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Online Reviews!

by Angela Kelly
OMTA State Marketing Chair

Would you like to let potential future OMTA members know what OMTA means to you? Has your membership enriched and rejuvenated your teaching? What about all of the valuable friendships you have made with other OMTA teachers, and the wonderful workshops you have enjoyed both at a District and State level?

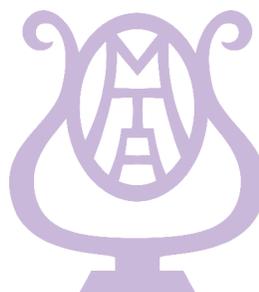
One way you can spread the word is by writing a review on our State Facebook page, and maybe giving OMTA a 5-star rating while you're at it!

If you have some parents of students who are especially happy with their child's progress in Syllabus examinations and all the great performance opportunities and experiences OMTA has provided, please encourage them to leave a review, too.

How to write a review:

1. Find Oregon Music Teachers Association's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/oregonmta/>
2. Go to the Reviews section on the left side of the page's timeline.
3. Click the gray stars where it says "tell people what you think" to choose a rating and write an optional review.
4. Click to select your audience (and please select "public" so that everyone can read your review).
5. Click Done.

It's that easy! Thanks in advance for your reviews, and don't forget to "LIKE" our Facebook page while you're there!



President's Corner



Kathy Gault, OMTA President



I've never known a musician who regretted being one. Whatever deceptions life may have in store for you, music itself is not going to let you down.

—VIRGIL THOMPSON

One of the unexpected pleasures of being OMTA State President is accepting accolades for which I can take no credit personally, but which I am able to accept on behalf of our state organization. Such is the case whenever I receive a thank you note from a student who has benefited from an OMTA scholarship, or assistance with travel expenses to a state or national conference.

Of course, one is glad to know that any gift has been acknowledged by the recipient. In this case, though, there is a larger satisfaction that I want to share with you all. Many of you are the teachers of these students, and you well know the countless hours and effort put in by the students themselves, and by their parents, in support of their children.

Whether a student is traveling to take part in a national competition, or merely traveling across town to perform in a local or State festival or Syllabus exam—sacrifices must be made of time and sometimes, money. And for a number of students each year, there are funds available in the form of scholarships which are awarded each spring.

Do you know that OMTA offers approximately 20 scholarships for students studying piano, strings and voice? Award amounts vary with cash available in our OMTA investment accounts, and most are offered annually, with a few exceptions. For many of our students, even a small cash award can help towards music costs, gas money, and entry fees for local, state, or national events.

OMTA scholarships vary in their requirements—some are limited to students in certain grades or are for specific instruments. Most are solo but some are

for ensembles. Some are for music from a specific musical period, some include sight reading, some are for students living in one OMTA District or geographical area. Many are funded by bequests and donations made in the name of beloved past (and current!) members. There is something for nearly every student.

I hope you will look into the scholarships we have available—we love to award them! Scholarship auditions are held annually in the spring: this year's dates are May 12–13 at Portland Piano Company. Our hardworking Scholarship Chairs, Paula Watt and Kelli Stephens, can answer any questions you have that are not covered on the OMTA website. Here is a link to the scholarship information page. Or, you can find it under 'Student Resources' on the OMTA home page:

<https://oregonmta.org/programs/scholarships/>

OMTA is now over 100 years old. Many of our best-known members from the past are memorialized in scholarships bearing their names. It has been said that old music teachers don't die, they just wear out like metronomes, and one day stop ticking. But through our scholarships, and the students they support and inspire, their names, and their spirit of giving and passionately teaching music, carry on into the future.

Kathy

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

Kathy Gault, NCTM
OMTA President



State News *Syllabus*

Heidi Evans, MST, NCTM
OMTA Syllabus Chairman



State Syllabus News from the Studio of Heidi Evans

Our wonderful former Syllabus Chairman, Suzanne Savaria, has stepped down to devote more time to her exciting teaching career, and I am looking forward to supporting this unique program that is OMTA Syllabus and all that it involves.

A few changes to the Classical Piano Syllabus program have come out of this summer's conference meetings. The Level 2 exam will be increased to 25 minutes and the fees for Levels 2–10 have increased for the coming year. These changes have already been made in Leggiero.

We continue to be grateful for the Leggiero Online Registration program and all the time and paper it saves us! Please take a moment to read the teacher instructions found at <https://tinyurl.com/yddl222q> which offer answers to the most frequently asked questions. Also, please take the time to

read the introductory material in the front of the Syllabus manual each season to refresh your understanding of the Syllabus Program.

Another exciting change is that we are in the process of putting the former Rhythm Reading and Sight Reading tests online for you to use with your students in preparation for the exams. These have been available as hard copies for a small fee, but will now be available to all teachers at no cost.

Please feel free to contact me with questions or observations about the Syllabus program. I'm looking forward to this new volunteer position and all the learning that comes with it! I especially like to hear from teachers new to the Syllabus program. 

Yours fraternally,
Heidi Evans, NCTM
heidievpiano@gmail.com



Grace Goudy Distinguished
Artists Series 2017-2018

JEFFREY KAHANE

plays Johann Sebastian Bach's

The Goldberg Variations

FEB. 23, 2018, 8 PM

Smith Auditorium, Willamette University, Salem
Special time and location; reserved seating

willamette.edu/go/goudy

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

State News *Syllabus Scheduling*

Heidi Evans, MST, NCTM
OMTA Syllabus Chairman



As we approach the Spring Syllabus season, I have a couple of quick reminders about the importance of scheduling requests. While most of us put in scheduling requests when registering our students in Leggiero, a paper copy, included with the check you mail to the chairman, is always helpful. I have listed a few suggestions below, in order of importance.

- Indicate if there are days students are unavailable (and your studio).
- Indicate which students prefer AM/PM (encourage your families to be flexible).
- Indicate which students have siblings participating to schedule close together.
- If you have a full day of exams (6.5 hours) you can lay out the entire day if you've volunteered your studio.
- If you have more than one day, consider volunteering your studio for a second day.

- Keep in mind that exam schedules depend on a large number of variables including availability of adjudicators and availability of studios.
- Finally, remember that chairmen are volunteers, are human, and sometimes miss things. A prompt and respectful e-mail or call when a scheduling problem occurs is a good way to handle this.

Any significant problems with scheduling can always be addressed to me at heidievenspiano@gmail.com and I will do my best to work with you and your situation within the exam season. The sooner you notice an issue and contact me about it, the easier it is to find a working solution, so be checking in with all your families right away. I appreciate those of you who are so on top of things!

Wishing you all happy teaching,
—Heidi



A Monster of a Concert! Thursday, February 15 at 7:30pm

The George Fox University Monster Piano Concert is a unique concert scheduled every two years with multiple pianos (this year will feature 8 pianos on stage), the University's Rodgers Organ, and the University's String Ensemble.

Performers will include the piano duo team of Eduard Gavril and Sorin Frisan, Dan Miller on organ, The University Keyboard Ensemble, GFU piano alumni and Dr. Kenn's recruiting studio! There will be up to 16 performers playing at the same time!

The program will feature "The Entertainer" rag, a transcription of "Star Wars" music, Bach Concerto for 4 pianos (we'll use all eight pianos! Plus the String Ensemble) and MORE!

Mark your calendars and get your tickets below. This is going to be a monster of a concert!

Online Tickets available at the link below:

Georgefox.edu/concerts



State News *MTNA NW Division Performance Competition Results*

Cindy Peterson-Peart, NCTM
Senior Coordinator,
Northwest Division
MTNA Performance Competition



The Northwest Division round of the MTNA Performance Competition was held January 13–15 in Portland. The winners from the state level competitions in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming and Alaska performed for the chance to move on to the National Competition at the MTNA Conference in March. It was a wonderful weekend of music and a great opportunity to hear some of the best student musicians in the Northwest. Here are the results:

Junior Piano

Winner:
Truman Walker, ID
Student of Suzanne Clive

Alternate:
Adrian King, WA
Student of Peter Mack

Honorable Mention:
Michael Gu, OR
Student of Rachelle McCabe

Junior String

Winner:
Marley Erickson, WA
Student of Simon James

Alternate:
Hanami Froom, OR
Student of Carol Sindell

Junior Woodwind

Winner:
Brooke Lambert, WA
Student of Bonnie Blanchard

Alternate:
Rachel Kidd, WY
Student of Joshua Mietz

Senior Piano

Winner:
Abriana Church, ID
Student of Irene Peery-Fox

Alternate:
Leah Deobald, WA
Student of Duane Hulbert

Honorable Mention:
Jenna Tu, OR
Student of Renato Fabbro

Honorable Mention:
Tanner Jordan, MT
Student of Dorothea Cromley

Senior String

Winner:
John Fawcett, OR
Student of Jan Sloman

Alternate:
Ryan Char, WA
Student of Simon James

Senior Woodwind

Winner:
Antonio Jarvey, MT
Student of Johan Eriksson

Alternate:
Taylor King, ID
Student of Rodney Zuroveste

Honorable Mention:
Minsoo Kwon, WA
Student of Zart Dombourian-Eby

Senior Piano Duet

Winner:
Jeslyn and Justin Cai, WA
Students of Peter Mack and Karlyn Brett

Alternate:
Avery and Adrian Hsieh, OR
Students of Rachelle McCabe

(Continued on next page)



Young Artist Piano

Winner:

Lennart Triesschijn, WY
Student of Theresa Bogard

Alternate:

Douglas Rowan, ID
Student of Stephen Thomas

Honorable Mention:

Jessica Daniel, OR
Student of Claire Wachter

Honorable Mention:

Garrett Snedeker, WA
Student of Jeffrey Savage

Young Artist String

Winner:

Yonsoo Park, ID
Student of Craig Purdy

Alternate:

James Marshall, WA
Student of Jody Graves

Honorable Mention:

Antonio Soria, WY
Student of Beth Vanderborgh

Young Artist Woodwind

Winner:

Monica Weber, WA
Student of Fred Winkler

Alternate:

Hiu Man Yu, WY
Student of Jennifer Turpen

Honorable Mention:

Bethany Christensen, ID
Student of Nicole Molumby

Young Artist Brass

Winner:

Anthony Achille, WA
Student of Christopher Dickey

Alternate:

MariAnn Parkinson, ID
Student of Jason Johnston

Young Artist Chamber Music—String

Winner:

Aestus String Quartet, ID
Student of Craig Purdy

Alternate:

Trio Giada, WA
Student of Carrie Michel

Congratulations to all of these wonderful students, but please join me in especially congratulating John Fawcett from Bend. Best of luck in Orlando!



Dr. Stephen Lewis
*State Composition
Celebration Chair*



Calling all student composers! From beginners through post-college adults, you are invited to participate in the 2018 State Composition Celebration! Compositions of all musical styles and instrumentation are welcome. Students chosen as 'Honored Composers' at the District level move on to the State celebration. Find more information and forms for the state level at this link:

<https://tinyurl.com/jedm2xf>

Encouraging your students to compose means putting them in touch with the foundation of music making. Students discover music in an entirely different way when they learn to imagine, develop, and write down their musical ideas. It's so rewarding to see them learn and grow through creating brand new music! Several free software programs are available online, including Finale Notepad, MuseScore, and Lilypond. See reviews and comparisons of features of the top ten music composing programs at this link:

<https://tinyurl.com/grbdktv>

This year's State Composition Celebration will be held on Saturday, May 19, 2018, in Hudson Hall on the campus of Willamette University in Salem. Recitals will be held at **1:00** and **2:30 p.m.** with receptions following each recital. A booklet of all Honored Composers scores will be available for purchase at the recital and/or through your District. (cost depends upon entries -usually \$5-\$10).

The application for the State Composition Celebration can be found on this webpage. The application must be delivered by



Dr. Stephen Lewis

May 1, 2018, including a **\$15 application fee** (please make checks out to OMTA).

The work with an adjudicator at the District level, plus the audio recording, formal printing of the score, and Honors Recital is very rewarding for students. We will not be doing student medals this time.

Questions? Contact me at chopinois@gmail.com.

I hope to see you there!

Dr. Stephen Lewis, a recent transplant to Portland, Oregon, holds a DMA in piano and PhD in composition from UC San Diego, and a BM in piano and composition from the Oberlin Conservatory of Music. Stephen is active as a teacher, collaborative pianist, conductor, composer, and transcriber, and is the Director of Music at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Portland. He is excited to be a part of such a robust musical culture and to be helping encourage the young composers of Oregon to find their own creativity through composition and piano performance. You can find out more about Stephen at www.chopinois.com or at www.stephenlewiscomposer.com



State News *2018 OMTA Sonatina Festival*

Fern McArthur, NCTM
*Co-chair, OMTA
Sonatina Festival*



We are looking forward to another successful Sonatina Festival here in Eugene at the University of Oregon School of Music and Dance. The 2018 Sonatina Festival is scheduled for Saturday, October 27, 2018 from 12:00–5:00 p.m. This Festival is an annual event sponsored by your State Association.

Students compete in 1 of 10 levels and perform a required Sonatina or Sonata movement for a judge in a private audition. All students receive written comments. Judges choose the top two students of each level to compete for first and second place in a public Honors Recital later that day. Levels coincide with OMTA Syllabus levels.

Many students anticipate the announcement of the new repertoire list so they can begin practicing the piece for their level. We enjoy seeing the same faces coming back each year and watching the students mature in their performances. We also look forward to greeting new students to the event.

The 2018 repertoire list will be posted on the state website by the end of January, along with updated information and details about the event. Please watch for this updated information.

We hope to see you in Eugene this October! 



LUKÁŠ VONDRÁČEK
FEB 10 & 11 / 4PM
LINCOLN HALL @ PSU



DÉNES VÁRJON
MAR 24 & 25 / 4PM
LINCOLN HALL @ PSU

\$5 OMTA STUDENT TICKETS!
Students/families of OMTA teachers can purchase tickets for just \$5 each by calling our office at **503.228.1388**. OMTA Teachers may purchase tickets for \$20 each by using the “OMTA” code at **portlandpiano.org**

**more info at
PORTLANDPIANO.ORG**



THE HEATHMAN LODGE

2018 OMTA & WSMTA Joint Conference
June 21–23, 2018

A NORTHWEST ORIGINAL HOTEL IN VANCOUVER

In the wet, dreary days of February, don't we all dream of a little getaway to refuel and revitalize ourselves? Why not plan now to get away to the wonderful Heathman Lodge in Vancouver for our 2018 joint Oregon/Washington conference? Relax, revel, and rejuvenate at one of the most scenic hotels in Vancouver. With splashes of color from blankets made at Oregon's Pendleton Woolen Mills and massive portraits of Western characters and tribal symbols from Andy Warhol's Cowboys and Indians series, the authenticity of the region extends throughout the lodge.



ONE OF THE BEST RESTAURANTS IN VANCOUVER

Hudson's Bar & Grill, serves up authentic Pacific Northwest cuisine. Utilizing local produce the Hudson's menu appeals to many palates. The décor is nearly as spectacular as the food. The immense Columbia River stone fireplace, native craftsmanship, and an enormous mural of local dining back in the 1800s, creates an atmosphere unique and symbolic of the region's diverse character.

(Continued on next page)

THE HEATHMAN LODGE

EMBRACE CASUAL LUXURY AND SOOTHING RUSTIC AMBIANCE



Enjoy all the comforts of home and a little more! Indoor pool, Jacuzzi, complimentary parking, easy access off I-5 and I-205, and within walking distance to shopping and restaurants. You will find a refined service culture unlike any other, making The Heathman is a standout in Vancouver luxury hotels. Their goal is singular: to deliver the best service you've ever experienced.

We've contracted with the hotel to provide guestrooms at \$144 + tax for single or double occupancy. If you live 30 miles or farther from the Heathman Lodge, and need help with housing expenses, the Nellie Tholen fund will provide housing rebates of up to 50 percent for the duration of the conference. So find a roommate and make plans to attend! To make your reservations, please call the Lodge directly at 1-888-475-3100. Be sure to mention that you are part of WSMTA/OMTA to receive our group rate. If you would like to extend your stay, The Heathman will honor our rate. Reservations must be made by May 31. If you would like more information browse their website at www.heathmanlodge.com.



Enjoy the comforts of this luxury lodge while soaking up the musical atmosphere and spending quality time with your friends and colleagues from Oregon and Washington!

Cindy Peterson-Peart, NCTM (OR)
Selina Manson (OR)
Jani Peterson, NCTM (WA)
2018 CONFERENCE CHAIRS

District News *Central Oregon*

Helen Jones, NCTM

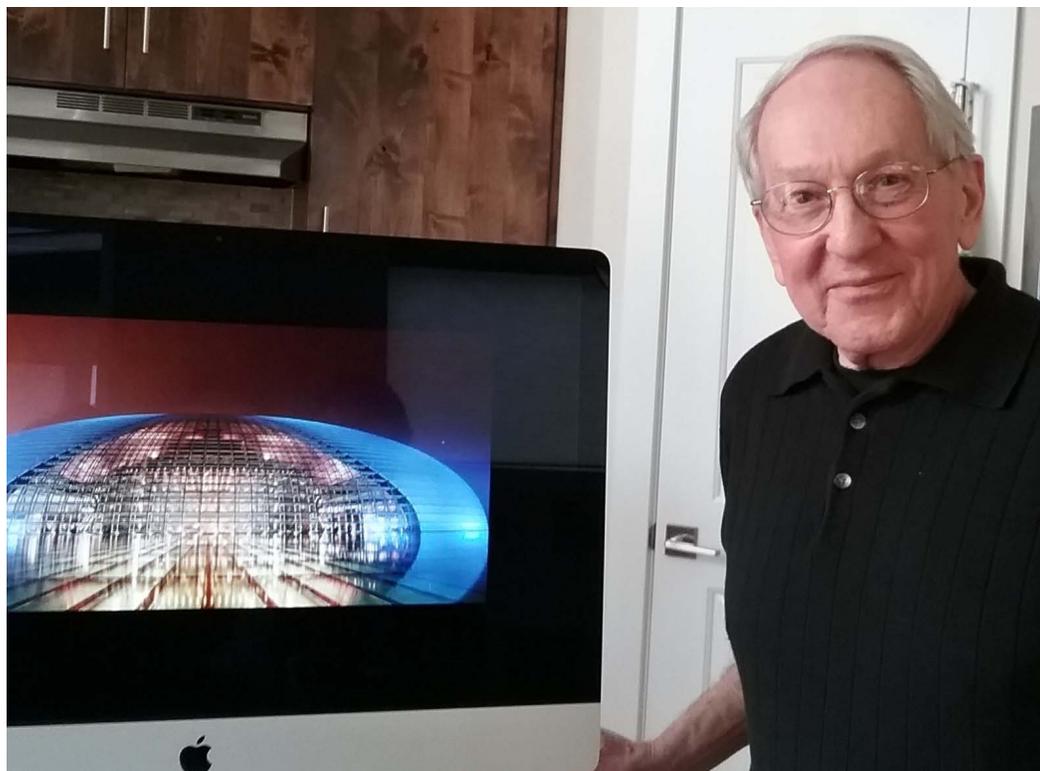


Retired Founder and Conductor of Central Oregon Mastersingers, Clyde Thompson, presented a fascinating program, *Music and Architecture* for our first meeting of 2018. The January 12 program included interesting color pictures of interiors and exteriors of buildings through the centuries. The photos were accompanied by recorded music from Gregorian Chant to music composed in the last few years. There definitely is a correlation between architecture and how music of the same period is composed.

Our next student event is the Contemporary Music Festival February 24 at Central Oregon Community College in Bend. Music from contemporary composers listed in the Syllabus guide is accepted.

Heidi Evans will be the adjudicator and will work with small groups of students after they perform.

We plan to initiate a new program called OMTA—*Central Oregon District Honor Society* which is open to K–12 students of Central Oregon District OMTA teachers. This is designed to honor those students who participate in piano studies but also share their music in the community. Students must pass either Syllabus or NFMC Auditions plus complete requirements determined by their grade in school: elementary, middle, or high school. A committee will make the final decisions on Honor Roll students. Each chosen student will receive selected perks. 



Clyde Thompson



Happy Valentine's Day!



Alexis Gibbons, NCTM



Enjoying all that OMTA has to Offer

As teachers that are a part of OMTA, we have a wealth of opportunities. To name a few, we have exceptional student activities, monthly meetings, and presentations. There is a built-in community that cultivates friendship and a love for music. The Eugene District is constantly working towards building an inclusive District that all teachers feel welcome in. One way we are doing that is by reaching out to new members and inviting them to lunch. It is important to share the perks of being in our organization and make everyone feel that they have a place in our organization. We are also working together as a District to send twelve of our members to the State Conference in June.

In January, we had three presenters at our monthly meetings. We heard from Ron Sticka who is the founder of the Kim Sticka PTSD Music and Arts Foundation. This foundation uses art and music therapy to help people of all ages that have experienced trauma. Our local member Nick Reiser shared how we can easily use improvisation

during lessons to boost student confidence and creativity. Paul Safar shared his ideas on *Guiding Your Piano Student in Composition*, a shorter version of a presentation he has given around the state. Paul presented an outline helping to inspire and empower piano students to take a stab at composing. An important component of success when helping students compose is to take the stress factor out of “composing” and make it fun and spontaneous.

Our District is looking forward to our February presentation from Emily Ross who is a Clinical Coordinator of Music Therapy and an Assistant Professor at Marylhurst University. She will be speaking to us about teaching students that are challenging. That presentation will be held at the First Congregational Church in Eugene on Monday, February 12 at 10:00 a.m. Learning how to teach students that test us as educators is a lesson everyone can learn from and we hope you will join us for this presentation. 



District News *Linn-Benton*

Linn-Benton-Lincoln 2018 Scholarships

High School music students graduating from Linn, Benton, or Lincoln counties in 2018 who intend to earn Music Education or Performance degrees, are welcome to apply for the Guthrie and Jenks scholarship. Graduates from these counties currently studying toward Music degrees at an institution of higher education may also apply. One or more scholarship of approximately \$2,000 may be awarded. (The final amount can vary somewhat depending on the number of applicants and other financial indicators).

Applications are available from Linn-Benton Music Association members, as well

as music teachers at local colleges and universities. Benton Community Foundation manages the endowments and cooperates with Linn-Benton OMTA which manages the auditions. This year auditions will be held on Saturday, April 7, 2018 at OSU.

Applications sent to Mary Ann Guenther, must be postmarked by March 28, 2018.

For further information, please contact Ms. Guenther at 541-752-5798 or e-mail her at mguenther@comcast.net. The application can be found on the Benton Community Foundation website www.bcfgives.org/music. 

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Generous scholarships are awarded annually to pianists. Audition in person or online.

For more information visit: liberalarts.oregonstate.edu/piano



"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 University is an equal opportunity, affirmative action institution committed to cultural diversity and compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Music at Oregon State University - 101 Benton Hall - Corvallis, Oregon 97331

District News *Tualatin Valley*

Laura Davis

President, Tualatin Valley District



Tualatin Valley's January presentation was by Dr. Jill Timmons: *Cracking the Code—Pedaling Through the Ages*. Taking us era by era, she discussed the original instruments used by the composers and how that informs our playing and pedaling on today's instruments. She shared a wealth of information from interpreting the score, to demonstrating a host of pedaling techniques and offering clear strategies for artful performance. Also included were fascinating historical tidbits from Bach to Debussy. Dr. Timmons played excerpts throughout her presentation, then closed with a beautiful performance of the George Shearing arrangement of *Somewhere over the Rainbow*.

I highly recommend this presentation, brought to us through the Nellie Tholen District Grants Project.

Patti Widener, NCTM
President-Elect, Tualatin Valley

At the end of January, TVOMTA hosted Dr. Dijana Ihas in a Beginning String Teachers Workshop—*Starting String Beginners: A Comparison of Rolland, Havas, and Bornoff's Approaches!* Dr. Ihas did her undergraduate work on viola in Sarajevo, Bosnia, and Herzegovina, then receiving her Doctorate from the University of Oregon.



Dr. Jill Timmons with Laura Davis

I was particularly proud to see this personal goal realized in what I hope is just the beginning of more offerings for metro area string teachers. There seems to be little here locally to foster continuing education for violin and viola teachers, especially. We are fortunate to have three stellar violin teachers in TVOMTA who have offered to bring in some of the best presenters for workshops. We hope to be the go-to District for continuing music education, not just on piano, but something for everyone.

Join us February 9 at 10:00 for Debussy: a brand new section of *The Virtual Pedagogue* presented by Dr. Claire Wachter and Dr. Dean Kramer from the University of Oregon.

Sherry Poole Todd, MST NCTM
Past President, Tualatin Valley



Dr. Claire Wachter



Dr. Dean Kramer



Information & Acknowledgements

Submit Articles in *Music News*

Please send articles and accompanying graphics in TIFF, EPS, JPEG or PDF format to Sherry Poole Todd via e-mail: sherrypooletodd@gmail.com. MS Word files preferred.

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:

<https://oregonmta.org/about/leadership/>

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

Edited by:

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Published by:

Oregon Music Teachers Association, Inc.

Affiliated with:

Music Teachers National Association, Inc.

Graphic Design by:

Julie Weiss, Tobias Weiss Design

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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:

March 15, 2018

April 15, 2018

May 15, 2018

