OMTA Music News

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President's Corner *MTNA in Chicago*

by Dr. Bonnie Esbensen

Heaven's Gate sculpture at Millennium Park

I arrived in Chicago two days early for the 2014 MTNA Conference, and in those two days, I reveled in the city's offerings—it's amazing architecture, its world class museums, and even a Chicago Symphony concert. Loved it!

The conference began on Saturday night[1] with a soaringly beautiful concert by Cliburn gold medalist Jon Nakamatsu performing with Jon Manasse, clarinetist, and then continued for four more days of engaging talks and performances of every variety.

In my role as state president, I also attended business meetings and an arts advocacy forum. You

The Chicago River downtown

may be interested in the following:

- Some state associations and local chapters have managed to establish high school credit or advanced placement credit for students taking music lessons in private studios.

(Continued on next page)

President's Corner *MTNA in Chicago (Continued)*

Dr. Bonnie Esbensen
President, OMTA

- **Americans for the Arts Action Fund** has a website that provides information and resources for promoting arts funding and arts education. www.artsactionfund.org

- **National Association of Music Merchants** (NAMM) offers a free community action kit to promote music education. http://tinyurl.com/m6lty49

President Ken Christensen, NCTM at the opening ceremony. (There were actually hundreds of people in the audience)

Preview—OMTA in Newport

Conferences are stimulating and inspiring, and the friends you make help you feel connected and supported in your work. Our state conference is coming up in August and whether or not you attended the national conference in Chicago, I encourage you to attend the state conference in Newport, Oregon.

The sessions will be at the same high level, but with the following differences:

	OMTA Conference	MTNA Conference
Length of conference	2.5 days	4.5 days
Early registration fee	$130	$295
Banquet	$45	$100
Lunches	Included in reg fee	$15–$25/day
Hotel rooms	Ocean view	City view
Hotel costs	No cost, if housing rebate applies[2]	$197/night, tax incl

For more information about the OMTA Conference, go to the OMTA web page or contact the conference chair: Cindy Peterson-Peart.

OMTA State Conference
August 8–10, 2014
Newport, OR

See you there!

Bonnie

Dr. Bonnie Esbensen
President, OMTA

[1] Pedagogy Saturday ran all day Saturday, but was separate from the main conference.

[2] Housing rebates funded by an Oregon Community Foundation grant, cover some or all of the hotel costs for members who need assistance and who live farther than a specified distance from the conference site. Refer to the OMTA web site for more details.

(Continued on next page)

Pictures from the 2014 MTNA Conference

New Foundation Fellow Gloria Dakin, NCTM on the left and Margaret Littlehales, NCTM on the right—at the Gala where Gloria received her award.

Waller Trio representing Oregon.

On the left is NW Division Director Jani Peterson, NCTM with MTNA Vice President Debra Florian, NCTM on the right at the NW Division dinner. FYI: The NW Division includes members from Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, and Alaska.

Oregon delegation lunch.

State News *Membership*

Liz Willis, NCTM
State Membership Chair

We have welcomed three new members to OMTA!

Portland
Greta Petersen
Jeongmi Yoon

Tualatin Valley
Joseph Forster

PORTLAND PIANO INTERNATIONAL

SUMMER FESTIVAL

JUNE 5-8, 2014
at LEWIS & CLARK COLLEGE

A FULLY IMMERSIVE MUSIC EXPERIENCE

Join us for a four-day musical exploration that includes recitals, master classes, and lectures in an exciting, new format, offering multiple opportunities to interact with our guest artists and fellow music lovers. Immerse yourself in the beautiful campus of Lewis & Clark and become part of our "Corps of Discovery!" Single and four-day passes available. Visit our website for details.

LIMITED AVAILABILITY
Reserve your passes before May 1 and save up to $50 per pass.

Visit www.portlandpiano.org or call 503.228.1388 to sign up!

OMTA Member Highlight — Matt Cooper, DMA, NCTM

Blue Mountain District

Matt Cooper, DMA, NCTM

I grew up in Eugene studying piano with Wanda Eastwood, and began playing in the school stage band and swing choirs, and attending improvisation classes and jazz workshops led by Scott Reeves and Sonny King. By the time I was 16 I was gigging around town, which I continued doing as I went on to earn my Bachelor of Music in Performance at University of Oregon under Dr. Marlene Thal, taking a year off from college to gig around Portland. I moved to Cincinnati in '84 to attend the College-Conservatory of Music where I earned my MM and eventually my DMA in piano under Frank Weinstock (a pupil of Claude Frank). I was gigging around Cincinnati, doing a summer tour with the Woody Herman band, and taking three years off to teach at Central State University, a Historically Black College in Wilberforce, Ohio. Touring everywhere from Detroit and Chicago to Harlem as an accompanist with the Central State choir, I was privileged to experience and learn from another America, one previously invisible to me. During that time I entered some prominent jazz competitions, including the Thelonious Monk Competition which was held at the Smithsonian, where I tied for the Bronze with a pianist from Azerbaijan.

After marriage to teacher and vocalist Sharon Porter and completion of my grad school classes and recitals, I was hired in 1991 to teach at Eastern Oregon University in La Grande where I have remained happily ever after. I became active in OMTA at that time, becoming state president in 2000; that led to several study and performance trips to Khabarovsk, Russia. I've continued doing solo and chamber recitals, concerto appearances, and—more recently—combined jazz and classical recitals. I've been studying Taubman technique on and off since 1999, including two Golandsky Institute seminars at Princeton and numerous lessons with their senior faculty; this has subtly and irrevocably transformed my approach to playing and teaching. I've also studied tango music in Buenos Aires through College Music Society, and last year I published a revised and updated version of my doctoral thesis (Duke Ellington as Pianist) through CMS. That has led to recent speaking and playing engagements in England and The Netherlands.

While I've performed traditional recitals and concertos for years, and am still a passionate advocate for the Western canon from the Baroque to the 20th century, I'm less interested than ever in traditional programming. I find the divide between the performer or "artist" and the audience, as well as the worship of and enslavement to notation, feels artificial and outdated. My approach to music is increasingly syncretic; I've begun playing accordion and jazz organ, and I'm incorporating more popular, funk, and world music into my EOU ensembles and my own gigs as well.

(Continued on next page)

Current Reading and Listening

As I am preparing to speak on and play Ellington in Amsterdam, I just finished *Duke: A Life of Duke Ellington* by Terry Teachout; have started *Duke Ellington's America* by Harvey Cohen; and am in the midst of David Schiff's *The Ellington Century.* Ellington albums I am listening to at the moment include Such Sweet Thunder, Ellington at Newport, and Afro-Eurasian Eclipse, but I also enjoy Ellington's playing on Piano Reflections and Money Jungle. Ellington is truly an American original and deserves to be regarded on at least the same level as Aaron Copland (who was an Ellington fan and supporter himself).

Teaching Tips and Obsessions

I am a fanatic for correct rhythms and articulations; I find these are equally important in Bach, Mozart, and bebop. I am also a believer in establishing ergonomic fingerings that avoid stretching and twisting. As a teacher, I find that I am at my best when I am truly present with the student so I can really listen to what they are saying and playing, and when I trust and follow my intuition.

Hobbies

I enjoy travel, movies, and books, as well as a variety of outdoor sports including hiking, backpacking, Nordic skiing, climbing, and biking. Every day, gazing from the window of our house perched on the edge of the woods overlooking the Grande Ronde valley, I marvel at the beauty of the place where I live.

State News *Music Link*

Carol E. Ratzlaf, NCTM
Music Link Coordinating Committee

As Spring arrives many teachers and students are thinking of Summer Music Camps and continuing education opportunities. Our OMTA Music Link program offers two different scholarships for Music Link students each year. If your student would like to participate in a Summer Music Camp, or is of high school age and they are looking for scholarships for Continuing Education in any field of study, please visit the Portland District or State OMTA website: http://oregonmta.org/programs/musiclink/ and download the application. Applications must be mailed by May 1st.

If your Music Link student will be graduating this year, please contact Eileen Knox. Opportunities abound.

State News *OMTA Scholarship Auditions*

Susan Todd, NCTM
Assistant Treasurer

What student wouldn't benefit from a scholarship award? The annual OMTA Scholarship Auditions are set for May 10 and 11, 2014, at Portland Piano Company, 711 SW 14th Avenue, Portland. Though the event is set in Portland, the auditions are open to students across the state. Kelli Stephens and Paula Watt are the chairs, and have done a wonderful job running it the past several years.

Awards range from $75 to $600, with categories for voice and instrumentalists. Ages range from first grade for a violin/viola scholarship to age 23 for the oldest voice students. Scholarships are awarded in honor of current and past OMTA members as well as awards sponsored by OMTA and Portland District.

Will you take a few minutes to visit the OMTA website? Click on the Programs for Students/Scholarships link and look over the requirements. Applications must postmarked by April 11. Perhaps this spring I will be sending a check to one of your fine students!

Anne D. Young, DM
Finance Chair, OMTA

Communication is what violinist Hilary Hahn is all about. What an inspired performance she offered playing the Nielsen Violin Concerto with the Oregon Symphony! And she isn't holding back: many recordings offer pure beauty, if not bliss. She has a modern presence with varieties of social media, and spends part of her not-so-old years writing a travelogue. Her study to be a writer was part of her degree work. The darling idea that is the vehicle for her message to her fans is her violin case, which she has personified. The violin case "writes what it sees and experiences in its life of traveling the globe." We are training our young ones to fully appreciate this kind of artist and her music making. The orchestra's Grieg and Strauss selections were a perfect combination of delight and seriousness for all ages. The symphony is doing its part in providing student tickets for ten dollars—a terrific deal for everyone.

This inspiration brings me to the potential of OMTA. We have an opportunity to parlay our assets into important parts of a strong and vital musical culture for the health and sustenance of our state. For example, the ides of March in 2014 marks TV-OMTA's new Sonata Gallery Festival (working title), an exciting brain-child of member Gayle Bland. Providing performance experience within a specific musical genre, this is a wonderful addition.

Other ideas will gain currency as we look for new possibilities on the horizon. I hope we focus more energy into our collegiate chapters, to become entities that truly carry the banners of the future. Collegiate chapters will help develop immediate future members—a distinct tier of potential teachers—a heartening and inspiring prospect.

Warmest regards to all, Anne

Anne D. Young, DM,
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State News *IMTF Independent Music Teacher's Forum*

Beverly Serra-Brooks, DMA & NCTM
IMTF Chair

What is IMTF? The independent music teacher's forum is all about YOU and issues important to your profession: studio business, technology and pedagogy trends, sharing concerns, and most importantly, building community. One of the avenues for doing this is the IMTF column in the Music News which focuses on various topics including advocacy and networking empowerment. Having an active forum connects us to a larger community even though in the day to day we may work individually.

Do you prefer to socialize in 'real time' rather than accessing an online social community? As an independent music teacher it's easy to feel isolated. Many members would like to support other community events with people in the same field and with whom they can network. Do you have a cause you support which you think other members might be interested in? One of the goals mentioned by our various districts is to raise the visibility and the value of music instruction, and OMTA in particular, within our communities. We could start a chain of networking activities linked to creating meaningful alliances with the larger community we live in, thereby raising visibility and value for OMTA and our profession. For example, members who love fitness and health—what about a group of OMTA members getting together for a 5K walk? Or for dog lovers—supporting the Oregon Humane Society benefit events, Museum lovers—having an OMTA day/night out at the Museum event… These are just ideas to get us all thinking. The list goes on and on if you're open to thinking three-dimensionally.

Are you interested in online social communities specific to your profession? If you are looking to connect with other IMT's, there are two FaceBook groups: Professional Piano Teachers, and Piano Teacher Central which are open to piano instructors only (click the request membership tab on the site). It's an easy way to connect with other independent music teachers from all over the world, and because it's a closed group you can feel pretty secure posting about issues, policies, repertoire, practice strategies for the busy student, etc., or even get some great teaching ideas from the larger IMT community. Just click on the links here:

Facebook: Piano Teacher Central
http://tinyurl.com/knb9s8p

Facebook: Professional Piano Teachers
http://tinyurl.com/mxe3yd7

Lastly, for those always hungry for the latest apps and smart technology have a look at the iPad Piano Studio, by Leila Viss: http://ipadpianostudio.com. Please feel free to contact me with your ideas for community networking events or activities.

Happy Teaching!

Beverly Serra-Brooks, DMA & NCTM
IMTF Chair
dr.beverlysb@earthlink.net
or call me, I'm in the OMTA directory.

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: March 14, 2014

Piano Santa Foundation Winter Grand Scholarship Competition Awards New Yamaha Piano

(Portland, OR) – The Piano Santa Foundation ("PSF") has awarded a new Yamaha grand piano to 15 year old Connor Dalby for winning the 2014 Winter Grand Scholarship Competition. The award will last until March 2016.

The Winter Grand Scholarship is one of two annual competitions that PSF offers in which a grand piano is awarded to a student in the Portland metro area for two years, free of charge, and includes moving costs, free tunings and routine maintenance. The competition is open to Portland metro area piano students aged 12 – 16 who are studying at an intermediate level or higher.

The 2014 competition, made possible by Classic Pianos and Yamaha of America, was held on January 18, 2014, at the Classic Pianos store in Southeast Portland. Seven finalists had been selected to perform, following a preliminary application process.

Connor Dalby, a student of Shirley Brendlinger, won the competition performing works by Beethoven and Bach. He has been playing classical piano for 9 years and hopes to study music in college. By winning this competition, Connor has won the use of a new Yamaha GB1 grand piano, thanks to a generous loan to PSF from Classic Pianos and Yamaha of America.

About the Piano Santa Foundation: PSF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to providing music education opportunities to children, particularly in underserved populations, in the Portland metro area. Our programming includes in-home piano placement scholarships, piano grants to community organizations, and after-school music programs.

About Yamaha America and Classic Pianos: Yamaha America pianos are represented exclusively in the Portland / Vancouver area by Classic Pianos, 3003 SE Milwaukie Avenue, Portland, OR 97202, Telephone: (503) 239-9969.

Yamaha pianos are selected by some of America's foremost concert pianists -- classical and jazz -- many of who have appeared at *Portland Piano International* and *Mt. Hood Jazz Festival* concerts.

Classic Pianos carries Yamaha's complete line of acoustic, *Disklavier*, *Clavinova*, and *AvantGrand* instruments. At the recent National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) convention held in Anaheim, CA, *Classic Pianos* received Yamaha's *Highest Dealer Award* for Outstanding Sales and Service.

About Classic Pianos: Praised on Piano World Forum as "The best piano store in the Portland area, and possibly the northwest." Visit www.classicportland.com for more information and an online tour.

District News *Calendar of Upcoming District Events*

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

Friday, April 11
10:00 am

Tualatin Valley OMTA *presents*
Electronics & Music — The Magic of Synthesizers
a lecture and performance by the internationally celebrated Craig Padilla, musician, film score composer, actor & video producer.
Tigard United Methodist Church, 9845 SW Walnut Place

District News *Blue Mountain*

Elizabeth Cooper

At its March meeting the Blue Mountain District was treated to an excellent interactive presentation on "How to Teach Memorization" by our newest member, Lea Emerson. Beginning with a personal anecdote that strongly illustrated the importance of being thoroughly prepared to perform a memorized piece, Lea broke down the process into five aspects, with points to reinforce with our students for each one.

Lea Emerson

The aspects of memorization are:

1. Kinesthetic (muscle memory)
2. Theoretical
3. Aural
4. Visual
5. Mental

In addition to providing us with strategies for helping our students be successful in memorizing their pieces, she gave us some general thoughts on memorization. While we were all reminded of things we already know about, or use, each one of us picked up something new to enhance our teaching and our personal practice. Thanks a lot, Lea!

District News *Central Oregon*

Helen Jones, NCTM

Our Classical Festival, rescheduled from February 8 to February 22, was a big success. Forty-four students participated in morning Master Classes conducted by Janice Jubin and Michael Gesme. Students performed in one of three afternoon recitals at Eastmont Church in Bend. A special treat at the beginning of each recital was a dance demonstration of the Minuet and Courante, danced by students from Victor School of Performing Arts International, directed by Joy Victor. Dancers were in period costume which added a historical element to the festival.

Costumed dancers (photo by Dave Kamperman).

Our March program was presented by Janet Smith on "Teaching Musicality to students." Janet shared some of her own experiences as a teacher related to getting students to play musically. Members joined in the lively and very informative discussion.

Teachers with Janet Smith (photo by Dave Kamperman).

Central Oregon district will be represented at MTNA National Conference by members Kathy Gault, NCTM and Margaret Littlehales, NCTM. We look forward to their reports when they return.

Our April 4 program will feature Jean Shrader and Kathy Gault performing piano ensemble teaching pieces to get us excited for the June 7 Ensemble Festival.

District News *Klamath Basin*

Tammy Belau

Klamath Basin OMTA was thrilled to receive a Nellie Tholen grant again this year! We welcomed Mariann Slavkovsky as she brought us her workshop titled "The Average Student/The Incomparable Teacher."

If you haven't had a chance, you simply must have Mariann come and give you this delightful presentation full of thought-provoking questions as you consider whether or not you are an Incomparable Teacher.

We had several guests from the community as well as a new face hoping to join our group!

And, unknown to us, our write-up in the newspaper caught the eye of a college friend of Mariann's who had not been reunited with her for 32 years!

What a wonderful time we had.

We are working diligently to prepare for the upcoming adjudications as we get our paperwork in.

The sun is shining, spring seems to have come early for us and we hope all of you are doing well.

District News *Tualatin Valley*

Carma Glausi
Tualatin Valley District President-Elect

Hello, from the Tualatin Valley OMTA! Since our last report, our students and teachers have been involved in many exciting musical events.

Our February 8th Regional Junior Bach Festival was snowed out and rescheduled for February 22nd. 20 students participated, and six winners were chosen to move up to the State Competition, held in Corvallis on March 2nd.

TV-OMTA's Sacred Music Festival took place on Sunday, March 9th. A total of 73 students performed in three separate Sacred Music Recitals. All were piano performances, except for two violin performances and one vocal performance, where the student sang while playing the piano.

On Friday, March 14th, after our business meeting, we were treated to our annual Teachers' Recital, where eight of our teachers performed. We look forward to this enriching sharing of music among our teachers each year! Our program from March 14th is listed below.

Teachers' Recital Program

Ellen Stone: *Sonata in B minor*, L.33/K.87, by Scarlatti; *Adagio* from Sonata Op. 2, No. 3, by Beethoven

Andrea Granat: *Alla Turca* from Sonata No. 9, by Mozart; Spanish Dance No. 5 *Andaluza*, by Granados

Anne Young: *Mazurka* Op. 17, No. 4, by Chopin; *Two Mazurkas*, Op. 50, Nos 1 & 2, by Szymanowski

Carma Glausi: *Rhapsody*, Op. 79, No. 1, by Brahms

Nancy Brown: *Snow is Dancing*, from Children's Corner, by Debussy

Nancy Brown & Lisa Mendes: *Anitra's Dance*, Piano Duet, by Grieg

Heidi Evans: Sonatina for piano, I. *Allegro giocoso*, by Khatchaturian

Gulchin Tarabus: *Sirota*, by Zhurbin (composed in 2011)

Teachers' Recital Performers: (front row) Gulchin Tarabus and Lisa Mendes; (back row) Ellen Stone, Nancy Brown, Carma Glausi, Anne Young, Andrea Granat and Heidi Evans.

(Continued on next page)

District News *Tualatin Valley (Continued)*

Also on March 14th, many of our students' compositions were entered into the Composition Celebration, where over the next few weeks they will be reviewed and critiqued by an adjudicator. Several deserving students will have their compositions chosen to be published in our annual Tualatin Valley District Student Composition book, and they will also be invited to play at the State Composition Recital.

We had an exciting day on Saturday, March 15th: our Tualatin Valley District was pleased to hold its very first Sonatina Festival, organized by Gayle Bland. A total of fifty-eight students participated, divided into five different recitals. The event was very successful for students, teachers and families, and we anticipate our Sonatina Festival to take hold and become a very popular annual event for our District.

Coming up next month on Friday, April 11th, we look forward to hearing our guest speaker, Craig Padilla, present his "Electronics and Music —the Magic of Synthesizers." Mr. Padilla is an internationally celebrated musician, film score composer, actor, and video producer. The public is welcome to join us at this free event: 10 a.m. at the Tigard United Methodist Church, 9845 SW Walnut Place.

Our TV-OMTA Syllabus Exams will be held April 24–27. Many of our students are busy preparing for this rigorous and rewarding annual/ semiannual rite of passage.

Before we adjourn for the summer, we will have our final business meeting and brunch on May 9th, when new and returning officers will be voted in and new and returning chairs will be announced.

We have one new member who joined our group this past month, Dr. Lilin Chen. Welcome, Dr. Chen! This brings our total number of members to 67. We continue to grow!

2013-2014 Lecture Series Sponsored By:
THE OREGON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
Here for Oregon. Here for Good.

OREGON MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
TUALATIN VALLEY DISTRICT
LECTURE SERIES
FREE TO THE PUBLIC
Friday, April 11 - 10 AM
9845 SW Walnut Place - Tigard, OR

About Craig

Craig Padilla is an internationally celebrated and award-winning electronic music artist. After more than two decades of performing live and recording his own music using many vintage analog and newer digital synthesizers, his style reflects the classic electronic musicians of the past, while finding new sound and music styles that are unique to the true ambient electronic music genre (often found in categories from New Age to Trance to Electronica).

CRAIG PADILLA

THE MUSIC OF SYNTHS

date	location	time	
FRI 4/11/2014	TIGARD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH	10:00 A.M.	**Electronics & Music - The Magic of Synthesizers. An ambient musician creating structures for the heart.**

Information & Acknowledgements

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:
www.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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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:

April 15, 2014
May 15, 2014
August 15, 2014