

AUGUST 2019 NEWSLETTER MTAC PASADENA

With summer coming to an end, music teachers are planning their music events for their students. Information on Pasadena music programs will be available on Sunday, September 15, 2019 at Church of Our Saviour, 535 W. Roses Road, San Gabriel, 91776 at 3.30 pm. It is imperative that all Pasadena members attend this once-a-year event. Dinner will be served and there will be time for teachers to meet and reacquaint with each other.

OTHER NEWS ITEMS....

Details of 2019 Keyboard Theme Festival has been mailed to all Keyboard Teachers sometime in July. The date is Nov. 23, 2019, and teachers can plan for their students to enter this event. If you didn't receive the details, please email KELLY ANDERSON at kellyandersonpiano@gmail.com.

The "Summer of Brahms" began on Sunday July 7 and ended on July 14 at the South Pasadena Public Library. On 8 consecutive nights, the whole of Brahms' chamber music was being played. MTAC Pasadena is proud to have BERNADENE BLAHA as one of the artists on the piano accompanying Boris Allakhverdyan on the Brahms' Clarinet Sonata No. 1 in F minor, op. 120.

We are saddened to announce the passing of Dorothy Hwang on July 26, 2019. Dorothy, a Pasadena Branch member for many years, had many students who were winners in the State and Branch competitions. One of her prodigies is Grace Huang, who is a Pasadena member (see her tribute to her teacher in this newsletter).

We are also saddened to announce the passing of VERA HOALIM'S sister Clara who lived in London, United Kingdom. Our deepest sympathy to Vera.

Certificate of Merit Chair, CAROL MAN LEE has sent out an email regarding CM training for ALL teachers who will be participating in CM 2020. It is mandatory for current and prospective CM teachers to attend these training meetings, in order for their names to be unblocked for enrollment on Oct. 1-31. Please reply to Carol for Sep 5 or Sep 15 training.

The 2019-2020 Pasadena Directory will be available for pick-up on Sun Sep 15. Directories will be sent by mail to members who are not present at the Sep 15 meeting to pick up the directory. If you do not wish to own a hard copy, please email Esther Chang at greenhumc@yahoo.com. Thank you for your cooperation.

GRACE HUANG, a student of Dorothy Hwang and a member of the Young Artist Guild in 1988, writes....

“I count myself very fortunate to have had Dorothy Hwang as my mentor, in the deepest sense of the word. Not only did she hone my musical skills, but she shaped my approach to life in profound ways. Mrs. Hwang had an amazing way of communicating her high expectations without saying much. Her calm quietness allowed you to develop your own musical voice. Before every event, she would send me off with “Ok...have fun!” Her studio produced winners of many prestigious competitions, musicians of international caliber, as well as performers at the White House. Reiko Uchida and Wendy Chen are among these artists. They also include several outstanding current members of MTAC, like Rae Kate Shen and Svetlana Transky. Thank you, Mrs. Hwang, for such an incredible legacy.

With love,

Grace Huang

GERALDINE KEELING writes about the life history of Dorothy Hwang....

On July 26, 2019, Pasadena Branch lost a wonderful long-time members. It was just a few days before Dorothy Hwang’s 86th birthday. Dorothy was a highly-respected teacher in the Pasadena Branch for almost 50 years. She joined the Branch as an Active Member in 1973 and then continued as a Retired Member from 2006 until her death.

Dorothy was born in China and spent most of her early life as a talented young pianist in Manila, Philippines. In 1953, she arrive in America, where she earned both her Bachelors and Masters degrees in Music at the University of Southern California. She married Henry Hwang in 1955 and they had 3 children. Meanwhile, she began teaching piano privately and joined the faculty of the USC Preparatory Division. She also continued concertizing and was given praise for her “fine insight and feeling for poetry, good bravura and imposing technique.”

Dorothy’s teaching career flourished. The USC Preparatory Division became the Colburn School of the Performing Arts, where she continued as a Master Teacher. In 1975, Dorothy joined the faculty of Azusa Pacific University, where she served as Professor of Piano until her retirement. Her students received many awards in MTAC Certificate of Merit (Young Artists Guild, Panel Master Class, Panel Honors Recital), Bach Festival, Los Angeles Liszt Competition and Southwestern Youth Music Festival. They also prestigious international competitions and went on to teach at major universities. One of her outstanding students was Grace Huang, who has been a valued member of MTAC Pasadena since 1994.

The funeral service for Dorothy Hwang was held on August 5, 2019 at Forest Lawn Glendale. Attending from Pasadena Branch were Judith Nesleny, Akiko Hasunuma, Mary Hense, Geraldine Keeling and Grace Huang. Grace was an integral part of the service as both soloist and collaborative pianist. Dorothy's strong Christian faith and love of family was emphasized throughout the service. Pasadena branch has contributed \$200.00 in memory of Dorothy Hwang to the Pasadena Conservatory of Music.

FINALLY....

Thank you to about a quarter of the members who replied to the change of address email. There is still time to check your particulars in the directory and to report any changes to winnatan@yahoo.com. New members do not need to reply – the State has given the Branch all your particulars. If there are no errors, just reply “No Errors and sign your name”.

**Enjoy the rest of the summer and see all
of you at the Annual Teachers' Meeting
on Sunday, Sep 15, 2019.**