



FEBRUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER

Dear Hollywood Branch Members,

With February well underway, I hope the busy winter weeks are bringing you both inspiration and renewed energy, along with moments to rest and recharge.

This past Sunday, the Hollywood Branch proudly celebrated its 70th Anniversary at the scenic Hilltop Restaurant & Bar in Burbank. Members and friends shared memories, laughter, a delicious lunch (and cake!), and spent the afternoon revisiting photos and printed programs dating back to the late 1970s. Thank you to everyone who helped make the celebration such a meaningful event - and here's to many more successful years ahead for our Branch!

Next up, we're excited to host a Bach Masterclass with Jeffrey Lavner this coming Sunday, February 15. It promises to be an engaging and inspiring experience, and I encourage you to attend if you're able (see details below).

Thank you, as always, for your continued support, and best wishes for a successful and fulfilling month ahead.

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



70th Anniversary Luncheon - Recap!
Sunday, February 8
Hilltop Restaurant & Bar (Burbank, CA)



2026 CLASSICAL ERA COMPETITION WINNERS & HONORABLE MENTIONS

Congratulations to the participants in the Hollywood Branch's 2026 Classical Era Competition! The performances were stunning, and we're grateful to our dedicated teachers for their continued excellence.

We extend a special recognition to our **Junior Grand Prize Winner, Theodore Rosales**, and **Senior Grand Prize Winner, Gabriel Wu** (both students of Victoria Roizen), for their outstanding achievements!

And lastly, a special thanks to our judges, **Sue Scofield** and **Christopher Brennan** for their dedicated adjudication and professionalism.

Winners: Aryssa Anousheh, Catherine Jiang, Iris Yan, Penelope Rosales, Lily Huang, Gabriel Wu, Debbie Zhao, Daniel Huang, Olivia Zhu, Sarah Dhong, Theodore Rosales, Rita Badalyan, Sona Markosyan, and Milos Jovanovic

Teachers: Chizuru Sanada, Victoria Roizen, and Hasmik Kotelyan



Honorable Mention Recipients: Bella Validashti, Ava Youn, Miles Pushinsky, Alexander Gabuji, Caden Huang, Ella Chan, and Leah Agadjanian

Teachers: Hasmik Kotelyan, Dr. Svetlana Transky, Nonna Ayrapetova, and Juletta Harutyunyan

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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.**



BACH MASTERCLASS - 2026

Masterclass Leader: Jeffrey Lavner

Join us for an inspiring and educational masterclass with Bach connoisseur, Jeffrey Lavner!

Date: Sunday, February 15, 2026 from 2-4pm

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

***Parking is available behind the building and on the street**

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

PROGRAM:

- **Monica Lee – Prelude and Fugue in G Major, BWV 884, Book II**
- **Miles Pushinsky - Short Prelude in C minor, BWV 999**
- **Amelia Pietropaolo - Prelude and Fugue in C Major, BWV, 870, Book II**

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.



BAROQUE FESTIVAL

Date: Sunday, March 15, 2026

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

Chair: Dr. Svetlana Transky, transky21@hotmail.com

Online Application Deadline: Friday, February 20

***Click here for application**

- The Baroque Festival is open to all ages and levels
- Students may perform any piece from the Baroque era - repeats (other than first and second endings) are discouraged
- Young beginners may perform two short pieces (this is not an option for intermediate and advanced students)
- Memorization required (ensembles excepted)
- Dress Code: Dresses/elegant outfits for females; dress pants, shirt, and shoes for males (no sports shoes)

MTAC UPDATES



Mark your calendars! The 2026 State Convention, Musical Adventure, will be held at the Hilton Los Angeles Airport Hotel from June 26-29.

The MTAC will welcome an outstanding lineup of clinicians, performers, and educators - with many exciting events currently in the works.

Featured Guests

Keynote Speaker: Shawn Kirchner

FTM Composer: Alyssa Morris

***Please continue to watch for upcoming convention updates and highlights.**



ASCAP Program Submission Reminder

Please submit your programs using the Dropbox link below:

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

To verify successful submission, please contact:

Maria Mercado

✉ mariam@mtac.org

♥ "Thank You" from the MTAC Foundation

Many thanks to all of the Branches and teachers who have generously donated to the MTAC Foundation.

Your support is truly appreciated and helps sustain our programs and mission.

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.

