

OMTA Music News

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As the World Turns ...

by Kathy Gault, NCTM
OMTA State President

... was a long-running television soap opera (1954–2010!) that was known for the slow-moving, gradual evolution of its characters rather than fast, intense and radical change. Throughout the 54 years it was on the air, new characters were introduced gradually, and others moved into the background. A little like OMTA, really.

That is to say, many of our dedicated all-volunteer board and committee members put in many years of service, often continuing from one job to another according to our needs and their talents. It is easy to forget how vital these jobs are—until life changes, health concerns or other reasons require someone to step down. Then it is time for new faces, new talents, and fresh ideas and enthusiasm.

There are currently several board position openings, and we are looking for some new members to get involved. Some will suit volunteers who have a little bit of time on a regular basis. Others need larger chunks of time, but *only occasionally*. If you are interested in learning a bit more about the inside workings of our organization, and have time to contribute, will you please let me know as soon as possible?

There is one specific position that I'd like to mention in detail, as this is a more specialized job than most of the others. Bonnie Esbensen has done yeoman's work in setting up and running our OMTA state website, from the very beginning. She is moving on and we need a new **Website Chair**.

Do you have an interest in working on this? The OMTA office staff is able to do a great deal of the work such as updating, editing, etc. What is needed is someone to stay on top of keeping the website current, as well as create/write content. I have a detailed description listing what has been done in the past, and suggestions for tweaks and improvements going forward from Bonnie and our office wizards, Caris and Robin Power.

Technical know-how is a huge plus, though we have access to the original website designer and current website host, in case of serious problems.

If you enjoy website design, playing with fonts, editing, and writing, and have time and a willingness to help OMTA keep our online presence fresh, vibrant and awesome, please contact me, or Caris and Robin at the OMTA State Office. This job can be what you make of it.

Come on—it'll be fun!

President's Corner



Kathy Gault, OMTA President



You have brains in your head.
You have feet in your shoes.
You can steer yourself
any direction you choose.

—DR. SEUSS

Marketing to Millennials

Clear away the champagne bottles. Sweep up the confetti. Yes, it's the beginning of a new calendar year, and the rest of the world is polishing up a list of resolutions that may or may not be fulfilled in coming months. But most of us music teachers begin our new teaching year in the fall. At that time we create a calendar/schedule for our students, and plan a curriculum that includes the tried and true, as well as whatever new music and activities we have decided to add.

So what's a well-organized teacher to do, when the students are steaming along, the practice charts are filling up, and repertoire, technique and skills are coming along according to plan? (Or not.) The stretch from January through the end of March is practically holiday-free—the longest uninterrupted period of time during the traditional 10 month school year.

The weather during these months also tends to encourage indoor pursuits, so it might be a perfect time to up your marketing game. The parents of our students may be looking at our professional “storefront” with quite different eyes than parents of the past.

Millennial and younger Generation X parents are members of the first generation of “digital natives” who have never lived in a world without computers. They believe technology makes life easier, and they rely on social media and digital sources to locate information and navigate their lives.

Most teachers now find it necessary to vary the mix in order to communicate with varied personalities and family styles: some respond to emails, others only to phone texts. Snailmail and hard copy don't get the attention they used to.

Probably the fastest and easiest first step into digital marketing is with a studio Facebook page. This is a quick and easy way to post videos, photos, news about upcoming studio events, and student news, without the cost of designing (or paying someone to design) a studio website. (If you don't have a studio Facebook page, you can send photos and information to share on our OMTA Facebook page to me, or to Angela Kelly, our state Marketing Chair.)

While Millennials now number more than half the population overall, our OMTA members are largely members of earlier generations (66% +). If we are to continue to attract and engage with the students we need to evolve and improve our marketing efforts, in addition to our personal education pursuit of continued excellence of the educational and artistic variety. If you do not have a professional online presence, perhaps the winter months ahead would be a good time to venture out into the ethers (or the Cloud) with a studio Facebook page, YouTube channel, or website.

(Many thanks to Angela Kelly, OMTA Marketing Chair, for some of this information. Also the excellent column in each issue of *American Music Teacher* by Courtney Chappell: “The ABC's of Gen X, Y, Z”.

Warmly,

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

Kathy



State News *2017 State Conference*

Selina Manson
OMTA President-elect



Activities Galore at the Beach

With the arrival of winter weather, many of you may be daydreaming of a sunny day at the beach. Well you are in luck! This coming July OMTA members can enjoy days of beautiful weather in Lincoln City for the annual conference.

SILENT AUCTION & WALL OF WINE
Mid-Columbia District President Rebecca Gooch has news regarding the MTNA Foundation and OMTA Foundation events at the conference:

There will be a silent auction and a wine raffle held at the 2017 conference. I will happily accept donations from individuals and or districts for the WALL of WINE and the SILENT AUCTION that will benefit the MTNA Foundation Fellow and OMTA Foundation. Last year for the silent auction we had donations ranging from music CDs, gourmet teas with the accessories, hand woven dish towel, beautiful sculpture and pottery. We did not have any concert or event tickets last year to auction. Concert/Event tickets would be a nice addition to our items. Just a thought!

I would love to have a donation from your district to include in the auction and wine wall. Remember that any individual donations made to the wine wall or silent auction are tax deductible! Thank you for your support and dedication to make this a successful event. Looking forward to seeing you at the conference!

Chinook Winds Casino Resort Hotel



The conference will offer many interesting programs and presentations in the Convention Center at Chinook Winds Casino Resort.

ACTIVITIES UNLIMITED

What about activities during your free time at the conference, or if you wish to extend your stay to make a full vacation? Rita Warton, Lincoln County District President, recommends these additional activities available while visiting.

Lincoln City offers shopping at the Factory Outlet Stores; 10+ antique stores; 10+ galleries; and many small-town-style stores. One of the best, called "Prehistoric," has fossils and a moving T-Rex to greet you! Kids love it too. We have North Lincoln County Historical Museum, which is excellent. There is a Community Center for swimming, wall climbing, weight and cardio rooms, indoor track, and basketball court. Additionally there is the Lincoln City Cultural Center (dear to my heart), the culinary center, glass art places, and the Sunday Farmers Market. Not to mention the seven miles of beaches and a three-mile-long lake with parks. There is more, but I need to stop!

With so much to offer, the 2017 OMTA conference in Lincoln City will be a great opportunity for all OMTA members to have fun, see some friends, and pick up some new ideas for your studio. Can't wait to see you at the beach! More info to follow in future *Music News* issues as we get closer to registration. 



State News *OMTA District Projects Grant Programs*

Susan Todd, NCTM
OMTA District Projects
Grant Coordinator



Teacher Enrichment for All!

Start your New Year out with a special presentation! If you can't make it to one of these, visit the OMTA site and sit back with a cup of tea and learn at home. There are five workshops posted there now!

UPCOMING PRESENTATIONS:

Friday, January 6

10:00–Noon

Salem District

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

1770 Baxter St., Salem

Deborah Cleaver: *Starting Out Right: Taubman Approach for Young Children*

An overview presentation of the concepts of the Taubman approach.

Friday, January 6

10:30–12:30

Lincoln County District

Oregon Coast Community College

Music Room, South Beach Campus

400 SE College Way, Newport

Paula Watt, NCTM: *OMTA Syllabus Teacher Training* Q & A with teachers on the syllabus program.

Monday, January 9

10:30–Noon

Eugene District

First Congregational Church

1050 E 23rd, Eugene

Mary Hall Kogen: *Accessing Rhythm Through Movement* Movement initiates and supports our mental and creative processes. Come and learn how focusing and centering improves through movement and how mistakes as a learning tool become acceptable through movement.

Monday, January 9

10:00–Noon

Rogue Valley District

Studio of Rebecca DeBoer

1534 Devonshire, Medford

Dr. Michael Seregow: *Scaling Parnassus: The Sequential Development of Piano Mastery* Michael Seregow offers guidance in designing a curriculum for the intermediate student who is beyond the method books.

Saturday, January 14

10:00–4:00 p.m.

Umatilla-Morrow District

Pendleton Presbyterian Church

201 SW Dorion, Pendleton

Dr. Michael Seregow: *Scaling Parnassus* (see above description)

Friday, February 3

10:00–Noon

Lincoln County District

Oregon Coast Community College

Music Room, South Beach Campus

400 SE College Way, Newport

Paul Safar: *Guiding Your Piano Student in Composition* Ideas to inspire, encourage and support a student in their early attempts at composing.

Saturday, February 11

10:00–Noon

Blue Mountain District

Groth Recital Hall (Loso Hall, Room 126)

EOU Campus

Deborah Cleaver: *Beyond Legato: The Expressive Elements of Baroque Performance Practice* Learn how elements of Baroque performance practice can inform musical expression.

 (Continued on next page)



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

Saturday, February 11

9:00–11:00 a.m.

Tualatin Valley District

Tigard United Methodist Church

9845 SW Walnut Place, Tigard

Leila Viss: *Nurturing Potential into Passion* Interactive lecture focusing on the stages of motivation, and tips and tricks to keep students practicing, progressing and staying on the bench for a lifetime.

Monday, February 13

10:00–Noon

Roseburg District

Studio of Faye Rounds

160 Live Oak Court, Roseburg

Phyllis Pieffer, NCTM: *Learning Styles: How Students Learn* This talk will concentrate on Right Brain/Left Brain, Temperaments and Modalities: Visual, Aural, and Kinesthetic (VAK).

PRESENTATIONS NOW ONLINE:

You can view the following presentations online at: <http://tinyurl.com/zxluqok>

Tips for Preparing for Syllabus Exams

Presenter: Heidi Evans, NCTM

Host: Salem District

Music and the Brain: How We Hear and Understand Melody and Rhythm plus Succeeding with Sonatinas

Presenter: Dr. Crystal Zimmerman

Host: Tualatin Valley District

Baroque Dance

Presenters: Judith Kennedy and

Daniel Stephens

Host: Portland District

Teaching the Special Learner: Wisdom and Strategies for the Independent Music Teacher

Presenter: Emily Ross, MA, MT-BC

Host: Portland District

Starter Steps for Playing Eighteenth-Century Repertoire on the Modern Piano

Relevant and applicable for all who play or teach the works of Haydn, Beethoven, or Mozart

Presenter: Donna Gunn

Host: Portland District



State News *Oregon Division Winners*

Cindy Peterson-Peart, NCTM
Northwest Division Director-Elect



BEST OF LUCK TO OREGON DIVISION WINNERS!

The MTNA Northwest Division Performance Competitions will be held at Eastern Washington University on January 14–16. These students won our state competition in October and we're very proud to have them representing Oregon at the division level. Please join me in wishing them good luck as they compete for the chance to move on to the National Competition at the MTNA Conference in Baltimore.

Junior Piano:

Michael Gu
Student of Rachele McCabe

Junior Strings:

Ian Song
Student of Carol Sindell

Senior Piano:

Nathan Kim
Student of Renato Fabbro

Senior Strings:

Paul Lee
Student of Hyun-Jin Kim

Senior Woodwinds:

Marah Christenson
Student of Sandy Norman

Young Artist Chamber:

Daniel Hughes, Zach Banks
& Viet Block
Students of Julia Lee, Hamilton
Cheifetz, and Tomas Cotik

Young Artist Piano:

Ho Ni Connie Mak
Student of Claire Wachter



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willamette.edu/go/musicauditions



Jan Mittelstaedt



Happy New Year!

FROM THE ALUMNAE OF ESMAR AND
THEIR ASSESSOR, JILL TIMMONS:

Kristina Cheng, Angela Pyo, Melissa Terrall, Jimmy Chen, Jonathan Su, Harrison Liu, Amy Nungesser, Gavin Smith, Felicia Sadikin, Irina Jan, Kennedy Hahn, Trisha Chan, Isabel Chen, Jonathan Chu, Natina Gilbert, Elizabeth Ren, Vincent Zhuang, Cayla Bleoaja, Kennedy Hahn, Austin Chang, Sam Doby, Benjamin Pikus, Amy Qui, Mingquin Tan, and Kevin Fu

AND THEIR TEACHERS:

Shirley Sonk, Grace Chen, Myrna Elmore, Beverly McDaniel, Shirley Brendlinger, Cherise da Cunha, Jan Mittelstaedt, Bella Sheykman, Lori Martinson, Barbara Musolf, Alona Maizlin, Pauline Eidemiller, Patricia Scordato, and Barbara Chapman

NEXT ASSESSMENT DATES:

APRIL 28–30, 2017

CONTACT JAN MITTELSTAEDT

TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT:

janrm@frontier.com

503-645-2066



PORTLAND PIANO INTERNATIONAL UPCOMING EVENTS

SOLO

NATASHA
PAREMSKI

JAN 14 & 15 / 4PM
LINCOLN HALL

"A young pianist of prodigious technique and striking stage presence."

—WASHINGTON POST



GEORGE
LI

FEB 11 & 12 / 4PM
LINCOLN HALL

"Li's performance left no doubt that he combines staggering technical prowess, a sense of command, and depth of expression."

—WASHINGTON POST



OMTA MEMBER DISCOUNT!

Portland Piano International invites you to enjoy its SOLO Piano Series with a special discount for OMTA Members. You can receive **\$20 off** any non-keyboard side ticket (a 45% discount) with the coupon code "OMTA20"!

503.228.1388

PORTLANDPIANO.ORG



State News *OMTA Honors Committee Corner*

Fern McArthur, NCTM
Susan Todd, NCTM
Carol White, NCTM
Your OMTA Honors Committee



Great news, OMTA! Thanks to your donations and support, both of our 2017 MTNA Foundation Fellow Nominees are fully funded! Patti Petersen, NCTM and Margaret Littlehales, NCTM, both of Central Oregon District, will be honored at the 2017 MTNA Conference in Baltimore. Check your May *Music News* for a write-up and pictures!

Thanks to all who contributed to this worthy fund, which supports students and teachers throughout our organization through grants, scholarships and awards.

We are always looking forward, and hope to receive your nominations for our

2018 Oregon MTNA Foundation Fellow. Visit Teacher Resources/Awards and Honors on our OMTA website for details: <http://tinyurl.com/ju594bp>. We would appreciate nominations by early February so that we can present our recommendations to the board at its March 4 meeting.

District Presidents, please set mid-February as your goal for submitting nominations for Honorary Life Members. You can request a list of 25-year+ members in your district from the OMTA office. Further details on nomination requirements are found on the Awards and Honors noted above. 

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"The Oregon State University piano program gave me all the skills and experience I needed to launch my career as a professional accompanist and studio teacher."

- Bryson Skaar (B.A. in Piano Performance, 2015)

Oregon State
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State News *Membership*

Sherrene Walker
OMTA State Membership Chair



New Year, New Members!

As teachers one of our main goals is to provide as many enriching opportunities for our students as possible. Through our local districts students are able to participate in recitals, master classes, workshops and district events. Beyond that, students can enter competitions at both the state and national level.

Membership in MTNA, OMTA and local districts also supplies us with a community of teachers, endless resources, and numerous continuing education opportunities for both ourselves and our students.

One young professional music teacher in Washington wrote recently that after finishing their graduate program, by being a part of MTNA as well as their appropriate state and local organization, they set up a studio and it was full by September! They stated that local associations are a fantastic resource if you are planning to move to a new city. Joining a local allowed them to learn the ins-and-outs of running a studio in that location, something they couldn't learn in graduate school or any online forum. As a result of this experience, they encourage all young professionals to seek out their nearest local association: "You'll be amazed by everything MTNA, the state and local have to offer."

Our new members this month model the above examples as out-of-state transfers and present and post-collegiate members!

At Large

Jayanthi Joseph
Violin, Viola, Elementary Music
Collegiate member in Corvallis

Lincoln County

Cathy Champion-Predmore, NCTM
Piano
Transfer from Montana

Portland

Stephanie Cooke
Piano
Collegiate member in 2011, now active

Roseburg

Mary Morganti
Piano, General Music
Transfer from Arizona

Umatilla-Morrow

Holly Rose
Piano
Transfer from Utah

Don't forget that if you know of music teachers who are not members of OMTA, January starts the half-price MTNA dues, for teachers new to OMTA, who would like to "try us" for six months. This is a perfect opportunity for them to get involved and enjoy the benefits of MTNA, OMTA and local district membership without paying full year dues for their first year!

CORRECTION: The December issue of *Music News* incorrectly listed the teaching specialties for one of our newest Central Oregon members, *Megan Lapp*. Her specialties include voice, piano and choral. OMTA regrets this error. 



State News *Facebook! You Know You Like Us!*

Angela Kelly
Marketing



Teachers! Are you connected on Facebook?
Please locate OMTA on Facebook as
Oregon Music Teachers Association.
When you find us, please “LIKE” us. It’s that easy.

Like OMTA on Facebook

Great. Now you are connected to dozens of other amazing
music teachers all around Oregon who appreciate sharing ideas,
experiences and successes in their teaching studios.

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2017-2018

MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP AUDITIONS

FEBRUARY 23 - WEST LINN HS

FEBRUARY 25 - OSU CAMPUS (CORVALLIS)



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District News *Central Oregon*

Helen Jones, NCTM



HAPPY NEW YEAR 2017 to our friends in OMTA!

“Snow” has been the word of the month in Central Oregon! Our yearly Holiday meeting/potluck was held December 9 at the home of Margaret Littlehales, NCTM. Attendance numbers were affected by the weather but those who braved the snow and cold were treated to a fun, participatory program given by our own President-Elect Gina Rosbrook. Her program featured fun “Christmas Partner Songs” and we sang them with conviction. Gina’s experience as a classroom teacher really showed.



Gina Rosbrook

Central Oregon District looks forward to our student Romantic/Impressionistic Festival February 25 at Wille Hall on the Central Oregon Community College (COCC) campus. Central Oregon Symphony conductor and COCC Music Professor Michael Gesme will work with all the students in small groups at each recital. Mr. Gesme will present the program “Romantic/Impressionistic Style” for our January 13 meeting. As is his style, he will surely make this program fun and entertaining.

Our district will be listed in the upcoming Bend Bulletin’s 2017 special publication “Connections 2017.” It lists numerous non-profit groups, as well as a brief description of each group. This is one more way we can “get the word out” to the Central Oregon community about our organization.

Best Wishes for 2017! 



Singing Christmas “Partner” Songs



Alexis Gibbons, NCTM



Music, Movement, and Fun with Susan Kenney

In November the Eugene District had the honor of being part of a fascinating presentation given by Susan Kenney. *The Art of Holistic Teaching: Skills, Strategies and Motivation* was not a presentation that you could idly listen to. Susan engaged our bodies and our minds in her message. Her presentation began in an unusual fashion as she played an arpeggiated dominant seventh chord to get our attention. We soon learned that each time this chord is played we should stand up. Once we were standing and attentive, she played a dominant seventh resolution which meant sit down. From there, she has us standing, marching, tip-toeing, dancing, sitting, standing, marching, etc., all around the room to her music.

Her point was this: "If the body is not moving, the brain is not growing." We learned about recent educational studies that prove children need to be moving in order to learn. She showed us ideas on how to incorporate movement into private lessons. In the process, our members got quite a workout!

For this presentation, we had record attendance. Our president David Cragun was the mastermind behind getting Su-



Practicing Motivating Activity

san to our meeting. We had so much fun dancing around the room to Tchaikovsky and interpreting the music with our body movements. We truly appreciate the wealth of knowledge that Susan shared with us.

In other news, we are happy to announce that Kenneth Willson will be presenting a family-friendly, multimedia piano concert, entitled "Encounters with Beethoven." His presentation will include personal insights into Beethoven's life, movie clips, cartoons, and beautiful piano music. The concert will be at Unity of the Valley in Eugene on Saturday, January 28, at 3:00 p.m. Admission is free and open to the public.

Our chapter has an annual Barnes and Noble Play-a-Thon held each December. This year Eugene Piano Company donated a lovely Kawai for us to use for this event. 22 teachers participated, and the funds raised will go toward the Soule Scholarship.

We hope everyone had a safe and happy holiday. Now let's all go dancing into the New Year! 



Interpreting Music with Movement



District News *Salem*

Alexis Gibbons, NCTM



Music in the Capitol! Music in the Mall!

Every December, Salem District students play and sing under the Capitol rotunda. What a great experience for all of them! They also perform Christmas music at the Lancaster Mall for the delight of shoppers.

Proud parents see their students enjoy the opportunity to play their favorite Christmas music for the community. These are the students of Jill Foster and Kim Despain.



Salem Students Performing in the Mall and the Capitol



Sherry Poole Todd
President Tualatin Valley



Giving Back

One thing the entire holiday season brings to mind is how much musicians give back to the community at large. Most of us attend, direct, or perform in some sort of production during December, requiring hours of rehearsal, and often without pay. There's nothing quite like writing out horn parts for *Angels We Have Heard on High* in September when it's still 75 degrees outside! I attended a large church production recently and wondered how long it took the nursery choir director to teach those very young children their speaking parts, plus lyrics and motions for their cute Christmas songs! Been there? Done that?

2016 was the year when church musicians had the dubious honor of performing at 5:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. services, only to grab a couple hours of sleep and come back to do one or two Christmas morning services. What dedication! Handbells, orchestras, vocal music—where would we be without musicians, singers, soundboard and recording engineers, and volunteers of all sorts?

MEMBERS PLAYING IT FORWARD

Tualatin Valley has many fine volunteers, but one group consistently makes a point of performing for the community at large. Our Professional Development Class (aka the Playing Class) coordinated by Susan Marandas always plays for a senior center

each December. Some of our highest level pianists bring masterworks as well as some familiar carols and duets to their audience. When members are the busiest, they still take time out to give back. Again in March, a group performs at The Old Church for nothing more than the love of playing and some applause. I have often said (and visiting presenters also have noted) that our members performing for each other and as a group in the community is one of our best attributes! Here's to all of you who also give back and enrich lives through the performance and teaching of music!

JANUARY SPECIAL GUEST

Take time out in January to learn a little more about researching the origins of the music you and your students play by attending at workshop by Dr. David Lasocki. David is a world renowned expert for his research on wind instruments, especially recorder, and has authored 11 books and dozens of publications. He will help us with performance practice, citing pieces properly, and finding and assessing repertoire and editions. Come join us for:

How (a Little) Music Research Can Help Piano Teachers (a Lot).

January 13, 2017

10:00

Tigard United Methodist Church





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

Half single column ads (and articles about events which require an admission fee or tuition):
\$25.00

Larger ads at a proportional cost.
(Visit <https://oregonmta.org/publications/> for prices and ad specifications.)

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





Music News

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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 *Teacher Resources* and *Programs for Students*. Complete listings of State and District leadership are found in the pull-down menu under *About OMTA*.

Upcoming Music News copy DEADLINES:

January 15, 2017

February 15, 2017

March 15, 2017

