

OMTA Music News

Opus 68

March 2014

No. 7



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Oregon OMTA Sends Our Congratulations to the Waller Trio and violinist Kiarra Saito-Beckman representing Oregon AND the Northwest at the National MTNA Conference in Chicago!

Waller Piano Trio to Compete at the National MTNA Conference in March

Willamette University's Waller Piano Trio is Oregon's first chamber music group to compete at the Music Teachers National Association's national conference.

The trio — consisting of violinist Chloe Prendergast '14, cellist Jason Pegis '16 and pianist Sherry Liang '16 — is leaving in March for Chicago, where six other district champions will vie for the national title in Chamber Music String.

The Waller Piano Trio won the state championship in November and the NW division title in January. Music professor Jason Duckles coaches the students (along with Jean-David Coen).

"Each member brings their strengths to the ensemble to create a powerful and rich sonority," Duckles says. "They are a thrill to work with, and the music department is extremely proud of them."

Prendergast says she is excited by the victory, which came as a surprise.

"We weren't expecting it to happen," she says. "We're thrilled. It was really nice to get some affirmation that what we're doing is working."

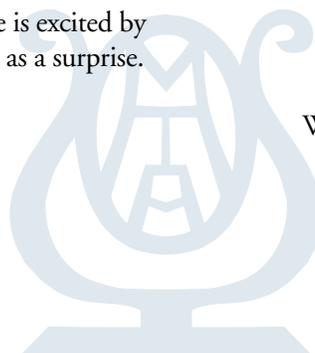
A judge evaluated the performers based on technique, individual musicality and group communication. Two other state champions, from Washington and Wyoming, also competed at the regional level.

"It was personal for me, to show that a private, liberal arts school could compete," Pegis says. "We have a lot of work to do now, but I'm pretty excited about it."

Liang says the group has gone into each competition with a positive attitude and a determination to enjoy the experience.

"We all have the same level of commitment to the trio, which is very important," she says. "We all like to take risks to make the music come alive."

— Erin Dahl
Willamette University PR

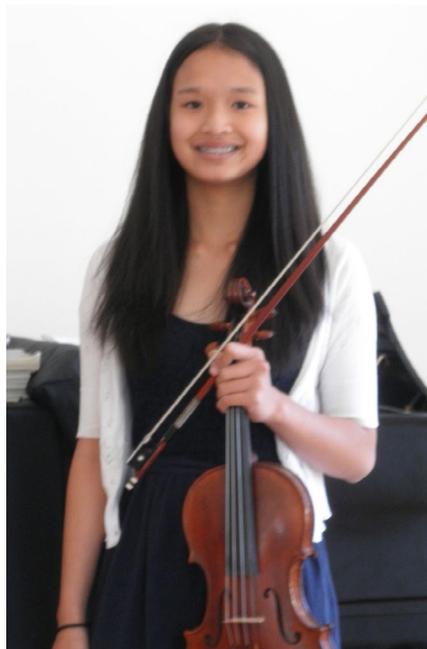


Kiarra Saito-Beckman Wins Junior Violin

Natalie Gunn
Music News Editor



The daughter of Central Oregon OMTA member, Jan Saito, is a lucky girl. But more than luck, it is hard work and an inspirational team of mentors that has influenced this talented 15 year old. Kiarra studies violin with her teacher in Eugene, Kathryn Lucktenberg, as well as a teacher in Dallas, Texas, Jan Mark Sloman, via Skype.



Kiarra Saito-Beckman



Waller Trio

I asked her about her favorite experiences from previous festivals and competitions.

"I'd have to say that the highlight of my musical career so far was being a winner of the Van Buren Concerto Competition in Portland, upon which I was given the opportunity to be a guest soloist with members of the Oregon Symphony and the Oregon Ballet Theatre Orchestra, under the direction of Niel DePonte."

In the weeks leading up to a competition, Kiarra develops a day to day plan for preparing her music.

"I will say to myself, 'Okay, by tomorrow I want to have these passages polished.' By planning precise goals, it is easier on me emotionally."

Kiarra offers this advice for other young musicians who aspire to compete and perform at a high level:

"Practice carefully, and a lot. That's really what it gets down to in the end, how much work you have put in, and how much time you have spent on all the little details. It is easy enough to play what is on a sheet of music, but it is something entirely different to turn those notes on the page into music."

I asked what she is looking forward to most about her trip to the MNTA conference.

"I'm looking forward to seeing family and friends, gaining experience from the competition, and sightseeing around Chicago!"

We are so proud of Kiarra and the Waller Trio members, and will be thinking of them during their time representing Oregon and the Northwest at the upcoming National Conference. 



President's Corner



Dr. Bonnie Esbensen
President, OMTA



In Recognition of Extraordinary Teachers

There are many, many excellent music teachers in Oregon, and that's a good thing.

However, it is worth noting that even in a select group such as OMTA, there are a few extraordinary teachers who stand out. They are groundbreaking, they are inspirational, and their influence is widespread.

I am pleased to tell you that we can now officially recognize these exceptional teachers with the newly created Nellie Tholen *Excellence in Teaching Award*.

Nellie Tholen was a renowned teacher whose contributions to the music community and whose ideas about the philosophy

and nature of teaching continue to influence a great deal of what we do in OMTA today. If she were still alive, she undoubtedly would have been the first recipient of this award. Instead, the best we can do is name the award after her.

I know you will agree that it is fitting for an organization, whose purpose is to advance music education, to honor those who make significant contributions to the art of teaching.

Details of this award can be found on the next page.

All the best,

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

Dr. Bonnie Esbensen
President, OMTA





GUIDELINES

1. Any OMTA person or OMTA district may make a nomination for this teaching award. The nomination may be for an individual or a couple. The nominee(s) may teach any instrument.
2. Each nominee must be a member in good standing of OMTA, must have resided in Oregon for the past five years, and must be currently teaching or recently retired.
3. The nominee(s) need not hold a university degree or be certified by MTNA. (However, see item 4C below.)
4. The nominating person or district must supply a maximum of four letters of recommendation. One letter should be from a student of the nominee(s), and one should be from a colleague. If more than four letters are submitted, only the first four received will be considered. Submissions may be made either by USPS or e-mail.
5. The person nominated shall not be told of the nomination. However, after selection is completed, the award recipient may be told of the award to ensure attendance at the OMTA Conference banquet where the award will be announced.
6. The state Honors Committee will bring the name of the nominee to the Board of Directors for approval.
7. This award is not required to be granted every year, but rather will be made at the discretion of the Board of Directors with the recommendations of the Honors Committee.
8. Contact the Honors Committee Chair, Susan Todd, NCTM, for submission deadlines or for more information.

Here are suggestions for details that might be included in the nomination:

- A. Achievement of the students of the nominee(s) as shown by participation in Syllabus, entrance in competitions, performance in studio and/or public recitals, OMTA events, Guild or Federation auditions, etc.
- B. Service to OMTA at the state level and/or district level, and service to the community.

C. Commitment to continuing education, such as working toward a degree or toward national certification, attending or presenting workshops, etc.

D. Evidence of innovative teaching techniques.

Writers of recommendations should be encouraged to be thorough in their comments. In particular, they should articulate what is unique or notable about the nominee's teaching skills or teaching career.



State News *Membership*

Liz Willis, NCTM
State Membership Chair



Our membership to date is 605 members. Although January was a quiet month for applications, there are new member applications “in the pipeline” but not yet completed.

Much progress has been made on developing a new online application that combines both the MTNA application with the OMTA application. This new form will hopefully provide the convenience of

paying dues online, and will be a definite improvement in our current process. Many thanks to Bonnie Esbensen for her expertise and effort on this big project!

In addition, a committee has been formed to review the existing routes for Provisional Members to obtain Active Membership. 



State News *OMTA Member Highlight — Hildegard Mauer*

Pat Daly

President of Rogue Valley OMTA



Hildegard Mauer from Rogue Valley District

Hildegard Mauer is the oldest active member of the Rogue Valley chapter of OMTA. We like to think that she actually heard Clara Schumann in concert but apparently that's not the case. Hildegard was born in Germany in a town near Hanover in 1922. Her father was in the submarine corps but he moved to Milwaukee, Wisconsin in 1925, bringing Hildegard and the family with him after he started work. Hildegard was 3 and half years old. Incidentally, she remembers Milwaukee as half German and half Polish. She went to Pulaski High School.

Hildegard enjoyed a musical upbringing. Her dad was in a men's choir — the director of which was in the Metropolitan Opera Company. Her extended family was close-knit with aunts, uncles and cousins frequently in her company. One of her cousins played piano and another, the violin. Their music-making charmed her and she wanted to be a musician herself — she felt music was in her. She also remembers a gentleman who came over to the house and played zither as her parents sang. While some of the songs were doubtless merry, she remembers only an abundance of sad songs and she would go to sleep crying at their music. Undaunted at the doleful music, she wanted to take piano lessons herself and did so at fifty cents

a lesson. She says her first teacher, sadly, wasn't good. When pressed as to why, she responded that her teacher would only take students to a certain level and then would pass the students on to another teacher. She remembers that in elementary school, music was offered in the classroom — taught on cardboard keyboards! She confesses she can't see how anyone could learn music on a cardboard instrument.

She started teaching piano herself at age 18 on instruments with real keys. One of her happiest experiences of teaching is the continued correspondence with her very first student who still lives in northern Wisconsin. Her first three students all accompanied the church choir. Each minister had his own song leader; all three were Hildegard's students. Hildegard continued teaching after her move to the Los Angeles area. She taught once a week in San Fernando and then moved to Oregon (Grants Pass) in 2000, teaching piano all the time. When asked what kept her at it, she replied, "Patience!" At 92, she says she is not open to any more students but she does teach one elderly woman. She has one task with the Rogue Valley chapter that she is steadfast to perform — that of collecting donations for our annual scholarship performance in Grants Pass. The picture here is of Hildegard manning (personning?) her table in front of the auditorium.

Hildegard hasn't any interest in computers and is even new to television. Her daughter bought her one 2 years ago. She does love to read and faithfully attends each concert given by the Rogue Valley Symphony Orchestra. She is a good piano player! All of us enjoy her playing at our final meeting of the year. She says she has a "short stack" of pieces she likes to play — this even after suffering a stroke 2 years ago. When asked if she had if she had any advice to students or teachers from all her years of teaching, she reverted back to her earlier maxim, "Patience!" At 92, she is well-qualified to live that virtue. 



State News *Congratulations to Kathy Gault!*



Kathy Gault NCTM, Central Oregon District, has been awarded a \$500 scholarship grant from the NAMM Foundation and National Piano Federation to attend the Pedagogy Saturday RMM (Recreational Music Making) track at the MTNA national conference in Chicago, March 22, 2014. The scholarship money is to be used for travel, lodging, MTNA membership and registration fees, learning materials and other costs associated with attending this event.

Originally sparked by research indicating the mental, physiological and psychological health benefits of playing music, RMM is a teaching philosophy that aims to enable people who have never before considered themselves 'musical' to discover the joy and wellness benefits of playing a musical instrument. This goal is achieved by providing a non-stressful learning environment, focusing on student goals rather than teacher goals, openness to 'volunteer-only' solo playing, flexible curriculum and class pacing, with a special emphasis on group learning and adult beginners.

Scholarship awardees agree to develop an RMM program for their independent studio or community in partnership with local piano retailer, music school, senior center or other appropriate venue, to submit quarterly updates about their program through 2014–2015, and to work in partnership with NPF to collect video testimonials from RMM teachers and their students including data on students' ages and progress, curricula information and instrument sales and/or rentals resulting from their RMM classes. 



State News *OMTA Conference News*

Cindy Peterson-Peart, NCTM
2014 Conference Chair



I'm thrilled to announce that we've received a Nellie Tholen grant from the Oregon Community Foundation for our upcoming OMTA Conference. These funds will allow OMTA to once again offer housing rebates to many OMTA teachers. Details about the housing rebate will be included with the registration information coming soon. In addition to the housing rebates, we will be giving a \$200 travel grant to each district to help send a member or members who've never attended an OMTA State Conference. Details about the travel grant funds will be available through your District President.

In last year's conference evaluations, many of you asked for more information on technology, on technique, and on chamber music and working with non-keyboard students. I'm happy to report that all three topics will be features of this year's conference. Please check the OMTA website for a more complete description of conference activities.

When reading the conference evaluations last year, we found that many members feel it's often difficult to spend three nights at the conference location, due to time or financial constraints. In an attempt to make it easier for more members to attend, this year's

conference will run from Friday, August 8th at 1:00 p.m. to Sunday, August 10th at 3:30 p.m. (Board and Committee meetings will be scheduled for Thursday afternoon, August 7th and Friday morning, August 8th). This year, for those who live within a few hours' drive from Newport, it will be possible to spend just two nights in the hotel instead of three. The catered lunches, included in the registration fee, were a big hit last year, so we'll offer them again for 2014. We hope this will make for a more relaxed lunch break as well as a great time to meet new friends and reconnect with current ones.

Finally, we're pleased to announce that our Friday evening social gathering will be an after-hours private tour at the Oregon Aquarium, including a dessert buffet and no-host bar. This fun outing, along with the opportunity to get the conference hotel rate for additional nights before or after the conference, should make for a great time in Newport for our members and their families.

So mark your calendars for August 8-10, 2014 and plan to learn, collaborate, network, connect, recharge and just generally have a wonderful time at the beach.

See you there!! 

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State News *OMTA Scholarship Auditions*

Susan Todd, NCTM
Assistant Treasurer

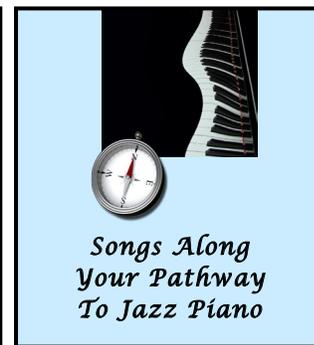
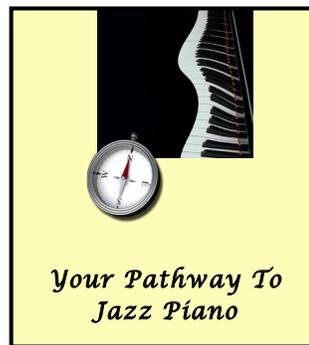


What student wouldn't benefit from a scholarship award? The annual OMTA Scholarship Auditions are set for May 10 and 11, 2014, at Portland Piano Company, 711 SW 14th Avenue, Portland. Though the event is set in Portland, the auditions are open to students across the state. Kelli Stephens and Paula Watt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



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

by Gary Ruppert
Available at **Amazon.com**
\$14.95 each





Student musicians who will graduate in 2014 from high schools in Linn, Benton or Lincoln Counties, or who graduated from high schools in those counties and are already enrolled in college music programs, are invited to apply for scholarships, both of which may provide \$750 or more. The scholarships are offered through Linn-Benton OMTA. The Loene P. Guthrie Award will go to a young person intending

to study for a music teaching career. The Dorothy May Jenks award will be awarded to a student who intends to teach and/or prepare for a performing career.

Deadline for applications is April 7th, with auditions to be held in Corvallis on Saturday, April 19, 2014. For further information, call or write Shirley Byrne 541-757-8695 or e-mail sandjbyrne@comcast.net.

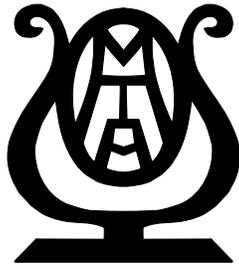
TROPHY REMINDER



Reward you students with OMTA Participation Trophies. You will find guidelines and the order form on the website Marketplace. Also, please refer to the article about these trophies in the February *Music News*.



Anne D. Young, DM
Finance Chair, OMTA



I love the logo of Oregon Music Teachers Association. The lyre harkens to Orpheus, the legendary musician and poet who could charm

even stones with his songs. The elliptical O, which is a unifying closed shape filled in with letters M, T and A create a kind of hieroglyphic that interestingly represents our community and specific space, in this case our state.

Coming from Ancient Greek, our herald has manifested dividends that cover the centuries from then until now: Monteverdi's opera *L'orfeo* (1607) is the earliest surviving opera still performed; Gluck's *Orfeo ed Euridice* (1762) is the first of his reform operas with its intention of "noble simplicity" and still performed; the twentieth century brought forth poems from remarkable bards as Rainer Maria Rilke's *Sonnets to Orpheus* (1925) for she was aroused to full hearing only when Orpheus sang, a deluge of sonnets; Jean Cocteau's film *Orpheus* (1946); and, the film's consequent inspiration by Philip Glass in his opera *Orphée* (1993) performed by the Portland Opera

Company in its first ever recording done in 2010 and is, in structure, a re-creation of Cocteau's film.

Orpheus might be likened to the pied piper leading the children through the steps of time, generation upon generation, the sense of time that our children are so open-hearted to with this bankable creativity and thrilling longevity. They should know the stories of our myths, some do. For our children, we quicken and convey their tools, not only theory and technique, but soul and heart, that lead them into their paths of life and art. Their paths we do not truly know, but may fathom in the depth of this great intuition that is truly the domain of the teacher. Together we are this wonderful sense of music and time. I love the logo of Oregon Music Teachers Association.

Warmest regards to all, Anne

Anne D. Young, DM,
Finance Chair, OMTA
16510 SW Kimball Street
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Beverly Serra-Brooks,
DMA & NCTM
IMTF Chair



What is IMTF all about? The independent music teacher's forum is all about YOU and issues important to your profession: studio business, technology & 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 will focus on various topics important to members, including advocacy and networking empowerment. Having an active forum connects us to a larger community even though day to day we may work individually.

Do you want to know more about recording and uploading videos, or have you wondered about receiving payment on your smart phone? And, during the recent snow days we've had around Oregon, have you thought about e-learning or distance learning using Skype, Face Time or other online connections to continue lessons? Want to quickly try an easy app (short for application used on mobile devices) to use with students, or need ideas on getting started using apps in an actual lesson? Would you like your students to have a computer lab component, but don't have room?

All of these things are changing the way independent music instructors teach music and run their studios, and many instructors have been quite successful mixing tried and true teaching methods with select apps for skills reinforcement, theory and music history. So, this month we'll discuss apps in the studio.

Good music and developing piano skills are always the core of every lesson.

But recently I had an interaction with a young 12 year old student that got me to thinking. She came to the lesson all pepped up, wanting to know "if I had a good piano skills app" and she excitedly related to me how she had gotten a music app in band that day at school. I was so glad to have one for her and it might be just me, but I felt I was creating excitement in her piano lessons in just those few minutes by meeting her in her world. It also made me feel I was really current and she came back the next week having practiced more because she wanted to use her "new music app!"

Teachers often incorporate apps into the beginning of a lesson for about 3-5 minutes, then request the student acquire the app and assign levels to master as homework. Parents also have fun "play learning," and apps can be utilized as an incentive challenge within the studio.

There are as many apps as teaching styles so without recommending one over another, here are a few popular app links to explore priced from \$0.99 to \$3.99.¹

- Flash Class is a customizable note reading/key signature app from iTunes for iPhone / iPod Touch
<http://www.musicflashclass.com>
- Flash Note Derby is designed for Android from Amazon or Google
<http://tinyurl.com/lhlp9xf>
- Note Squish
<http://tinyurl.com/nyaybew>²

(Continued on next page)



- A really new one for sight-reading is this free app designed by Peabody Conservatory faculty for improving sight-reading.
<http://tinyurl.com/my5h7w8>

Look for more on apps and technology at the 2014 State Conference IMTF panel and demonstration session; Using Technology in the Studio, tentatively scheduled for August 8th, 5:30 p.m., with a pre-order box dinner.

¹ "Apps For Teaching" by Leila Viss. *Clavier Companion* pg. 74, Jan/Feb 2014 issue

² OMTA member Patti Bauman Widener said she uses the Note Squish app, and Kathy Gault mentioned Leila Viss as an excellent resource for studio apps

Please drop me an e-mail anytime about topics or activities you would like to see addressed.

Happy Teaching!

Beverly Serra-Brooks, DMA & NCTM
IMTF Chair

dr.beverlysb@earthlink.net



or call me, I'm in the OMTA directory.



Grace Goudy Distinguished Artists Series presents

Elizabeth Schumann, piano

Thursday, April 10th, 2014. 7:30 pm.

Hudson Hall, Rogers Music Center, Willamette University

www.willamette.edu/arts/goudyartistseries



Pianist Elizabeth Schumann has a diverse career portfolio of projects, recordings, and performances which have brought her all over the world as recitalist, chamber musician, and concerto soloist. The Washington Post Magazine noted her playing as “deft, relentless, and devastatingly good—the sort of performance you experience not so much with your ears as your solar plexus.”

The first place winner of both the Bösendorfer International Piano Competition and the Pacific International Piano Competition, Elizabeth has won over 25 prizes and awards in other major national and international competitions, including the Cleveland International Piano Competition and the Hilton Head International Piano Competition. Elizabeth was honored with the prestigious Gilmore Young Artists Award, and was highlighted in a PBS Television documentary on the Gilmore Festival. She has performed solo recitals and chamber music concerts worldwide, in such venues as the Kennedy Center, Vienna’s Bösendorfer Saal, Toronto’s Koerner Hall, and Montreal’s Place des Arts.

Passionate about creating public access to the arts, Elizabeth founded Piano Theatre, an artist group formed to engage audiences with innovative combination of classical music, theatre, literature, art and technology. She has also created Piano Carnival, to introduce free classical music to children in areas without arts education, and Project Classical to support artist-led initiatives in public education.

Irresistibly drawn to contemporary music and with the help of the Gilmore International keyboard Festival, the Colburn School, and the Australia council, Elizabeth commissioned the composer Carl Vine to write the piano sonata which will appear on the recital. Encountering a brilliant new work conceived with a new language is one of the most exciting experiences one can have in the concert hall, and this amazing composer's manipulation of rhythm, harmony and structure is truly revelatory. Elizabeth writes of this work: "Vine creates his unique drama by contrasting elegant melodies with intensely compelling rhythmic structures. His rich polyphonic language blankets multiple ostinatos, causing time to move in 2 speeds at once. Vine's piano work is extremely accessible to both the performer and audience. It achieves its bewitching and brilliant sound worlds in his unique language of resonance."

The recital also includes both landmark Beethoven op 27 Sonata “Fantasias”, and from the stunningly difficult and descriptive Liszt Venezia e Napoli set, "Gondoliera", “Canzone” and "Tarantella". Please join us to experience a truly fabulous program filled with the greatest of the known and the most exciting of the new!!

www.elizabethschumann.com

MASTER CLASS FOR PIANISTS — free and open to the public
Friday, April 11, 1-3 p.m., Hudson Hall

CONCERT TICKETS — general admission seating

Adults \$23 Students w/ID \$8 Willamette student w/ID \$5 Willamette faculty/staff w/ID \$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



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!*

Sunday, March 2

Jr. Bach Festival (Final Event)

First Congregational Church, 4515 SW West Hills Road, Corvallis

Chair: Lucy Clevenger, *more details on state website*

Friday, March 7

10:00 am

Salem District *presents*

President Bonnie Esbensen, *Cognitive Aspects of Learning to Read Music*

First Presbyterian Church, 770 Chemeketa Street NE, Salem

Friday, March 14

10:00 am

Tualatin Valley District *presents their Teachers' Recital*

Tigard United Methodist Church, 9845 SW Walnut Place

Saturday, March 15

10:45 am

Klamath Basin District *presents*

Mariann Slavkovsky leading a Teacher's Workshop: *Teaching Today's Average Student*

For more information: Tammy Belau, (541) 281-6857 or tammybelau@gmail.com

Sunday, March 16

3:00 pm

Linn-Benton District *presents*

Bach and Sons, a multi-media presentation of the lives, times & music of Bach

by Dr. Jeannine Jordan & Co.

Good Samaritan Episcopal Church, 35th and Harrison Street, Corvallis

For more information: Mary Ann Guenther, (541) 752-4798

March 22–26

Music Teachers National Association Conference

Marriott Chicago Downtown, Chicago, Illinois

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



Elizabeth Cooper



As the snow continued to fall for the second straight day without stopping, February 8 found us at Eastern Oregon University for our annual Baroque Festival. The stage was decorated with portraits of all of the composers represented in the recital. At the conclusion of the event, participants got to choose a picture of their composer to take home.

In addition to the keyboard pieces, we also enjoyed music for flute and for voice from two of our adult students. Lanetta Paul's flute student, Roberta Emery, performed the Adagio from G. F. Handel's *Sonata in B minor*, accompanied by Lanetta. Jan Miller's student, Hannah Voetberg, soprano, sang Handel's "Where

E'er You Walk," accompanied by Jan. Prior to singing, she performed Jean-Francois Dandrieu's *Les Fifres* on the piano.

While this might not seem at all remarkable, you need to know that Hannah is blind. She is an inspiration to all who see and hear her perform. Jan guides her up the steps and over to the piano. Once seated, she plays confidently. When she moves into position to sing she is truly in her element. I wanted to try to capture the joy I see on Hannah's face when she is singing, but not being a photographer, I found it difficult.

Meanwhile, we are all working to prepare our students for Spring Syllabus. We hope the snow will be gone by April. 



District News *Central Oregon*

Helen Jones, NCTM



We were hoping to report that our Classical-Era Festival February 8 was a great success with 55 students participating from 11 teachers. Morning Master Classes (small groups of 5–8 students) were scheduled in two private studios and adjudicated by Janice Jubin and Michael Gesme. The afternoon would include three public recitals featuring all students, as well as historic dance demonstrations by dancers in period costume complete with wigs. Then came the “big snow” February 7 and the event had to be rescheduled to February 22.



One week later on Valentine’s Day, Central Oregon district met for our regular meeting. Program chairman Judy Kamperman assembled several teachers within the membership to share some of their “Bag of Tricks.” So many great ideas were shared among the teachers. 



District News *Klamath Basin*

Tammy Belau



Klamath Basin OMTA chapter is excited to announce our upcoming workshop, funded by a Nellie Tholen Grant. We will be hosting Mariann Slavkovsky from Bend as she leads a Teacher's Workshop titled "Teaching Today's Average Student."

Our workshop will be Saturday, March 15 at 10:45 a.m. and we welcome all music teachers from all Districts if you happen to be close by to join us.

For more information please contact Tammy Belau at (541) 281-6857 or tammybelau@gmail.com.

This December our OMTA chapter was an official part of the Annual Snowflake Festival. We held a Classical Christmas Recital with donations accepted to raise money for the Ross Ragland Classical Series Youth Scholarship Fund. With over 50 students participating, we welcomed the Holidays with festive music from students ranging from beginning to advanced, young to old, seasoned performers and first-time

ivory tinklers! The concert took place over three hours and though we had chairs for over 100, the room was full at all times with some guests having to stand.

We are not only invited back for the next year, but we raised over \$200 for the Classical Series Scholarships.

Klamath Basin OMTA is proud to be a sponsor of the Ross Ragland Classical Series as well, with our next featured guests, the Chamber Kremlin Orchestra, performing Saturday March 8. Students are welcome to attend a pre-concert lecture and through the scholarship fund are allowed to attend the performance at no charge.

Both in our community as well as in our private studios we continue to strive for excellence and to encourage appreciation of arts in new generations. We are also eagerly preparing for the upcoming Syllabus Adjudications which will be taking place in early May for our chapter! 



District News *Tualatin Valley*

Carma Glausi
Tualatin Valley District
President-Elect



Greetings from the Tualatin Valley OMTA! We were treated to an exciting and informative “Teacher Show and Tell” on February 14, following our regular monthly business meeting. As I’m sure most of you would agree, often we get our most useful teaching tips from our colleagues in our own OMTA districts. What a wealth of knowledge and experience we are privileged to learn as we associate with each other at our meetings, festivals and various events!

At our Teacher Show and Tell, ten of our teachers shared a variety of tips on improving teaching and business practices. Several teachers gave us fresh ideas on teaching and reinforcing the memorizing of note names. Drawing from the Peter Mack presentation that our district hosted last October, one teacher shared how she now uses Peter Mack’s idea of keeping track of students’ playing pieces “five times in a row” by sliding the beads on an abacus. Simple and fun idea! One teacher showed us how she delights her students with teaching them new rhythm patterns by clapping out authentic American Indian Drum Beats. Fascinating! Another teacher shared specifically how she teaches conducting patterns to her students to help deepen their understanding of rhythm. One of our new members had us come up to the front of the room and participate in movement and dance as she played on the piano, to demonstrate teaching techniques in Eurhythmics. She gave us many examples from the book *The Rhythm Inside: Connecting Body, Mind and Spirit Through Music*, by Julia Schnebly-Black and Stephen F. Moore. We were eager to hear more! Another teacher shared how she simply and effectively introduces the use of the metronome to her students. Another shared how she uses very small toy animals placed on the keys of the keyboard to help teach beginner students about the keys they will play in the

piece they are learning. She also shared how she uses the back of a giant Twister sheet (from the game Twister), with the grand staff drawn on it with strips of blue tape, to teach new students the notes on the grand staff. She makes her own four inch notes out of two layers of cardboard, cut and glued together and beautifully painted! What fun for those students! One of our teachers showed us her studio binder that she keeps up to date, and which helps keep her very organized! She also showed us her file box of titles of pieces, organized according to categories. The lists goes on and on, but to briefly summarize, we also heard about an intriguing musical iPad app, the use of “Game Day” to give variety to the regular weekly lessons, the clear teaching of compound meter and simple meter, the teaching of Baroque polyphonic texture through the playing of simple rounds, races and contests to help motivate students, useful record sheets to keep in students’ binders, and much, much more! We were showered with innovative, inspiring ideas!

Coming up in our March 14 meeting we will be privileged to hear and participate in our wonderful Teachers’ Recital. In our April 11 meeting we will be most excited to hear a lecture and performance by the internationally celebrated Craig Padilla, musician, film score composer, actor, and video producer. His lecture is entitled “Electronics & Music—The Magic of Synthesizers.” Craig Padilla is “an ambient musician creating melodious electronic structures for the heart and soul.” We are in for a treat! Please join us for these free events, 10 a.m., held at our usual location: Tigard United Methodist Church, 9845 SW Walnut Place.

We continue to grow in numbers. This past month we had one new member, Joseph Forster, join our Tualatin Valley District. We now have 66 members. 





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.

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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):
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Publication dates and deadlines are listed below.
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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

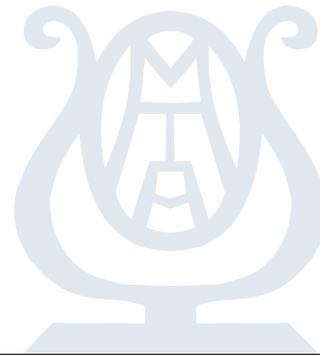
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Music News

Edited by:

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Published by:

Oregon Music Teachers Association, Inc.

Affiliated with:

Music Teachers National Association, Inc.

Graphic Design by:

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Upcoming Music News copy DEADLINES:

March 15, 2014

April 15, 2014

May 15, 2014

