What is *Certificate of Merit (CM)*?

The Music Teacher's Association of California (MTAC) sponsors a study program entitled **Certificate of Merit** that provides a higher standard of excellence in music training and performance etiquette for students in the area(s) of: piano, violin, viola, cello, flute, oboe, clarinet, saxophone, voice and organ.

Goals:
- To provide a systematic and comprehensive plan that develops:
  - **Performance practices**
  - **Technique**
  - **Ear training**
  - **Sight-reading**
  - **Music theory**
- To provide practical goals that help students maintain a steady and focused appreciation of their musical studies
- To encourage students to strive for musical excellence
- To create opportunities in which students may share their music in a variety of settings
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Student Opportunities:
- Levels include: **Preparatory, 1 thru 9, and Advanced**
- Annual evaluations and exams cover: performance, technique, ear training, sight-reading, and written theory
- Annual certificates awarded for passing all phases of the attempted level
- Senior medallions awarded for qualifying graduating seniors
- Branch honors recognition awards
- Convention program performances
- Convention Honors programs available to advanced students, including: Honors Recitals, Master Classes and Young Artist Guild

General Information:
Any teacher who is an active, provisional, Cal Plan or a student member of MTAC may enroll their students in the Certificate of Merit program.

Requirements:

Students in Preparatory or Level 1 must register for 45-minute lessons; Level 2 or higher must register for one-hour lessons; any student taking CM/ABRSM/RCM exams do one-hour lessons.

As the student graduates in level, their theory, ear training and sight-reading studies grow in complexity, so teachers will need more time to explain new, more advanced concepts.

Level 6 and above students are encouraged to take our theory classes, as there will be 4-5 longer pieces rehearsed during their lessons. Teachers will discuss these details further at this level.

You can also check on the MTAC's website: http://www.mtac.org/programs/cm

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