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Conference News

Dear Colleagues,

As we all struggle through the dreary, wet Oregon winter, I'd like to whet your appetites for the wonderful conference we have planned for this coming June. It's a wonderful opportunity for us all to celebrate the end of the school year, reward ourselves for a job well done and rejuvenate and refresh for the summer ahead.

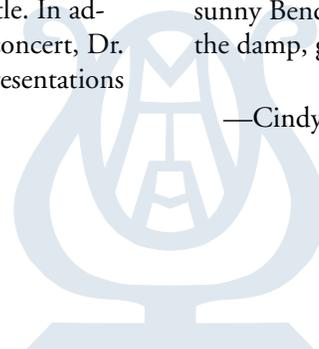
The conference will be held in beautiful Bend at the Riverhouse Hotel and Convention Center, June 27–30. It's a great family-friendly facility on the Deschutes River, with easy access to downtown Bend. You can preview all it has to offer at www.riverhouse.com. In addition, the Central Oregon District is working on some fun evening outings for us to enjoy on Thursday and Friday nights, as well as a list of recommended activities in and around Bend for spouses and other family members. It promises to be a fun trip!

Our conference artist will be Dr. Peter Mack from Cornish College of the Arts in Seattle. In addition to a wonderful concert, Dr. Mack will give three presentations

and two master classes. Those of you who have been lucky enough to hear Peter speak know what a wonderful, dynamic presenter he is. In addition, we are fortunate to have Steinway Artist and 2011 Winner of the MTNA Frances Clark Keyboard Pedagogy Award, Dr. Fred Karpoff. Dr. Karpoff will be presenting his 3-D Piano Method, an approach to "mastering the piano by mastering your body." His approach to technique and pedagogy is internationally acclaimed and we're very excited that he can join us. Finally, Nancy O'Neill Breth, NCTM will present a session on motivating our students to better practice habits. Her presentation was a highlight of the 2012 MTNA National Convention in New York.

More detailed information about the conference, as well as registration information, will be coming in the Spring, but I hope the thought of a fun, relaxing and revitalizing conference in beautiful, sunny Bend will get us all through the damp, gray days ahead.

—Cindy Peterson-Peart, NCTM
2013 Conference Chair



President's Corner



Dr. Bonnie Esbensen
President, OMTA



A Case for Conferences

A few weeks ago I went to Washington state for a special meeting of the NW Division Presidents, the NW Division Director, and the MTNA President-Elect.

We learned many things at that meeting, but one thing struck me in particular, because I had just been reading about it elsewhere. It appears that attendance at conferences is in decline all across the country. In fact, many groups, including some branches of the military, have decided that conferences are no longer cost-effective and have done away with them altogether.

Yet OMTA continues to sponsor conferences. Should we?

I think we should. Let me state the case for and against conferences.

The Case Against Traditional Conferences:

The factors that may be contributing to the decline in conference attendance are: 1. an increasingly busy lifestyle with each family member scheduled to the hilt, 2. tighter budgets in these tough economic times, 3. greater reliance on social media to connect with others, and 4. greater reliance on online courses and webinars, which can be viewed at one's convenience.

My Case For Traditional Conferences:

Nevertheless, there is something about a live event, especially in the company of others that cannot be replicated by tweets or an online video. For example, imagine watching a parade on television. Now imagine watching that same parade in person. And finally, imagine that the crowd has suddenly vanished and you are the only person there watching the parade. Each scenario feels different, doesn't it? There is such a difference between live and filmed, and between seeing it alone or in the company of others.

That's why we prefer live concerts to recorded ones and why some of us go to football games and sit in the bleachers instead of watching the game on TV.

As a cognitive psychologist, I know that learning is enhanced when emotions are engaged, as they are at an OMTA conference. At our conferences there are two-and-a-half days of intense back-to-back sessions and encounters with friends and colleagues—all mentally stimulating and emotionally engaging in a way that computer sessions can never be.

I learn a lot. I connect with people, some new, some familiar; so that my network is strengthened and I feel less isolated in my studio. And I have a lot of fun to boot.

Many OMTA teachers must feel as I do, because despite the national trend, OMTA's conference attendance is rising. Last year we had a record turnout at our conference at Skamania Lodge. We expect another great turnout at the conference this summer in Bend, especially with the engaging and knowledgeable Peter Mack as guest artist—the same Peter Mack who was the hit of Pedagogy Saturday at the National Conference last year.

There are two conferences coming up: the MTNA National Conference in March at Disneyland in Anaheim, California, and then the OMTA State Conference in June at the Riverhouse Hotel and Convention Center in Bend, Oregon.*

I'm going. I bet you are, too.

Bonnie

Dr. Bonnie Esbensen

* More details will be available soon on the Calendar at oregonmta.org.



Competitions Committee



NW Division Results

The MTNA Northwest Division Competitions were held at Pacific Lutheran University on January 12–13. A complete list of the 2013 State and NW Division winners can be found on the OMTA website at: <http://tinyurl.com/b8l7s3t>.

We congratulate the following Oregon students and teachers for their achievements:

NW Junior String

Alternate: Kiarra Saito-Beckman

Teacher: Jan Saito-Beckman

NW Junior Woodwind

Alternate: Marah Christenson, *flute*

Teacher: Sandy Norman

NW Senior Piano

Honorable Mention: Ruta Kuzmickas

Teacher: Jean-David Coen

NW Senior String

Alternate: Jason Liu, *violin*

Teacher: Kathryn Gray

NW Senior Woodwind

Winner: Benton Case, *saxophone*

Teacher: Kim Reece

NW Young Artist Piano

Winner: Yi-Yin Chien

Teacher: Claire Wachter



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State News *Extended Study of Repertoire & Theory (ESMAR)*

Jan Mittelstaedt, NCTM



It is time to start planning the 2013 ESMAR assessment and recital. The Portland area assessments will be held on Saturday, April 27, at Classic Pianos. The assessor will be Dr. Jill Timmons. The format will be a master class which is open to the public. Participating students are encouraged to bring five guests.

Please send me the names of any of your students who are planning on participating. As soon as I know which teachers will be involved, we can make a decision about the recital which will be held after the assessment. This recital is to be planned by the students with teacher supervision.

Students won't formally register until the beginning of April. However, I need to know who is working on ESMAR as soon as possible.

If you have an ESMAR student but are located a distance from Portland, please also send me that information. If there are interested students we will arrange to have assessments in other areas such as Eugene, La Grande and Bend. Even if only one student in these areas is ready, we can make arrangements for an assessment and that student can also give an individual recital.

I look forward to hearing from you.

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Hudson Hall, Mary Stuart Rogers Music Center

CONCERT TICKETS

Single tickets \$23

Willamette student with ID \$5

Students with ID \$8

Willamette faculty & staff \$18

Available at absolutelytix.com and Travel Salem, 181 High St. NE, 503-581-4325 or 800-874-7012. For more information: Willamette University Music Department, 503-370-6255; willamette.edu/arts/goudyartistseries



New OMTA Web Page

The newly redesigned state Web page went online January 12 and the response has been very positive. Nevertheless, we know there will be an adjustment period while members get used to the new layout.

Information on the site is organized differently now. There are two new areas:

- Programs for Students contains pages for each state festival, competitions, syllabus, scholarships, etc.
- Information for Teachers contains pages for Certification, Teacher Study Grants, Business Forms, and so on.

Over time we plan to make the site more interactive in hopes of better connecting people and ideas from all over the state.

Note: The online Membership Directory and downloads for Syllabus Manuals require new passwords, which were e-mailed to members. If you didn't get the password, contact the state president or the OMTA Office.

New Web Coordinator

Caris Power is stepping in as Web Coordinator in place of Craig Hanson, who ably handled this job for the last four years. We thank Craig for his service to OMTA and wish him well in his busy teaching and performing schedule. And we thank Caris, a member of our administrative staff, for her willingness to share with us her expertise in this area.

All requests for posting forms on the website should go to the OMTA Office.

New Music News Deadline

Beginning in February submissions for *Music News* will now be the 15th of each month.



Corvallis Youth Symphony Conductor Position
Electronic announcement format 1-21-2013
Submitted by Kari van Zee, CYSA Board President

Conductor Position:

The Corvallis Youth Symphony Association ([CYSA](http://cysa.org)) invites applications for a part-time, ongoing position as Conductor of the Corvallis Youth Symphony (CYS). Founded in 1982, CYS is the most advanced level of three CYSA ensembles, with over seventy high school participants. A [complete position description with application guidelines](http://cysa.org) is posted on the CYSA website (<http://cysassoc.org>). For full consideration, apply by Feb. 28th. Position begins August 2013. Applications and questions may be sent to cycconductor@gmail.com.



District News *2013 Calendar of Upcoming District Events*

Wednesday, February 6

10:00 am

Central District *presents*

A master class with Julian Martin

Wille Hall

Central Oregon Community College

Bend

Friday, February 8

10:30 am

Tualatin Valley *presents*

Joseph Hoffman

Director of Hoffman Academy in Portland

Tigard Friends Church

Friday, February 8

10:30 am

Central District *presents*

Hidden Treasures of Gade and Gretchaninoff

by Margaret Littlehales, NCTM

Home of Jenny Marsden, Bend

Saturday, March 2

10:00 am

Klamath District *presents*

Into the Woods: 19th Century Composers' Fascination with Nature

a workshop with Kathleen Gault, NCTM

First Presbyterian Church

Friday, March 8

10:30 am

Central District *presents*

A panel discussion about teaching students with special needs.



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Helen Jones, NCTM



Our first student event of 2013 is the non-competitive Romantic Festival on February 9, at Central Oregon Community College, involving 40 students from seven teachers. In the morning, at private studios, students will play their solos in groups of 4–5 for an adjudicator, followed by a mini master class. This is designed to allow students the opportunity to learn more about the style of this period of music, and how to become better listeners and make the most of their practice time. We are pleased to have Janice Jubin and Michael Gesme as our adjudicators. The recitals are open to the public, and will take place in Wille Hall beginning at 2:00 p.m.

Our next meeting will be February 8. The program, “Hidden Treasures of Gade and Gretchaninoff,” will be presented by Margaret Littlehales, NCTM.

Our general meetings begin at 9:15 am, with the program beginning at 10:30. Please contact Kathy Gault for more information: earthsong@bendnet.com.

Our March 8 program will feature a panel discussion: “Teaching Special Needs Students.”

We are looking forward to having our state president Dr. Bonnie Esbensen here on April 5. Her program is entitled “Some Cognitive Aspects of Music Learning.”

Our featured attraction this month involves several outdoor sports for you and your family to enjoy while in Bend for the OMTA State Conference. Considered one of the world’s greatest golf destinations by people who ought to know (*Golf Digest*), central Oregon boasts over 30 courses.

Their landscapes “range” from fairways lined with aspens to open meadows surrounded by pines, to twisted Junipers overlooking dramatic river canyons. And don’t forget—all with the backdrop of the majestic Cascade mountains.



Golf, fishing, cycling, hiking or swimming — no matter your interest, it’s here in central Oregon. The newly-completed SHARC (Sunriver Homeowners Aquatic and Recreation Center) in Sunriver is a must-visit.



For more information:
sunriverhomeowners.org



District News *Klamath Basin*

Tammy Belau



Greetings from the Klamath Basin!

We have been very busy with new structuring in our group, new members, and now a new year!

Our December was filled with multiple Christmas recitals.

This fall we were also privileged to have world-renowned pianist Tien Sieh not only

perform at the Ross Ragland Theater, but graciously host a workshop for students the following day.

We are most excited about an upcoming workshop that is open to the public and partially funded by an OMTA Nellie Tholen Endowment Grant: "Into the Woods: 19th Century Composers' Fascination with Nature," on Saturday, March 2, 10:00 am.

Led by Kathleen Gault, this piano workshop proves to be an opportunity to enhance every music lover from every generation. From Beethoven on, composers wrote music using nature imagery, myth, and the beauty and mystery of wild places as inspiration for piano works. Traditional forms and new ones, standard repertoire and lesser known jewels are awaiting exploration. Cost for the workshop will be \$5 per instructor and \$2 per student. Pre-registration is encouraged. For more information, contact Lucille Arthur, 541-884-3812 or Tammy Belau, tammybelau@gmail.com.



Tammy Belau with several of her students at their Christmas recital.



Carlito Neumann, student of Carol Treadwell, performing at the workshop.



District News *Tualatin Valley*

Heidi Evans, NCTM



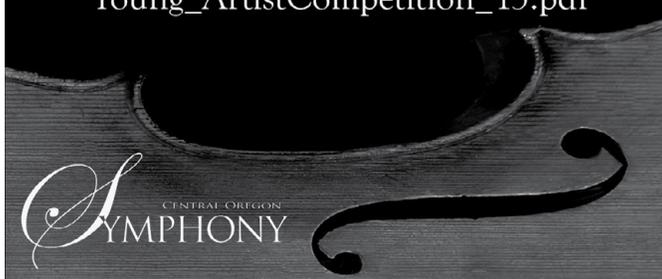
The Tualatin Valley District has an exciting winter of meetings planned and we look forward to new ideas and experiences! On Friday, February 8, at 10:30 am, Joseph Hoffman will be presenting at our meeting. He is the director of the Hoffman Academy of Music in Portland, and has created his own curriculum for teaching piano from the ground up, using listening, creative play, and group lessons with music drawn from all cultures to teach reading and musicianship. His ground-breaking method has resulted in the strong success of the Hoffman Academy of Music, and we look forward to learning about his approach and pedagogy methods.

We are looking forward to the Junior Bach Festival, our district Sacred Recital, and Composition Celebration. OMTA teachers and prospective members are welcome to join us at our monthly meetings, held the second Friday of each month, at Tigard Christian Church. Please contact me at heidievanpiano@gmail.com for more information.



**The Central Oregon
Symphony Association**
Proudly announces the fifth annual
Young Artist Competition
May 18, 2013
Wille Hall, Campus Center
Central Oregon Community College
Bend, Oregon

Applications and guidelines
are available online at
[www.cosymphony.com/documents/
Young_ArtistCompetition_13.pdf](http://www.cosymphony.com/documents/Young_ArtistCompetition_13.pdf)



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In Memoriam

Marjorie Fairly

Memorial Service 6 Dec 2012



I don't remember exactly when Marjorie and I first met, but it seems that I have known her all my life.

In about 1984, we were charter members of Con Brio Recital Club. For at least ten years, we worked together putting in place all the necessary elements for successful recital programs. Marjorie always cheerfully carried out more than her share of the load, had helpful, thoughtful ideas, and she always wore that sweet smile, which I consider to be her trademark. At our OMTA meetings, she was a ray of sunshine and note of happiness—radiating warmth and love.

When I started my role as a piano syllabus adjudicator, Marjorie's studio was my first assignment. Receiving this information immediately dispelled any anxiety I might otherwise have experienced. At lunchtime, I remember sitting at her kitchen table enjoying a relaxed time of eating and sharing our lives—especially our thoughts on teaching.

I believe it was on her 75th or 80th birthday that I picked her up and we drove to the Pomeroy Living History Farm in Washington. There we walked part of the grounds, enjoyed high tea in the upper story of the Carriage House and took a stroll around a nearby lake. She appreciated many of the things in life that are often taken for granted, and had a heart that was truly grateful. Her life was a testimony of love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and temperance. If only there were more people with these qualities in our world today.

I've heard it said that we don't necessarily remember what others say or do, but we do remember how they made us feel. My life has certainly been blessed by my precious friend, Marjorie.

Myrna M. Elmore, NCTM





Submitting Articles for District and State News

Please send articles and accompanying graphics in TIFF, EPS, JPEG or PDF format to Natalie Gunn via e-mail: natalie@nataliegunn.com. MS Word attachments are best.

Submitting Ads

Please send ads and accompanying graphics in TIFF, EPS, JPEG or PDF format to Rhonda Ringer: rhondaringer@hotmail.com.

1/4 column ads (and articles about events which require an admission fee or tuition):

\$15.00 for members

\$35.00 for non-members

Larger ads at a proportional cost.
(Contact Rhonda for amounts.)

Publication dates and deadlines are listed below.
Submitting material before deadlines is always helpful and appreciated.

Issues Deadlines

Jan	Dec 15	June	May 15
Feb	Jan 15	Sept	Aug 15
Mar	Feb 15	Oct	Sept 15
Apr	Mar 15	Nov	Oct 15
May	Apr 15	Dec	Nov 15

The link below offers descriptions of the geographical areas each district encompasses, and the opportunity to contact the chairs:
<http://www.oregonmta.org/directory-local.html>

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State Website

www.oregonmta.org

Please visit our website to find any further information you need. We encourage you to explore the pull-down menus under *Information for Teachers* and *Information for Students*. Complete listings of State and District leadership are found in the pull-down menu under *Contact*.

Upcoming Music News copy DEADLINES:

New deadline dates! February 15, 2013
March 15, 2013
April 15, 2013

