

OMTA Music News

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November 2015

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OMTA District Projects Grant Programs

Coming Your Way: Invaluable Professional Development

by Susan Todd, NCTM

All OMTA members and non-member teachers are welcome to attend!

Tuesday, November 17
10:00–12:00 AM

Linn-Benton District
Shirley Byrne's residence
3190 NW Deer Run
Corvallis 97330

JOSEPH HOFFMAN: *Training the Ear and the Eye from the Start*
Demonstrating an innovative method for teaching piano to young children.

Friday, January 8
10:00–12:00 AM

Salem District
Our Savior's Lutheran Church
1770 Baxter Road SE, Salem

HEIDI EVANS: *Tips for preparing for Syllabus exams*
Advice on choosing repertoire, with an emphasis on the Contemporary Era and how to figure out the level of any given piece.

Friday, January 8 (private lessons)
Saturday, January 9
Time TBD

Umatilla-Morrow District
LDS Church 850 SW 11th Street
Hermiston, OR 97838

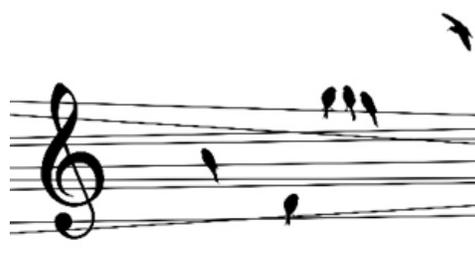
LIZ WILLIS: *Collaborative Workshop on Preparation for Each Level of OMTA Syllabus*

This workshop will cover the preparation of musicianship skills for each level of the OMTA Syllabus, as well as preparation and selection of Repertoire.

Saturday, January 10
3:00–5:00 PM

Tualatin Valley District
Classic Pianos
3003 SE Milwaukie Ave, Portland

CRYSTAL ZIMMERMAN: *Music and the Brain: How We Hear and Understand Melody and Rhythm*
This lecture will focus primarily on what is occurring in the brain when we recognize melody and rhythm, leading to a better understanding of the powers of music cognition in the brain.



President's Corner



Membership: A Personal Mission for All

In September, at the annual MTNA Leadership Summit in Cincinnati, we once again addressed the issue of membership. Recruiting new members and retaining our current ones is a constant challenge, but I believe we all need to better understand why it's so vitally important. I imagine many teachers feel numb to this issue. MTNA's constant focus on member recruitment and retention may seem simply like an attempt on their part to increase revenue through greater numbers of members. But the truth is daunting. Since 2002, MTNA active membership has declined by 13 percent, a reduction of over 2,500 members.

Over the same time period, senior and student membership has increased, resulting in significant overall loss of revenue, as seniors and students pay lower dues. But beyond the financial implications, MTNA has 2,200 fewer overall members than 12 years ago. If we are to survive, let alone grow and flourish, we need to find a way to reverse this trend.

In our own state, we face a similar challenge. Although our membership numbers are increasing, many of our "vintage" members are moving into their well-deserved quiet years. They're less available to help run our wonderful programs or to adjudicate syllabus exams. Without a similar number of new members coming up through the ranks to fill these important vacancies, our programs will suffer.

We can all make a difference in recruiting new members and making all of our current members feel connected and valued

by our organization. If you know someone who's teaching but not a member, ask them, "What would enrich your professional life?" As an OMTA member, you are best suited to share what our organization can offer to meet those needs. If you have a friend or colleague who isn't attending your local district meetings, you can reach out and invite them to join you.

A carpool to a meeting or a lunch date afterwards can give a great sense of collegiality. And that same question can be asked of our current members. "What would enrich your professional life?" If our organization isn't meeting the needs of our members, we need to know about it, so we can evolve and change with the times. It's less effective to say, "Here's all the wonderful things that OMTA offers, so you should join," than to say, "What do you need, as a teacher? Well, here's how OMTA can support you and meet those needs."

Most of us have personal stories of how an established OMTA teacher invited us to a meeting, or mentored us through a festival or syllabus, or gave us valuable advice. Now it's your turn to repay that kindness by becoming the OMTA member that makes a difference in someone else's life.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cindy".

Cindy Peterson-Peart, NCTM
President, OMTA



Beverly Serra-Brooks,
DMA & NCTM
IMTF Chair



Creating a Win-Win Studio Atmosphere

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

Most teachers today strive for a win-win studio atmosphere in which all members—teacher, students, and parents—feel valued and their voices heard. This is a wonderfully positive way to approach independent teaching. Even so, teachers often end up feeling stressed by the end of the teaching week from all kinds of requests and goings on. Many teachers want to find a way to be flexible yet not feel imposed upon.

This fall, take a moment to think about what stresses you out most as an Independent Music Instructor. Think about the issue as an opportunity rather than a negative to deal with. Often, just providing a clarification of your studio expectations can be liberating for both teacher and students, so everyone knows where the boundaries are. Of course there will always be those who resist following your direction, but at least you have provided them an opportunity to align with the studio policy set by the teacher.

Think about boundaries as opportunities. It's easy to set boundaries through your studio policy in a non-threatening way for both instructor and parents. For example, many instructors complain that they have too many text and email messages from students and parents and often feel they must answer these immediately, even in their off hours or during teaching time.

By noting in your policy how you plan to address replying to texts and emails, you can set expectations and avoid many conflicts. For example, a policy statement stating that studio texts and emails are replied to once a day Monday through Friday, and once on the weekend, may allow the instructor to separate teaching from personal life and get that little breather time for themselves. The trick is adhering to your own policy, right? This is just one example of opportunities for streamlining any studio kinks so you can focus on the music.

Here are eight areas in Independent Music Instructor life that teachers feel encroach upon their time and energy and lead to burnout. Do any of these strike a chord with you? Which one below is the bug-a-boo of your studio? Adjusting just that one aspect can help keep the freshness in your teaching and the enjoyment of music going for all around. So ... which is it for you?

1. Yearly tuition versus a per lesson structure.
2. Late or missing tuition payments. Late fees?
3. Tardiness and/or absences.
4. Makeup policies.
5. Flexibility versus being imposed upon.
6. Lesson scheduling issues.
7. Student preparation and practicing expectations.
8. Balancing teaching and personal time.

Happy Teaching! 

Dr. Beverly Serra-Brooks, DMA & NCTM,
IMTF Chair
dr.beverlysb@earthlink.net 



State News *ESMAR*

Pauline Eidemiller, NCTM



Learning Music for Life Long Enjoyment

The ESMAR program, developed by Jan Mittelstaedt, is very innovative. I used it for students who had completed OMTA's syllabus program. It is particularly useful and appropriate for motivated students who are not ready for or do not wish to participate in highly competitive auditions for OMTA, MTNA or other organizations.

ESMAR prepares a student for college music but is not limited only to students who wish to major or minor in music. It prepares them for a lifetime of enjoyment. My students solidified their 10 years of OMTA Syllabus study and stretched beyond. Playing by ear, transposing, sight reading, and preparing a recital for the public were some of the activities that were new to them. Since my students take fall syllabus evaluations, they had one and a half years

to prepare for their ESMAR assessments. I recommend that many students might take 18 months for preparation so they will have plenty of time to organize a full recital and become comfortable with playing by ear and transposing. It was fun to have a different thrust to the education of my students and I learned right along with them.

For ten years our students have experienced a very private evaluation with an adjudicator who writes his/her critiques. ESMAR is completely different! Parents and teachers (take along paper and pen!) are invited to sit in on the experience. Jill Timmons works with the student as in a private master class rather than silently writing a critique. Everyone learns and the student plays even better!

(Continued on next page)

Cascadia Composers &
Portland State University present

Crazy Jane prevails

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2015
7:30 P.M.

PSU LINCOLN HALL, ROOM 75
1620 SW PARK AVE., PORTLAND, OR 97201

COMPOSITIONS BY

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LISA ANN MARSH • BONNIE MIKSCH • JAN MITTELSTAEDT
LIZ NEDELA • STACEY PHILIPPS • CHRISTINA RUSNAK



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[HTTP://CRAZYJANEPREVAILS.BROWNPAPERTICKETS.COM](http://CRAZYJANEPREVAILS.BROWNPAPERTICKETS.COM)

Cascadia Composers &
Portland State University present

Crazy Jane prevails



COLORFUL STORIES
OF
STRENGTH
BY
LOCAL WOMEN
COMPOSERS

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2015
at 7:30 p.m.

My two students also enjoyed the collaborative recital of all the students taking ESMAR. They heard great music from their peers in a non-competitive atmosphere and felt good about their own success. They had time to chat with the other students afterwards as friends completing a hurdle and enjoying it all.

There are so many pluses for this program of which I have barely scratched the surface. It *is* a college music preparatory program, but all of your motivated students will benefit from it and so will you as a teacher. You'll learn right along with them! 🍷



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Music scholarships awarded annually to majors and non-majors

Audition Dates

Nov. 9, 2015*
Jan. 30, 2016

* Must audition on this date for priority early action funding.

willamette.edu/go/musicauditions



Eileen Knox, NCTM



Supporting Teachers of Students in Need

With the 2015–2016 school year well under way, we at MusicLink Oregon would like to extend a heartfelt THANK YOU to OMTA and the Portland District for all their support of our programs. Their generous annual donations allow us to continue to help teachers provide music education for students in financial need.

There are any number of ways that individuals can contribute to the MusicLink cause:

- Are you willing to teach a MusicLink student at a reduced lesson rate (half or less of normal fee)? If so, contact Liz Willis at lizewillis53@gmail.com to be placed on our list of available teachers.
- Link MusicLink to your Amazon account. Visit www.smile.amazon.com online and follow the directions to select MusicLink Foundation. The Amazon Smile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of your Amazon purchases at no cost to you.
- Consider making one of your studio recitals into a benefit concert for MusicLink. (More details about how to do this in next month's newsletter!)

Oregon MusicLink currently has 17 teachers and 26 active students. Join us and share in the great feeling of helping someone less fortunate receive a music education! 

O UNIVERSITY OF OREGON | School of Music and Dance

EO/AA/ADA institution committed to cultural diversity.

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 40 performing ensembles.



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music.uoregon.edu



State News *2016 Conference Report*

Kathy Gault NCTM
2016 Conference Chair



OMTA State Conference / Portland Piano International Thursday, June 16 — Sunday, June 19, 2016

Do you have the dates for our 2016 conference on your calendar? Please note that Portland Piano International—and thus, our OMTA conference—begin on Thursday next year, not Friday. Yes, we get an entire fourth day to play, refresh and learn together. And Sunday, the final day, goes through the final recital and reception that evening. Plan to stay over until Monday—don't miss out.

Note that the conference will start on the last day of school for many districts across the state. Plan ahead, so you won't miss a day of our exciting conference/festival lineup.

Because of the scheduling changes resulting from the merging of the two events, pricing, food and housing costs will be different next year. As always, the Nellie Tholen fund will lend support for attendees, including rebates for new members in their first year of membership, and travel grants for ongoing members who have not attended a state conference before.

More details to come in future issues of *Music News*. This is going to be a very special conference. Do come! 



Lewis and Clark College campus, Portland



State News *2015 OMTA Sonata & Sonatina Festival*

Sandy Hull, NCTM
OMTA Sonata & Sonatina
Festival Chair



The 2015 OMTA Sonata & Sonatina Festival took place on Saturday, October 24 at the University of Oregon School of Music and Dance in Eugene, Oregon. There were 70 students representing 23 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. Grace Ho, Hung-Yun Chu, and Michael Seregow, from Eugene and Crystal Zimmerman from Salem. These judges were so generous and kind to our students while providing very constructive and positive feedback on their performances. They were very impressed with the quality of performances at all levels throughout the day. The top two students

in each level returned to perform in the Honors Recital at 2:45 in room 190, to compete for first and second place trophies. A small reception was enjoyed by students, families and teachers following the Honors Recital. I had unbelievable help throughout the day with room monitors and local chapter members assisting students to find where they needed to be and juggling comment sheets and posting results. We also had a "movie room" available for students and families to kick back and relax a little between performances. Congratulations to all students and teachers for making this event a success! 2016 Required Repertoire lists and Festival Information updates will be posted on the state website in late January. Hope to see you next year.



Grace Goudy Distinguished Artists Series

THURSDAY, NOV. 19, 7:30 P.M.

Hudson Concert Hall, Willamette University, Salem

Works by John Corigliano, Debussy and Martin Kennedy
with Middle Eastern and European folk music

Tickets: boxofficetickets.com

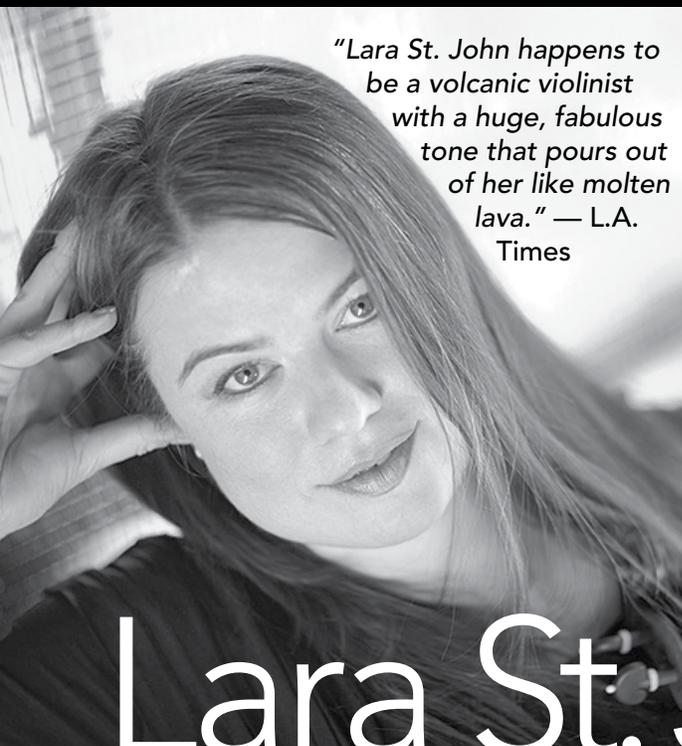
General admission seating. Adults \$23; students/children \$8
Season tickets (three concerts) \$60

Master Class for Strings: Nov. 18, 2–4 p.m. free; open to the public

More information about the series,
additional ticket prices and discounts

willamette.edu/go/goudy

503-370-6255 • music-info@willamette.edu



"Lara St. John happens to be a volcanic violinist with a huge, fabulous tone that pours out of her like molten lava." — L.A. Times

Lara St. John *violin*
with Martin Kennedy, piano

State News *Sonata & Sonatina Festival Results — 2015*

Sandy Hull, NCTM
OMTA Sonata & Sonatina
Festival Chair



Level 1

First:
Emma Boice
Teacher: Marjorie Connet, Roseburg

Level 2

First:
Jasmine Darmadi
Teacher: Sandy Hull, Eugene

Second:
Summer Yin
Teacher: Lucy Clevenger, Eugene

Honorable Mention:
Joshua Yoon
Teacher: Seong Nahm, Linn-Benton

Claire Saxman
Teacher: Sandy Hull, Eugene

Level 3

First:
Benjamin Baisted
Teacher: Seong Nahm, Linn-Benton

Second:
Matthew Tiffany
Teacher: Dorothy Grace Bernhard,
Salem

Honorable Mention:
Margarita Popova
Teacher: Lena Nikulin, Portland

Richard Wang
Teacher: Sunghee Kim, Linn-Benton

Richard Chen
Teacher: Sunghee Kim, Linn-Benton

Jeremy Wang
Teacher: Olga Aynvarg, Eugene

Level 4

First:
Yoshihiro Nakagawa
Teacher: Yumie Miyatake,
Tualatin Valley

Second:
Alyssa Lin
Teacher: Angela Tsai, Portland

Honorable Mention:
Grace Koester
Teacher: Nobuko LeBeau, Eugene

Cindy Chen
Teacher: Seong Nahm, Linn-Benton

April Jang
Teacher: Sunghee Kim, Linn-Benton

Level 5

First:
Arena Shevchenko
Teacher: Lena Nikulun, Portland

Second:
Claire Youn
Teacher: Yoko Greeney, Portland

Honorable Mention:
Timmy Cho
Teacher: Lucy Clevenger, Eugene

Jalen Wang
Teacher: Olga Aynvarg, Eugene

Level 6

First:
Janet Zhang
Teacher – Elena Istratova, Portland

Second:
Eric Zhan
Teacher: Angela Tsai, Portland

Honorable Mention:
Nicholas Wittig
Teacher: Anne Young, Portland

(Continued on next page)



Level 7

First:

Owen McCoy
Teacher: Winnie Kerner, Eugene

Second:

Henry Sturges
Teacher: Anne Young, Tualatin Valley

Honorable Mention:

Emily Clifton
Teacher: Nobuko LeBeau, Eugene

Laura Zhou
Teacher: Olga Aynvarg, Eugene

Lillian Wu
Teacher: Seong Nahm, Linn-Benton

Level 8

First:

Joanne Wang
Teacher: Olga Aynvarg, Eugene

Second:

Emma Clark
Teacher: Elena Istratova, Portland

Honorable Mention:

Laura Qin
Teacher: Elena Istratova, Portland

Sarina Grant
Teacher: Kazue Suzuki, Salem

Level 9

First:

Ivy Ding
Teacher: Rachele McCabe,
Linn-Benton

Second:

Polina Verkhovodova
Teacher: Elena Istratova, Portland

Honorable Mention:

Aubrey Benson
Teacher: Yoko Greeney, Portland

Lauren Varney
Teacher: Lena Nikulin, Portland

Level 10

First:

Richard Zhang
Teacher: Elena Istratova, Portland

Second:

Carmelli Hess
Teacher: Marileah Hess,
Non-member, Veneta

Honorable Mention:

Kenny Park
Teacher: Elena Istratova, Portland

Maris Benson
Teacher: Yoko Greeney, Portland



State News *Membership*

Sherrene Walker
Membership Chair



OMTA Welcomes New Members!

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

Central Oregon

Krista Aasland
Agnes Hendrie
Kimberly Santaguida – High School

Eugene

Laura DuBois
Margaret Gowen
Toby Koenigsberg
Nicholas Rieser

George Fox

Kyler Schubkegel – Collegiate

Portland

Jonathan Dubay
Nicholas Fontana
Lourdes Johanson

Rogue Valley

Hanlie Pienaar
Mary Venard

Tualatin Valley

Jane Bongiorno
Olivia Lattus – High School
Deanna Peabody

Umatilla

Dr. Margaret Mayer

Thank you for welcoming these new members at your local meetings. It is exciting to continue to see new members added each month. We have added 46 new members since our state conference in June, as well as renewed many members through the MTNA website! Many thanks to our wonderful office staff, Robin and Caris, for their valuable assistance processing these new members. If you have still not renewed your membership, you will want to renew right away in order to allow time for processing at both the national and state level. Then you will be set to register your students for all upcoming events at your local district level, state, or national events. 

Central Oregon Symphony Association 2016 Young Artist Competition

Saturday, January 9, 2016
Central Oregon Community
College, Bend, OR

First Place: \$1000
Second Place: \$750
Third Place: \$500

Winners will perform with the
Central Oregon Symphony
during the February 13-15, 2016
concerts.

Visit the COSA website for
details and registration forms:
www.cosymphony.com/yac.htm



District News *Central Oregon*

Helen Jones, NCTM



Growing and Learning in Central Oregon

At our October 9th program, held at the home of Jan Saito-Beckman, Kathy Gault NCTM presented “Composing 101: Incorporating Composition from the first Lesson.” She involved those in attendance in “red cup” rhythms, as well as writing simple compositions as a beginning student might.

District President-Elect Margaret Littlehales NCTM announced upcoming programs scheduled for the 2015–16 year: Theme and Variations in Classical, Baroque and Contemporary Styles; Holiday Ensembles; Auditions: Secrets on How to Use the Syllabus Audition in Levels I, II, III; and Tholen Fellow Follow-Up.

Two programs are a result of OCF Nellie Tholen Grants:

- “Russian Pedagogical Repertoire of Gavrilin” and “Ten Important Attributes of Beautiful Pianoforte Playing” by Victoria Drozdova
- “Repertoire for Building Technique to Take a Student from Intermediate to Advanced” by Deborah Cleaver.

Central Oregon District is excited to welcome five new members to our group this year: Janet Smith NCTM, Becky Smith, Angelina Anello-Dennee, Virginia Reber and Agnes Hendrie. That brings us to 26 members and two honorary members. 🍷



Becky Smith and Kathy Gault demonstrating a composition activity



Central Oregon teachers enjoying rhythm cups



District News *Portland (Far East Focus Group)*

Laura Davis



Focus on Beethoven

Portland OMTA's Far East Focus Group had an enlightening master class on October 16th, with Elizabeth Stern coaching Nina Locke's freshman advanced student Abigail Cha.

First Elizabeth showed Abigail how to increase her scale velocity through metronome use and better hand technique. Next they worked through the opening sections of Beethoven's Pathétique Sonata, with attention to dotted rhythms, rests, voicing, pedaling, and more.

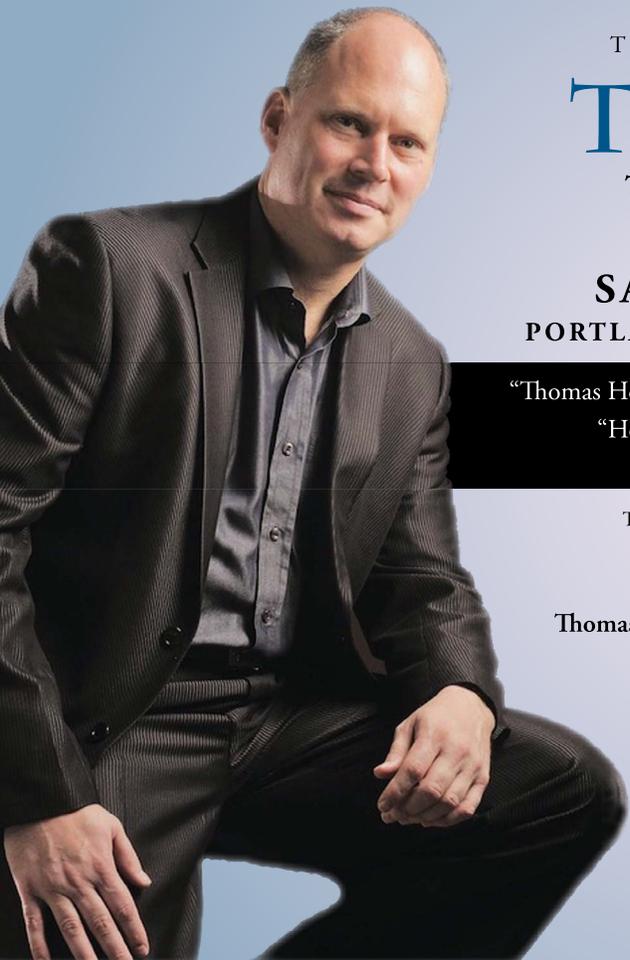
Abigail was a quick study, responding to Elizabeth's expert teaching as over a dozen teachers from all over the city soaked in the artistic details.

Thanks to all for a rewarding musical and culinary mid-morning feast! 🍷



Portland Teacher Elizabeth Stern coaching Nina Locke's student Abigail Cha

PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MUSIC & PORTLAND PIANO COMPANY PRESENT



THE PSU STEINWAY PIANO SERIES INAUGURAL CONCERT

THOMAS HECHT

THE ART OF THE STATES: AMERICAN PIANO CLASSICS

A recital of works by Ives, Pesetsky, MacDowell, Griffes and Copland

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2015 • 7:30 PM

PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY LINCOLN RECITAL HALL (ROOM 75)

"Thomas Hecht is a musical force to be reckoned with, a powerful performer" – *Kapiti Mail*, New Zealand

"Hecht obviously believes in this music, and plays it with loving care and commitment.

He is more of a poet than a showman..." – *Opus Magazine*

TICKETS: \$25 adults; \$10 students • Available at PSU Box Office and at the door
www.pdx.edu/boxoffice/tickets • 503.725.3307

MASTER CLASSES

Thomas Hecht • Friday, Dec. 4, 7 PM • Portland Piano Co., 711 SW 14th Ave. • 503.775.2480

Susan Chan • Sunday, Dec. 6, 1 PM • PSU Lincoln Recital Hall (Room 75)

These classes are free and open to the public.

Thomas Hecht is a Steinway Artist and Head of Piano Studies at Yong Siew Toh Conservatory, National University of Singapore.

The next pianist in this series will be **Jerome Rose** of Mannes College of Music, Founder/Director of the International Keyboard Institute & Festival in NYC, and gold medalist of the International Busoni Competition. April 15-16, 2016.



These events are sponsored by
the PSU College of the Arts,
Portland Piano Company,
and generous donors.



College of the Arts

PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY

District News *Tualatin Valley*

Sherry Poole Todd



Von Trapps Thrill a Packed House

Bravo! Bravo! President, Carma Glausi broke tradition by bringing the international performing success, The von Trapp Family Singers, to kick off our fall season. What a success they were! The four singers, an elaborate sound crew, pianist Stephanie Cooke, drummer Simon Lucas and bassist Will Gibbs spent the morning at Tigard United Methodist Church singing and playing to a packed house.

They currently have a busy coast-to-coast touring schedule and three CD's released, the most recent of which collaborates with Pink Martini: *Dream a Little Dream of Me*. The audience couldn't have been more fortunate to attend a free performance hosted by our TV-OMTA with grants from MTNA and the Oregon Community Foundation.

At least 400 were in the audience, ages zero to 90-plus, and all were amazed at the sublime harmonies, creative musical forms in four languages, and overall musicianship of the group. Sofia, Melanie, August, and Amanda are the great-grandchildren of Captain and Maria von Trapp of *Sound of Music* fame. What wonderful role models for our students in the pop arena on a state-wide no-school day!

An experience we highly recommend to other districts: support a local performing group and bring in a memorable performance for your area students. Catch The von Trapps with the Chicago Symphony in December or visit www.vontrapps.net for a CD. Encore! Encore! 🎶



L to R: Sofi, Melanie, August with ukelele, and Amanda von Trapp



The von Trapps concert also featured piano, drums, guitar, ukelele, melodica and string bass



Little ones in rapt attention



Packed House of over 400 thrills to the Sounds of the von Trapp Family Singers





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

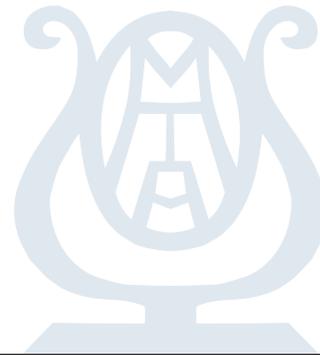
The link below connects you to your local District Associations, OMTA Board of Directors and Committee Chairs:

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





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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, 2015

January 15, 2016

February 15, 2016

