country, folk, gospel, hymn, improvisation, jazz, movie music, "New Age" pop, rap, rags, rock, R&B, soul and video game music. Student, teacher, or published arrangements may be performed and popular music from method books can be used.

- There is no limit of students per teacher, but only 5 students per teacher will be programmed in a single recital.
- One piece or song limit per student, with a 5 minute performance time limit.
- Instructions for vocalists: Song lyrics must be appropriate for a family friendly atmosphere; no profanity or inappropriate lyrics will be allowed.
- Where applicable: Students must provide their own accompanist, or provide and set up their own backing track, mic, and amplification.
- Music memorization is optional, but a practiced, polished performance is expected. If music is not memorized, please use a purchased manuscript.
- Students are welcome to briefly introduce their song and explain why they like it. The announcement time will be included in the 3-5 minute time limit.
- Students must dress in appropriate recital attire and stay for the entire recital.
- The recital is non-competitive and the students will not be evaluated, so no music manuscript is to be turned in before the performance.
- **NO VIDEO RECORDING OF ANY PERFORMANCE WILL BE ALLOWED.**

COMPOSERS TODAY BRANCH RECITAL

Composers Today Branch Recital

Recital Chair: Su-Shing Chiu, (949) 263-1231, sushing_chiu@yahoo.com

Recital Administrator: Lan Vu, (949) 390-4084, lanphuongvu@hotmail.com

Sunday May 3, 2026

Arrival Time: 1:45 pm

Performance Time: 2:00-3:00 pm

Location: Laguna Hills Community Center (LHCC)

Application Open: March 19, 2026 at <https://mtac-occ.org/composers-today-branch-recital/>

Application Deadline: April 19, 2026

Registration Fee: \$15 per performer

Dress Code: Dressy Apparel.

Hello OCC Teachers!

The 2026 OCC Composers Today Branch Recital registration will be opening very soon on March 19th. This is a great opportunity for students to perform and share their own compositions!

Composer's Today Branch Recital 2025 Guidelines & Instructions

- Open to all levels grades 1-12, college students, adults, and teachers to perform their own original composition or improvisation
- Do not submit the score of the composition
- Inform Chair if you need microphones, projector screen, projector for your composition
- Grand Piano is available, Composers need to bring any other instruments or devices such as computer, tablet, smartphone, speaker, extension cord, etc.
- Submit the following Composer's information to Chair:
 - Name, age
 - Names of all performers and their instruments
 - Title and length of composition
 - Composer's Teacher Name (must be a current branch member)

SENIOR RECITAL

Senior Recital

Recital Chair: Nilou Sarraf, (949) 584-6961, nilousarraf@gmail.com

Recital Co-Chair: Kaii Lee, (949) 278-1802, kaii@kafm.net

Saturday May 17, 2026

Arrival Time: 1:45 pm

Performance Time: 2:00-3:00 pm



Location: Laguna Hills Community Center (LHCC)

Application Open: April 3, 2026 at mtac-occ.org.

Application Deadline: May 3, 2026

Dress Code: Dressy Apparel.

Senior Recital Guidelines & Instructions

- The Senior Recital is an opportunity for all graduating high school seniors to be honored in a recital program and is open to any high school senior, regardless of level, who would like to perform a polished, well-prepared selection that is also memorized
- Participation in Certificate of Merit is not required
- Recital Program includes a biography of each student
- Senior CM Medallions, awards, and scholarships recipients will be announced during the recital
- No senior award will be given if music is not memorized

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA JUNIOR BACH FESTIVAL 2026

**MTAC membership is no longer required for participation
in the Southern California Junior Bach Festival.**

SCJBF Orange Coast Bach Branch Festival • PIANO
(In-Person Competition, OPEN Recital Format with 3 Adjudicators)

Southern California Junior Bach Festival (SCJBF) | www.scjbf.org
Nancy Shao, Orange Coast Branch Chair (Piano): nshao327@gmail.com
Suejin Jung, Orange Coast Branch Co-chair (Piano): pianojung52@gmail.com
Pamela Worcester, SCJBF General Chair: pocky@cox.net

If students/parents have questions, please communicate with the Chair through your Teacher.

Orange Coast Bach Branch Festival • PIANO
March 14, 2026 (SATURDAY)
ALL DAY (exact times TBA)

Saddleback College, Fine Arts Complex
28000 Marguerite Parkway
Mission Viejo, California 92692

Rules & Guidelines (Both documents contain two pages.)
<https://scjbf.org/rules-guidelines/>



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA JUNIOR BACH FESTIVAL 2026

SCJBF Region V Festival • PIANO

(In-Person Competition, OPEN Recital Format with 3 Adjudicators)

Southern California Junior Bach Festival (SCJBF) | www.scjbf.org

Julie Nakamura, Region V Chair (Piano), juri.naka@gmail.com

If students/parents have questions, please communicate with the Chair through your Teacher.

Region V Festival • PIANO

May 16, 2026 (SATURDAY)

ALL DAY (exact times TBA)

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Dana Point

2026 Bach Region V Festival • PIANO Application Portal

(Students selected as Bach Branch Festival Winners with eligible repertoire will automatically advance to the Region V Festival.)

Application Deadline: TBA

Rules & Guidelines

<https://scjbf.org/rules-guidelines/>



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA JUNIOR BACH FESTIVAL 2026

SCJBF Complete Works Audition

(In-Person Competition, OPEN AUDITION FORMAT with 3 Adjudicators)

Southern California Junior Bach Festival (SCJBF) | www.scjbf.org

Pamela Worcester, General Chair

If students/parents have questions, please communicate with the General Chair through your Teacher at <https://scjbf.org/contact-us/>

Complete Works Audition

Late September 2026 (SUN) / Early October 2026 (SUN)

ALL DAY (exact date & times TBA)

Venue: TBA (usually CSULB)

2026 Complete Works Audition Application Portal

(Students selected as Bach Regional Winner with eligible repertoire will automatically advance to the Complete Works Audition, if their teachers checked the Complete Works Audition box in the initial Branch Festival application.)

Application Deadline: TBA

Rules & Guidelines

<https://scjbf.org/rules-guidelines/>

<https://scjbf.org/complete-works-audition/>

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

Branch CM Adviser - Gloria Liu Traulle, gltraulle@gmail.com
Voice CM Repertoire Expert – Susan Wong, frauwwong@hotmail.com
Piano CM Repertoire Expert Team:
Anne Prestridge, anneprestridge@gmail.com
Laurie Meinhold lemeinhold@cox.net

CM Evaluation Deadline

Date	Deadline
February 24	Evaluation Submission Period Closes
March 16	Evaluation Results Available for Teachers
March 18	Parents Results Publish for all Parents and Students
March 15	CM Convention Recital Applications Open
April 3	Theory Test Results Available
July 31	Deadline to Download Detailed Evaluation & Theory Results
May 27	Make-up Evaluations results are posted to the Parent Portal. Parents should contact their teachers if they have any questions regarding the results.



CERTIFICATE OF MERIT, cont.

Make-up Evaluations Dates

Date	Deadline
April 1	Application requests open for Make-up Evaluations for both Performance and Theory in the MTAC Online System for all students, requests must be approved before submitting payment.
April 15	Deadline to apply for Make-up Evaluations for both Performance and Theory in the MTAC Online System for all students, requests must be approved before submitting payment.
April 20	Deadline to submit payment for approved Make-up Evaluations applications.
April 27	Make-up Evaluations Media Submission opens.
May 5	Make-up Evaluations Media Submission Deadline. No late submissions will be accepted.
May 25	Make-up Evaluations results are posted to the Teacher Portal. Teachers may submit a Review Request of their students' performance results through the Detailed Results page up to 10 days after the results were posted.
May 27	Make-up Evaluations results are posted to the Parent Portal. Parents should contact their teachers if they have any questions regarding the results.

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT, cont.

Convention and Other Year-End Deadlines

Date	Deadline
March 15	Convention Applications are now available to those students who have results posted. Teachers and parents may also submit scheduling requests, carpool requests, and, if applicable, request a Convention Collaborative Pianists.
April 1	Theory test questions and answers will be released statewide. Teachers and parents may download and print the results until July 31. Teachers may submit a Request for Review for Theory Results until April 11.
April 15	Deadline for Convention Applications, scheduling requests and Collaborative Pianist requests. Deadline for Parents to pay Convention Application Fee. No late payments accepted.
May 15	Convention Recital Final Schedule posted on the student's application page www.mtac.org/login No changes to a student's performance schedule will be accepted.
June 26-June 29	Convention 2026 at the Hilton Los Angeles Airport Hotel.
July 31	Last day to download and print the CM Detailed Results and the student Theory Tests and answers from the MTAC Online System.

**Convention 2026 will be at the Hilton Los Angeles Airport Hotel, from
June 26 - 29, 2026.
5711 West Century Boulevard, Los Angeles, California, 90045**



VOCE

THE MTAC STATE PROGRAM

All details of the competition will be posted online by the VOCE program.

VOCE Region Chair: Jane Masur , Guido d'Arezzo , Rhonda Williams , Plain Jane Doe

VOCE State Chair: Kathy You Wilson

Regional Competitions

Students first perform in Regional Competitions. A non-competitive format is available for students who are not quite ready for competition, allowing them to perform for judges' comments without the pressure of competing to move onto the State Finals Competition.

A non-competitive format is available for students who are not quite ready for competition, allowing them to perform for judges' comments without being judged against other students.

State Finals

First place winners of Regional Competitions advance to State Finals. Registration fees are non-refundable.

Winners Recital

First place winners of State Finals perform at the State Convention in order to receive their cash awards and plaques.

State Competition Information **ONLINE Competition**

March 15	Media Due Date
March 15	State Finals Fee Due Date
April 6	State Finals Results Available
May 15	Convention Schedule Publish Date
June 26-June 29	Convention

**Convention 2026 will be at the Hilton Los Angeles Airport Hotel, from
June 26 - 29, 2026.
5711 West Century Boulevard, Los Angeles, California, 90045**

CODA

CERTIFICATION OF DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT

Welcome Piano Teachers to CODA 2026!

CODA is an *innovative* program for evaluating and giving recognition to our piano students. CODA

- Enables students to experience the evaluation process in a friendly setting.
- Provides a quality program while allowing flexibility in the selection of repertoire.
- Uses evaluators with expertise in music and sensitivity in working with students.
- Gives a means to gauge a student's progress and achievement in piano studies.
- Recognizes and rewards students for their achievements.

CODA is *unique* because it offers *two options* for demonstrating mastery in piano:

Musicianship (Levels Preparatory through 6) comprised of

- Repertoire – one or two piano solos selected from graded repertoire collections and one piece free choice, which may be an arrangement of popular music.
- Scales – one major and one harmonic minor scale of teacher's choice
- Cadence formulas – Levels 3-6 only
- Theory – brief multiple-choice exam
- Ear training – done within the evaluation
- Sight reading – two levels below repertoire level

Performance (Levels Preparatory through 10)

- Evaluation based entirely on performance of repertoire.
- Memory is encouraged but not required.
- Repertoire and Evaluation level are up to the teacher.
- For the student who loves to perform and/or wants experience in performing

Additional Benefits and Features

- CODA helps reinforce and enhance piano and musicianship skills.
- CODA can be used to prepare students for performance of repertoire for festivals, recitals, and other evaluations.
- Flexibility in choice of Repertoire, which means a student can perform a multi-movement sonatina or sonata, a prelude and fugue, a theme and variations and one other piece, if desired, instead of having required repertoire from different historical eras.
- The Performance Option allows students to experience the joy and rewards of performing seasoned repertoire (e.g., pieces already developed for other purposes) without the responsibility of demonstrating technique, sight-reading, and theory.



CODA, cont.

- Students can participate in CODA when other evaluation options are not available, feasible, or appropriate.
- CODA enables piano students to gain experience in a live evaluation setting.
- CODA is for everyone – adult piano students may find the Performance Option attractive and are welcome to participate.

There is ***no teacher work requirement*** other than to prepare your students for the CODA experience.

The CODA list of ***repertoire for the Musicianship Option*** includes some of the most respected collections, with carefully graded and selected pieces that allow the teacher flexibility, while at the same time setting a high standard for establishing levels for evaluation. Set repertoire includes M'lou Dietzer's *First Impressions* and *Discovering Piano Literature*, the Royal Conservatory's *Celebration Series*, and Keith Snell's *Piano Repertoire* books. Teachers may also follow repertoire guidelines for CM, but with no worries about levels. The choice of ***repertoire for both Musicianship and Performance Option*** is left to the teacher and may include pedagogical pieces, arrangements of showtunes or popular music, as well as original works for piano solo.

A ***Certificate of Distinguished Achievement*** is given to each student who successfully completes the evaluation. Additionally, honors are awarded to outstanding performers.

CODA 2026 Evaluations – Sunday, April 26, 2026 – PianoForte Studio in Irvine

Evaluation Fees: Prep-Level 3--\$35

Levels 4-6--\$40

Levels 7-10--\$45

Registration forms are due April 10

A ***CODA Syllabus***, which explains the goals and content of the CODA program and includes registration forms, is available for teachers. In addition, a detailed ***CODA Supplement*** for the Musicianship Option is offered that contains sample concept/theory tests, sight-reading examples, and cadences.

**Contact Paula Sabin (paula.sabin@csulb.edu)
for your free copy of the CODA Syllabus and/or Supplement.**

SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarship applications can be found on the mtac-occ.org website.

For High School Seniors Only

2026 High School Senior Scholarship

MTAC OCC High School Scholarship is awarded to high school seniors who are performing at a very advanced level on their instrument. The applicant must have studied with an Orange Coast Cities Branch member for the past year and plans to Major or Minor in music at the college level.

2026 Judy Jenkins Memorial Scholarship

Established in 2020 by a generous \$20,000 donation from the Jenkins Family in honor of Judy Jenkins who served in virtually every MTAC position during her 30 year membership including CM State Coordinator, MTAC OCC President, CM branch chair, and Festival creator and chair. This \$1,000 annual scholarship will be awarded to a graduating high school senior from the MTAC Orange Coast Cities Branch who is performing at an extremely advanced level and will continue studying music as a Piano Major in college. The recipient will receive the scholarship only after submitting an acceptance letter from the music department where they plan to attend to confirm their incoming college freshman Piano Major status.

Chair: Pennie Foster, 949-858-0214, pjfooster@att.net

Application Deadline: April 15, 2026

For Saddleback College Students Only

2026 Anniversary Scholarship & Valerie Radlick Music Scholarship for Saddleback College Students

The **\$500 Anniversary Scholarship** was established in 1999 by the Music Teachers' Association of California, Orange Coast Cities Branch, in honor of their 25th Anniversary. It will be awarded annually to a deserving Saddleback College music student.

The **\$200 Valerie Radlick Music Scholarship** was established in 2018 and will be awarded annually to a deserving Saddleback College music student based on performance ability. Valerie Radlick was a great supporter of the Saddleback College music department, a wonderful pianist, teacher, and a Past President of the MTAC OCC Branch.

Chair: Pam Worcester, 949-683-3293, pocky@cox.net

Application Deadline: April 15, 2026

MEMBERSHIP

Happy March O.C.C. members! I hope everyone is doing well this Spring!

If your contact information has changed or needs to be updated, please email Jennie Huang at jh05168@gmail.com.

Please remember to update your information in your MTAC Teacher's portal as well to ensure you receive all emails from the state office.
Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jennie Huang

O.C.C. 2nd Vice President/Membership Chair



ORANGE COAST CITIES BRANCH OFFICERS 2025 - 2026

President.....Lan Vu
 First Vice President (Programs)Dr. Priscilla Chang-Pai
 Second Vice President (Membership).....Jennie Huang
 Treasurer.....Laura Combs
 Recording Secretary.....Anne Prestidge
 Corresponding Secretary.....Dr. Shelby Wong

Directors:

Past President.....Chamonix Patterson
 Festival Administrator.....Pamela Worcester
 Recital AdministradorLan Vu
 Certificate of Merit & CM Strings.....Gloria Liu Traullé
 CM VoiceSusan Wong
 Digital Communications.....Nancy Shao
 Director..... Dr. Lawrence Mumford
 Director..... Julie Nakamura
 Director..... Kara Christianson Ahmann
 Director.....Maurita Eberly Hanford
 Director.....Sally Honda

Past Presidents

1974-1976	Dr. M'lou Dietzer	1997-1999	Pamela Worcester
1976-1978	Donna Bashaw	1999-2001	Laurie Meinhold
1978-1980	Joyce Conway	2001-2003	Valerie Radlick
1980-1982	Shirley Case	2003-2005	Carol Sporleder
1982-1984	Margery Ellesmere- Jones (Burger)	2005-2007	Nilou Sarraf
1984-1986	June Lusk Nelson	2007-2009	Angela Leu
1986-1988	Lyle Samuel	2009-2011	Keiko Ikeda
1988-1990	Arlene Schreder	2011-2012	Esther Park
1990-1992	Trudy Pauperas	2012-2015	Pamela Worcester
1992-1994	Nancy Rohr	2015-2017	Nancy Lau
1994-1995	Meldene Gruber	2017-2018	Angela Leu
1995-1997	Judy Jenkins	2018-2023	Deborah Glass
		2023-2025	Chamonix Patterson

BRANCH INFORMATION

For maps and directions to branch venues,
please visit <https://www.mtac-occ.org/maps-directions>

LHCC = Laguna Hills Community Center
Address: 25555 Alicia Pkwy, Laguna Hills, CA 92653
Map - [Laguna Hills Community Center](#)

Saddleback College, 28000 Marguerite Pkwy,
Mission Viejo, CA 92692- [Saddleback College Campus Map](#)

MTAC-OCC Branch Events at Saddleback College:

Park in Lot 12, but DO NOT park in a space marked for faculty or staff.
Parking permits must be purchased from the Lot 12 kiosk.

The Fine Arts building is just above the parking lot next to the McKinney Theater.

WANT TO PLACE AN AD?

If you would like to see your advertisement here, please e-mail Dr. Shelby Wong (newsletter editor) at shelbywongmusician@gmail.com with "MTAC OCC Newsletter Ad Request" in the subject line. **Please submit requests by the 20th before the next month's newsletter.**

For non-commercial and educational events, ads are free for both MTAC-OCC members and nonmembers.

For commercial, buy/sell, and business advertisements, there is a \$20 fee per issue (5 issues per year: Sep, Nov, Jan, Mar, and May) for a partial space of the page. Only advertisements that are beneficial for members' professional life will be published.

All advertisements are subject to approval by the board.