

OMTA Music News

Opus 70

January 2016

No. 5



New Flash from MTNA Headquarters!

Oregon has been chosen as the 2016 MTNA State Affiliate of the Year. We will be recognized at the MTNA National Conference in San Antonio and will receive a check for \$1,000 to further the good work we're doing.

Over all the other states who applied for this significant honor, Oregon was chosen because of our efforts to make our membership more inclusive, as well as our innovative continuing education projects that benefit all of our teachers.

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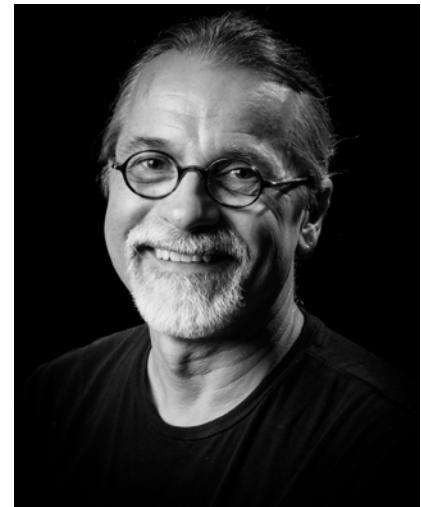
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Creativity and Technology Trending at Conference — Part II

by Kathy Gault, NCTM
2016 OMTA State Conference Chair

Joining us for our 2016 OMTA State Conference will be noted composer, pianist and educator Bradley Sowash. Here are a few highlights from Bradley's extensive CV:

- Touring concert jazz pianist
- Recording artist with nine albums
- Teaches master classes nationwide
- Owner of a private piano studio, specializing in improvisation
- Author of two widely-acclaimed piano instructional series: *That's Jazz* and *Creative Chords*
- Pop/Jazz Chairperson for MTNA
- Co-Founder of "88 Creative Keys Camp" for improvising pianists
- Broadcast credits including seven seasons on the PBS-TV series, "The Piano Guy"
- Columnist for *Clavier Companion*, *Downbeat*, *American Music Teacher*, and others
- Faculty: Suzuki Music, Columbus; Chamber Music Connection; The Jazz Academy
- Winner of a special citation from the American Prize in Composition for "his unique skill in combining classical techniques with popular idioms."



Bradley Sowash

Bradley Sowash will present sessions based on the general theme of Teaching Creativity, including specifics on understanding chord symbols, teaching improvisation, and going further with lead sheets.

He will be joined by Leila Viss for one or more sessions, with hands-on opportunities for teachers.

President's Corner



You're Worth It!

Happy New Year! If your New Year's resolutions include continuing education, make this the year to attend the OMTA State Conference. In 2016, OMTA will be partnering with Portland Piano International (PPI) to bring you an outstanding combined conference. In addition to the wonderful performances, presentations, and masterclasses offered by the internationally acclaimed PPI artists, OMTA will offer sessions from the incomparable Leila Viss and Bradley Sowash.

"The Golden Age of the Piano" is PPI's Festival theme this year. What a great way to celebrate OMTA's centennial year and 100th conference! More information about these world class performances and fascinating sessions will be coming in the near future.

This new and exciting partnership with PPI means that you'll be able to attend four full days of conference activities (as compared to our traditional 2.5 days), all conveniently located on the campus of Lewis and Clark College in Portland.

Because of the generosity of the Oregon Community Foundation Nellie Tholen Fund, we're able to offer a discounted registration rate for OMTA members of \$360. While it may seem expensive, in truth attendance at the PPI-OMTA event is a bargain. The registration fee includes all sessions, all recitals, snacks and coffee throughout the day, as well as a delicious lunch and dinner each day provided by Bon Appetit Catering. If you choose to stay on campus, you'll pay just \$50 per person per night, which includes breakfast. So, if you stay on campus for five nights and attend every recital and session for the full four days, the all-inclusive cost would be just \$610.

Compare that to last year's cost:

2015 OMTA Conference

Registration: \$135
(included lunches for 2 days)

Hotel for three nights: \$360

Hotel restaurant breakfast and dinner for 3 days: \$180

Total cost: \$665

for 2.5 days of conference activities,
or \$266 per day

2016 Joint OMTA-PPI Conference

Registration: \$360
(includes lunch and dinner for 4 days):

Housing for five nights: \$250
(includes breakfast)

Total cost: \$610

for 4 full days of conference activities
or \$152.50 per day

If you set aside just \$25 per week (January to June), you'll have all your expenses covered. And for those who want a shorter experience, day passes will be available at \$90 per day. Remember, professional development costs are tax deductible and attendance at the state conference earns you certification points.

More detailed information will be coming soon, but I encourage you to put the dates of June 16–19 on your calendar and treat yourself to an amazing continuing education experience. You're worth it!

Wishing you a peaceful and productive 2016!

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

Cindy Peterson-Peart, NCTM
President, OMTA



State News *Time to Vote: MTNA Election, NW Division*

Susan Todd



Let's Support Cindy!

Your upcoming *American Music Teacher* issue will include details on our MTNA Division Director elections. Let's support our President, Cindy Peterson-Peart, and have an Oregonian as Northwest Division Director for the first time in many years. We had a big turnout of votes when I ran for the position four years ago—more than twice as many as the elections with no Oregonians on the ballot! Jani Peterson from Washington was elected that time, and was wonderfully effective on the MTNA board. Let's give Washington a run for their money this time. I know Cindy would be a strong voice for NW teachers, thoughtfully representing the independent music teachers as well as our faculty and student members.

As soon as you finish reading the *Music News*, won't you reach for your AMT or go to the MTNA website and vote? Whether you choose Oregon President Cindy Peterson-Peart, or Washington's Mary Kaye Owen, former president, current NW Division Senior Competitions Chair is also an excellent candidate.

Whatever your choice, let's have a strong NW voter turnout! A small, stylized decorative flourish.



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State News *OMTA District Projects Grant Programs*

Susan Todd



Wowsers! Fab Workshops Coming!

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

Friday, January 8

10:00 am – Noon

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

10:00 am – 3:00 pm

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 both musicianship skills for
each level of the OMTA Syllabus, as
well as preparation and selection of
Repertoire.

Sunday, January 10

3:00 pm – 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.

Friday, January 22

7:00 pm

Roseburg District

Vine Street Baptist Church

2152 Vine Street, Roseburg

&

Saturday, January 23

10:00 am – Noon & 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Douglas County Library

1409 NE Diamond Lake Blvd., Roseburg

Dr. Kenn Wilson:

Encounters with Beethoven

A multi-media piano recital with
slides, humor, cartoons and information
about Beethoven, the man on
Friday Night. The Saturday session
will include a Master Class 10:00
am – Noon, and Conversations with
Teachers 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm.

(Continued on next page)



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

Friday, January 22 &

Saturday, January 23

Details TBA

Lincoln County District

Oregon Coast Community College

Music Room, South Beach Campus

400 SE College Way, Newport

Alexander Tutunov:

Master Classes and Teacher Training

Saturday, February 6

Time TBA

Portland District

Portland Piano Company

711 SW 14th Ave, Portland

Daniel Stephens & Judith Kennedy:

Baroque Dance workshop in conjunction with the district Baroque/Contemporary Music Festival

Saturday, February 13

10:00 am – Noon

Blue Mountain District

Eastern Oregon University

Groth Recital Hall, La Grande

Dr. Jeanine Jacobson:

Beautiful Bach

Looking at external and internal evidence that leads to artistic and stylistically appropriate Baroque performances.

In conjunction with the district's Baroque Festival.

Monday, February 15

10:00 am – Noon

Rogue Valley District

Pioneer Village (Library)

805 N 5th Street, Jacksonville

Dr. Jeanine Jacobson:

Memorize and Remember

A Solid Approach to Secure Memory.

Developing secure memory skills from the very first lesson. Discussion of the four types of memory and how they interact in keyboard playing. Discussion of performance anxiety.

Tuesday, February 16

10:00 am – Noon

Klamath Basin District

First Presbyterian Church

601 Pine Street, Klamath Falls

Dr. Jeanine Jacobson:

The Five "Ps" for selecting good pieces and assuring efficient and effective learning: Prerequisites; Pedagogical Values; Problems; Preparation; Practice

The evaluation, and effective teaching, of repertoire.



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! A blue decorative flourish or scrollwork graphic.



Lewis and Clark College campus, Portland



State News *MusicLink* (Continued)

Eileen Knox, NCTM



Supporting Teachers of Students in Need

Happy New Year from Oregon MusicLink!

As we move into 2016, the MusicLink Foundation continues to be dedicated to supporting you, the music teacher, as you generously offer promising students the opportunity to study music at a reduced lesson rate. Looking back on 2015, we would like to congratulate all our MusicLink students for their hard work and dedication and recognize some extra-special accomplishments:

- The 2015 MusicLink Senior Award of Excellence was won by **Emily Brother**, student of **Dorothy Fahlman**. Emily has won numerous competitions, including last year's MTNA Oregon State and Northwest Division competitions in Senior Piano. Emily is now a freshman at Harvard University. Dorothy was named MusicLink Foundation's Teacher of the Month in November, 2015.



Emily Brother & Teacher Dorothy Fahlman

- **Mattieu Galizia**, student of **Shirley Brendlinger**, earned numerous awards and honors in 2015, including first place in the Lillian Pettibone Piano Competition, Gold Medal in the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra Young Artists Concerto Competition, finalist in the Metro Arts Inc. "Young Artists Debut!" Concerto Competition, and second place in the Advanced Division of the Portland Young Pianists Festival.



Mattieu Galizia & Teacher Shirley Brendlinger

(Continued on next page)



State News *MusicLink*

- The 2015 Piano Santa Grand Scholarship competition was won by **Khoi Hoang**, student of **Dr. Debra Sostrin**. The award gives Khoi the use of a Baldwin grand piano in his home for the next two years, as well as numerous performing opportunities.



Khoi Hoang & Teacher Dr. Deborah Sostrin

- The first-place winner, Intermediate Division, of the 2015 Portland Young Pianists Festival was **Sang Nguyen**, student of **Dr. Marjorie Janove**. Sang wins an all-expense-paid trip to tour the Steinway Piano Factory in New York, a cash prize, and the use of a Steinway grand piano for 45 days in his home.



Sang Nguyen & Teacher Dr. Marjorie Janove

We at MusicLink are bursting with pride over these achievements by our students, but we also believe that *every* child deserves the opportunity to nurture his or her musical talent to its full extent. You can make a difference! If you are interested in learning more about how MusicLink can help you help others, please contact Eileen Knox: eileenknox@me.com.



State News *OMTA Member Highlight — Sydney Stevens*

Mid-Columbia District

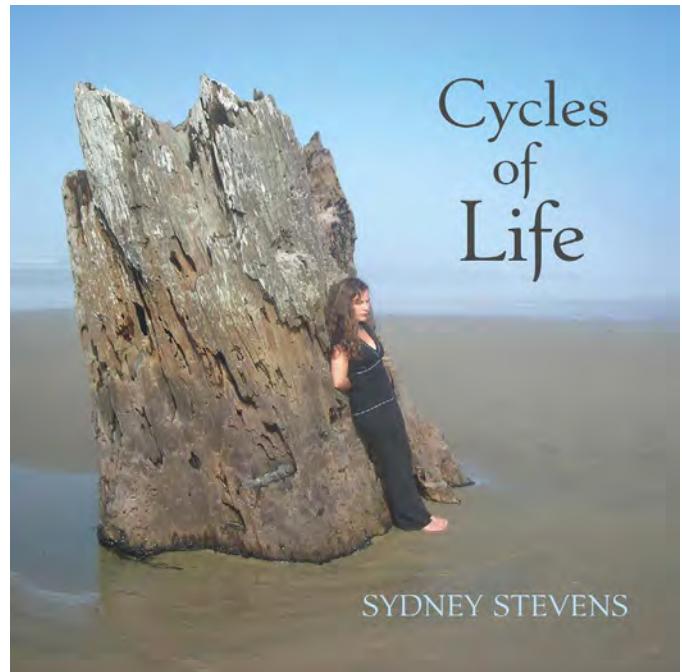


Sydney Stevens, OMTA member of Mid-Columbia Music Teachers, began writing melodies on the piano before she could reach the pedals. Her earliest memory was watching her mother play classical piano. She began piano lessons at the age of eight, and started composing shortly thereafter.

Stevens approaches her compositions as an artist. She paints musical portraits of the things that bring meaning to life: relationship to living things, emotional healing, discovering what matters most and honoring that as best we are able.

Stevens' beautiful piano-based music aligns one with their own heart. Although some of her music can be described as New Age, her roots are heavily based in classical and jazz. Her study of classical composition makes her music more complex than some New Age music. Her music has been likened to the impressionistic composers such as Claude Debussy. Sydney's formal training is also reflected in her ability to compose for orchestral instruments. Her latest release, "Cycles of Life," was solely recorded and produced by Sydney, programming all of the virtual instruments.

Sydney has a great love for jazz. Keith Jarrett was an influence on her with his innovative and improvisational piano recordings and performances. She was particularly impressed with the freedom of style he portrayed in his performances. Bill Evans was something Sydney heard played as a young child. Where her mother was a classical pianist, her father was a jazz pianist. Perhaps that's why some of Sydney's music can be described as a crossover between classical and jazz—remnants from those early years. Joni Mitchell and Judy Collins were big inspirations for Sydney's songwriting. She was especially drawn to the deeply emotional lyrics in many of their songs.



"Cycles of Life," the title track from Sydney's current release, was composed for her late step dad. The song is about the cycle of birth and death: "Cycles of life go on, yet we carry all that we've known and loved through the ages." "Time," another track on Sydney's current release, is a song about how time passes more quickly when we are doing something we cherish. "Brian's Song," inspired by the loss of her father-in-law, reflects: "All that really matters is the way we fill our heart, and the ways that it has loved." "Dawn," a track from Sydney's album *Seasons*, is a beautiful piano-based instrumental with light string background. It portrays that very peaceful hour as the sun slowly lights up the world—the hour of dawn.

Sydney is a poet. She sees the world through a heart that feels the joy and sorrow of the world and those she meets. Her gift is the ability to transfer that emotion into music. Listening to her music is like taking a journey. She delves into depths of emotion, often taking the listener to places that can be difficult to go without the comfort of a beautiful song to accompany them.

In addition to being a prolific composer, Stevens runs a busy piano studio in Hood River, Oregon. For more, go to: <http://www.cdbaby.com/Artist/SydneyStevens>



State News *Membership*

Sherrene Walker
OMTA State Membership Chair



Thank you for welcoming our new members to your various meetings and district activities. What a diverse and wonderful profession we are! Independent teachers, college faculty and students, rural and urban, rookies and veterans, all instruments and voice, various specialties—the list goes on.

If you know someone who has never been a member of MTNA and is considering joining your local district as well as our state OMTA organization, now is the best time of year to join MTNA and try it out. New members joining after January 1 receive full benefits through June 30, 2016, including collegiate members. Some of these benefits include MTNA member only publications such as Legal and Tax guides for the independent teacher, Office Depot purchasing card saving members as much as 80 percent, creating and improving studio policies, webinar series, etc. These are great opportunities for the 6-month member to try, as well as for all of our members to take advantage of today. All members will want to check out the Publications site under the members-only portion of the MTNA site.

May you all have a Blessed Christmas with family and friends and a very exciting and rewarding 2016 teaching year!

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

Portland
Marshall Cuffe
Piano, Organ, Composition

Beckie Hocker
Flute, Elementary Music, Music Education

Karey Miles
Piano, Voice, Accompanying

Nicholas Chagall Price
Violin

Roseburg
Kendra Cooney
Piano, Theory



Winter Grand Scholarship Competition *Presented by the* **Piano Santa Foundation**

The winner of the 2016 Piano Santa Foundation Winter Grand Scholarship Competition will receive the use of a brand new Yamaha GB1K grand piano, courtesy of Classic Pianos and Yamaha of America, 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: February 1, 2016
Auditions: February 27, 2016



State News *Monumental Ensemble Finals in Monmouth*

Pamela Miller, NCTM
State Ensemble Chairman



Six State Ensemble Recitals were held at Western Oregon University in Monmouth all day Saturday, November 21. Seventy-seven ensembles and 163 students performed and received beautiful medals. Eight Districts participated including Eugene, Lincoln County, Linn-Benton, Mid Columbia, Portland, Salem, Tualatin Valley and Umatilla-Morrow. A reception followed each recital.

Dr. Diane Baxter hosted the event, and we very much appreciate her willingness

to do this for OMTA. WOU is a wonderful venue to hold this event. There are two beautiful grand pianos on stage and practice rooms available for the students to warm up.

Many of the teachers who had students performing helped at the check in table, organizing the students and getting them on stage. Our State President, Cindy Peterson-Peart presented the medals to the students at several of the recitals, making it a very special event for many of the students.

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District News *Blue Mountain*

Liz Cooper



'Tis the season when all music teachers are busy with the wonderful music of Christmas. Two of our busiest teachers were not only involved in community productions, including the annual Holiday Music Festival at Eastern Oregon University, and a wonderful rendition of "Amahl and the Night Visitors," but also took time to take their students to share their Christmas pieces at the Grande Ronde Retirement Residence.



Jan & Her Student Play a Duet



Jan & Her students Sing to the Residents



Lanetta & Her 3rd Grade Teacher, Resident Neva Neill

Jan Miller's studio performed on December 16 and Lanetta Paul's studio performed on December 17. Several of Lanetta's students are learning to play hymns, and they accompanied the audience on three carols that were interspersed among the other pieces. At the conclusion, her students passed out candy canes to the residents.

Lanetta introduced her 101-year old third grade teacher Neva Neill, who lives at GRRR, and who always comes to hear the students! A decorative blue flourish or scrollwork graphic.



Lanetta in a Group Number



Lanetta's Flute Students Play James Galway's "Deck the Halls"



District News *Central Oregon*

Helen Jones, NCTM



A New Year Wish from Central Oregon!

May 2016 be your best year yet, and may all your students practice TWO hours a day, and correctly ALL of the time!

Members of Central Oregon District had a festive December meeting and celebration that included holiday piano music and a delicious potluck at the home of Margaret Littlehales.



Larry Rauch Performing at Margaret Littlehale's

Everyone is excited about the upcoming OMTA State Conference, to be held in conjunction with the Portland Piano Institute. The mid-June conference will be held at Lewis & Clark College in Portland.

Central Oregon District is excited to welcome six new members into the group this fall, taking our membership to twenty-nine members.

Our November 13 program was presented by Margaret Littlehales NCTM. Margaret's program "Theme and Variations in Classical Style" involved audience participation. Fellow teachers performed the theme and variations—a duet by Haydn—with Margaret playing the secondo part.

The December meeting and program will include our traditional potluck and sharing of Christmas piano duets, trios, quartets and duos.

Central Oregon District wishes everyone a happy holiday season filled with friends and family, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May this special time of year be filled with wonderful MUSIC! 



District News *Eugene*

Fern McArthur NCTM



Eugene's Musical Holiday Party

Post-Holiday greetings and Happy New Year from the Eugene District! We finished 2015 with a flurry of activity including Syllabus, Ensemble and our annual fundraising play-a-thon at our local Barnes and Noble store. This fundraiser has been a great success for us for over a decade now. It is fun for the students and a valuable opportunity to put OMTA into the public awareness. If any of our sister districts would like more information on this, please contact me.

We ended the year with a potluck morning gathering at the home of Virginia Buhn, with music performed by our members. Some played background music as we gathered, followed by formal performances by Sandy Hull and Dr. Michael Seregow. An interesting aspect of this gathering was that our current District President, David Cragun, was a student of Virginia's and successfully completed the Syllabus levels under her instruction during his school years.

We look forward to our meetings, programs, and festival events in the new year. In February Dr. Kenneth Wilson will present his popular multi-media "Encounters with Beethoven." Please visit our website www.omta-eugene.org for more information, and visit us in Eugene at our monthly meetings.

Best wishes to all for a successful and fulfilling 2016!



Virginia Buhn and Former Student David Cragun



Delores Tilkin and Jane Young Brought a Christmas Duet



Dr. Michael Seregow Plays Faure



Paul Safar and Genevieve Mason Set a Festive Mood



District News *Tualatin Valley*

Sherry Poole Todd, NCTM
President-Elect, Tualatin Valley



New Year Roars into Tualatin Valley

As we toast the start of 2016, our calendar is already jam-packed with informative workshops, outstanding presenters, and looming deadlines for our stellar events. You can see our happy smiles as we closed out the year in style at the home of Fran and Jack Geer. We heartily welcomed our 10 new members as Tualatin Valley membership continues to grow! You may remember that Oregon received a 2015 Membership Recruitment Award, which Cindy Peterson-Peart accepted in Las Vegas. This month, our members will listen to Cindy extol the many virtues of membership, NCTM Certification, and will see some useful iPad apps for music teaching and organization.

On Sunday, January 10, the community at-large is invited to a special Oregon Community Foundation Grant workshop

at Classic Pianos 3:00 to 5:00 pm. Crystal Zimmerman will present "All About Sonatinas" and then will explore the latest brain research and how it should affect our teaching methodology. You know those kinesthetic learners who want to get up and move, or wiggle on the bench? Or those sightreaders vs. auditory learners? Come spend an afternoon learning some new tricks. Dr. Zimmerman has dual degrees in performance and pedagogy, and currently teaches at Willamette University as well as her studio in Eugene.

January winds up with our playing class at Tigard United Methodist Church (January 29) and the Jr. Bach Festival at Portland Piano all day Saturday, January 30. At this point, we will be ready for another winter break, right?



Christmas Brunch in Frances Geer's Dining Room



Angela Kelly with another Beautiful Piano Solo



Elizabeth Eklund, Soprano Accompanied by Dr. Anne Young & President Carma Glaus



Victoria Drozdova's Stirring Piano Solo



Information & Acknowledgements



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

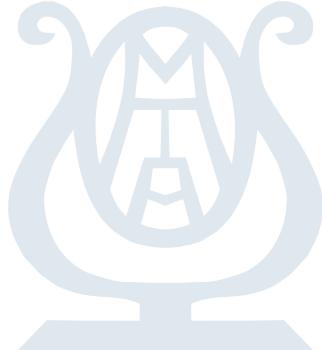
Jan	Dec 15	June	May 15
Feb	Jan 15	Sept	Aug 15
Mar	Feb 15	Oct	Sept 15
Apr	Mar 15	Nov	Oct 15
May	Apr 15	Dec	Nov 15

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



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:

February 15, 2016

March 15, 2016

February 15, 2016

