



## 2008 CAPMT Conference Highlights

Submitted by:

Kathleen Kranz, District I Coordinator

The CAPMT state conference was held February 15-17, 2008 in the City of Industry, California (near Los Angeles). I attended about six hours of board and related meetings. In addition, I was present for the lectures of Lee Galloway, NCTM and current President of the MTAC, on *Making a Living as a Piano Teacher*, and Dr. Stewart Gordon's thoughts on *Challenges and Choices in Approaching Beethoven's Piano Sonatas*. Dr. Gordon is CAPMT's Lifetime Achievement Award Winner for 2008.

One of my favorite workshops was one presided over by Dr. Scott McBride-Smith, CAPMT's President-elect, with deans from the Colburn School, Orange County High School for the Performing Arts (CAPMT'S second Lifetime Award recipient), Cal State Northridge, and Long Beach Community College. After specific presentations by each school, the attendees and deans engaged in a lively discussion of what we expect our students to gain and learn from these programs, and how they prepare them for a professional working life in our world.

I hope all of our members will seriously consider attending next year's conference. Besides being informative and fun, the camaraderie was terrific and lets you know, as a teacher, you are not alone in what you do.

I asked some teachers from our District I to help me out here in illuminating our experiences for those of you unable to attend. The following are their comments:

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### Calendar of Events

#### March, 2008

29	2008 MTNA National Conference (March 29 - April 2, 2008) Colorado Convention Center Denver, Colorado
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#### April, 2008

25-27	Southern California Festival of the Arts (SCFA) 2008 San Diego State University
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# Southern California Festival of the Arts (SCFA)

## What you need to know about this event

Several years ago, the CAPMT District I board decided that it would be beneficial to combine the Spring Festival, Achievement Day, and the Sonata/Sonatina Festivals into one event. Thus, the idea for the Southern California Festival of the Arts (SCFA) was born. But SCFA had ambitious goals. The idea was to design a festival that would open its doors to ALL instruments, voice, and eventually even other arts. The MTNA Arts Advocacy program encourages including multiple instruments in programs. Also, SCFA allows us to include, not only multiple instruments and voice, but students of teachers who do not (yet!) belong to MTNA. As we approach our third annual festival, we are seeing community support from teachers and music stores throughout the District.

SCFA offers something for everyone including venues for solos and ensembles. Participation can be from a simple level of "comments only" to a medals competition. The master class format, where the adjudicator spends time with the performers at the end of each hour, seems to be very beneficial for students, their teachers, and their family members since all are permitted to attend. This year, SCFA is offering the theory portion of CAPMT State Student Evaluations as an option for those who would like to have a standardized theory assessment for their students.

This year SCFA will be held at SDSU. If you have not had an opportunity to enter students in SCFA before, you will not regret entering at least one student this year so that you can see for yourself how everyone will benefit!

All of the information and entry forms may be found at our District I website:

<http://capmt1.classicaledge.com>

## CAPMT Honors Auditions

*Submitted by:*

*Susan Dersnah Fee, District I Honors Chair*

The finals of the CAPMT Honors Auditions were held on Saturday, February 16, 2008, at the state conference in The City of Industry, California. Randi Rudolph, student of Lori Vickers, was awarded an Honorable Mention in the high school category (Category C) of this event. Congratulations to Randi and Lori!

## 2008 CAPMT Conference Highlights

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“I attended every seminar/lecture that I could fit into Saturday, beginning with the first-timer session at 8:00 a.m. and culminating in the evening concert which I enjoyed very much and found educational as well. Each session I attended was valuable, but I also received some great information and input by visiting with a couple of other teachers I met. Making their acquaintance was lovely and I took home tips I immediately put into practice in my own studio, besides what I learned in the seminar sessions.” - *Christie Brown*

“I always appreciate the diversity of programs at the CAPMT Conference. The quality presenters in theory, interpretation, healthy ways to improve technique (like the session on the Alexander Method), and concerts of chamber music, as well as piano, were among the things I enjoyed. I like the fact that CAPMT Conferences are geared primarily toward presentations for the teachers. We all need new things to think about, and ideas to stretch us in new directions. It is also great to have the chance to visit with friends and colleagues from around California. This is only possible at a state-wide event like our annual Conference.” - *Susan Fee*

“I attended Saturday only. The grounds with the snow-capped mountains beyond created a picture perfect setting. District I was extremely well represented with 53 participants from the Ensemble Auditions. Two separate Piano Duet Teams (students of Anna Stal), a piano trio with violin and cell, in addition to a massive String Ensemble with 46 students organized by Lu-Yan Guo. It was great to see so many of our students in these recitals. I also attended the workshops of Barbara Lister-Sink on injury preventive techniques, and of Christie Johnson on the Alexander Technique. The interesting evening recital by Conference Artist Lister-Sink included projections on a screen of artwork rendered by the piano composers she performed.” - *Tim Broadway*

“Why go to the CAPMT Conference?”

“If you are an “old” experienced teacher:

It’s great to be reaffirmed that your teaching is on the right track. It’s great to be reminded of the good technics/music you used to teach but got off the track. It’s great to hear new music/methods/ideas to consider adding to your studio. It’s inspiring to hear beautiful music played well by guest artists, as well as students.

“If you are a new teacher:

All of the above works too, PLUS meeting new people is as easy as smiling pleasantly and offering a pleasant comment.” - *Tucky Rodrigue*

## Can You Help?

**C**APMT District I is still looking for a District I teacher who could assist with either the newsletter or the website. Please contact Ramona Saunders at (760) 639-0694 or [music.mama@juno.com](mailto:music.mama@juno.com) if you would be able to assist with either of these positions.

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