Syllabus: A Showcase in Creativity

Have you seen recent articles about the drop in piano sales? Almost weekly in this country another piano store closes. Far too often we hear about how the arts are playing a smaller and smaller role in young people’s lives. What can we do to change that?

We work in a creative art and this is a beautiful chance to practice our creativity. Your students will have a goal to work toward, ownership of their learning, feedback from an adjudicator, and freedom to explore what is most meaningful to them about piano.

You can develop any kind of program you would like and share it with an adjudicator.

Our Syllabus program is an inspirational, educational, meaningful experience for many students across the state. Right now we see the greatest number of students enrolling in Classical Piano Syllabus Evaluations.

I’d like to broaden that view. As many of us gear up for Spring Syllabus, keep in mind the many options available.

Creative Auditions give you and your student choice. You can develop any kind of program you would like and share it with an adjudicator. It can involve composition, improvisation, music of choice, composer and/or genre focuses. You can demonstrate all, some or no musicianship skills as listed in the syllabus curriculum. The word “choice” means exactly that—you choose what you want prepare.

Creative auditions should be looked at and treated with equal value. If we hope to continue to inspire a broader range of students, we have to expand our ideas as well.

In the spirit of broadening (and I don’t mean continued indulgence in Christmas cookies) I am working with many teachers across the state to update the Syllabus curriculum for Jazz Piano, Strings, Voice, Guitar and Flute. Thanks to the many teachers who are working to make the content relevant and worthy of OMTA standards. As these programs become available on Leggiero, I hope to see more teachers across the state enrolling their students!

Suzanne Savaria
Syllabus Co-Chair
Support for Students in Need

On a related note, I’d like to take the opportunity to highlight one of OMTA’s wonderful programs, MusicLink. Oregon currently has 23 teachers and 41 students in the MusicLink program, which provides assistance to music students who have financial need and might otherwise be unable to pursue their love of music. MusicLink provides funds for entry fees and the purchase of music, as well as scholarships for continuing education and music camps. MusicLink teachers provide lessons for free or at a greatly reduced rate for these students. Emily Brother, winner of the MTNA NW Division Competition in Senior Piano, is one such student. Without the help and support she and her family have received through MusicLink, Emily would not have been able to achieve the level of excellence she demonstrated at both the State and NW Division competitions.

Please consider getting involved in this wonderful, worthwhile program, especially if you’re already providing tuition scholarships to any of your students. For more information, you can visit the MusicLink page on the OMTA website at: https://oregonmta.org/programs/musiclink or contact Eileen Knox at: eileenknox@me.com.

If you’d prefer, you can make a donation to MusicLink by sending a check to: Eileen Knox 3734 NW 144th Place Portland, Oregon 97229.

Applauding Oregon’s Outstanding Young Musicians

I am constantly astounded and humbled by the level of student talent in Oregon. On a recent weekend in Boise, helping with the MTNA NW Division competition, I was privileged to hear many winners from our six NW Division states—Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming and Alaska—as they competed to go on to the MTNA National competition in Las Vegas. For those of you who may be unfamiliar with the MTNA competition, students compete in three divisions (Junior, Senior, and Young Artist) in several categories including piano, piano duet, voice, strings, woodwind, brass, string chamber music, woodwind chamber music, and composition.

Oregon had students competing in Junior Piano, Senior Piano, Young Artist Piano, Junior Strings, Senior Strings, Young Artist Strings, Junior Woodwinds and Senior Woodwinds. I’m very proud to tell you that the chosen winners in Junior Piano, Senior Piano, Senior Strings and Young Artist Strings were Oregon students, who will go on to compete at the National Conference in Las Vegas in March. Congratulations to Nathan Kim, student of Renato Fabbro (Junior Piano), Emily Brother, student of Dorothy Fahlman (Senior Piano), Kiarra Saito-Beckman, student of Kathryn Lucktenberg (Senior Strings) and Kathryn Brunhaver, student of Steven Pologe (Young Artist Strings). If you’re planning to attend the conference in Las Vegas, please make time to hear these marvelous students and to give them Oregon’s support.

Cindy Peterson-Peart, NCTM
President, OMTA
New Year’s Resolution: Your Path to NCTM
Since you have all been successfully working on your New Year’s Resolutions for the past month, it is time to add one more: make 2015 the year to begin your path to National Certification. Getting started is very easy. Please visit www.mtnacertification.org and view the columns on the left where you will see such topics as “Overview.” At the end of the list is “Certification Handbook.”

At the bottom of the first page, find the information enclosed in a box frame that will take you to the same content a little more directly. Select “Teacher Certification Projects,” and you will find specific projects listed for your instrument.

So this month, just make the small commitment of:

1. Visiting the www.mtnacertification.org website
2. Reading the overview
3. Downloading the “Certification Handbook” and
4. Affirm your interest by e-mailing me at wishpiano@gmail.com.

That way I can check in with you occasionally.

Good luck on all your New Year’s Resolutions. I hope it will be a healthy year physically, mentally and musically.

Wilma Hawkins
‘The Road Ahead’ Leads to the Mountain

In the midst of winter, it may be hard to imagine that summer will ever come, but we teachers know that we are already heading into the crazy, busy time that is springtime in the music studio. I hope you are looking forward to a nice rest and recharge at our 2015 state conference in June. We have a wonderful lineup for you, with something for everyone.

The conference will be held at The Resort at the Mountain in Welches, Oregon, June 19–21. It is a great family-friendly facility at the foot of Mt. Hood, located about 45 miles east of Portland, with all kinds of fun activities for teachers and families.

Our keynote speaker will be Dr. Peter Jutras, Editor-in-Chief of Clavier Companion magazine. He will be presenting sessions on ‘The Road Ahead,’ teaching adult beginners, and using the psychology of game play to engage students and improve our teaching. In addition we are fortunate to have Dr. Alexander Tutunov as our conference artist. He will bring his special gifts as performer to our Saturday evening recital, and will present additional sessions as well. More on these and our other presenters next month.

More detailed information about the conference, as well as registration information, will be coming in Spring, but I hope you will mark your calendars and set aside the weekend of June 19–21 for an exciting, enriching and fun conference in the heart of the Oregon Cascades. Remember that the entire trip is tax-deductible, and that we have some new and ongoing financial assistance to help with travel and conference costs.
The history continues as the great-grandchildren of Captain and Maria von Trapp take up the family tradition anew. Meet Sofi, Melanie, Amanda, and August von Trapp, four siblings that, for the last twelve years, have been singing on stages around the world to critical acclaim and packed houses. The von Trapps made their Carnegie Hall debut in December 2012 with Pink Martini. The Album titled.

Dream a Little Dream is a collaborative studio album released by Heinz Records on March 4, 2014 and is the first major international release by the von Trapps.
With 2015 now well underway, our event schedule continues! The Jr. Bach Festival just finished and its winners’ recital is in Corvallis on February 28. The year is filled with a myriad of tasks ahead.

Jill Timmons’ presentation for those strategizing collegiate plans for their students, and to assist parents in this delicate process, brought words of insight and wisdom. Her lecture on January 13 regarding this process, and her suggested cogent points of the essential timeline, were comprehensive, dynamic, and clear.

For the high school senior, a profound “daily planner” was suggested to carry them from their projected outline: choose ten schools; narrow to five for applications; prepare audition repertoire; and finally, stepping onto campus with scholarships and sources of financial aid and advocacy in place to support their collegiate success.

Seniors grow to understand that one’s separate life is clearly at hand. What a powerful image: stepping into the future.

Juniors found insightful instruction on “how to achieve what you want, and want what you achieve.” Determining where one would like to attend college should begin as early as possible, to facilitate a more successful investment for everyone involved, in this important and exciting life transition.

What struck this listener most is that times are a changin.’ No surprise. “We have entered a new transition marked by the final triumph of the market and its values … the professional is giving way to the entrepreneur, or, more precisely, the self-employed (that sneaky oxymoron), entrepreneurial self. While this is sold to us as an opportunity, it is by and large a necessity. The budget squeeze is in the percentage of adjunct professors, employees that are independent contractors (or unpaid interns), with downsizing and outsourcing the catch words of the day. When works of art become commodities and nothing else, when every endeavor becomes ‘creative’ and everybody ‘a creative,’ then art sinks back to craft and artists back to artisans … ‘Art’ itself may disappear. Art as Art, that old high thing—unless, like me, you think we need a vessel for our inner life—is nothing much to mourn.” *

The words of Dr. Deresiewicz refer to much that is outer form. I have a firm belief in the powerful spirit of humanity. We cannot predict the way change will look to the generations that follow us. It is phenomenal to be grateful for the present and all the small miracles we see each day in our students.

Best wishes for a particularly thoughtful and sweet February and Valentine’s Day!

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E-mail: aypiano@comcast.net

Continuing our 19-year tradition, in 2015 the Linn-Benton Chapter of OMTA will partner with the Benton Community Foundation to offer scholarships to student musicians graduating from Linn, Benton, or Lincoln County high schools. Students from these counties studying music in an institution of higher learning may also apply. This year, the Benton Community Foundation can offer 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 website: www.bcfgives.org/music.

PAUL ROBERTS at Reed College

Debussy, Ravel and Mompou
A presentation in music and words by Paul Roberts
Wednesday, February 25, 2015  7:30 pm
Kaul Auditorium
3203 SE Woodstock Blvd.
Portland, Oregon
Tickets available on-line at brownpapertickets.com
Adults: $30  Students: $15;
free to Reed students, faculty, and staff with current Reed ID

It has been said of Catalan composer Federico Mompou (1893-1987) that ‘small is beautiful, smaller more beautiful, and smallest most beautiful.’ In this presentation Paul Roberts introduces and performs a selection of Mompou’s poignant miniatures alongside celebrated piano works of his (and Mompou’s) favored Debussy and Ravel. The program will include Ravel’s Pavane, Debussy’s Preludes and Etudes and Mompou’s Música Callada, Impresiones Intimas, and Canciones y danzas.

Reed College Master Class
Performing Arts Building
Friday, February 27, 2015  4:00 pm
Free and open to the public

Sponsored by REED COLLEGE
For full information on Paul Roberts in Portland, go to paulrobertspiano.com
State News  Membership

Liz Willis, NCTM
Membership Chair

Membership Update
We are delighted to announce two new members to the Portland District this month. Welcome!

Portland District
Neil Mattson
Albert Palmeter

State News  Student Ensembles Shine at State

Pamela Miller
State Ensemble Chairman

On November 15 Dr. Diane Baxter hosted the 2014 State Ensemble Recitals at Western Oregon University in Monmouth. Six recitals showcased 129 students, who all received medals. Participating districts were Eugene, Lincoln County, Linn-Benton, Mid-Columbia, Portland, Salem, Tualatin Valley and Umatilla-Morrow.

Our next State Ensemble Recitals will again be at WOU on Saturday, November 21, 2015. Two beautiful grand pianos on stage in the auditorium, and many practice rooms available for warming up before the recitals, create a welcoming experience. We hope all OMTA districts can plan their events and participate next fall. Start planning some exciting ensembles now!

We invite you to explore the premier educational institution of music and dance in the Pacific Northwest. The University of Oregon offers a large full-time, in-residence music faculty, modern rehearsal and performance venues, and forty performing ensembles.

to visit
music.uoregon.edu
SOMDAmit@uoregon.edu
541-346-5268

EO/AA/ADA institution committed to cultural diversity.
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 OMTA – Upcoming District Events
Events all located at Tigard United Methodist Church, 9845 SW Walnut Place, Tigard. All are welcome.

Friday, February 13
10:00 am  *Muse Whispering: Teaching Techniques that Make Composition Possible for Every Student,* presented by Jennifer Wright

Friday, March 13
10:00 am  *TV-OMTA Teacher Recital*

Friday, April 10
10:00 am  *Rare Masterpieces of Domenico Scarlatti,* by Dr. Claire Wachter

Grace Goudy Distinguished Artists Series

**Anderson & Roe**  
*PIANO DUO*

*Wednesday, April 1*  
7:30 p.m.  
Mary Stuart Rogers Music Center  
Hudson Hall  
Master Class: March 31  
7–9 p.m., Hudson Hall  
Free and open to the public.

**Ethos Percussion Group**

*Friday, April 17*  
8 p.m.  
Mary Stuart Rogers Music Center  
Hudson Hall  
Master Class: April 16  
11 a.m.–1 p.m., Hudson Hall  
Free and open to the public.

*“Believe all the hype: Greg Anderson and Elizabeth Joy Roe … are electric.”*  
Bachtrack

*“… the most dynamic duo of this generation”*  
San Francisco Classical Voice

*“… remarkably disciplined and cohesive … spellbinding … Ethos had the audience up and cheering”*  
The Washington Post

*“… played with expert togetherness, sensitivity and zest”*  
The New York Times

[willamette.edu/arts/goudyartistseries](http://willamette.edu/arts/goudyartistseries)  
503-370-6255 • Willamette University, Salem

**CONCERT TICKETS**  
absolutelytix.com  
Travel Salem  
181 High St. NE  
503-581-4325

Season tickets (2 concerts) $40  
Single tickets $23  
Students with ID $8  
Willamette students $5  
Willamette faculty/staff $18
Members of Blue Mountain District were saddened to learn of the death of long-time member Joanne Price NCTM on December 28, 2014, at the age of 87 in Corvallis. She had suffered a stroke earlier this fall. On Christmas Eve she fell and broke her hip.

When Blue Mountain District was organized in 1977, Joanne Price was the first member to serve as vice-president of the fledgling group. Over the next three decades, Joanne was a faithful member, serving in all of the district offices and chairing most of our festivals at one time or another. As District President, she served on the state board for four years (1980–82 and 1992–94). Joanne received her state certification in 1980 and her national certification in 1991. She was an adjudicator for OMTA for several years.

Joanne grew up in Puyallup, Washington. She won a scholarship to study piano with a teacher in New York, where she spent four years working as a nanny and taking lessons. When she returned to the west, she attended the University of Washington, where she met her future husband. After raising five children on their ranch near La Grande, she returned to Eastern Oregon University and completed her Bachelor’s degree. She then attended the University of Oregon where she studied with Dean Kramer, and attained her Master’s degree.

For several summers Joanne ran a piano camp at her country home beneath Mount Emily. Among the students attending her camp was a promising young musician from Hermiston. Kelly Kuo, now living in Cleveland, is currently the Artistic Director of the Eugene-based Oregon Mozart Players.

Joanne performed piano concertos multiple times with the Grande Ronde Symphony, as well as many duo-piano performances and Chamber Music Concerts in the La Grande area. She loved to perform and the piano was her life. Her students remember her as a marvelous teacher and person, and kept in touch with her all her life. She will be missed.
After a nice long holiday break, our members turned out in record numbers for our first meeting and program of the year. Our own Jean Shrader gave an informative and delightful program entitled “Modes, Modes, Modes.” She played many interesting examples of pieces written in modes. One of her students, Michelle Ortman, also performed. Members brought and played pieces based on modes.

Student Art Adorns Festival Day in Bend

Our Impressionistic/Contemporary Festival is February 7th at Nativity Lutheran Church, Bend. Co-chairmen Helen Jones and Holly Wright have scheduled recitals at 11:00 a.m. & 12:30 p.m., featuring 43 students from 10 teachers. In addition, students have submitted original 2D and 3D music-related artwork to be displayed before and between recitals. The program cover is 14-year-old contest winner Bridget Roe’s drawing entitled “Contemporary Ensemble.”

Continuing our contemporary theme, our brand new Central Oregon District OMTA T-shirts (included in the festival fee) will be worn by the festival performers. We are always looking for ways to make our organization more visible to the public. One is our new T-shirts, which we hope students will wear around town. We also created an eye-catching color design incorporating our logo for a 2’ x 2’ A-frame sign and a 2’ x 6’ banner to display at our local events.
Greetings from your Eugene District colleagues! We haven’t checked in for awhile, so we have some catching up to do.

Our District enjoyed a very busy fall season with an emphasis on composition. Alexis Gibbons, Ellen McQuilkin and Paul Safar presented a panel addressing teaching composition in the studio. We were then treated to “Contemporary Piano Composition in Eugene” with performances and comments by composers Neil Patton and Rebecca Oswald.

In December our students shared music with the community at our fund raising Play-a-thon at the local Barnes and Noble Bookstore. This is always a fun and festive event for them and an opportunity to perform in an informal setting.

On January 12 our members enjoyed a much-anticipated program. Claire Wächter presented videos from The Virtual Piano Pedagogue (VPP) series. The Oregon Community Foundation has donated significant funding for the development of this lecture-performance video series, and Claire has been working on creating them for some time now. Our members viewed several YouTube videos from “The Art of the Phrase” and “The Essence of Chopin.” Claire announced that a third video, “The Genius of Domenico Scarlatti,” has been completed and is currently in post-production. These videos will be available on the VPP website (www.pianomastercourse.com) by April 15, 2015 and are free for all OMTA members.

On Monday, February 9 we will welcome Dr. Joy Song of Seoul, Korea as she speaks to us about “Sonatina Secrets.” All are welcome to join us. For place and time, please visit our website:

www.omta-eugene.org

and check out our new Facebook page at:

www.facebook.com/omtaeugene?
We’ve had a great year so far. In September Gary Ruppert presented his topic: Improvising and Playing from Lead Sheets. The prospect of making music off the top of one’s head is much less fearsome than you’d think.

Our Webmaster, Dr. David Servias, is doing a wonderful job of keeping our website updated and easy to use. Teachers are listed by geographic location, and prospective students can easily see our specialties and contact us. Thanks to David our district is also on Facebook!

In October, Jakki Moses (front row, right), a Music Specialist at Lincoln Elementary in Corvallis, shared tips on Inspiring Today’s Child, Grades 1–5. Asking questions, being relatable, and teaching kids from what they know were some of the strategies she proposed. Jakki’s enthusiasm is contagious; we’re certain her students feel fortunate to have her as a teacher.

Thanks to funding provided by the Nellie Tholen Grant, Stella Meinzer will be offering a course in the spring, Creating a Fine Pianist From the Beginning. It will consist of four 2-hour sessions focusing on Suzuki philosophy and practice in the teaching of young children and parents.
District News  Salem

Georgene Distad

Kinesthetics, Rhythms, and Collegiate Mentoring

Our October meeting featured a workshop presented by Dr. Anita King on the Alexander Technique. Since 1997, King has been immersed in the field of kinesthetic re-education as it relates to musicians’ health. King has been a certified teaching member of Alexander Technique International since 2003 and for 15 years has been integrating the work of Dorothy Taubman, which provides movement re-education for pianists.

In December we enjoyed a Christmas Luncheon together in a local restaurant.

Our Jr. Bach Festival is coming up on February 7, and our Chairmen, Pamela Miller and Crystal Zimmerman, are working hard on it.

An exciting development is the brand new collegiate chapter of OMTA started by Crystal at Willamette University, with fourteen new members! Their president Audrey Kaltenbach is pictured below, with our president Deborah Butler at our January meeting.

In January, Esther Fields and Deborah Butler shared a demonstration of Rhythm Cups, Rhythm Menagerie and Rhythm Manipulations. We found it to be fun and worthwhile.

Julia Leonard, Donna Hilfiker and Lora Halferty

Deborah Butler, Salem President and Audrey Kaltenbach, Collegiate President

Lynne Hall, Lorna Walker and Linda Greer
Joy overflowed in our January 9 business meeting, as we discussed the exciting news announced last month: our district has been selected as the 2015 MTNA Local Association of the Year. TV-OMTA will be given this award at the MTNA National Conference in Las Vegas in March. We will indeed be very honored to accept this award! Thank you, OMTA and MTNA, for your continued support!

Following our business meeting, we were treated to a beautiful multi-media presentation by Dr. Susan Chan, where she focused on selected piano pieces by three contemporary Chinese composers: Alexina Louie, Tan Dun, and Zhang Zhao. Dr. Chan performed 12 pieces. We followed along with the score projected onto the large screen, simultaneously viewing pictures of beautiful Chinese artwork and Chinese culture, which corresponded to the character and title of the piece. How enriching to have the visual image shown before us on the screen, to enhance our understanding and connection to the piece. We were grateful to be exposed to such new and engaging Chinese piano music, and to learn more about the diverse lives of the three selected composers. With Dr. Chan’s demonstration and detailed information, we can now order the music and begin the journey of teaching some of these pieces to our students, having had a foretaste of the beauty and scope of the music.

Our Junior Bach event just took place on January 31 at Portland Piano Company. Susan Marandas and co-chair Heidi Evans organized and hosted 21 teachers and 67 students who performed Baroque pieces for our two adjudicators, Lisa Marsh and Linda Barker. Thank you to all who helped out!

On February 13 Jennifer Wright will present Muse Whispering: Teaching Techniques that Make Composition Possible for Every Student. Join us for some new and creative composition ideas to share with your students. You will not want to miss this! Please see “Upcoming District Events” in this newsletter for a detailed list of more exciting TV-OMTA events coming up soon.

On February 28th our second annual Sonatina Gallery will take place at Tigard United Methodist Church, chaired by Gayle Bland. Students will perform one movement of a Sonatina or Sonata, from any period of music for an appreciative audience of teachers, friends and family. This is a non-adjudicated event.
### 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

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

[www.oregonmta.org/contact/](http://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:

February 15, 2015
March 15, 2015
April 15, 2015