



MAY 2026 NEWSLETTER

Dear Hollywood Branch Members,

It was a joy to hear your students perform at our Spring Festival this past Sunday. Thank you for your continued involvement in our Branch.

Next up is our annual Achievement Awards Recital on Sunday, June 7! We look forward to celebrating your students' accomplishments and honoring our three scholarship and award recipients (read on for their bios).

And lastly, please mark your calendars for our annual potluck and final General Meeting on Sunday, June 14. We will gather in Encino at the home of Board Member Dr. Svetlana Transky; stay tuned for details!

Colleen Carney
President, MTAC Hollywood Branch
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2026 SPRING FESTIVAL - RECAP!

Thank you for your participation in this past Sunday's Spring Festival at Faust Harrison Pianos in Sherman Oaks! And of course a warm thank you to our Festival Chair, Galina Berezovsky, without whom the event wouldn't be possible.





CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, May 17	SCJBF Region IV Festival (Westside Conservatory)
Sunday, June 7	Achievement Awards Recital (LAVC)
Sunday, June 14	General Meeting + Annual Potluck (Residence of Dr. Svetlana Transky)

***Visit MTACHollywood.org for application deadlines, updates on subsequent General Meeting dates, and more.**



HOLLYWOOD BRANCH 2026 SCHOLARSHIP & AWARDS: RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCED!

Timothé Jorda (student of Cynthia Harlan) – Eugenia Munoz Clemmons Award



Timothé Jorda, 11, studies piano with Dr. Cynthia Harlan and has played for three years. A gifted pianist and composer, he recently won Second Prize in the prestigious MTAC Composers Today State Contest, where judges praised his “thoughtful and expressive composition that translates a complex emotional state.” He was also named Junior Grand Prize Winner at the 2025 Hollywood Branch Winterfest. In 2026, Timothé will perform twice at the MTAC State Convention, including the premiere of his composition *Insomnie* in the Composers Today Winners Recital and a performance in the CM Theme Recital.

John Xie (student of Victoria Roizen) – Andrew Clemmons Memorial Scholarship



John Xie, 17, is a high school senior who has studied piano for 10 years. He is the First Prize winner of the 2025 Colibri International Piano Competition and 2025 Global Music Arts International Competition, and won the 2024 Robert Turner Concerto Competition, performing Bach’s Concerto in D Minor with the Passacaglia Chamber Orchestra. John has earned numerous scholarships and awards, including MTAC Hollywood Branch competitions, SCJBF WLA Bach Festival honors, and a top score of “5” on the 2025 MTNA/CAPMT District 3 Level 10 Auditions. This fall, he plans to study Music and Mathematics at UC San Diego.

Ella Chan (student of Nonna Ayrapetova) – Andrew Clemmons Memorial Scholarship



Ella has studied piano for 12 years with Nonna Ayrapetova, developing strong skills in music theory, technique, and expressive performance. Beyond piano, she is a dedicated leader in her high school music program, serving as low brass section leader and horn sergeant in marching band, and trombone section leader in jazz band. Ella also enjoys collaborating on piano duets both in and outside of school. This fall, she will attend University of California, Irvine as an education major with a minor in music, with the goal of becoming a music teacher.

STATE & LOCAL HIGHLIGHTS



Registration for the 2026 State Convention, Musical Adventure, is still open! Highlights of this year's Convention include:

- **Keynote Speaker:** Shawn Kirchner
- **Featured Artists:** Latsos Piano Duo, Alannah Garnier, Annelle Gregory, Reiko Obata, & Dan Yu
- **2026 Friends of Today's Music Commissioned Composer:** Alyssa Morris

As an MTAC member, you are eligible for a special member pre-registration rate, available until May 31. Click [here](#) for more information.



STEINWAY & SONS

Steinway Inventory Clearance Event: May 15 - 17!

From May 15–17, Steinway is hosting a limited-time Inventory Clearance Event, featuring substantial savings on a wide range of instruments. Available pianos will include new models, Certified Pre-Owned instruments, and those from the Boston and Essex lines—all carrying a Steinway & Sons warranty.

This event is especially valuable for students and families considering an investment in a high-quality piano, as well as educators guiding students toward the next stage of their musical development.

Steinway will also continue to honor teacher referral credits during the event as a way of recognizing the important role educators play in nurturing musicians.

For additional details or to schedule an appointment, interested individuals can contact Sales Representative Angel Therrien at atherrien@steinway.com.

HOLLYWOOD BRANCH STUDENT SHOUT OUT!



A big congratulations to Dr. Svetlana Transky's student, Monica Lee (age 16) for winning 1st Place for age group 16-18 at the California Association of Professional Music Teachers (CAPMT) 2025-2026 Sonata/Sonatina Competition!

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.

