



DECEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

Dear Hollywood Branch Members,

Thank you all for making 2025 such a remarkable year! As we enter the holiday season, let's take a moment to celebrate the artistic achievements and musical growth of our students. From hosting recitals and participating in festivals to expanding teaching practices, each of you has helped make this year both memorable and meaningful for our Branch.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our Winterfest Competition on December 14, and again at our Branch's 70th Anniversary Celebration on Sunday, February 8. Until then, wishing you a joyful and restorative holiday season.

We're also excited to announce our next General Meeting on Friday, January 16. We have a very special presentation planned—you won't want to miss it!

Colleen Carney
President, MTAC Hollywood Branch
(503) 929-3100

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Hollywood Branch General Meeting
Friday, January 16 @ 12pm PT (via Zoom)

Please join us for our next General Meeting on January 16, where we'll review plans for the 2026 year and answer any questions you may have about the upcoming Classical Competition, Bach Masterclass, and other Branch events.

In the second half of the meeting, we are delighted to welcome our special guest speaker, Melissa Terrall, who will present an informative workshop on performance anxiety. She'll share practical strategies to help our members prepare students for confident, successful performances - from mindset shifts to conditioning techniques. Attendees will also receive a digital packet with materials for a fun and engaging studio group class on performance preparation.

**HOLLYWOOD BRANCH GENERAL MEETING
FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 2026**

GUEST PRESENTER: MELISSA TERRALL

Melissa Terrall is an award-winning pianist based in Salem, Oregon. A 2023-24 Fulbright scholar, she studied Mexican piano repertoire at Mexico City's National Conservatory - auditing courses on Mexican classical music and offering lecture recitals and master classes around the city. Melissa holds degrees from the University of Kansas and Portland State University. An equally passionate performer and educator, she teaches piano at Linfield University in addition to overseeing her private piano studio in Salem.

Presentation Teaser:

**Turning Performance
Anxiety into a Super
Power**

This practical workshop equips teachers with strategies to prepare students for successful performances - from mindset shifts to conditioning. Attendees will receive a digital packet with materials for a fun and engaging studio group class on performance preparation!





CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, December 14	Winterfest (LAVC)
Friday, January 16	Branch General Meeting (via Zoom)
Sunday, February 1	Classical Era Competition (LAVC)
Sunday, February 8	Branch 70th Anniversary Celebration (The Hilltop Restaurant & Bar, Burbank)
Sunday, February 15	Bach Masterclass (Keyboard Concepts, Sherman Oaks)
Sunday, March 1	SCJBF Bach Festival (visit SCJBF.org for details)
Sunday, March 15	Baroque Festival (Keyboard Concepts, Sherman Oaks)
Sunday, April 26	Spring Festival (Keyboard Concepts, Sherman Oaks)
Sunday, June 7	Achievement Awards Recital (LAVC)
Sunday, June 13	General Meeting + Annual Potluck (Location TBA)

*Visit [MTACHollywood.org](https://www.MTACHollywood.org) for application deadlines, updates on subsequent General Meeting dates, and more.





WINTERFEST - 2025

Date: Sunday, December 14, 2025

Venue: Los Angeles Valley College, 5800 Fulton Ave, Valley Glen, Ca 91401

Scheduling Chair: Aroutioun Mikaelian, amikaelian@yahoo.com

We look forward to seeing your students showcase their musical skills in a supportive and festive environment. Our Winterfest organizing committee is working diligently to ensure the event runs smoothly and successfully. Some participating TACHERS may be contacted to assist.

A few notes to keep in mind:

- Attendees may park in Parking Lot B and College Road North parking lots without a permit (see red circles on Map)
- Dress Code: Dresses/elegant outfits for females; dress pants, shirt, and shoes for males (no sports shoes)
- Photos of participants/audience may appear on branch website or social media





CLASSICAL ERA COMPETITION

Date: Sunday, February 1, 2026

Venue: Los Angeles City College, 5800 Fulton Ave, Valley Glen, Ca 91401

Scheduling Chair: Aroutioun Mikaelian, aamikaelian@yahoo.com

Online Application Deadline: Friday, January 16

*Click [here](#) for application

- The Classical Era Competition is open to all ages and levels
- Students may perform any piece from the Classical Period repertoire (1750s to 1820s) - see composer suggestions on following page!
- Repertoire must consist of an original composition – simplified arrangements are discouraged
- Repeats (other than first and second endings) are discouraged
- Memorization required (ensembles excepted)
- Students shall provide the judges with original music scores, opened at the pieces to be performed and with the first measure of each line numbered (no photocopies allowed)
- Age categories: 8 & under, 10 & under, 12 & under, 14 & under, 16 & under, and 17 & over
- Winners from the previous year's competition perform in a separate Winners Program
- Dress Code: Dresses/elegant outfits for females; dress pants, shirt, and shoes for males (no sports shoes).

Two Grand Prizes:

Senior Grand Prize (age 13 and above) – \$100

Junior Grand Prize (age 12 and under) - \$100

The Grand Prize awards will be limited to a one time win per student.

CLASSICAL ERA COMPETITION - COMPOSER SUGGESTIONS

The Classical Era Competition was formerly known as the Sonata/Sonatina Competition. One reason for the name change is to broaden the repertoire and allow students to explore a wider range of genres from within the Classical period. Although the timeframe is limited, the era offers a vast array of works—both beloved staples and wonderful discoveries by lesser-known composers—waiting to be performed.

Below is a suggested list of Classical-era composers to help inspire repertoire choices. If you have additional names you'd like to recommend, please feel free to reach out so we can continue expanding our list.

Early Classical Composers

Georg Benda
Domenico Cimarosa
Carl Phillip Emanuel Bach
Leopold Mozart
Carl Ernst Abel
Johann Christian Bach
Johann Georg Schobert
Luigi Boccherini
Marianna von Martines
James Hook
Samuel Arnold
Daniel Gottlieb Turk

Middle Classical Composers

Muzio Clementi
Joseph Haydn
Ludwig van Beethoven
(early works)
W.A. Mozart
Alexander Reinagle
Daniel Gottlieb Turk
Ignaz Pleyel
Johann Ladislaus Dussek
Thomas Attwood
Daniel Steibelt
Johann Wilhelm Hassler

Late Classical Composers

Ludwig van Beethoven
Anton Diabelli
Dmitriy Bortniansky
Johann Nepomuk Hummel
Friedrich Kuhlau
Hélène de Montgeroult
Carl Maria von Weber,
Tobias Hasslinger
Johann Baptist Wanhal
Samuel Wesley
Franz Schubert





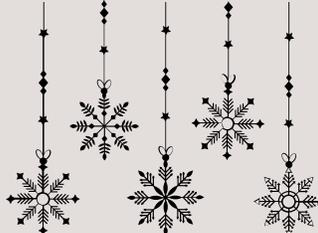
70TH ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON

[RSVP HERE](#)

HILLTOP RESTAURANT & BAR
1500 E WALNUT AVE.,
BURBANK, CA 91501

On

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8TH
2026**



STATE & REGIONAL PROGRAMS & EVENTS

2025-2026 CM TIMELINE

- **December 15, 2025 - CM Enrollment Application Online Edit closes**
- **February 3, 2025 - CM Online Evaluation Media Submission due**
- **CM In-Person Evaluation Dates (Pre-Registration Required)**
 - **January 10, 2026 – Claremont Community School of Music (All Instruments)**
 - **January 11, 2026 – Claremont Community School of Music (Piano)**
 - **January 18, 2026 – Valley Christian Schools, San Jose (All Instruments)**
 - **February 7, 2026 – Valley Christian Schools, San Jose (All Instruments)**
 - **February 8, 2026 – Valley Christian Schools, San Jose (All Instruments)**

***The Certificate of Merit is one of MTAC's most distinguished and recognized state programs that serves as a musical curriculum for private musical studies. Please refer to the [MTAC Teacher Portal](#) for more detailed information.**

MTAC UPDATES

Join the Official Certificate of Merit Teachers Facebook Group starting in January! Receive CM notifications and reminders, support other teachers on their CM journeys, and share success stories. This group will be open to all members.

ASCAP: Submit programs to the Dropbox link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/request/zFzovF2bPuFaFQGYEes4>.

***Contact Maria Mercado at mariam@mtac.org to verify if it was submitted correctly**

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Wishing you and your families the happiest of holidays.

May your days be filled with joy, music, laughter, warmth,
and the comfort of being together.

