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3. If you want to volunteer – complete the "Teacher Volunteer Form."
4. If you are already teaching a student at half or less of your normal fee, complete the "MusicLink Registration Form."



Every child deserves the opportunity to nurture his or her musical talent to its full extent.

You can make a difference!

President's Corner



At the beginning of the school year, there is that moment just before the first student rings your doorbell that is ripe with promise and anticipation—of a journey to be taken together, you and your student, of experiences to share, of triumphs, perhaps of setbacks, but always of great expectations, of growing mastery, and of an abundance of music.

We are so lucky to be on this journey with our students.

To help make this your best year of teaching yet, the OMTA board of directors has been working to provide you and your students with activities and support for the coming year. I will be writing about some of these valuable opportunities in

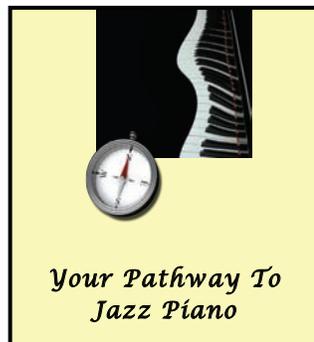
subsequent issues of *Music News*, so that you don't miss a thing. Next month, for example, I will write about scholarships.

For now, just a quick word about the state conference; it will be later in the summer than usual, August 8–10, 2014 in Newport. I recently saw a draft of the conference schedule. Wow! Chair Cindy Peterson-Pearl has planned a fabulous conference. You'll want to get those dates on your calendar.

Best wishes for a wonderful year of teaching!

Bonnie

Dr. Bonnie Esbensen
President, OMTA



... for those who already have some piano experience but want to learn how to go beyond what is on the written page.

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Portland District Features:
Jennifer Wright



Jennifer Wright holds two degrees in classical piano performance (M.M., Trinity College of Music, London, England; B.M., Hartt School of Music, Connecticut) and studied for two years at the Stuttgart Music Conservatory in Germany. She champions the artistic life through her adventurous approach to piano teaching, performing, and composing. Based in Portland, Oregon, she is a member of the Governing Board of Cascadia Composers and chairs the OMTA Composition Celebration.



Fighting Words

Going 12 rounds with the question “What is your personal and/or studio motto?”

By Jennifer Wright, B.M., M.M.

For several years in my impressionable youth, when VHS cassette tapes were the hot new technology, a copy of *Rattle and Hum* permanently lived in the household VCR. Whenever I had a spare moment, I’d press play and watch from wherever I had left off previously, for as long as anyone let me. Parents didn’t regulate screen time back then; they figured if a child was glued to a

TV set, at least you knew where they were. As long as I brought home good grades, if I wanted to sit two feet away from a pixilated vacuum tube and permanently etch the same rock ‘n’ roll movie onto my brain every single afternoon, that was just fine.

Naturally, this is how I learned everything I know about life and music. The most significant moment in the film comes halfway through U2’s cover of Bob Dylan’s “All Along the Watchtower” at the 1987 open-air Embarcadero concert in San Francisco. After pausing in the middle of the song to spray paint graffiti on a public sculpture, Bono runs back onstage and ad-libs the verse that rocked my developing mind down to its pre-teen foundations: *All I’ve got is a red guitar, three chords and the truth*. Stop. The. Traffic.

I watched this scene hundreds of times, trying to fathom this idea. You have *what?* Bono sang this like he had Truth in his pocket. That stunned me. Not even when I was young and foolish did I ever possess the confidence to claim that I knew what *Truth* was. The three chords I had, but *Truth?* Abruptly, I grasped that music was more important than simply playing fun songs or dutifully learning pieces that your piano teacher assigned. Bono put it into plain words: music could hold something as immense as Truth.

Thenceforward, I pined with teenage desperation for two things: a crumb of Truth that I sincerely understood, and my very own rock-star catchphrase that would sum up my unique, inimitable, flamboyant-yet-deep stance on life, love and classical piano. Mind you, I didn’t have a clue what that stance might be, but I figured I’d know it when I saw it. It turned out that it’s not that easy. Words are cheaper than ever these days. In my experience, the long path to Truth is littered with biographies of Beethoven, discarded Facebook-isms and back issues of *Oprah*.

My piano students probably would tell you that, based on frequency of use, our

(Continued on next page)



motto must be either “Curve Your Pinkies” or “Take it apart, put it back together,” or possibly “SLOW DOWN, FOR GOD’S SAKE!” But these are not Truths, only practice tips. The paradoxical thing about real Words of Truth is that they can’t really help you learn or motivate you to change, as you hope they will. They can only capture a lesson you’ve already discovered for yourself. The power of the right words is that they seize the essence of the hard-won experience and keep it vibrantly present in your mind. The tougher the experience, the harder they punch.

Three heavy-hitters hang out with Bono in my Epiphanies Club. Theirs are the words that I can’t read enough times; quotes I should probably get tattooed directly onto my body. First in line is Muhammad Ali, who taught me that the search for truth requires fighting words. I made his mantra into an art piece that hangs in my studio directly across from the piano. It’s an interesting social experiment to observe how long it takes new students to ask about it.

FLOATLI
KEABUTTE
RFLYST
INGLIK
EABEE

The visual artist duo Gilbert & George are in the club on the strength of a provocative image from their 1977 series *The Dirty*

Words Pictures. It still hits like a prizefighter no matter how many times I read it, needing me with the inescapable fact that real art isn’t made by sissies or passive minds. The picture consists of a pastiche of gritty images of London and one raw question scrawled on a brick wall: “ARE YOU ANGRY OR ARE YOU BORING?”

The last, the wild card, is Henry David Thoreau. He’s a lover, not a fighter, yet contentedly rubs elbows with this tough crowd. His invaluable gift to me is this: “As a single footstep will not make a path on the earth, so a single thought will not make a pathway in the mind. To make a deep physical path, we walk again and again. To make a deep mental path, we must think over and over the kind of thoughts we wish to dominate our lives.”

20 years after I wore clean through that VHS tape, I discovered *Rattle and Hum* in the depths of my on-demand video library. Once again my free-time is no longer safe. It just goes to show that I’m still excavating. Truth is a slippery bugger and is still at large as far as I’m concerned, but I’ll tell you who trips over it all the time: my piano students. Little flashes of wisdom effortlessly bubble out of them on a daily basis. For years now I’ve been writing down all the wild things they say. For example: *Zachary, seven years old* — “The thing is, you’ll never be lost as long as you know where you are.” They’re in the Epiphanies Club, too. They have shown me that Truth is everywhere. 🍷



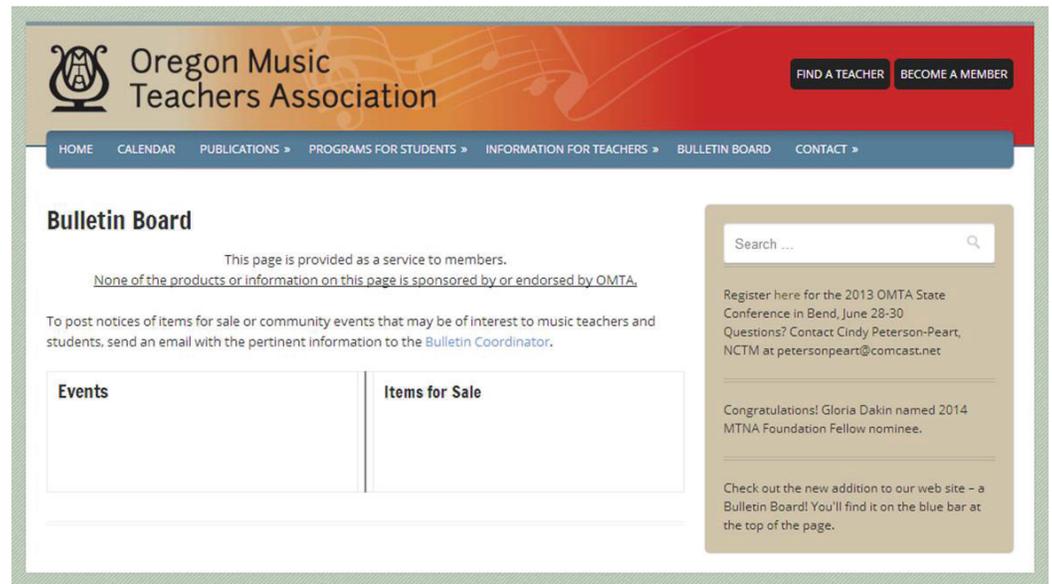
State News *Bulletin Board — New Feature to the OMTA Website*



If you haven't been on the OMTA website recently, you may not have noticed a new addition to our site. We have introduced the "Bulletin Board." It is a place for members to post upcoming events that they feel other members may be interested in. These are events such as non-OMTA sponsored recitals, seminars, or conferences. It is also

a place for members to publish items they have for sale that may also interest other members; for example, teaching resources, music, or even musical instruments.

Check out the Bulletin Board at <http://oregonmta.org/bulletin-board/> and use the link to contact the Bulletin Coordinator to request an item to be posted. 



The screenshot shows the Oregon Music Teachers Association website's Bulletin Board page. The header features the OMTA logo and navigation links: HOME, CALENDAR, PUBLICATIONS, PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS, INFORMATION FOR TEACHERS, BULLETIN BOARD, and CONTACT. There are also buttons for "FIND A TEACHER" and "BECOME A MEMBER". The main content area is titled "Bulletin Board" and includes a disclaimer: "This page is provided as a service to members. None of the products or information on this page is sponsored by or endorsed by OMTA." Below this, instructions state: "To post notices of items for sale or community events that may be of interest to music teachers and students, send an email with the pertinent information to the Bulletin Coordinator." The page is divided into two columns: "Events" and "Items for Sale", both of which are currently empty. A sidebar on the right contains a search bar and two news items: "Register here for the 2013 OMTA State Conference in Bend, June 28-30" and "Congratulations! Gloria Dakin named 2014 MTNA Foundation Fellow nominee." A footer note says: "Check out the new addition to our web site – a Bulletin Board! You'll find it on the blue bar at the top of the page."



State News *Notice about Networking Opportunities*

Rhonda Ringering, NCTM
Publications Chair



Want to promote your business (or a friend's) to all OMTA members? Consider placing ads in OMTA publications. We've streamlined the process to make it even easier to "get the word out!" Not only will your business gain visibility, your ad dollars will help support our organization.

There are three publications in which you may purchase ads:

1. *Music News* (our monthly newsletter)
2. State Conference Booklet
3. Membership Directory and Handbook

Artwork for all OMTA ads should be e-mailed to: rhondaringering@hotmail.com

Payment for all OMTA ads should be sent to:

OMTA State Office
PO Box 5335
Portland, OR 97228

For ad information, deadlines, and rate sheets, please contact Rhonda at: rhondaringering@hotmail.com.

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State News *Conference Report*

Cindy Peterson-Peart, NCTM
Conference Chair



Thank you to everyone who made the 2013 OMTA State Conference such a wonderful success. The Central Oregon teachers made us feel welcome, the weather and location were perfect, and our presenters were informative and inspiring. What a wonderful opportunity to learn, revitalize, and spend time with friends, old and new.

If you missed this year's conference, I hope you'll consider attending in 2014. Next year's State Conference has been scheduled for the weekend of August 8–10

in Newport, at the Newport Performing Arts Center. Our guest artist will be Alejandro Cremaschi, an Associate Professor of Pedagogy at the University of Colorado at Boulder, and the current President of the Colorado State Music Teachers Association. Dr. Cremaschi specializes in Latin American music and will have some fascinating presentations to share.

So mark your calendars now for August 8–10, and plan to spend a wonderful weekend learning and playing at the beach! 🌊



The 3rd annual Pianists of the Americas is returning to Portland, Oregon from Fri, Oct 18 through Sun, Oct 20, 2013. Distinguished pianist and teacher, Dr. Paul Barnes, is the guest artist and clinician, along with founders Marcelo Lian, from Argentina, and Nicholas Earl Reynolds, former OMTA student. There will be master classes in technique and repertoire for students of all ages and levels (the registration deadline is Oct 1). Recitals are free of charge, and all events will be hosted by the Portland Piano Company, 711 SW 14th Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97205. Events are as follows (master class times depend on student enrollment):

10.18, 7:30pm: Recital by Lian & Reynolds
10.19, from 10am: Master Classes
10.19, 7:30pm: Recital by Dr. Paul Barnes
10.20, from 10am: Master Classes

For registration forms or other information:

PianistsoftheAmericas@gmail.com
www.NicholasEarlReynolds.com
www.paulbarnes.net



Jan Mittelstaedt, NCTM



STUDENTS EXPAND THEIR MUSICIANSHIP AND REPERTOIRE THROUGH THE ESMAR 2013–2014 PROGRAM

Jan Mittelstaedt, NCTM, general ESMAR chair, and Fern McArthur, NCTM, Central and Southern Oregon Chair, invite you to offer your advanced students an amazing opportunity.

Give them the gift of ESMAR:

ESMAR is an OMTA educational program that gives advanced students a new goal, and culminates in an individual assessment, master classes and a group recital. The curriculum requirements include: a major scale routine, minor scales, an exciting arpeggio routine, a chord progression which modulates via a German Sixth chord, sight reading a chorale tune, beginning transposition, beginning harmonization from a lead line, beginning work in playing a few songs by ear, tapping counterpoint, some basic music history (verbal), a community service project, and the performance of five compositions from at least four periods of music history. Three of the compositions are to be memorized.

1. ESMAR is:

- a. for advanced high school students and adults who have been verbally recommended by their teachers
- b. a college preparatory program
- c. a 90-minute master class with a college professor who has a doctorate degree in music – each student is encouraged to have five guests (including teachers and parents)
- d. an assessment of technical skills, repertoire, musicianship, music history, sight reading, and improvisation
- e. an experience in planning and taking part in a performance; students, with the help of a teacher advisor, plan the program and reception
- f. an experience in contributing to society through a community service project
- g. an exciting goal which may encourage students to continue their piano study after completing level X of the syllabus program

2. ESMAR is not:

- a. an extension of our syllabus program
- b. an evaluation or an exam
- c. for children in elementary or middle school
- d. graded in any way – there is no pass or fail
- e. a competition

3. Reasons for adding ESMAR to our OMTA program:

- a. ESMAR is a response to a need in OMTA. More and more students are completing the syllabus program way before their senior years. Many of these students are not interested in competitions but still need goals to inspire them to reach a higher level of music proficiency.
- b. ESMAR is similar to an advanced placement course at school. It helps prepare students who wish to major in music. Universities will be interested in ESMAR students because they have demonstrated that they can learn a quantity of repertoire in a relatively short time, have taken on the responsibility of community service and planning a recital, are good sight readers, and have begun to work on improvisation and reading lead lines. Colleges are more impressed with this versatile type of student than with students who have studied one composition for two years and then have won a contest.

(Continued on next page)



- c. ESMAR offers a program for teachers and performers who want to revitalize their skills.
 - d. This program opens the door to invite more participation in OMTA and allows teachers to offer an exciting adventure for students who may quit lessons before they graduate from high school.
 - e. Teachers who have students in the ESMAR program benefit by reviewing theory concepts and possibly acquiring new skills themselves.
4. **Where do I find the requirements and forms for ESMAR?**
- a. Look on the OMTA state website under *Programs for Students*. A drop down box includes necessary forms.
5. **Whom should I contact?**
- a. Please contact Jan Mittelstaedt: janrm@frontier.com or 503-645-2066 ASAP if you have students interested in taking part in ESMAR during the upcoming school year, 2013 – 2014. Even if you have already talked to your student, please confirm that you are still working on the program.
- b. If you live closer to the Eugene area than to Portland, please contact Fern McArthur: fernmcl@comcast.net or 541-484-1567 ASAP.
 - c. If you live in Eastern Oregon and would be willing to coordinate ESMAR in that area, please contact Jan Mittelstaedt.
 - d. Please direct any additional questions to Jan or Fern.
6. **What are the dates and costs?**
- a. The date of the Portland assessment/master class (2014) is Saturday, May 3, and Sunday, May 4, if needed. It will be held at Portland Piano Company. The assessor will be Dr. Jill Timmons.
 - b. The cost is \$125 per student. The fee includes the cost of a 90 minute assessment/master class and the group recital.
 - c. The date and location of the Eugene Area assessment is TBA.



State News *OMTA State Ensemble Festival*



The State Ensemble Festival will again be held at the Russell Tripp Performance Center in Takena Hall on the LBCC Albany Campus on December 7 and 8. Linn Benton District will be hosting the event.

Three recitals will be held on both Saturday and Sunday, at 12:30, 2:00, and 3:30 pm, with a reception following each recital.

The deadline for entries is Saturday, November 23. The entries should be submitted to Joan Gathercoal. The entry

fee for the State Ensemble Festival will be \$10.00 per student. District fees should include \$2.00 per student, per performance, that is submitted to the State. If a student plays in more than one ensemble, there would be a \$2.00 fee for each performance.

Each ensemble group should only play one piece, and please observe the time limits. Shorter pieces are encouraged to allow more time between recitals. 



State News *Important Invitation for Voice Teachers*



Some voice teachers have expressed an interest in updating the Vocal Syllabus, extending it from 6 levels to 10 levels. This would allow students as young as seven or eight to participate in the OMTA Voice Syllabus, such as happens with the Carnegie Hall Achievement Program.

The experiences and musicianship skills this would bring to our young students will help them as they participate in musical competitions and performances in Middle School and High School. It would also better prepare them for the musical opportunities available in college.

Kathy Turner has volunteered to take the lead on this important project. First, she needs to compile a list of all voice teachers in OMTA. If you are a voice teacher please e-mail her and let her know. Secondly, she needs two or three other voice teachers—particularly ones who work with young students—to work with her on the project. If you are willing to help with that, tell her so in your message. She can be contacted at: kathy1127@me.com. 



Liz Willis
Membership Chair



*We welcomed the following new members
to OMTA over the summer months:*

**Eugene District
welcomes the following as Active Members:**
Alexis Gibbons
Paul Safar

**Portland District
welcomes the following as Active Members:**
Lydia Andreeva-Vassileva
Alicia Barrett
Alia Farah
San San Lee
Huong Phan
Theresa Silveyra
Hung Ton

Now, with the Fall season of teaching beginning, I want to remind everyone of the importance of maintaining your membership by paying the dues to MTNA for the current year (July 1, 2013–June 30, 2014). Every current member of OMTA should have received a renewal notice from MTNA in May. If you have not paid the dues amount that was stated on your May renewal notice, you are not currently in

“good standing” which means you cannot enter your students in Fall Syllabus.

This is easily remedied, however! Simply mail that dues to national and all will be well. If you are not certain of your status, you may contact Elaine Donaldson at MTNA on the toll-free number of 1-888-512-5278. Elaine or her staff can quickly confirm your latest payment. 



District News *Calendar of Upcoming District Events*



District Leadership:

Please regularly submit the details of upcoming District events (not more than 3 months at a time) that are open for OMTA members to attend.

Thank you!



District News *Central Oregon*

Helen Jones, NCTM



Members of Central Oregon District were excited to welcome the 2013 OMTA State Conference to Bend in June. We ordered perfect weather. Two-thirds of our local membership attended the conference.



Conference picnic at Shevlin Park.

We have a lot of exciting activities for our teachers and their students scheduled for 2013–14. Student activities include a Student's Choice recital where most anything goes, a Classical Festival, Syllabus evaluations and an Ensemble Festival.

Our first meeting of the year will be Friday, September 13, led by President Kathy Gault. Other returning officers include President-Elect/Program Chairman Judy Kamperman, Secretary Patti Peterson and Treasurer Jean Shrader. Program topics scheduled in conjunction with our monthly meetings include Classical period repertoire and the Sonata form, music of Bartok, teaching students to play musically, performances of piano duets and duos, technology ideas and a “bag of tricks” panel presentation. 



Central Oregon teachers L to R: Patti Peterson, Helen Jones, Margaret Littlehailes, Mariann Slavkovsky, Jean Shrader, Kathy Gault, Jodi Bischof, Sharla Graves, Jill Geil. Attending but not pictured: Crystal Cheney, Judy Kamperman and Jan Saito-Beckman.





Submit Articles in *Music 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.

Advertise in *Music News*

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

1/4 column ads (and articles about events which require an admission fee or tuition):
\$35.00

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

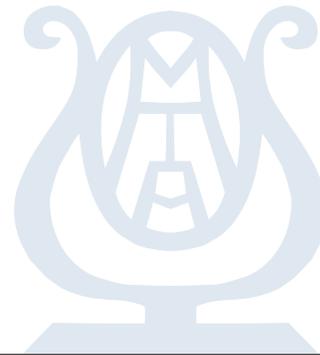
The link below connects you to your local District Associations, OMTA Board of Directors and Committee Chairs:

<http://oregonmta.org/contact/>

Let Us Know

If you have changed your e-mail address please contact the office so you don't miss any OMTA News.

office@oregonmta.org





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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 *Programs for Students*. Complete listings of State and District leadership are found in the pull-down menu under *Contact*.

Upcoming Music News copy DEADLINES:

September 15, 2013

October 15, 2013

November 15, 2013

