

OMTA Music News

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Facebook Debut for OMTA

Warm and cozy holiday greetings! Our brand new OMTA Facebook page is now up and running. This is a great way for us to spread the word about the many exciting events going on across the state, and I am confident that people coming across our page will see what a vibrant and active association OMTA is.

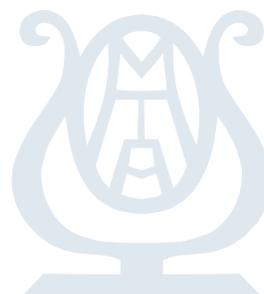
We want to reach as many people as possible and spread the word about our page. If you are a Facebook user, please help us by liking the Oregon Music Teachers Association page, inviting your friends and students to like the page, and by commenting on, liking, and sharing posts and pictures on your own page.

If you are a district president or chairperson of an event, please feel free to send me announcements of upcoming events, as well as pictures or reports of recent events and newsworthy items to share on our page. This is a powerful way to stay in contact and share information between ourselves and the general public.

As OMTA Marketing Chair, I hope to periodically share ideas that you could implement in your respective districts to promote OMTA's visibility in your communities. My challenge for you this month is to consider how you might promote the OMTA in your community through performance events that are already planned in your district. The events you work so hard to organize benefit your students, but what if they could also spread the word in your community about the value of studying with an OMTA teacher or becoming an OMTA member?

Here are some things to consider: Where are your performance events held? Do you ever hold district performances in highly-visible, public places such as shopping malls, stores, retirement centers, farmers markets, or county fairs? Performing in venues such as these would provide your students the opportunity to share their music with a larger, more diverse audience. Your community could thus witness and appreciate the high quality of training from OMTA teachers.

(Continued on next page)





Consider ways of publicizing upcoming events in your district. Publish press releases in your local paper and post flyers about events in your local music stores, libraries, churches, and colleges.

Lastly, consider having a banner created to display at district functions identifying it as an OMTA district-sponsored event. I know many districts across state have already done this, and it gives an official and professional touch to your events, while promoting OMTA as well.

If you have any questions or comments for me, or anything to post on our new Facebook page, please feel free to reach me at angelakellypianostudio@gmail.com. I wish you all a very blessed holiday season and Happy New Year!

—Angela Kelly
OMTA Marketing Chair

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President's Corner



Exams, Competitions and Facebook—Oh My!

It's been a very busy Fall for OMTA. I'm thrilled to announce that Oregon once again has an active collegiate chapter. Thanks to the efforts of our OMTA University Liaison, Crystal Zimmerman, Willamette University has formed a collegiate chapter. I'm sure you'll join me in welcoming these student members to OMTA. Congratulations, Crystal!

Also new to OMTA is our Facebook page. Thanks to our Marketing Chair, Angela Kelly, you can now "like" OMTA! Be sure to visit the page to see what's going on across the state.

I'm so impressed by the many wonderful opportunities we offer our students. Over the last two months, I've been honored to help with the Sonata & Sonatina Festival at the University of Oregon, adjudicate syllabus exams, and assist with the MTNA competition at George Fox University. I was sorry to miss the State Ensemble Festival, which was held the same day as the MTNA Competition, but it, too, was a rousing success, with 27 teachers from 8 districts represented. There were 6 recitals, with performances from 129 students.

The Sonata/Sonatina Festival was a fun day of wonderful music, capped off with a lovely honors recital and reception. The students' enthusiasm and excitement was infectious! You can read more about the success of this event in Sandy Hull's report.

Our syllabus program continues to be strong and well attended. Seven of our districts hosted Fall Syllabus this year. In total, 670 students from the studios of 153 teachers participated. A special thanks to all the syllabus chairs, hosts/hostesses and adjudicators who gave their time and energy to this valuable program.



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Finally, congratulations to the 33 students who participated in the MTNA competition. It was, as always, an amazing day of incredible performances culminating in a winners' recital featuring some of the most talented students in Oregon. The full results of the competition can be found in this edition of Music News. The winners will go on to represent Oregon at the NW Division Competition in January. Good luck in Boise!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cindy".

Cindy Peterson-Peart, NCTM
President, OMTA



Anne D. Young, DM
Finance Chair, OMTA



Book Spotlight: A Challenging and Worthy Winter Read

Essays Before a Sonata, The Majority and other writings by Charles Ives, selected and edited by Howard Boatwright, is a recommended “winter read.” The Prologue begins appropriately with questions, reminiscent of Ives’ “The Unanswered Question” (scored for string quartet, woodwind quartet and solo trumpet).

These questions are the wonderful thoughts teachers work to implant in students, such as: “What can music really express, and how is this expression realized?” In reflecting on how this works, Ives quotes from Emerson’s poem “The Rhodora:”

*... if eyes were made for seeing,
Then Beauty is its own excuse for being:
Why thou wert there, O rival of the rose!
I never thought to ask, I never knew:
But, in my simple ignorance, suppose
The self-same Power that brought me
there brought you.*

The first movement of Ives’ Concord Sonata (sonata number two) is titled “Emerson” and Ives declares:

It has seemed to the writer that Emerson is greater—his identity more complete, perhaps—in the realms of revelation-natural disclosure, than in those of poetry, philosophy, or prophecy. Though a great poet and prophet, he is greater, possibly, as an invader of the unknown. America’s deepest explorer of the spiritual immensities, a seer painting his discoveries in masses and with any color that may lie at hand—cosmic, religious, human, even sensuous. A

recorder freely describing the inevitable struggle in the soul’s uprise, perceiving from this inward source alone that “every ultimate fact is only the first of a new series.” A discoverer, whose heart knows, with Voltaire, that “man seriously reflects when left alone,” and who would then discover, if he can, that “wondrous chain which links the heavens with earth—the world of beings subject to one law.”

If you have read this far, please pick up the book and read on. Following the thoughts of this very original American composer is challenging, enriching and fun. It provides a wonderful bridge to his complex works of music. He wrote the essence of all his works by 1919, whatever revisions there were later. His is a remarkable output that includes an intuitive realization of twelve tone music. A tribute to “words and music.”

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Beverly Serra-Brooks,
DMA & NCTM
IMTF Chair



Finding Refreshment and Renewal for a New Year

What is IMTF? IMTF is all about members and issues important to the profession: studio business, technology & pedagogy trends, networking, sharing concerns, and most importantly, building community. The Independent Music Teacher's Forum has been supported by MTNA since 1972.

As we move into the holiday season I am struck by the timelessness of music and the privilege I have been accorded, to live my life with music every single day, either through studying the turn of a phrase for my own performances, or in guiding young people in their musical journey. And I am reminded of the old German folk song "Music Alone Shall Live" and its simple lyrics:

*All things shall perish from under the sky,
But music alone shall live, never to die.*

Enjoy a Concert

I am sure all of you out there would agree that music is a special part of being fully human. In this holiday season let yourself be awed again by music's creative and healing powers by taking a moment to immerse yourself in an activity that accesses those. For example, you might attend a local choral event to celebrate the music of the holiday season.

Listen to a TED Talk

There are also TED talks¹:
<http://www.ted.com/talks>
especially focused on music, which you can access on your own schedule. Go to the site and key in Shawn Achor's "The Happy Secret To Better Work," or Renee Brown's "The Power of Vulnerability" and also Louie Schwartzberg on "Nature. Beauty. Gratitude." There are many others.

¹*Ted Talks: Clavier Companion*
Nov/Dec 2014 Issue, pg 8.

Re-evaluate Your Studio Policies

Additionally, take time to review your

studio policies and goals as you head into a new year. Often a slight adjustment makes all the difference in a happy and creative studio for students, parents and instructor. Finding what works for you, what is typical in your area/region and what is fair to all participants will allow you to focus more completely on music.

Visit Helpful Websites

Without promoting any particular site, here are some you might explore:

Managing studio business online:
<http://www.mymusicstaff.com>

Ideas related to piano pedagogy:
<http://www.keyboardpedagogy.org>

Online video resource for developing piano technique:
<https://entradapiano.com>

Creative and fun online resources for surprise topics/activities to use in lessons:
<http://tinyurl.com/kf6hsuz>

This has numerous individual apps, but also offers an option to correlate apps with certain lesson books and plans, so if you are using one of those methods you may enjoy that online resource.

Dr. Beverly Serra-Brooks, DMA & NCTM
Hummingbird Music Studio, Director
Artist Teacher, Concert & Recording Artist
Eroica Classical CDs
dr.beverlysb@earthlink.net



State News *Membership*

Liz Willis, NCTM
Membership Chair



OMTA Keeps on Growing

We are delighted to welcome the following new members to OMTA:

Central Oregon

Travis Allen

Klamath Basin

Terri Horn

Lincoln County

Chie Fusco

Doreen Thorusen

Portland

Patrik Csak

Shlomo Farber

Clay Giberson

Karen Huffman

Sister Julia Monti

Jeremy Nasta

Jessica Szerwo

Salem

Gillian Perkins

Tualatin Valley

Karl Rohde



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Feb. 16, 2015

* Must audition on this day for priority financial consideration.

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State News *MTNA Competitions: Oregon Finals*

Cindy Peterson-Peart, NCTM
President, OMTA



2014 MTNA Student Performance and Composition Winners

Exceptionally talented students can pursue excellence and achieve recognition by entering performance/composition competitions sponsored by the Music Teachers National Association. Competitions are available for Elementary (compositions only), Junior,

Senior, Young Artist and Chamber Music Categories. These prestigious auditions are held at the state, division, and national levels. National winners receive cash prizes. Find more details on our OMTA website under Competitions.

State Winner List			
Place	Name	Instrument	Teacher
Oregon Elementary Composition - 1 entry			
Representative	Ashwin Sivakumar		Gary Noland
Oregon Junior Composition - 1 entry			
Representative	Aditya Sivakumar		Gary Noland
Oregon Junior Performance Piano - 7 entries			
Winner	Nathan Kim	Piano	Renato Fabbro
Alternate	Christina Im	Piano	Julia Lee
Honorable mention	Paul Lee	Piano	Paula Watt
Oregon Junior Performance String - 7 entries			
Winner	Symphony Koss	Violin	Kathryn Gray
Alternate	John Fawcett	Violin	Kathryn Lucktenberg
Honorable mention	Cammie Lee	Violin	Carol Sindell
Oregon Junior Performance Woodwind - 2 entries			
Winner	Ashley Teng	Flute	Sydney Carlson
Alternate	Hannah Whitlow	Flute	Sandy Norman
Oregon Senior Composition - 1 entry			
Representative	Mitchell Nguyen		Gary Noland
Oregon Senior Performance Piano - 7 entries			
Winner	Emily Brother	Piano	Dorothy Fahlman
Alternate	Jim Yang	Piano	Renato Fabbro
Honorable mention	Anthony Zheng	Piano	Paula Watt
Oregon Senior Performance String - 4 entries			
Winner	Kiarra Saito-Beckman	Violin	Kathryn Lucktenberg
Alternate	Hyrum Kohler	Viola	Lucy Phillips
Honorable mention	Yun Teng	Violin	Kathryn Gray
Oregon Senior Performance Woodwind - 3 entries			
Winner	Hannah Sanders	Flute	Sandy Norman
Alternate	Ariel Flach	Flute	Sophia Tegart
Honorable mention	Trudi Frost	Flute	Sophia Tegart
Oregon Young Artist Performance Piano - 3 entries			
Winner	Jiyoun Oh	Piano	Julia Lee
Alternate	Camille Balleza	Piano	Irene Peery-Fox
Honorable mention	Saelin Ho	Piano	Julia Lee
Oregon Young Artist Performance String - 1 entry			
Representative	Kathryn Brunhaver	Cello	Steven Pologe



State News *Sonata & Sonatina Festival at U of O*

Sandy Hull, NCTM
OMTA Sonata & Sonatina
Festival Chair



The 2014 OMTA Sonata & Sonatina Festival took place on Saturday, October 25 at the University of Oregon School of Music and Dance in Eugene, Oregon. There were 68 students representing 26 piano studios including Eugene, Linn-Benton, Salem, Roseburg, Portland and Tualatin Valley Districts.

Thanks to Fern McArthur, we had a very impressive group of judges including Drs. Ingrid Keller, Olga Aynvarg, Alexander Schwarzkopf, all from Eugene and Alexander Tutunov, from Southern Oregon University in Ashland. These judges were so generous and kind to our students, while choosing the top winners in all 10 levels to perform in the Honors Recital. Following the 2:30 Honors Recital, the students and parents enjoyed a beautiful reception celebrating the day.

I would especially like to thank our own OMTA State President, Cindy Peterson-Peart, our Education (Festival) Chair, Alice Lyle, and Marti Csonka for helping with registration for the day. It was so nice to see our leaders rolling up their sleeves to do this very important job. I had unbelievable help throughout the day with room monitors and local chapter members assisting students to find where they needed to be.

We also had a “movie room” available for students and families to hang out while they waited for the afternoon Honors Recital. Thanks to Ellen McQuilkin, movie room monitor, Nobuko LeBeau, super assistant for the day, and Elenye Ghenatos-German for programs.

Congratulations to all students and teachers for making this event a success! Hope to see you next year. 



Winners in the 2014 OMTA Sonata & Sonatina Festival at U of O.



State News *Sonata & Sonatina Festival Results — 2014*



Level 1

First:

Tucker Thompson, 10
Teacher: Marjorie Connet, Roseburg

Second:

Allen Boice, 11
Teacher: Marjorie Connet, Roseburg

Honorable Mention:

Alden Boice, 13
Teacher: Marjorie Connet, Roseburg

Level 2

First:

Matthew Tiffany, 8
Teacher: Dorothy Grace Bernhard,
Salem

Second:

Cadence Hopkins, 8
Teacher: Ellen McQuilkin, Eugene

Honorable Mention:

Benjamin Boice, 9
Teacher: Marjorie Connet, Roseburg

Nathan Chen, 8
Teacher: Elena Istratova, Portland

Susannah Morgan, 15
Teacher: Mimi Mak, Tigard

Level 3

First:

Hinako Jindai, 8
Teacher: Momoko Muramatsu, Portland

Second:

Richard Chen, 7
Teacher: Sunghee Kim, Corvallis

Honorable Mention:

Priscilla Tam, 8
Teacher: Sandy Hull, Eugene

Samantha Martinez, 14
Teacher: Marjorie Connet, Roseburg

Barry Rockholt, 16
Teacher: Marti Magnussen, Roseburg

Level 4

First:

Faith Gouge, 8
Teacher: Elena Istratova, Portland

Second:

Emily Zhang, 9
Teacher: Elena Istratova, Portland

Honorable Mention:

Daniel Zhang, 10
Teacher: Seong Nahm, Corvallis

Jalen Wang, 8
Teacher: Olga Aynvarg, Eugene

Level 5

First:

Elayna Lockwood, 11
Teacher: Nobuko LeBeau, Eugene

Second:

Emma Tiffany, 11
Teacher: Dorothy Grace Bernhard,
Salem

Honorable Mention:

Henry Sturges, 9
Teacher: Anne Young, Lake Oswego

Claudio Chung, 9
Teacher: Mimi Mak, Tigard

Level 6

First:

Janet Zhang, 10
Teacher: Elena Istratova, Portland

Second:

Lillian Wu, 12
Teacher: Seong Nahm, Corvallis





Honorable Mention:

Laura Zhou, 11
Teacher: Olga Aynvarg, Eugene

Jacob Mathison, 10
Teacher: Stella Meinzer, Corvallis

Kate Vu, 10
Teacher: Lucy Clevenger, Eugene

Level 7

First:

Yeha Seol, 13
Teacher: Seong Nahm, Corvallis

Second:

Joanne Wang, 12
Teacher: Olga Aynvarg, Eugene

Honorable Mention:

Calvin Stewart, 13
Teacher: Melissa Thieme, Eugene

Andrew Bong, 11
Teacher: Crystal Zimmerman, Salem

Level 8

First:

Nathan Liu, 14
Teacher: Seong Nahm, Corvallis

Second:

Alyssa Zhang, 12
Teacher: Elena Istratova, Portland

Honorable Mention:

Owen Smiley, 10
Teacher: Ron Fabbro, Portland

Sarina Grant, 13
Teacher: Kazue Suzuki, Salem

Lauren Varney, 17
Teacher: Lena Nikulin, Vancouver

Level 9

First:

Meiling Larson, 9
Teacher: Dorothy Grace Bernhard,
Salem

Second:

Anabel Chang, 14
Teacher: Sunghee Kim, Corvallis

Honorable Mention:

Tiffany Huang, 12
Teacher: Lucy Clevenger, Eugene

Kenny Park, 14
Teacher: Elena Istratova, Portland

Level 10

First:

Claire Ku, 11
Teacher: Monica Ohuchi, Tualatin

Second:

Polina Verkhovedova, 13
Teacher: Elena Istratova, Portland

Honorable Mention:

Vicki Chang, 13
Teacher: Sunghee Kim, Corvallis

Tessa Thurston, 18
Teacher: Irena Ivanitsky, Salem



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!*

Tualatin Valley District Events

Friday, December 12

9:15 am Business Meeting and Annual Holiday Brunch

Location: Home of Fran Geer, Sherwood

All are welcome.

Friday, January 9

9:15 am Business Meeting

10 am – Noon Jennifer Wright presents “Muse Whispering: Presentation on Composition”

Location: Tigard United Methodist Church, 9845 SW Walnut Place, Tigard

All are welcome.

Friday, February 13

9:15 am Business Meeting

10 – 11:30 am Dr. Susan Chan presents her “East-West Encounter with Modern Chinese Piano Music”

Location: Tigard United Methodist Church, 9845 SW Walnut Place, Tigard

All are welcome.

PIANO PORTRAITS



Julie Thomas Photography offers photography sessions for teachers and performers to update their piano portraits. She offers a 20-minute session and the purchase of a resulting 8-10 final edited and enhanced full-resolution images for a total price of \$99.00. She also offers access to a professional print lab through her website for printing enlargements, business cards, and other promotional products. Check out her website at www.juliethomasphotography.com or email her at julie@juliethomasphotography.com.

District News *Blue Mountain*

Liz Cooper



Snow Couldn't Stop Our Music

In the aftermath of the season's first big snowstorm, Blue Mountain District held their District Choice Festival on Saturday, November 15 at the United Methodist Church in La Grande. We had chosen the Classic and Romantic periods as our

focus. After several weather-related cancellations, fifteen students from four teachers participated. We all enjoyed the fine music on a cold afternoon. In addition to our pianists, we had one flute and two voice performances. 🎵



Blue Mountain's District Choice Festival at United Methodist Church in La Grande.



Helen Jones, NCTM



Students' Choice and Sons of Bach in Central Oregon

Our first student event of the year, Student's Choice, was held November 8 at Community Presbyterian Church in Redmond. Co-chairs Jean Shrader and Jill Geil organized three recitals featuring 55 students from nine OMTA teachers. In addition to piano solos there were piano, guitar and violin ensembles.

Our November 14 meeting and program featuring Victoria Drozdova was cancelled due to snow. Victoria's program, sponsored by the Nellie Tholen Endowment, will be re-scheduled in 2015.

Our December 12 meeting and program includes a program by Margaret Littlehales, NCTM— "Sons of Bach, celebrating CPE Bach's 300th Birthday," Christmas music by our members and our traditional holiday pot luck.

Happy Holidays to all of you and best wishes for 2015 from Central Oregon District!



Jean Shrader and Jill Geil at Students' Choice.



Students' Choice Festival in Central Oregon



Mary Burck



Guthrie and Jenks Endowments Now Providing Two \$2,000 Scholarships

In 2015 the Linn-Benton Chapter of OMTA will partner with the Benton Community Foundation, as it has for 19 years, to offer scholarships to student musicians graduating from high schools in Linn, Benton, and Lincoln Counties. Students (from those counties) studying music in an institution of higher learning may also apply. This year, the Benton Community Foundation is offering two \$2,000 scholarships by combining distributions from the Loene Guthrie and Dorothy Jenks Endowed Scholarship Funds. Criteria for the two scholarships are identical.

These scholarships must be used for post high school education leading to a musical career in teaching and/or performance.

Scholarship recipients will be determined on the basis of auditions and interviews with professional musicians.

Applications must be postmarked by April 1, 2015, with auditions to be held in Corvallis on Saturday, April 18.

Questions?

Contact Mary Ann Guenther:

mguenther@comcast.com

or call

541-752-4798

For additional information, please go to the Benton Community Foundation's website: www.bcfgives.org/music. 



District News *Tualatin Valley*

Carma Glausi
President-Elect



Tualatin Valley's Festival of Ribbons and Ensemble Festival at Tigard United Methodist Church



Boys Duet in the Chapel.



Soloist performing in the Social Room.



Quartet playing in the Chapel.

Festivals and Festivities in Tualatin Valley

Ensembles and Ribbons

On Saturday, November 1 we held our annual Festival of Ribbons and Ensemble Festivals at Tigard United Methodist Church. Approximately 290 students performed in this event, representing 26 teachers. Two-thirds of the entries were solos, and one-third were ensembles. To accommodate all these wonderful performers three performance rooms ran simultaneously, with three beautiful rented grands from Classic Pianos.

Our adjudicators were Molly Wheeler, Ruth Ann Yerden and Dr. Crystal Zimmerman provided valuable, expert feedback for each student. All took home a colorful ribbon, a certificate, and their adjudicator's written comments. Our teachers volunteered throughout the day to keep things running smoothly. It was a great success! Winners from the Ensemble Festival went on to perform in the State Ensemble Recital, held on November 15 at Western Oregon University in Monmouth, Oregon.

Fall Syllabus

The second weekend in November, we held Fall Syllabus Exams. Participating in this event were 20 teachers, 72 students, 4 adjudicators and 7 hosts, with 56 hours of adjudication.

Winter Programs

On December 12 we have our festive annual holiday brunch hosted by Fran Greer.

On January 9, 2015, following our business meeting Jennifer Wright will bring her presentation on composition titled "Muse Whispering" from 10 am – Noon, at Tigard United Methodist Church.

And on February 13, after our business meeting, Susan Chan will present her "East-West Encounter with Modern Chinese Piano Music," from 10 am – 11:30 am, also at TUMC. All are welcome to attend these presentations.

Bach and Sonatas

More performance opportunities for our students are coming soon after the holidays. Our Junior Bach Festival will be January 31 at Portland Piano Company, and our

Sonatina Gallery will take place February 28th at TUMC. More information may be found on our TV-OMTA website at www.tvomta.org.

Teachers' Playing Class

Also on our TV-OMTA website, you can see the schedule for our monthly playing class. As described in the website: "Playing Class encourages all of us to keep practicing, performing and becoming acquainted with new teaching methods and materials. In addition, this venue provides an opportunity for teachers to strengthen personal and professional ties. The Playing Class provides a nurturing environment in achieving these goals. Our focus includes sharing information, appreciating teacher efforts and recognizing that each teacher has special gifts and insights to offer. This class also brings music to the surrounding areas through community service recitals." The playing class has a different theme each month, and we usually have anywhere from 4 to 14 participants. Join us anytime. 

Warm wishes for a memorable holiday season!



At the Tualatin Valley District's Festival of Ribbons, Sherrene Walker's student was so excited and proud to see the district's banner that she insisted her mom take a picture of her with it!





Submit Articles in *Music News*

Please send articles and accompanying graphics in TIFF, EPS, JPEG or PDF format to Laura Davis via e-mail: lauradavis47@gmail.com. MS Word attachments are best.

Advertise in *Music News*

Please send ads and accompanying graphics in TIFF, EPS, JPEG or PDF format to Caris or Robin Power: office@oregonmta.org

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

Larger ads at a proportional cost.
(Contact the office 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

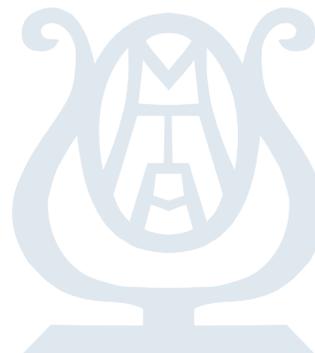
The link below connects you to your local District Associations, OMTA Board of Directors and Committee Chairs:

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





Music News

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

Upcoming Music News copy DEADLINES:

December 15, 2014

January 15, 2015

February 15, 2015

