



November 2016 SYMF NEWSLETTER

The SYMF Board would like to congratulate all the winners, participants and teachers who participated at the 2016 SYMF! We hope that the love and joy of playing music combined with the experience of preparation, performance and competition will help develop our students in so many positive ways.

WHAT'S IN THIS NEWSLETTER

- Changes to the SYMF Board
- 2017 Festival Dates
- 2107 Rules and Regulations Update
- Warm-Up Rooms Issues

CHANGES TO THE SYMF BOARD

- After 29 dedicated years, Oleta Diamond has stepped down from the SYMF Board. SYMF will greatly miss her. Oleta has most recently been our president and has been a unifying force of the festival. We wish her all the best!
- Sue Scofield has taken Oleta's position as the SYMF's president. We will certainly be in good hands as we move on to the future.
- SYMF would also like to welcome Mie Shirai to the SYMF family as she becomes our newest board member! Mie will be assisting the the tabulation room and also help with advertising. Her attention to detail and great work ethic will prove to be invaluable to the festival.

2016 NEWS

- All teachers should have received their judges comment sheets. If you have any sheets that are not yours, please mail them back to SYMF so that we may return them to the correct teacher.
- The trophy nameplate have been engraved and have been mailed to teachers. Please check them for errors. Please contact info@symf.org if you have not received your nameplates.
- The SYMF would also like to thank our volunteer awards announcers this year:
 - Wendy Chow
 - Sunyoung Lee
 - Molly Nguyen
 - Bolin Pan
 - Mie Shirai
 - Pamela Worcester
 - Esther Yoo
- If you would like to help out at the awards recital next year, please fill out the form at:

2017 NEWS

2017 FESTIVAL DATES

The 2017 dates have been tentatively set as July 22, 23, 29, 30 and 31.

We will again be located at the Bob Cole Conservatory on the campus of California State University at Long Beach.

RULES & REGULATIONS BOOKLET UPDATE

- All SYMF materials will now be on a separate web page (not in the teacher's portal) so that they may be freely accessed. This page will be available shortly so please check www.symf.org in December.
- We have updated the Rules and Regulations booklet for 2017 (revised 11/2016) and it will be available online soon.
- All changes are highlighted in red. Some of the more important revisions are as follows:
 - All categories that had a maximum age limit of 18 years old have been changed to 19 years old.
 - Piano Qualified Baroque: Bach Chromatic Fantasy and Fugue, BWV 903 is NOT allowed.
 - No piano duo/dyets allowed in Duet (D), Ensemble Qualified and Open (En Q and En O) categories.
 - Piano Open Duets (P OD): music for 2, 4, 6 or 8 hands is accepted.
- These are not the complete list of changes. Please download the updated Rules and Regulations booklet when it becomes available at www.symf.org and familiarize yourself with all the changes.

- **WARM UP ROOMS**

- As we move ahead to the 2017 SYMF, there has been concerns about the use of the CSULB warm up rooms. Many of the university's music students share these rooms and there have been some personal items of theirs that were missing after the Festival.
- With such a large number of participants each day, we have had to instate student monitors to help coordinate the warm up rooms usage. If you have been to the festival you can see that this is an extremely difficult job. These student monitors have reported to us that they have been verbally abused and threatened by parents and teachers because their child or student could not access the rooms as quickly as they wanted.
- Please remember that these rooms are just "warm up" rooms, not practice rooms. In light of these issues, it is highly possible that we may not have the usage of warm up rooms in 2017.

Have a great rest of the year and we hope to see you in 2017!

Way-Chung Wong
Executive Director
Southwestern Youth Music Festival