

# OMTA Music News

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## Summer Conference Info

by Selina Manson, Conference Chair

### Conference Registration

Conference registration is underway! Our 2017 OMTA conference is July 14–16 in Lincoln City at the Chinook Winds Casino and Resort. Business meetings (Board, etc.) are on Thursday, July 13.

People have already begun registering online for the conference at: <http://tinyurl.com/mwqxwal>. Early bird registration closes the end of May. Be sure to register early to get the best deal on your conference pass.

### Hotel Reservations

Hotel rooms are also being reserved for the conference. Please contact Chinook Winds Casino Resort Ho-

tel at (541) 994-3655 and Liberty Inn at (541) 994-1777 to make your reservations. Please reference the OMTA conference for the special rates.

If you are looking for information about our conference, please see the OMTA conference website: <http://tinyurl.com/kohxx2w>. The office staff continually updates the webpage as details continue to finalize.

For more information about the resort, please visit their website: <http://www.chinookwindscasino.com/> for their information on all the entertainment, amenities, casino activities, and dining options available.

*See you at the beach!*



Conference Colleagues Sharing Ideas



# President's Corner



Kathy Gault, NCTM  
OMTA President



## *Being Our Best*

*Amateurs practice until they get it right.  
Professionals practice until it won't go wrong.*

—UNKNOWN

At first glance, this quote sounds like something we frequently say to our students, as we aim to improve their practice habits and ultimately, send them off into the world as expert self-teachers. But take another look. Doesn't this advice also apply to us as teachers? The best teachers never stop learning, never stop asking, "How could I use my lesson time more efficiently?" "What can I do differently to help my students learn faster?" "What else can I do to teach more effectively?"

Admittedly, most of us are feeling slightly crazed at this time of year. Teaching schedules are packed solid with regular lessons, playing classes, rehearsals, student evaluations and exams, scholarship auditions, end of year projects, and more—all running alongside that old friend, Spring Fever, that whispers beguilingly, "Let's just go outside and play in the sun!"

Perhaps not a time of year when it even seems possible to think of adding one more activity, one more event, to our future calendar. But I have another quote for you:

*Optimism is the cheerful frame of mind  
that enables a teakettle to sing,  
though up to its nose in hot water.*

—UNKNOWN

Is your teakettle singing? Mine sure is. So while you are splashing around in the hot water, will you take a moment to consider the words "Professional Improvement"? We hear these words used in all kinds of contexts, casually and in a general, sort of feel-good way. But what does it mean for us as independent music teachers?

It means stopping what we are doing and listening. Listening to ... a colleague sharing an experience at a monthly program ... a new way of approaching a common teaching issue mentioned by a clinician or master teacher ... and yes, stepping forward to take on a small job in your district to help the larger organization thrive and better serve all of us.

## *A Special Memory*

I remember attending my very first OMTA state conference, as a new teacher back in 1976. I knew no one. Walking into my first session rather timidly, I sat down somewhere near the back of the room. Other teachers, most older than I, filtered in and the room filled up. Then a tall, slender figure strode down the center aisle, and seated herself in the front row. She had long grey hair caught up in a huge bun at the back of her head, high cheekbones, and what looked to me like a fierce eye. She held a clipboard to her chest and took notes throughout the presentation. She did the same at every session over the entire conference.

*(Continued on next page)*



# President's Corner *(Continued)*

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I later learned that her name was Nellie Tholen, and that she was one of the premiere teachers in OMTA and in Oregon. And yet there she was, front and center, learning from her colleagues. She came to every conference until her eventual final illness and death. Her legacy to our organization is well-known: the Teacher Improvement Fund that helps our members afford the cost of attending our state conferences, and presentations at outlying districts throughout the state. The Nellie Tholen Fund of OCF that does more of the same.

### *An Enduring Example*

And yet for me, her greatest legacy was the example she set—even after achieving success and statewide recognition by her peers, and after decades of teaching—of sitting up front and being willing to listen and learn.

How long has it been since you attended our state conference? It is held every single year, at a location near you (i.e., in Oregon), at a bargain price (which is 100% tax-deductible), and features amazing, nationally-known performers and presenters.

How long has it been since you took a lesson on your instrument? Gave a short or full recital for your students/church group/OMTA chapter? Attended a summer workshop or symposium?

*Remember:* Professionals practice until it (teaching) can't go wrong. Are you there yet?



Kathy Gault NCTM  
OMTA President



# State News *First-Timer Travel Grants!*

Kathy Gault, NCTM  
OMTA President



If you have never attended an OMTA state conference, and would like to attend this year's beachfront event in July, we have a deal for you! Thanks to our special 5-year OCF grant, there is a Travel Grant available to each district, for *first-time conference attendees who joined OMTA as new-to-MTNA members before June 2015*.

### *Did You Know?*

This is separate from the free conference attendance available to brand new members in 2016 and 2017. The \$200 grant (per district) is available through your district,

and *your district president* must request it directly from the 2017 Conference Chair, Selina Manson. The money can be used to defray travel costs, room costs or meals. The grant funds will be available at the conference, when you arrive. They are not available before the conference actually starts, nor can they be used as a credit to defray registration costs.

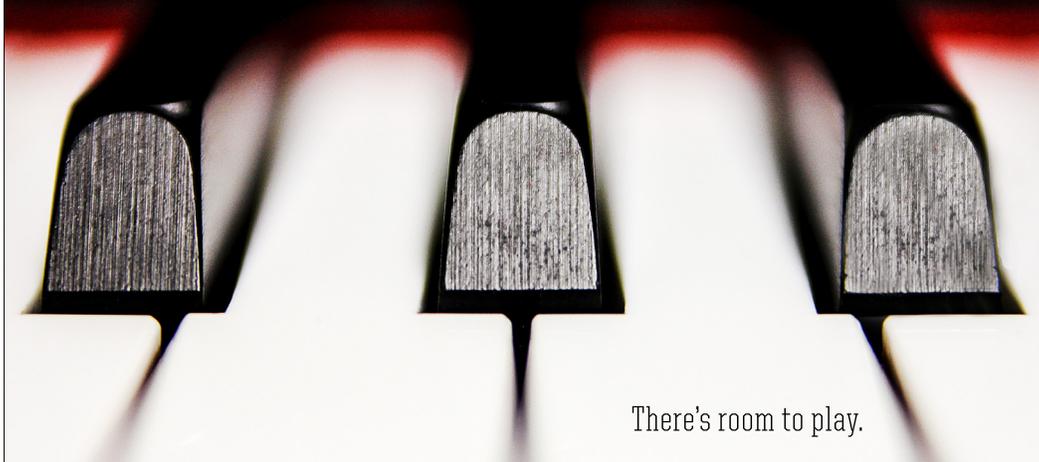
If you are interested in attending the 2017 conference, and you qualify as an on-going member (joined before June 2015), please contact your district president ASAP.

Come on—it'll be fun! 

EO/AA/ADA institution committed to cultural diversity.

**O** UNIVERSITY OF OREGON | School of Music and Dance

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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Susan Todd, NCTM  
Honors Committee Chair



Dr. Bonnie Esbensen

### *Dr. Bonnie Esbensen Named OMTA 2018 MTNA Foundation Fellow Nominee*

At its March meeting, your OMTA board voted unanimously to name Dr. Bonnie Esbensen as OMTA's 2018 MTNA Foundation Fellow Nominee. If you haven't done so already, take a look back at Bonnie's article in the September *Music News*, "Looking Back, Looking Forward."

<http://tinyurl.com/mq4garm>.

The article reflects on Bonnie's long tenure as our Publications Chair and her time as OMTA President.

Bonnie served as OMTA President in 2012–2014, and was Publications Chair for twenty years. She brought OMTA into the digital age and is responsible for the

polished, professional image we present to the world through our website, the OMTA *Music News*, our brochures, and *The Oregon Musician*.

Comments from Bonnie's nominations for this award included: "As OMTA President, Bonnie created a closer relationship with the Oregon Community Foundation to procure more Nellie Tholen funding. She developed the long-range planning sessions to present our goals to OCF and resulted in more funding for outreach to students and teachers."

"Bonnie has been a true inspiration to me and to the Association with her constant energy and forward-looking ideas that have literally brought us into this century with outreach to our members and the communities. Her knowledge and experience has been invaluable to us, ranging from her understanding of current technology, her service on various boards of cultural entities, and basic love of the arts. Her service to OMTA has been selfless and, in my opinion, unequalled."

Please join your OMTA Board in supporting Bonnie's nomination as our 2018 Foundation Fellow. Donations in Bonnie's name may be sent to MTNA. Complete information about the MTNA Foundation, including the donation form, may be found at [www.mtnafoundation.org](http://www.mtnafoundation.org). If you choose to include a Foundation Donation in your dues renewal, please take an extra moment to email MTNA to let them know that you would like your donation credited towards Bonnie's nomination.

The MTNA Foundation provides scholarships for students and teachers throughout our organization. Over 95 percent of each dollar donated to the foundation is awarded in scholarships grants. 



# State News *MTNA Foundation—Why Bother?*

Rebecca Gooch

Foundation Auction Chair



It seems like we have so many demands on our time. Demands of work, community, family and ourselves. So, *why bother* participating in the MTNA Foundation Auction? Well, sometimes I have to ask myself that same question. And then I look at all the wonderful events our MTNA Foundation provides.

Have you ever wondered where our Auction and Wall-of-Wine Raffle monies go? I have! Here are a few of the programs the MTNA Foundation funds.

### *Foundation Fellows*

These teachers are chosen at the State level by us, the members, to be recognized at the national convention. A donation to the Foundation Fund is made in their name. Our OMTA 2017 recipients are Patti Petersen and Margaret Littehales.

### *MTNA Student Competitions*

**DISTINGUISHED COMPOSER OF THE YEAR**  
Composer-commissioned new composition, chosen through competition

#### **GRANTS AND AWARDS**

- MTNA Achievement Award
- Distinguished Service Award
- Frances Clark Keyboard Pedagogy Award
- Teacher Enrichment Grants
- Studio Teacher Fellowship  
(to assist a newly established studio)

- Grants to MTNA local-affiliate associations for teachers, students and their communities

### *Wall-of-Wine Raffle Is Coming!*

We can continue to support these programs through our Wall-of-Wine Raffle and Annual Auction at this year's State Convention, to be held July 14–16 in Lincoln City.

### *Let's Have an Auction!*

Auction items can be music related—or not. Concert tickets, event tickets, local items to showcase your area, or maybe a composer-themed basket? Is there a time-share you will not be using, that you would like to donate? If a large item is donated, a minimum bid value will be determined by the donating party and the auction chair. The possibilities are endless—and tax deductible.

Please include a description: Who it is made by, if applicable; value; and who or what district donated the item(s).

I will be around the registration area to receive your auction donations and/or your wine donation at the convention. Just ask for Rebecca Gooch. We will also have a room dedicated to the auction tables! 



# State News *OMTA District Projects Grant Programs*

Susan Todd, NCTM

*OMTA District Projects*

*Grant Coordinator*



## *Teacher Enrichment for All!*

Now that the grant presentation year is drawing to a close, my list of upcoming presentations is rather short. If you have a program that would be appropriate for our roster (minimum 1.5 hours, plus a willingness to travel at least a bit), do let me know. If you have heard a wonderful program, tell me about that as well. Presidents/Program Chairs will receive a roster by mid-May, but we can add to the roster throughout the year.

### UPCOMING PRESENTATIONS:

#### Friday, May 5

10:00 a.m.–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.

#### Friday & Saturday, May 5 & 6

Blue Mountain District

Contact Lanetta Paul for details

PAULA WATT, NCTM: *Teacher Training: Using Syllabus but Going Deeper*

- Setting a good foundation in the beginning student
- Teaching kids how to practice
- Combining method books with classical literature
- Building sight reading skills
- Memorization
- Fingering and mapping
- Finding syllabus in the music, and more ...

#### Friday, May 12

10:45 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

Central Oregon District

Home of Jean Shrader

11480 W Hwy 126, Redmond

DEBORAH CLEAVER: *The Art of the Sarabande* Examine the history of the dance and its steps, the characteristic rhythmic patterns, ornamentation, and rhythmic freedom.

#### Saturday, May 13

11:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Mid-Columbia District

The Christian Science Church

701 Washington Street, The Dalles

JENNIFER WRIGHT: *Show 'em Who's The Man* Proven techniques that eradicate performance anxiety once and for all!

- How to become a master of planning and preparation
- Music, Mind, Body, Spirit: What you water is what will grow.
- Your Bag of Anti-Stomach Butterfly Tricks
- and more!

#### Saturday, May 20

10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Umatilla-Morrow District

(Rescheduled from January 14)

Pendleton Presbyterian Church

201 SW Dorion, Pendleton

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.

*(Continued on next page)*



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



**Friday, June 9**

10:45 a.m.–12:15 p.m.  
Central Oregon District  
Home of Jodie Bishof  
2 Doral Lane, Sunriver

DR. BONNIE ESBENSEN: *Practicing and Coaching: Ideas from Psychology and Sports* Using ideas from sports, as well as research on learning, we may be able to change for the better how we and our students practice.

**PRESENTATIONS ONLINE:**

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

**NOW AVAILABLE!**

*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.

Presenter: Leila Viss

Host: Tualatin Valley District, February 2017

*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, November, 2016

*Teaching the Special Learner*

Wisdom and Strategies for the Independent Music Teacher

Presenter: Emily Ross, MA, MT-BC

Host: Portland District, October, 2016

*Tips for Preparing for Syllabus Exams*

Presenter: Heidi Evans, NCTM

Host: Salem District, January, 2016

*Music and the Brain*

How We Hear and Understand Melody and Rhythm; plus *Succeeding with Sonatinas*

Presenter: Dr. Crystal Zimmerman

Host: Tualatin Valley District, January, 2016

*Authentic Baroque Dance*

Presenters: Judith Kennedy  
& Daniel Stephens

Host: Portland District, February, 2016



**FOR SALE**

## 1972 Dowd French Harpsichord



**Built for Dr. Edith Kilbuck**

Contact: [jane@janemendenhall.com](mailto:jane@janemendenhall.com)  
for more information



# State News *Composition Celebration*

Karen Huntsberger, NCTM  
State Composition Celebration Chair



## *Honored Composers Recital*

You are invited to hear Honored Composers from around the state perform their compositions. Honored Composers will receive certificates and trophies. Do you have a student who's interested in composing and needs some inspiration and encouragement? Have them attend to hear this year's creative compositions. I hope to see you there!

**When:** Saturday, May 20, 2017  
**Where:** Hudson Hall, Willamette University, Salem, Oregon  
**Time:** Recitals at 1:00 and 2:15  
A reception follows each recital.  
**Map:** Building 37  
<http://tinyurl.com/lpqs4ng>

The Honored Composers 2017 Composition book will be available for pick-up at the recital for those that pre-order by email. The cost will be \$5-\$7 per book. Please pay for pre-ordered copies at the state recital. To pre-order the composition booklet, send an email indicating number of books ordered to [kbh61489@comcast.net](mailto:kbh61489@comcast.net). There will be a few extra copies available for purchase.

Questions? Contact Karen Huntsberger at [kbh61489@comcast.net](mailto:kbh61489@comcast.net) or 503-857-0378. 

## PORTLAND PIANO INTERNATIONAL UPCOMING EVENTS

**SOLO**

**PAAVALI  
JUMPPANEN**

**MAY 13 & 14 / 4PM**

**\$5 OMTA  
STUDENT  
TICKETS!**

Students/families of OMTA teachers can purchase tickets for just \$5 each by calling our office. OMTA Teachers may purchase tickets for \$20 each. Available by phone only at **503.228.1388**.



**PIANO, & PIZZA with PAAVALI  
MAY 12 / 7PM FREE!!!**

Students ages 12 - 22 are invited to meet Paavali Jumppanen and enjoy some pizza at Portland State University. Please have your students sign up at [portlandpiano.org/paavalijumppanen](http://portlandpiano.org/paavalijumppanen)



SHEET MUSIC DEALS

## **NEED MUSIC?**

Through a new partnership with Sheet Music Deals, anyone with the Portland

Piano International discount code can get a 20% discount on printed music thru December 2017! Just go to [sheetmusicdeals.com](http://sheetmusicdeals.com) and use the coupon code **ppi17**.

**more info at  
PORTLANDPIANO.ORG**



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

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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 hundreds of other amazing  
music teachers all around Oregon who appreciate sharing ideas,  
experiences and successes in their teaching studios.

*It’s s-o-o-o . . . 21st century!*

# State News *Membership*

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**Sherrene Walker**

*OMTA State Membership Chair*



## *Time for Renewals!*

Dues renewal notices are being mailed to members this week. Some members will renew automatically, because they understand the value that they receive for their membership and how MTNA and OMTA meet their needs. Others will renew based on emotion, because of shining moments they have experienced—a student event where new heights were achieved, a compelling performance by a guest artist, or a collaborative new event that engaged the community.

When you get your renewal notice, remember the past year's shining moments in your local or state association. Also remember the fun, the joy, the triumphs, the friendships from your association with other wonderful music teachers.

Enjoy all of your spring activities and start planning now to gather at the OMTA State Conference! See details in this newsletter. Hope to see you there! 



Helen Jones, NCTM



## *From Syllabus to Sarabandes*

Central Oregon District Syllabus Chairman Missy Barker reports there were 77 students from 15 teachers in auditions held the first part of April, including one on-line student. Adjudicators were Heidi Evans NCTM, Liz Willis NCTM and Margaret Littlehales NCTM. Congratulations to Joeley Cassie, student of Judy Kamperman, who completed her Level X.



Joeley Cassie

Our April 14 program began with member Larry Rausch demonstrating “Tips to Help Your Student with Composing.” Three concepts should be in place when asking a student to compose:

1. Have no expectations, and compliment whatever comes back.
2. Start with something familiar—a familiar emotion.
3. Forget about notation. Record the composition on a smart phone or other device.



Larry Rausch

*(Continued on next page)*





Sharing the April 14 program was OMTA State President Kathy Gault, NCTM who presented “Certification for Dummies”. She broke down the various requirements of Certification into very manageable segments.

We are excited to announce our May 12 program by Deborah Cleaver and invite OMTA members and non-members to attend. Deborah’s lecture-demonstration “Art of the Sarabande” is funded by the Oregon Community Foundation Nellie Tholen Grant. The meeting/program will be at the home of Jean Shrader. Please call 541-593-2663 for further information.

Our last student event of the school year will be the Ensemble Festival June 11. This popular event will take place at Wille Hall on the Central Oregon Community College campus in Bend. 



Deborah Cleaver



# District News *Tualatin Valley*

Sherry Poole Todd  
*President Tualatin Valley*



## *Old Church, New Technique, and the 'Eroica'*

### OLD CHURCH CONCERT

The Old Church in downtown Portland is a beautiful venue for music. The organ, which I've had the pleasure of playing in concert, is an historic tracker organ restored by Bond organ makers. The stained glass window has been refurbished to its original luster, and on stage is a nice sized Steinway. They make the church available for concerts and recitals of all kinds—usually free of charge. Tualatin Valley members

and friends provided a lovely concert for the Wednesday "Sack Lunch Series" to an appreciative audience, and we presented The Old Church with a \$100 check to help with their operating expenses. I encourage you and your group to take advantage of this terrific gem for your next recital. Your donation keeps this extraordinary place available for musicians of all kinds and you, too can have your name on a pew plaque!

*(Continued on next page)*



Sherry Poole Todd Presents Our \$100 Donation to the Old Church



Anne Young Plays Prokofiev



Heidi Evans Plays Rachmaninov





Chamber Music at the Old Church, Portland



Laura Davis Plays Piazzolla

## **FRED KARPOFF**

Dr. Fred Karpoff, our big-name presenter visiting us in April, concluded my year as president. His Friday morning workshop “Take Control of Your Technique” showed how the online Entrada site can support your teaching with a systematic approach to piano technique. It starts with the most basic, foundational movements, through octaves, arpeggios, trills, and an ever-increasing archive of annotated repertoire pieces. Each month, Fred chooses a common piano piece or two that we all teach and gives a webinar on the specific technical demands of that piece and proper movement in achieving them. An annotated score, often with alternate fingerings, accompanies the webinar, and these videos can be watched at any time. The short demonstrations on the Entrada site can be incorporated into a lesson quite easily, as they are only about a minute or two long.

*(Continued on next page)*

Faber and Faber have added Fred Karpoff to their creative team, recognizing his commitment to developing proper technique from the beginning. Check it out!

[www.Entradapiano.com](http://www.Entradapiano.com)

### ASTONISHING RECITAL

After Tualatin Valley's workshop, Fred gave an extremely ambitious recital the following morning at Classic Piano's *Classics and Croissants* program, developed by Tualatin Valley member Jim Walls. Fred opened with three Debussy Preludes, then the Barber Sonata (!), gorgeous Rachmaninoff Etudes-Tableaux Op. 33, ending with the Eroica Variations by Beethoven. Can you imagine all that in one sitting? I call him the King of Technique, and I hope the name sticks!

### MASTER CLASS

There's more! A light buffet and a Master Class followed, including the Grieg Concerto, 3rd Movement, and portions of the Pathétique sonata. Fred was headed to Eugene to repeat his concert recital there before ending his Northwest tour in Seattle. 🌿



Victoria Drozdova Plays César Cui



Dr. Fred Karpoff Explaining "Entrada" Technique

### *Erratum*

In April the article on Tualatin Valley's special workshop had an error. The "Music in Your Hands" workshop at Classic Pianos was presented by Gaye Rumsey-Riggs.



# 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](mailto: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](mailto: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

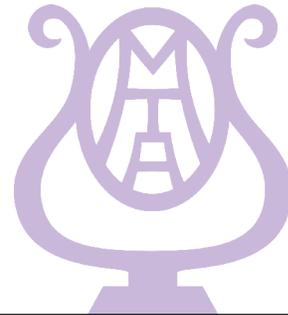
The link below connects you to your local District Associations, OMTA Board of Directors and Committee Chairs:

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

## Let Us Know

If you have changed your e-mail address please contact the office so you don't miss any OMTA News.

[office@oregonmta.org](mailto:office@oregonmta.org)



# Information & Acknowledgements

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## State Website

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

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:

*May 15, 2017*

*August 15, 2017*

*September 15, 2017*

