

OMTA Music News

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2016 Summer Conference Report

OMTA + PPI = Something for Everyone

by Kathy Gault, NCTM

2016 OMTA State Conference Chair

Registration is now open for the 2016 OMTA State Conference. A complete schedule of this year's joint event will be up on the PPI website in April. More than 15 performers, lecturers, composers

and teachers will fill our four days with non-stop inspiration and edification. Truly there is something of interest for every member. Here is a small sampling for your planning inspiration.

ALEXANDER KOBRYN — Called 'the Van Cliburn of today' by the BBC, pianist Alexander Kobrin has placed himself in the forefront of today's performing musicians. His prize-winning performances have been praised for their brilliant technique, musicality, and emotional engagement with the audience. He was the Gold Medalist in the 2005 Van Cliburn International Piano Competition. Mr Kobrin will present a solo piano recital on Friday evening, June 17.

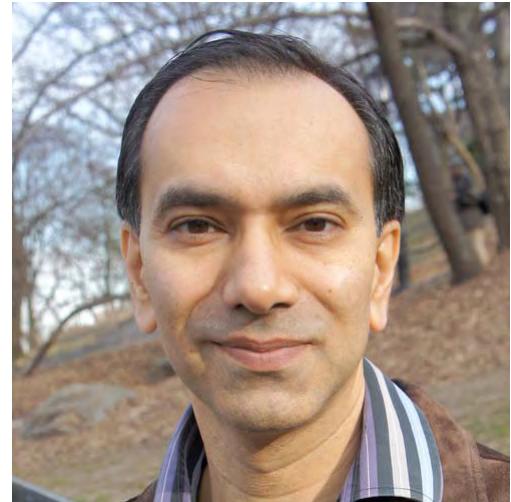


SARAH KWAK — The Oregon Symphony welcomed Concertmaster Sarah Kwak to the orchestra in August 2012. Since then, she has performed to critical acclaim. Hailed as a world-class soloist, she is renowned for her "lyrical depth, thoughtful phrasing, myriad shadings of tone, and easy technical prowess." Ms Kwak will perform in two recitals at this year's conference: Saturday afternoon, June 18 and Sunday evening, June 19. She will also take part in a master class on Friday morning, June 17.



FARHAN MALIK — Farhan Malik's extensive knowledge of historical pianists, piano literature and the evolution of performance styles has made him a sought after lecturer, writer and critic. His numerous articles and discographies have appeared in the world's leading piano journals. He has studied recorded piano performance from the beginning of the recording era through the present day and he will be sharing the fruits of his research in two sessions this year. On Thursday morning, June 16 he will appear on a panel to give "An Introduction to the Golden Age of Piano." On Sunday afternoon, June 19, he will present a program of "Recordings from the Golden Age."

These and many other artists will join our special OMTA presenters, Bradley Sowash



and Leila Viss, for a conference to remember. Won't you join us in June? 

2016 Conference Registration is Open!

*—Kathy Gault NCTM
2016 OMTA State Conference Chair*

Registration for the combined 2016 OMTA State Conference/Portland Piano International Summer Festival is **now open**.

**NOTE: Registration will be done through PPI (not directly through OMTA). All registration will be online, or by phone to the PPI office.
*There is no mail-in registration this year.***

Please use the link from the OMTA website to the PPI website to access registration information. Our website will also include the OMTA member discount code that you will need to get the lower registration rate

*Full Conference/Festival Four-Day Pass is \$360
(this discounted rate includes all recitals, lectures, movement for musicians classes, films, as well as all lunches and dinners)*

*Single Day Pass is \$90
Rooms are \$50 per night*

More detailed information can be found on the OMTA and PPI websites.

<https://oregonmta.org>
<http://portlandpiano.org>



President's Corner



Cindy Peterson-Peart, NCTM



Happy Spring! We've had a very wet winter in Portland, so it feels wonderful to see the sun again and enjoy the flowers in bloom. It's what we love about the Northwest. We endure the grey, wet winter so that we can relish the lush, green spring and summer.

The Northwest is also in the national spotlight, and there's much to celebrate. The University of Montana was chosen as the MTNA Collegiate Chapter of the Year. Washington member Jeanine Jacobson, whom some of you may have seen at one of our Oregon grant presentations, was selected for the MTNA-Frances Clark Keyboard Pedagogy Award. And last year, Tualatin Valley district was chosen as MTNA Local Association of the Year. A composition in their honor will be performed at our upcoming OMTA state conference.

But the most exciting news, as many of you know, is that Oregon was chosen as the 2016 MTNA State Affiliate of the Year. I will proudly accept the award at the Annual Business Meeting of the Association in San Antonio. Along with this honor, OMTA will be awarded a check from MTNA in the amount of \$1,000. The OMTA board has approved the use of these funds to commission a composition, commemorating the event. I'm excited to announce that Kenji Bunch has agreed to compose a work honoring OMTA, which we hope to premiere at the 2017 State Conference. Many

of you may remember Kenji from our 2014 OMTA conference in Newport. His ensemble, the Thunder Egg Consort, gave a brilliant performance and masterclass. He grew up in Portland, attended Juilliard and lived in New York for twenty-two years, but has recently returned to the Northwest along with his wife, OMTA member Monica Ohuchi Bunch, and is currently the Artistic Director of Fear No Music. Kenji has received worldwide acclaim for his compositions. His works have been performed by over fifty American orchestras, have reached audiences in premiere venues on six continents, is regularly broadcast on national radio, and has been recorded on numerous labels. We're so lucky to have him and I look forward to sharing his work with all of you soon!

I'm so very proud of our state organization, of all the hard work and dedication of our members and I'm constantly amazed by your tireless commitment to music and education. This is a great honor and you all deserve the credit. Congratulations Oregon!

A handwritten signature of Cindy Peterson-Peart.

Cindy Peterson-Peart, NCTM
President, OMTA



State News *Piano Syllabus Updated for 2017*

Suzanne Savaria, NCTM
Syllabus Chair



Hello OMTA Members! The updated Classical Piano Syllabus Manual is now online. We will begin adjudicating the changes in the Spring of 2017.

Please go to the following link:

<http://tinyurl.com/zwrohsr>

and enter the OMTA user name and password to access the new manual.

Hard copies will be available for pick up at the OMTA Summer Conference or from your district Presidents after that date. Please limit yourself to one copy. Changes are minimal, but please make sure you are prepping your students out of the new manual after Fall 2016.

Thank you and have a wonderful Spring!



An advertisement for "The Virtual Piano Pedagogue" by pianist Claire Wachter. The ad features a red header with the logo "VP" and the text "virtual piano pedagogue". Below this, it says "The Virtual Piano Pedagogue" is a completely new video master course in the great piano literature presented by pianist and Steinway Artist Claire Wachter. A black and white photograph shows hands playing a piano with the word "MASTERY" overlaid. The main body of the ad is white with a red border. It includes a portrait of Claire Wachter, text about her being the first pianist to bring high-level pianism and advanced master course instruction to video media, and text about her videos being viewed worldwide. Three smaller video thumbnail images show "The Art of the Phrase", "The Essence of Chopin", and "The Genius of Domenico Scarlatti". The website address "virtualpianopedagogue.com" is at the bottom right.



State News *OMTA District Projects Grant Programs*

Susan Todd



Teacher Enrichment for All!

All OMTA members and non-member teachers are welcome to attend these workshops.

Monday, April 4

10:00 am – Noon
Rogue Valley District
Studio of Rebecca DeBoer
1534 Devonshire, Medford
Dr. Michael Seregow:
The Pianist's Sound
Come explore how utilizing three dimensions of artistic tone production—balance, phrasing, and pedaling—can help pianists create a beautiful sound.

Friday, May 6

10:00 am – Noon
Lincoln County District
Oregon Coast Community College
Music Room, South Beach Campus
400 SE College Way, Newport
Jakki Moses:
It's all about ME! Musical Engagement for You and Students Through a Whole Lesson
A master lesson for teachers who want to use the most of their short lesson times with students. We will learn and practice old and new research-based engagement strategies useful to group or individual lessons specifically for music.

Saturday, May 7

10:00 am – Noon
Umatilla-Morrow District
Pendleton Presbyterian Church
201 SW Dorion, Pendleton

****Please note change of program****

Deborah Cleaver:

The Taubman Approach

This presentation will focus on the practical aspects of the Taubman approach that can be incorporated without a lot of training. Teachers will learn the most advantageous physical relation to the keyboard, how to successfully perform leaps, polyrhythms, chords and octaves, and improved tone production.

Friday, May 13

10:45 am – 1:30 pm
Central Oregon District
Studio of Margaret Littlehales
19550 Mammoth Drive, Bend

Deborah Cleaver:

Crossing the Bridge from Intermediate to Advanced Repertoire

Learn how to help students successfully navigate advanced piano repertoire.

(Continued on next page)



State News *OMTA District Projects Grant Programs (Continued)*



Friday, May 27

10:00 am – Noon

Mid-Columbia District

Location: TBA

Deborah Cleaver:

*Beyond Legato: The Expressive Elements
of Baroque Performance Practice*

Learn how elements of Baroque performance practice can inform musical expression, including the concepts of metric hierarchy, rhetoric, speech, articulation, ornamentation, and rhythmic freedom.

Friday, June 10

10:45 am – 1:30 pm

Central Oregon District

Studio of Jodie Bischoff

Jan Mittelstaedt, NCTM:

Helping Children Compose

Details TBA.



The Theo Bleckmann & Ben Monder Duo

TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 2016, 7:30 P.M.

Hudson Concert Hall, Willamette University, Salem

TICKETS: boxofficetickets.com

General admission seating.

Adults \$23; Students/children \$8

MASTER CLASS

Wed., April 13, 2 p.m., free and open to the public

For information about the series,
additional ticket prices and discounts visit

willamette.edu/go/goudy

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

“...so virtuosic and inventive a pair...the two share a subtle discipline that results in a focused, cohesive whole....” — DOWNBEAT

State News *MusicLink*

Dr. Debra Sostrin
State Coordinator,
Oregon MusicLink



Summer Music Camp Scholarships

Attention MusicLink Teachers! We're moving into spring, so of course it's time to start planning for summer!

As always, our OMTA MusicLink program is offering scholarship opportunities for summertime study.

- If your student has been in the ML program for at least six months, he or she may apply for a Summer Music Camp Scholarship.
- A Continuing Education Scholarship is available to high-school students who have been in ML for at least nine months. The funds may be used to help

them pay for continuing education expenses of any nature and in any field of study.

Scholarship application forms, with more information, may be found on the Portland OMTA and State OMTA websites.

Completed forms must be sent to Debra Sostrin, either by email or regular post, by **May 1st**.

15094 NW Decatur Way
Portland, OR 97229
music@debrasotrin.com



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State News *Membership*

Sherrene Walker
OMTA State Membership Chair



We are excited to announce the following new members to OMTA:

Central Oregon

John Fawcett
Piano, Violin

Portland

Brian Cheney
Piano, Guitar, Voice

Arno Patin
Piano, Theory

Salem

Marjorie Knaus
Piano

Many of us joined MTNA because someone invited us or told us how MTNA had met his/her needs with a valuable service, resource or event. Word-of-mouth is a trusted, long-time method of sharing information as well as building a studio. Mark Zuckerberg says, "People influence people. Nothing influences people more than a recommendation from a trusted friend." So share through your webpage, newsletter, social media and conversations with perspective members, about the many benefits of MTNA and OMTA, including Office Depot discounts, various music publications, teacher training at your local meetings, State and National Conferences, etc.

I have received several emails from teachers wanting to join OMTA immediately in order to participate in syllabus. Deadlines are fast approaching for most districts, and there is necessary time needed to process applications through MTNA, then to the State, and eventually to the local districts. Anyone who wants to participate in OMTA spring activities should call MTNA immediately to get their membership expedited!



Grand Piano Scholarship Competition

Presented by
The Piano Santa Foundation

The winner of the 2016 Piano Santa Foundation Grand Scholarship Competition will receive the use of a grand piano for 2 years, including moving costs, annual tuning and maintenance.

The competition is open to all students, ages 12-16, who have passed at least syllabus level 6 (or equivalent) and live in the Portland Metro area.

Applications and more information are available at www.pianosanta.org or contact us at info@pianosanta.org or (503) 245-6269 for more information.

Applications Due
May 6, 2016

Auditions
June 4, 2016

Remember that MTNA dues are half off now, giving you membership through June 30. So if you as a member know of anyone who would be interested in participating in OMTA spring events, please encourage them to visit the MTNA site and join on line. It's fast, effortless, painless, and full of benefits!



District News *Blue Mountain*

Liz Cooper



Celebrating Success in Blue Mountain

Spring Syllabus 2016 is now history. After three days of adjudications, we celebrated Sunday afternoon, March 13, with a Syllabus Honors Recital at the La Grande United Methodist Church. Students who had a successful syllabus experience got to choose and announce which of their pieces they were going to perform. The audience was treated to a delightful mixture of pieces from different levels and different time periods. Syllabus Chair Dona Schmitt presented certificates to recital participants.

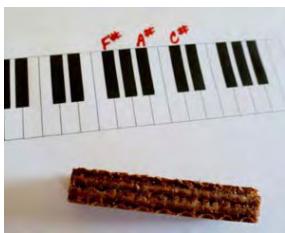
On March 4 we enjoyed a fast-paced OCF sponsored workshop presented by Bev Mayhew, NCTM entitled "Cookie Party." Bev shared how she starts beginning students with a multi-sensory approach, which draws from the work of Guy Duck-

worth and Mary Hall Kogen. During the first eight weeks of study, students become fluent in five-finger scales, tonic triads and arpeggios in all major keys. They learn to play short songs by marching, clapping, counting, singing, etc. They also create melodies for familiar short poems.

At the end of the eight weeks, students review five-finger scales and triads in all major and minor keys, and are rewarded with sandwich-type cookies which relate directly to the color make-up of the various major triads. (See pictures examples: white/white/white for keys of C, G and F; black/white/black for the keys of D, A, E, and so forth.) Our district enjoyed Bev's creative methods, the wealth of material she shared with us, and her enthusiastic presentation. A small decorative flourish consisting of two stylized green leaf-like shapes.



B-flat Chord Cookie,
black-white-white



F-sharp Chord Cookie,
black-black-black



Blue Mountain Syllabus Honors Recital



D-flat Chord Cookie,
black-white-black



D Chord Cookie,
white-black-white



C Chord Cookies,
all white notes



B Chord Cookie,
white-black-black



District News *Central Oregon*

Helen Jones, NCTM



Awesome Leaders, Presenters and Mentors

Congratulations to our State President Cindy Peterson-Peart on being elected as MTNA Northwest Division Director for 2016–2018. We voted for you! Yeah!



Portland's Victoria Drozdova Shares Russian Traditions with Central Oregon



L-R: Margaret Littlehales, Patti Petersen, Victoria Drozdova and Pat Rogers



Jean Shrader (L) and Mariann Slavkovsky (R), Baroque/Classical Festival Co-chairs Confer with Adjudicator Janet Smith

Central Oregon District is very proud of our own Patti Petersen on her nomination for MTNA Foundation Fellow for 2017. What a great choice!

Membership chair Patti Petersen has outlined ways for our district to increase our visibility in the Central Oregon community. She will be working with Publicity chair Helen Jones as well as all CO District members to establish mentors for new members and involve our members, as well as prospective members.

A delightful and informative program was presented March 11 by Victoria Drozdova, a recent transplant to Portland. What a treasure for OMTA. She spoke on the life of Rachmaninoff and performed several of his pieces. She outlined the Ten Important Attributes of Beautiful Pianoforte Playing as influenced by the Russian tradition.



District News *Lincoln County*

Sarah Ball



Lincoln County OMTA Honored by Newport

The coastal community of Newport, has an annual tradition of honoring a “Community Legend.” This annual event highlights the contributions of someone whose dedication has impacted the community in a positive manner, over many years. A formal dinner is scheduled, and the event also serves as a fundraiser for Oregon Coast Council for the Arts.

This year instead of an individual, the performing arts groups were all honored, and Lincoln County OMTA was among the twelve groups who gathered recently to celebrate. Each group designated its most impactful leaders, and each one received a special certificate and medal. Lincoln County OMTA's community legend honorees were Sarah Ball, founding President and chair of the Ribbon Festival; Jess Smith, director emeritus from Brooklyn Conservatory and chair of the Lincoln County

OMTA Junior Bach Festival; Jessie Treon, Treasurer, and founder of the “Spotlight on the Teachers” concert series, as well as the Student Aid Fund; and Mary Lee Scoville, Composition chair, Ensemble Festival chair, and Community College liaison.

Also receiving special mention was the late Suzanne Brown, who with her husband Al brought us into the digital age (and gave counsel generously from years of experience in Ohio MTA.)

The networking, collegiality and professional support in OMTA is a huge asset to music teachers on the coast. By maintaining a positive, creative and consistent presence we are able to serve the needs of students, teachers and families while enjoying a niche among the lively performing arts scene. We are delighted to be honored among the “2016 Community Legends” of Newport. A small decorative flourish consisting of two stylized green leaf-like shapes.



Jess Smith with Honorees



Sarah Ball, Jess Smith and Carlyn Jefferson



Jessie Treon and Sarah Ball Enjoyed the Celebration



District News *Tualatin Valley*

Sherry Poole Todd, NCTM
President-Elect, Tualatin Valley



The Association that Plays Together!

One of the many outstanding facets of Tualatin Valley is the monthly playing class, coordinated by Susan Marandas. Teachers meet for coffee first, then play for each other: performance pieces, works in progress, or favorite student pieces. As an outgrowth of this regular playing class, our regular monthly meeting each March features The Teacher Recital. Stellar performances of Schubert, Sibelius, Chopin, and four hand duets were shared March 11 in preparation for our public program at The Old Church, April 20. We're proud of the supportive atmosphere and positive encouragement offered to all comers as we play for each other on a regular basis.

March 6 was our Sacred Festival, organized by Beverly Mayhew, where students perform sacred works or any piece appropriate for a worship service. Nearly 70 students ages 6 to 16 performed solo and duet works in this unique festival. The very next weekend was our Sonatina Gallery, created and chaired by Gayle Bland, where another 44 students performed Sonatas and Sonatinas for family and friends.

If you're in the Portland Metro area, why not consider making Tualatin Valley your primary or dual membership district and join us?! After all, you know what they say . . . "the association that plays together, stays together." A stylized green wave-like flourish.



Performing in Our Teachers Recital:
Front L-R: Lilin Chen, Nancy Brown, Susan Marandas, Casey Bozell, Ruth Sadilek
Back L-R: Lisa Mendes, Carma Glausi, Anne Young, Heidi Evans

(Tualatin Valley District News continued on next page)



District News *Tualatin Valley (Continued)*



Tualatin Valley to Present World Premiere of Two Piano Work

As a lasting legacy of the 2015 Local Association of the Year award, a new two piano work was commissioned by Tualatin Valley District. This was the inspiration of President Carma Glausie, who wanted to commemorate the award and a very special year in a memorable way.

A young composer from USC, John Ling, agreed to write for us the five movement piece entitled:

*"was matter" i. glass ii. valve iii. rivet
iv. beam v. axle*

The suite has driving rhythms, many percussive features, and sonorous harmonies. Each movement will be played by a different team of two teachers so that we can involve ten performers in all. The

broader membership and the public are invited to hear the first performance of *was matter* at the World Premiere, May 14th. We will greet composer John Ling, applaud everyone's hard work, and raise money for our Scholarship Fund with the \$20 donation admission.

Frances and Jack Geer offer their beautiful Parrett Mountain home with windows on the world each year for our High Tea, but this time promises to be extra special! You are invited to attend! If you can't make the event in May, we'll gladly accept your donation to help fund a high school senior as they plan to major or minor in music. Or you may be in attendance at our June State Conference where the work will once again be performed.

World Premiere WAS MATTER Suite for two pianos by John Ling

Commissioned to commemorate
2015 District of the Year
Music Teachers National Association
Awarded to the Tualatin Valley District of OMTA

Saturday, May 14, 2016
2:30 to 4:30 p.m.

**The Location: in the beautiful home of
Frances and Jack Geer
17325 SW Parrett Mountain Road
Sherwood, Oregon, 97140-9555**



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Information & Acknowledgements



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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

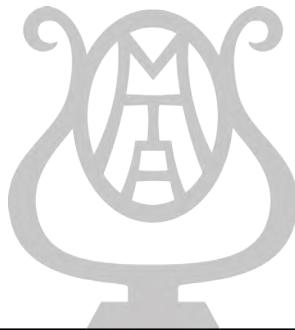
Jan	Dec 15	June	May 15
Feb	Jan 15	Sept	Aug 15
Mar	Feb 15	Oct	Sept 15
Apr	Mar 15	Nov	Oct 15
May	Apr 15	Dec	Nov 15

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



Information & Acknowledgements



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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:

April 15, 2016

May 15, 2016

August 15, 2016

