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Sing a Song of Syllabus

As we head into Fall Syllabus I know students, teachers and adjudicators are looking forward to seeing the results of hard work and practice realized!

I want to encourage both students and teachers to consider the many options when preparing for Syllabus. While the Evaluation is a wonderful choice for some students, the Audition can be a creative and rewarding experience as well.

Consider the Creative Audition

Consider the creative audition, where the only requirement is “student choice.” Use this as a goal to work toward and create a program: composer focus, genre focus, student composition, a mixed program of prepared and improvised works. The ideas are limitless! If you have questions, please feel free to contact me at syllabus@oregonmta.org.

—Suzanne Savaria, NCTM
OMTA Syllabus Chair



President's Corner



I recently returned from Cincinnati where I attended the annual MTNA Leadership Summit. What an honor to represent Oregon and its members. It was a busy weekend full of informative sessions and meetings as well as the opportunity to meet with other state leaders. In accordance with the FTC agreement, we were given a training session in antitrust compliance. The Antitrust Compliance Guide can be found on the OMTA website and is full of helpful information as we all try to navigate the waters of the FTC regulations. Further highlights included sessions on membership, certification, MTNA's strategic plan, financial reports and, perhaps best of all, MTNA CEO Gary Ingle taking the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge, video of which is posted on the MTNA Facebook page.

Throughout the weekend I was also reminded of the benefits of membership in MTNA and OMTA. The more tangible benefits offered through our professional affiliation include the member discounts found on the MTNA website, our wonderful Syllabus and Festival programs, and the fabulous opportunities for continued growth and education at both the state and national levels. We also enjoy special intangible benefits, including members who truly care about each other and the world we live in. The collegial support is evident at the national level just as much as it is in our own home state, and I consider myself so lucky to be working in this profession.

In one interesting session the presidents met in groups of states with a similar size membership. Oregon is in the group that has the second largest number of members in MTNA (600–800) including Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Michigan, Ohio, and Utah. It's fascinating to see how we're all facing the same challenges of recruiting and retaining members despite our geographic and population differences. We all agreed that MTNA thrives because of personal connections. How many of us joined



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OMTA because someone personally invited us? I hope that each of you will take it upon yourselves to talk to someone about the benefits of OMTA membership. Whether it's a friend, a colleague, or a former student who's majoring in music, they have so much to gain from OMTA membership and we have so much to gain from their involvement. We also face the challenge of retaining members. If new members don't feel welcome and included, they won't remain members for long. Please join me in reaching out and helping someone become personally involved this year. Together, we can really make a difference.

Cindy Peterson-Peart, NCTM
President, OMTA



State News *Calling All History Buffs: OMTA Needs You!*

Cindy Peterson-Peart, NCTM
President, OMTA



Do you love all things historical? Are you fascinated by the rich history of OMTA? If so, the perfect volunteer opportunity awaits! As we prepare to celebrate our 100th birthday, we need a new volunteer—or team of volunteers—to take over as OMTA Historian. The Historian—or committee—will take over the OMTA archives and *decide what best to do with this treasure trove of OMTA history*. Actually, you'd be our OMTA curator.

Many items could probably be donated to the Oregon Historical Society, and perhaps much other material could be digitally stored.

Kathy Gault, our conference chair for 2015/2016, wants to feature some of our historic material at the next two conferences, as we celebrate 100 years of OMTA. (In 1915 Oregon created a committee to form the organization, but it wasn't official until 1916 when the first president was elected.)

If you're interested in this opportunity, or in being part of a team of "OMTA history buffs", please let me know. And please be sure to thank Joan Gathercoal for her many years of dedication to this position.

Thank you,
Cindy



State News *Derthick Club Scholarships*

Susan Schilke



The Derthick Club, formed in 1900, is the oldest music club west of the Mississippi River. The Club was organized by Oregon City women interested in studying printed music appreciation lectures, which were distributed throughout the United States by Wilbur M. Derthick, of Freedom, Ohio.

Later, guest artists were invited to provide the programs, the format until it disbanded in 2014. For many years the club donated records of classical music to the Oregon City Public Library. It also began a scholarship competition for high school seniors in Clackamas County.

When the club sadly disbanded, it was decided that half of its remaining funds

should provide two OMTA performance-based, one-time scholarships (preferably to students from Clackamas County). One of these would be for instrumentalists, including organists but not pianists. (There are more scholarships available to pianists.) The other would be for voice students. Derthick Club members have always encouraged the musical development of young people, and we appreciate all that OMTA does to help and foster young musicians.

The Derthick Club is donating its remaining funds to the Portland Youth Philharmonic for need-based scholarships. (Several of our members played in the orchestra many years ago!)



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State News *Edith Strange Scholarship*

Cathy Thoma



And the Gift Goes On ...

What does one do when an organization decides to close its doors and there is a positive balance in the treasury? Where does that money go? Who makes the decision of where to gift it? Those are the very questions that Opus XII, a Portland recital club that opened its doors in the 1970s, found itself asking.

Due to numerous circumstances, the Opus XII membership realized it was time to close the last chapter on a good book and move on. After discussing what organization might be worthy to bequeath their financial balance to, one that would make an impact for musicians in the Portland area, they decided that OMTA's *Edith Strange Scholarship* would be just the place.

Why the Edith Strange Scholarship? Two of Opus XII's members, Jean Nilsen and her daughter Cathy Thoma, have long had connections with Ms. Strange. It was during Ms. Strange's tenure as the head of the piano department at Western Washington College that Jean Nilsen began her

studies as a young student. She studied with Ms. Strange through her college years. Years later, both Jean and Ms. Strange found themselves in Portland where they continued their friendship and love of music. Ms. Strange was an advocate for music in the Portland area, forging friendships with former OMTA members, among them Nellie Tholen and Aurora Underwood, who many of us remember.

As the years passed, Ms. Strange frequented many occasions in the Nilsen's home, becoming, in essence, a part of their family. When she passed away in the 1970s, her brothers formed a scholarship in her name, offered through OMTA. Because of her connections to members in OMTA and Opus XII as well, the current membership felt that this would be a wonderful place to donate its remaining financial balance. In this way they are able to honor Ms. Strange's memory and further their goal of enhancing musical education in the Portland area. 



State News *Certification: Value and Validation*

Wilma Hawkins
OMTA Certification Chair



The beginning of my certification journey was strongly influenced by a speaker at an OMTA Conference, who described the process as a coalescing of your philosophies, goals and strategies for teaching. Although he had taught many years, he felt reinvigorated by the certification process. As MTNA states in the Certification Overview, “*Certification ... validates an individual’s qualifications.*”

Validation of your credentials defines you as a “professional,” both to the music community and to the parents/students inquiring about lessons. Education and experience are commonly used to justify lesson rates. Certification is another level of affirmation—it demonstrates what you know and are able to do.

Certification also demonstrates your commitment to continuing education and continued excellence in professional practice. This commitment elevates the image of both the professional and the association. It is to our benefit to educate potential students/parents on the value of qualifications.

A quote from Lucinda Lear in the American Music Teacher summarizes the value of certification. “*Our profession may not rise or fall on the strength of the MTNA Professional Certification program, but to gain an equal footing with other professional wage earners, it certainly gives us a step up from the image we currently hold.*”

Please contact me with your questions regarding certification. My email address is: wishpiano@gmail.com. 



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State News

2015 State Conference: Expertise and Inspiration on the Mountain

Kathy Gault, NCTM
2015 Conference Chair



From the beach to the mountains we go! After our sunny excursion to Newport for the 2014 OMTA state conference in August, we will be shifting our sights to the snowy peaks of the Oregon Cascades. The 2015 OMTA State Conference will be held at the lovely Resort at the Mountain, at the base of Mt. Hood in Welches, Oregon. Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the founding of OMTA in 2015/2016, our conference theme will be “Looking Back, Moving Forward—OMTA’s First 100 Years.” We hope to educate and inspire our members with a bit of history, to reaffirm the traditional teaching values that led to the formation of OMTA, and to expand offerings from recent conferences on technology, creativity and 21st century pedagogy.

Our keynote speaker and main presenter will be Dr. Peter Jutras, Editor-in-Chief of *Clavier Companion* magazine. Pete has published articles and research in music and educational journals, conducted extensive research on adult music study, and is a frequent presenter at conferences across the country and the world. His thoughtful editorials in each issue of *Clavier Companion* are frequently the first page readers turn to. He is a keen observer of the changing pedagogical scene, from the challenges of rapidly changing technology, to the finest teaching traditions in the US and abroad.

Plans are also underway for some special presentations in observance of our 100th anniversary. Stay tuned. 



2015 OMTA State Conference

June 19–21

Resort at the Mountain
Welches, OR

Committees & small group
meetings June 18



State News

2015 State Conference: New Rebate Plans and Scholarships

Kathy Gault, NCTM
2015 Conference Chair



In our October *Music News*, Cindy Peterson-Peart described the fabulous new grant that OMTA received from the OCF (Oregon Community Foundation). In addition to the expanded benefits to members throughout the state on a monthly and yearly basis, I thought you might be interested to learn a little more about how these grants impact our state conferences.

Each year's conference is a slightly different balancing act between income and expenses, depending on the dates, the type of location, and the venue. What I would like to draw your attention to here is the importance of that OCF grant in allowing us to keep costs down for members attending the conference, while continuing to bring in the kind of top-notch, national- and international-level presenters we have had in recent years. In order to do that, we would like to reduce the percentage spent on housing rebates and are asking for our members' help.

This past year, the OCF grant paid for 43 percent of the conference expenses, but 77 percent of the money went to room rebates. One of Nellie Tholen's original intentions for her financial gift (the Nellie Tholen Teacher Improvement Fund of the OCF) was to help defray conference costs for members who otherwise wouldn't be able to attend. As attendance has increased through the years since then, the number of members requesting the rebates

has grown. And perhaps not realizing the financial constraints we are facing due to rebate costs, some members for whom conference costs are not actually critical may be requesting them as a matter of course, not realizing the original intention was meant to be more limited.

As a first step towards freeing up more of the grant money to help teachers attend, the Executive Committee has voted to adjust the structure of the room rebates slightly. As before, teachers may request up to 50 percent of the cost of a shared room. There will also be a new option for teachers who only need a little help (25 percent of the cost of a shared room). And of course a third option has always been available: to pay the full price of a shared or single room. Remember, no matter what portion of the cost you pay, it is all tax-deductible!

As before, registration fees are waived for college music students, and the travel grants for first-time conference attendees will be available again this year. New this year: **free conference registration for new members, in their first year of membership!**

All in all, these changes mean simply that members have the option to ask for a little less help, if they can afford to shoulder more of the housing cost, and we are offering free registration to bring new members to their first conference. We hope this will be a win-win for members and for OMTA! 



District News *Blue Mountain*

Liz Cooper



Blue Mountain Makes Beautiful Music

Blue Mountain District hosted Mariann Slavkovsky for our annual Fall Workshop at the home of Lanetta Paul. Mariann began by challenging us to think about our teaching philosophies by reading many statements

and questions, and allowing us time to reflect. She worked to make us feel special about what we do. It was great to share ideas, pose problems, and look at doing things in a different way. 🍷



Fall Workshop in Blue Mountain District: (left to right) Hannah Violette, Mio Aoike, Matt Cooper, Jan Miller, Erin Stauffer, Dona Schmitt, Lanetta Paul gathering in Lanetta's kitchen during lunch break.



Mariann Slavkovsky



Helen Jones, NCTM



Awesome Autumn in Central Oregon

Our members enjoyed an informative program on October 10 at the studio of Jean Shrader. Jill Hickenlooper, NCTM presented “Why I Can’t Teach Without Syllabus!” We have nineteen students from four teachers participating in fall Syllabus evaluations.

The first student event of the year, Student’s Choice Recital, will take place November 8 at Redmond Community Presbyterian Church. Jean Shrader and Jill Geil are co-chairs. Fifty-five students will participate by playing anything they choose—with their teacher’s approval!

Our small discussion group called “88 Keys” began October 24 with a discussion on studio planning. Crystal Cheney started this group last year because many members felt there wasn’t enough time at our regular meetings to talk informally about various teaching topics. We will meet five times during the school year.

“I am never going to use this music book, but I don’t know what to do with it.” We held a music garage sale at the home of Kathy Gault. Members brought music they could no longer use, but that was in good shape. Music was priced very reasonably, or donated. Proceeds benefit Central Oregon MTA programs. 



District News *Tualatin Valley*

Carma Glausi
President-Elect



Composing, Arranging and Improvising—Oh My!

At our Friday, October 10th meeting, we had the wonderful privilege of hearing Forrest Kinney present his “Secrets to Musical Creativity.” Over 100 people attended, many of whom were young students attending with teachers and family. In his lecture, Mr. Kinney illuminated the “Four Arts of Music”: interpreting, improvising, arranging and composing, and gave us examples of each. Inviting young musicians from the audience to come up to the piano and play with him, Forrest demonstrated both the simplicity with which teachers may invite their own students to join with them in improvising, and also the excitement the students can feel when they are encouraged to create their own music at the piano. A very entertaining and informative class!

After the audience members had the chance to talk with Mr. Kinney and thank him for his beautiful performance and lecture/workshop, students and families enjoyed a variety of cookies and treats as they were leaving. Teachers who stayed for the afternoon class shared a delicious lunch of soup and salad. Homemade soups were generously provided by President Sherene Walker, and salads and desserts were provided potluck-style by other members of TV-OMTA. Mr. Kinney stayed and had lunch with us as well.



A trio of young volunteers creates new music at the piano, inspired by Forrest Kinney’s spontaneous suggestions of musical ideas.

In the afternoon, Mr. Kinney gave a 3-hour intensive class to any teachers who wished to attend. This class focused on his six *Pattern Play books*, and how teachers can use the patterns in the books to help spark their students’ imaginations at the piano. He emphasized that teachers may use the books not only as fertile ground for improvisation to flourish, but also as a way to teach theory and technique in endlessly interesting, musical ways. The following day nine teachers had the opportunity to learn from Mr. Kinney again in the piano lab at George Fox University, where he presented his all-day intensive class on Chord Play and the art of arranging. What a wealth of information and inspiration from a master teacher and performer!

Talent Overflows in Tualatin Valley

On November 1st, we will hold our Tualatin Valley OMTA Festival of Ribbons and District Ensemble Festival. Twenty-six of our teachers are represented, as 293 students will perform in both solo and ensemble classes during this all-day event at Tigard United Methodist Church. An exciting day for all involved: students, families, teachers and adjudicators! All students will go home with a colorful ribbon and certificate, along with a judge’s written comments. Winners from the Ensemble Festival will perform at the State Ensemble Recitals, held November 15. Good luck to all of our talented and creative students! 



Forrest Kinney invites a student to come up from the audience and improvise with him at the piano.





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1/4 column ads (and articles about events which require an admission fee or tuition):
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Submitting material before deadlines is always helpful and appreciated.

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Apr	Mar 15	Nov	Oct 15
May	Apr 15	Dec	Nov 15

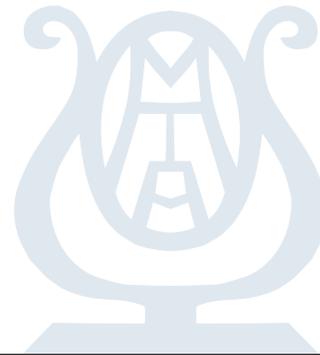
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Upcoming Music News copy DEADLINES:

November 15, 2014

December 15, 2014

January 15, 2015

