



MTAC OCC NEWSLETTER

President's Message: Reflecting on a Stellar Year

Dear MTAC-OCC Teachers,

It is truly hard to believe that a full year has passed since I began my term as your MTAC-OCC President. Looking back, our calendar has been packed with successful events, recitals, and festivals—none of which would have been possible without the tireless dedication of our Committee Chairs and Board members.

I want to extend my deepest appreciation to each of you. Your hard work has truly elevated our branch to a superior position, and I am honored to serve alongside such a committed group of professionals.

Upcoming May Events

While the year is winding down, we still have two very important recitals to look forward to in May:

- **Sunday, May 3:** Composers Today Recital, 2-3 pm - LHCC
Chaired by Su-shing Chiu
- **Sunday May 17:** Senior Recital, 2-3 pm - LHCC
Chaired by Nilou Sarraf and Kaii Lee

A huge thank you to Su-shing, Nilou, and Kaii for their leadership in organizing these final showcases for our students.

Final Branch Meeting & Guest Presentation

I hope to see all of our members at our final meeting of the season. We are privileged to host Dr. Sullivan, an honored guest speaker with over 40 years of experience judging for SCJBF events.

- **When:** Wednesday, May 13 at 10:00 AM - LHCC
- **Topic:** Tempo, Texture, and Tradition in the Works of J.S. Bach

Presentation Highlights: We will explore how the identification of dance types (prelude, fugue, invention) and the pacing of harmonic rhythm inform the choice of tempo in Bach's works. Additionally, we will examine anomalies in his notation, specifically the differences between the rigorous "academic" styles (fugue and canon) and his freer, improvisatory works (fantasie and toccata).

Please bring all your questions regarding Bach interpretation or scoring rubrics to discuss with Dr. Sullivan. This is a rare opportunity to gain insight from four decades of adjudicating excellence.

Thank you all for an incredible year. I look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Warmly,
Lan Vu
President, MTAC-OCC

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CALENDAR

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.

MAY BRANCH MEETING

Wednesday, May 13th at 10:00 AM

LHCC = Laguna Hills Community Center

[25555 Alicia Parkway, Laguna Hills, CA 92653](https://www.lhcc.org/25555AliciaParkway,LagunaHills,CA92653)

Program: Differences between Fugue, Canon, Fantasie,
and Toccata

Presented by Dr. Mark Sullivan

Join us for an invaluable time with Dr. Mark Sullivan, who will address his findings regarding areas that need the most attention from his 40+ years of judging students in SCJBF events. He will discuss how the identification of dance types (prelude, fugue, invention) and the pacing of harmonic rhythm inform the choice of tempo in Bach's works. He will also identify anomalies of Bach's notation and differences between his specificity of notation between "academic" styles, such as fugue and canon and the freer (improvisatory) styles of fantasie and toccata. Come curious and come with questions! Dr. Sullivan will eagerly address any questions teachers may have on this. Looking forward to seeing you there!

MAY BRANCH MEETING, cont.



About Dr. Mark Sullivan

Dr. Mark Sullivan earned his Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Southern California Thornton School of Music, where he was awarded top honors for achievements in performance and academics and honored as the school's Outstanding Graduate for 1995. He holds the Master of Music degree in piano performance from Indiana University's Jacob School of Music.

Menahem Pressler was his principal teacher and mentor. His other teachers include Stewart Gordon, John Perry and Stephen Kovacevich. He also coached on Bach interpretation with Rosalyn Tureck.

As a young pianist, Mark Sullivan earned prizes in several national and international piano competitions including second place at the National Finals of the Music Teachers National Association Collegiate Artist Auditions. He also won concerto competitions at both I.U. (Rachmaninoff Second) and U.S.C. (Mozart, No. 25).

After receiving his D.M.A., Dr. Sullivan continued for several years as a lecturer at U.S.C.'s Thornton School. In 2002, he decided to devote himself exclusively to the development of Sullivan Music Studio in Long Beach. At the invitation of Menahem Pressler, he substituted for Mr. Pressler at Indiana University while Pressler was on tour.

Dr. Sullivan often serves on the jury of the Rosalyn Tureck International Bach Competition in NYC. As a frequent guest of the Piano Teachers' Music Guild in Tokyo, he has conducted lecture presentations, master classes, and student evaluations. In California, he has adjudicated hundreds of music competitions over the past 40 years. Dr. Sullivan has published scores of reviews and articles in *American Music Teacher* and *Piano and Keyboard*, where he served as a contributing editor for many years.

Dr. Sullivan's students have received top honors in many festivals and competitions including MTAC's Young Artists Guild and State Concerto Competition, SYMF and the Southern California Junior Bach Festival. They have appeared as soloists with more than a dozen orchestras inside and outside of California. His students have continued their studies at some of the nation's premier institutions including The Curtis Institute, The Juilliard School, Indiana University's Jacob School of Music, New England Conservatory, Manhattan School of Music, the U.S.C.'s Thornton School of Music and San Francisco Conservatory. Dr. Sullivan's former student, pianist and composer Kit Armstrong, performs around 100 concerts per year and is a Deutsche Gramophone recording artist. Another of his outstanding students, Steven Mann, serves as repetiteur and vocal coach for the Juilliard Opera and has recently appeared in several programs on PBS.

Dr. Sullivan continues to perform as recitalist and chamber musician. He served as General Chair of the Southern California Junior Bach Festival from 2006 to 2018.

MTAC-OCC BRANCH 2026-2027 IMPORTANT DATES

Please mark your calendar with some of our branch's 2026-2027 important dates of meetings and recital events.

MTAC-OCC Branch 2026-2027 Important Dates

Branch Meetings

Branch Meeting	Day	Date	Time
#1	Wednesday	September 16, 2026	10-12
#2	Tuesday	November 10, 2026	10-12
#3	Wednesday	January 13, 2027	10-12
#4	Wednesday	March 10, 2027	10-12
#5	Wednesday	May 12, 2027	10-12

Branch Recital Events

Recital Events	Day	Date	Registration Opens Tuesdays 10:00 am	Registration Closes Tuesdays 10:00 am
Showcase Recital #1	Sunday	November 8, 2026	September 29, 2026	October 20, 2026
Showcase Recital #2	Sunday	January 31, 2027	December 22, 2026	January 12, 2027
Showcase Recital #3	Sunday	March 7, 2027	January 26, 2027	February 16, 2027
Achievement Celebration Recital	Saturday	April 17, 2027	The day CM Results Released	March 30, 2027
Composers Recital	Sunday	May 2, 2027	March 23, 2027	April 13, 2027
Senior Recital	Sunday	May 16, 2027	April 6, 2027	April 27, 2027



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

Sunday May 17, 2026

Arrival Time: 1:45 pm

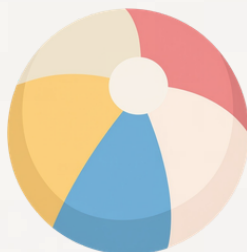
Performance Time: 2:00-3:00 pm

Location: Laguna Hills Community Center (LHCC)

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

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

October 4, 2026 (SUNDAY)

ALL DAY (exact times TBA)

Venue: CSULB

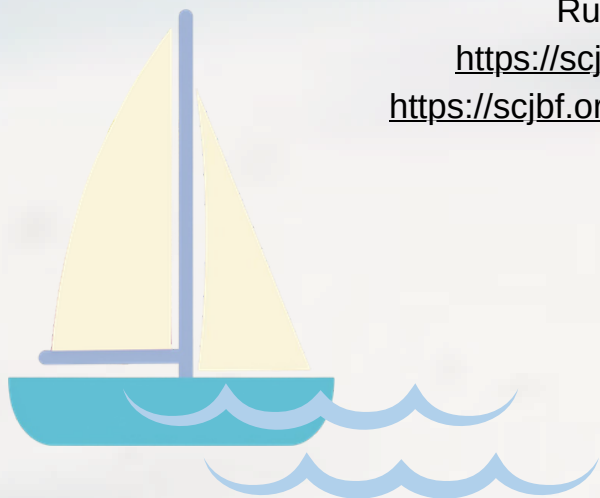
2026 Complete Works Audition Application Portal

(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.)

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, frauwong@hotmail.com
Piano CM Repertoire Expert Team:
Anne Prestridge, anneprestridge@gmail.com
Laurie Meinhold lemeinhold@cox.net

CM Teacher Information

MTAC teachers who have paid their membership dues by July 31 may enroll their students in the Certificate of Merit. For new applicants and former members wishing to reinstate, all required membership and reinstatement applications and documents, along with correct payment, must be submitted to the MTAC State Office by July 31st, in order to participate in Certificate of Merit®.

Please note that MTAC cannot be responsible for lost or late submissions.

Convention 2026 will be at the Hilton Los Angeles Airport Hotel on June 26 - 29, 2026.

Convention Onsite Registration will open online on **June 26, 2026. Please note, single day tickets will no longer be available.** Please purchase your registration prior to arriving at the Convention.

Each year MTAC hosts the State Convention, bringing together world-class artists, music educators and students to celebrate music performance and composition. Over 4,000 attendees experience a four-day extravaganza filled with seminars, performances, recitals, presentations, and master classes.



CERTIFICATE OF MERIT, cont.

Registration Information

Convention pre-registration is now open! Teachers, guests, and non-members can purchase their Convention pre-registration tickets until May 31, 2026. You can view the rates below.

Teacher track registration includes:

- Access to all Teacher Track Sessions, including the Keynote and Featured Artist Lecture Recital
- Access to all Student Track Sessions
- Access to MTAC State Program Master Classes and Program Recitals
- Access to onsite Exhibit Hall & Marketplace

Registration Type	Full Convention	Daily Rate
Member	\$350 (Plus fees)	\$210 (Plus fees)
Member Guest	\$250 (Plus fees)	\$125 (Plus fees)
College Member/Cal Plan Member	\$135 (Plus fees)	\$70 (Plus fees)
Non-Member	\$450 (Plus fees)	\$250 (Plus fees)



SCHOLARSHIPS

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

Congratulations to our 2026 scholarship recipient!!

2026 Scholarship winner

Congratulations to **Steven Zhao** for being awarded the *2026 Judy Jenkins Memorial Scholarship* and the *2026 MTAC OCC High School Scholarship*.

This fall, Steven will be pursuing a dual degree in Economics and Piano Performance at Northwestern University's Bienen School of Music under Professor James Giles. He is a student of Angela Leu.



MEMBERSHIP

Dear O.C.C. members, this is the end of our school year! I hope everyone had a great teaching year and is doing well this Spring! I wish you all a very happy summer!
I'm pleased to announce our new active member!

Bethany Wang--Instrument: Piano
b.pianostudio@gmail.com
23872 Via La Coruna
Mission Viejo, CA 92691
925-785-1573

****Important****

Maintaining MTAC Membership

1) To keep your membership current, you must renew by July 31, 2025. Active Members can renew by mail or online via your Teacher Home Page, as long as your membership is active and in good standing. If your payment is past due, you will need to pay a penalty fee to reinstate your membership.

**Membership is required to participate in Certificate of Merit®. There are no exceptions made for late renewals and applications.

**To be eligible for participation in State Programs (not including CM), new membership applications must be completed by October 15.

2) If you're 80 years or older, please notify the MTAC state office of your intent to renew your membership. (Even if the dues are \$0). You will not be renewed to active status if you do not notify the state. This will result in an inactive status and you will not be able to participate in any state or branch programs.

† State Dues will be waived (with verified eligibility), for members age 80 who have been Active members at least ten (10) years.

A \$15 fee is charged to receive the MTAC Directory and CMT magazine for Active Over 80 Members.

Please contact Cindy Long, members services:

- 1) By email from the MTAC state website, hover over "About us" then click on "Staff" to find her name
- 2) Or call Toll-free (800) 834-3340 ext. 110 Telephone (925) 476-4976

Thank you for your attention on this matter!

If your contact information has changed or needs to be updated, please E-MAIL 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

2026 - 2027

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 AdministratorLan 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.