



JANUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER

Dear Hollywood Branch Members,

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a relaxing and joyful holiday season and are starting the year feeling recharged.

With Winterfest now behind us, we turn our attention to the Classical Era Competition on February 1, and I look forward to another inspiring showcase of your students' dedication and musicianship.

If you haven't already, please also consider joining us for our General Meeting on Friday, January 16, featuring an informative and engaging presentation that you won't want to miss! See details below.

Thank you for your continued involvement in our community. I look forward to connecting very soon.

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

2025 WINTERFEST RECAP!

Congratulations to all who participated in the Hollywood Branch's 2025 Winterfest Competition! We are proud of every participant and grateful to our dedicated teachers for their continued excellence.

We extend a special recognition to our Junior Grand Prize Winner, Timothé Jorda (student of Cynthia Harlan) and Senior Grand Prize Winner, Adriana Gurulyan (student of Hasmik Kotelyan), for their outstanding achievements!



Pictured (from left to right): Mark Richman and Mark Mendez (2025 Winterfest Adjudicators)

2025 WINTERFEST - WINNERS & HONORABLE MENTIONS

Winners: Leah Agadjanian, Michael Kurdyan, Anastasia Fernando, Urvi Suryavanshi, Frederick Zimmer, Mane, Nurijanyan, Ava Bitar, Iris Yan, Megan Kan, Catherine Jiang, Paulette Serkesians, Milana Amayakyan, Saptajit Das, Antoni, Lipetsky, Tommy Ye, Asher Hu, Emanuel Erlikhman, Ares Taroyan, Frida Shpigelmacher, Penelope Rosales, Gabriel Wu, Idries Bain, Anna Wang, Daniel Huang, Milos Jovanovic, Ella Ye, Abram Chao, Suzanna Markosyan, Benjamin Wang, Timothé Jorda, Debbie Zhao, Geo Kim, Veronika Poliakova, Carsten Chu, Aditya Kiran, Ella Hovhannisian, Ryan Essavi, Hannah Liu, Lina Manukyan, Adele Dolukhanyan, Emily Liu, Adriana Gurulyan

Teachers: Victoria Roizen, Marine Geladze, Hasmik Kotelyan, Aroufioun Mikaelian, Dr. Cynthia Harlan, Remi Lee, Dr. Svetlana Transky, Armine Margaryan, Julietta Harutyunyan, Galina Berezovsky, and Marina Lomtatidze



Honorable Mention Recipients: Lily Huang, Katherine Liu, Sarah Dong, Bella Elkhunovich, Melody Liu, Olivia Zhu, Vahan Demirjyan, Elizabeth Bilamjian, Chloe Moral, Krish Samanta, Sophia Gezalyan

Teachers: Victoria Roizen, Marine Geladze, Dr. Svetlana Transky, Hasmik Kotelyan, Tae Chung, and Chizuru Sanada

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

Please join us for our 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, special guest speaker, Melissa Terrall will present an informative workshop on performance anxiety. She'll share practical strategies to help 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.

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

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 (click here 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 for application deadlines, updates on subsequent General Meeting dates, and more.



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
@ 1:30PM**



BACH MASTERCLASS - 2026

Masterclass Leader: Jeffrey Lavner

Date: Sunday, February 15, 2026 @ 2pm

Venue: Keyboard Concepts/Faust Harrison Pianos: 5539 Van Nuys Blvd, Sherman Oaks, CA 91401

Chair: Dr. Svetlana Tranksy, tranksy21@hotmail.com

MASTERCLASS GUIDELINES:

- Four students will be selected to participate. Please contact Dr. Svetlana Tranksy (tranksy21@hotmail.com) by February 6 if you have a student you'd like to submit for consideration.
- There is no application or attendance fee, but there will be a participation fee of \$50 per selected student.
- Repertoire: J.S. Bach compositions – Intermediate levels and above.
- Time span: 2 hours, allowing for teaching and brief Q&A.

Jeffrey Lavner is Chair of the Piano Department at the Colburn School of Performing Arts, Los Angeles, and Workshop Coordinator of Keyboard Skills for Non-majors at the Colburn Conservatory. Previously, he was an assistant lecturer at the University of Southern California, as well as a faculty member at Santa Monica and Golden West Colleges.

He holds a B.M. with performance honors from Syracuse University, and M.M. from the University of Southern California, and has won numerous professional awards. His earliest professional experiences were as a jazz pianist. He now performs as both pianist and harpsichordist. He was the harpsichord player for Harmonia Baroque 2001-2003 and for the Los Angeles Baroque Players 2003-present.



His piano studies were with Daniel Pollack, Milton Stern, George Pappastavrou, Bela Nagy, and Gabriel Chodos and his harpsichord studies were with William Neil Roberts and Malcolm Hamilton. He has performed at LACMA, the Norton Simon Museum, the Getty, and the Huntington Library.



2026 BACH KEYBOARD FESTIVAL - REGISTRATION OPEN!

As previously announced, Bach Festival is no longer an MTAC Branch Event and is instead run by Southern California Junior Bach Festival (SCJBF).

Our Hollywood Branch is a part of Region IV (Westside). See below for details and registration guidelines.

Festival Date/Time: Sunday, March 1

***Registration Deadline: February 8**

Venue: Westside Music Conservatory (West Los Angeles, 90025)

Chair: Deborah H. Howe

Co-Chair: Dr. Svetlana Transky

Please visit [SCJBF.org](https://scjbf.org) for details and registration guidelines:

<https://scjbf.org/keyboard-branch-festivals/>

Questions may be submitted via this [form](#) (please select “Region IV • Westside Branch” as SCJBF Branch Chair)

STATE & REGIONAL PROGRAMS & EVENTS

2025-2026 CM TIMELINE

- **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 to receive CM notifications and reminders, support other teachers on their CM journeys, and share success stories. This group is open to all MTAC 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**

HELP US CELEBRATE YOUR STUDENTS!

Do your students have recent achievements or upcoming recitals you'd like to share? We'd love to feature them in our Branch Newsletter!

Simply reply to this email with pertinent news or updates and we'll include them in an upcoming issue.

