



MUSIC TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION of CALIFORNIA®

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Excellence in Music Education • Incorporated 1897

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Dear Parent,

The Music Teachers' Association of California® (MTAC) sponsors a music study program entitled *Certificate of Merit®* (CM). Initiated in 1933, the CM Program now involves approximately 23,000 students annually. There are evaluation opportunities for students of Piano, Harp, Violin, Cello, Viola, Voice, Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Saxophone, Bassoon, Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Euphonium, Tuba, and Guitar.

The goals of the CM Program are:

- To provide a systematic and comprehensive plan to develop performance skill, technique, ear training, sight reading/singing and understanding of music theory.
- To develop practical goals to help students maintain a steady and focused approach to their musical studies.
- To encourage students to strive for musical excellence.
- To create opportunities in which students may share their music with others.

How the CM Program Works:

- A detailed CM Syllabus has been created and designed for each of the above-mentioned instruments. There are specific set requirements for each of the eleven CM levels. Your child's teacher will decide on the level that is appropriate.
- The Student Application Period takes place from September 1 through September 30. Your child's teacher will create an application for your child through our secure online system at www.mtac.org/login. Students must be age 5 or older as of September 30 (the CM Application Deadline) to participate in the CM Program.
- The Parent Payment Period takes place from September 1 through October 5. During this time, you can log-in to your Parent Portal at www.mtac.org/login to pay for your child's application.
- Students work with their teachers on selected literature, technique elements, sight-reading, theory and ear training for their enrolled level.
- Enrolled students participate in an annual Evaluation program, which is conducted from January through March. Parents can choose to complete the evaluation process in the MTAC Online System and upload their completed recordings for online evaluation or to complete the evaluation process in-person at a regional testing site.
- Based on the Evaluation, students receive a written performance assessment by a State-approved Evaluator.
- Students will also complete an online theory exam, which includes an ear-training component.
- All results and theory tests are provided to the student and teacher in the MTAC Online System after all evaluations are complete throughout the program.
- Upon successful completion of all components of the evaluation, students receive an official MTAC CM Certificate.
- Senior medallions will be awarded to eligible high school seniors.
- Students who have applied for Convention Recital performance and demonstrate exceptional skill at their evaluation may be selected to perform in annual MTAC State Convention Recitals.

I know that you and your child will benefit tremendously from this wonderful educational opportunity and experience. Please consult with your child's teacher for more information regarding enrollment and preparation.

Sincerely,

Michelle Rumley
CM State Chair