

MSMTA Meeting
Thursday, February 2nd, 2012

The 
Accompanist:

Mastering the Art of a Top-Notch "Supporting Actor"



HCC Ybor, Performing Arts Building, Room 132

2112 N. 15th Street, Tampa, FL 33605

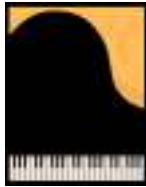
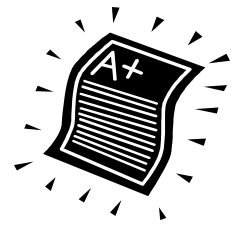
MSMTA Business Meeting: 9:15-10:30 am

Workshop with Shuyuan Tsai & Ken Hanks: 10:30 am-noon

Lunch: The renowned Columbia Restaurant (optional)

RSVP: Theo - tboylan@tampabay.rr.com - 727-642-6176 cell

Points to Ponder



Which is more likely . . .

A) That a pianist will be able to sustain a solo career?

or

B) That a pianist will be called upon to *accompany*—students, vocalists, instrumentalists, choirs, musical productions?

If you answered “B,” you’re right. There are only a handful of concert pianists in the world today, most of whom are relatively unknown. Opportunities abound, however, for those who are versatile enough to accompany soloists or perform in an ensemble.

This being true . . .

How would you rate yourself? What are the essential elements of collaborative music? Where could you improve? How do you adjust when playing with different soloists—strings, winds, brass, vocals? Why should you check your ego at the door? What to do when you feel that accompanying is “beneath” your ability?

Most important: how can you best prepare your students for this critical skill?

Don't let this be you:

At recent Tampa Bay competitions, judges commented on the importance of “the ensemble.” In a couple instances, the teacher’s performance of the Piano II part actually detracted from the student’s ranking in the competition. *Ouch.*

(AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION IS WORTH A POUND OF CURE?)

About Our Workshop Leaders



Shuyuan Tsai is an accomplished collaborative vocal and instrumental accompanist. She made her debut as a concert pianist in 1984 at Sherman Clay Steinway Hall in Los Angeles, California. As a soloist and collaborative performer, she has performed with the Vienna Residence Orchestra, Austria, faculty recitals at Colorado State University, the University of Northern Colorado, Taitung University in Taiwan and with the Loveland Friends of Chamber Music of Colorado. As an accompanist, she has accompanied numerous university opera theatre productions, choirs, vocal literature classes, voice classes, student recitals, juries and competitions. Her other performing engagements have included the Greeley Chamber Orchestra Choir, Windsor Chorale, the World Christian Conference, the Annual Classics and Cheesecake Concerts, the Loveland Rialto Theatre Concert Series, various community concert series and outreach programs throughout Colorado. She has taught at the University of Northern Colorado and Aims Community College in Greeley. She was the conductor of Asian Chamber Orchestra of Colorado, and the author of *An Influential Pedagogue, Robert Scholz (1902-1986) Catalogue and Sources*- 2005. Ms. Tsai has a Doctor of Arts and a Master of Music from

the University of Northern Colorado, a Bachelor of Music degree in Piano Performance from the University of Southern California. Her Piano Teachers included: Jean Barr, Steward Gordon, Eduardo Delgado, Adrian Ruiz, Malcolm Hamilton, Bernardo Segall, Robert Ward, Paul VanNess. Ms. Tsai now resides in Land O Lakes, Florida.



Kenneth Hanks is Program Manager for Music and Theatre at **Hillsborough Community College** where he teaches piano, theory and history. Under his leadership, the HCC Music Department was recently awarded accreditation by the National Association of Schools of Music, becoming only the second community college in the state, and one of less than 1% nationally, to achieve that status. He holds a Bachelor of Music from the **University of Florida**, and a Master of Music from the **Peabody Conservatory of Music/Johns Hopkins University**. Hanks won first place in the **Third Annual Florida West Coast Chopin Competition (1982)** and the **Maryland State Music Teachers Association Piano Competition, Graduate Division (1986)**. In July of 1996, Hanks performed in Graz, Austria for the **International Music Workshops**. For 15 seasons he frequently performed with **The Florida Orchestra**, he is past president of the **Florida State Music Teachers Association, District IX**, and is past president of the **Jr. Friday Morning Musicale of Tampa Bay**. He is a frequent festival/competition adjudicator and performs regularly in the area

as a recitalist and freelance musician. In addition, Mr. Hanks maintains an active independent piano studio in the North Tampa area producing numerous local and state competition winners.