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District News

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2018 OMTA/WSMTA State Conference

Thursday—Saturday, June 21–23, 2018

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

We all do so much for those around us: family, friends, students, colleagues. By the time June rolls around, at the end of a long teaching year, do you feel completely drained? Are you looking for the perfect opportunity to re-energize and rejuvenate? Why not treat yourself to a very special conference experience? It's continuing education, relaxation, and collaboration all wrapped up in one wonderful package. Come join us at the beautiful Heathman Lodge in Vancouver for our Oregon/Washington joint conference.

Registration Dates and Details

- Full Time Early Bird Registration for members: \$135
- Students and New Members in their first year of membership: *Free!*
- Early Bird Deadline: May 15, 2018

Hotel Reservations

- Call 1-888-475-3100 or book online at <https://tinyurl.com/ycednlnd>
Be sure to ask for the WSMTA/OMTA conference rate.
- Book by May 31 for the conference room rate of \$144/night + tax

Start Your Conference Early!

Come Wednesday, June 20, Everything is *Free!*

- Two Honors Recitals: Performances by Washington students from all over the state.
- Afternoon Organ Workshop: Hands-on demonstrations to learn about stops and technique.
- Happy Hour! Join Yamaha in exploring ways to launch a lifelong passion for playing.

(Continued on next page)



- Washington and Oregon Winners Recital: Students from both states that have won their
 - State MTNA Performance Competition, MTNA Composition Competition and the WA Outstanding Artist Competition, will fill the ballroom with amazing music.
 - Bring your friends and enjoy a warm-up day to a full slated conference!
- You can find the online registration form, conference schedule, and hotel information on the OMTA conference page here: <https://tinyurl.com/kohxx2w>
- See you in June!



2018 WSMTA & OMTA Joint Conference

Wednesday-Saturday, June 20-23, 2018
The Heathman Lodge · Vancouver, WA

W

are very excited to be offering a wide variety of sessions: playing with more freedom, movement and rhythm; students and sports; practicing and technology; and more! There will be two master classes and several lectures given by our invited artists. You will have the opportunity to listen to fabulous performances through the many student recitals along with not to be missed evening concerts. The schedule is packed full of choices!



Conference Guest Artist
Hans Boepple

Northwest Guest
Charlie Albright

Northwest Guests Kenji Bunch
and Monica Ohuchi

Relax and Rejuvenate at the
Heathman Lodge

Explore Historic
Downtown Vancouver

Start the conference with a more relaxed feeling by enjoying an afternoon of student performances, attend a hands-on organ workshop and take advantage of opportunities to explore the surrounding area. Top off your evening with the Winners Recital, an amazing array of students who were winners at the State MTNA Competitions and Outstanding Artist Competition. Then rest up in your luxury hotel room to get ready for the days to come of learning, listening and socializing. There truly is something for everyone!



President's Corner



Kathy Gault, NCTM
OMTA President



How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.

—ANNE FRANK

The Power of Local

As State President, I have had the great good fortune to sit inside District business meetings, seeing and hearing about what is going on in areas far from my home District. In the process of visiting most of the 13 OMTA Districts over my past two years in office, I have been humbled, wowed, and inspired by the creativity, energy, enthusiasm and above all, collegial atmosphere evident in our large and small chapters.

At the State level, OMTA provides resources, grants, speakers, workshops, networking, adjudicators, and professional support for all members. But the heart and soul of our organization is to be found in the Districts.

I admit I have a special appreciation for the smaller (or as they are sometimes referred to by members of Districts in larger metropolitan areas) the 'outlying' Districts. Many of these are literally hundreds of miles from the cities of 'The Valley' or 'I-5 Corridor'. When something needs to be done in these smaller Districts, there is nowhere to hide—the five or six or ten people in the room are the ones who are going to do it, or the job doesn't get done!

In the smaller Districts, new officers aren't so much nominated, as shifted around, so that after a regular two (or four or six!) year term, the President takes over as Treasurer, and the Festival Chair becomes President, or Syllabus Chair, or Membership Chair, or often more than one position at a time. If no one steps up to put on the Ensemble or Baroque Festival, there is no festival.

It can be a struggle sometimes for smaller Districts to keep a full range of activities going for their students and families. Older members run low on energy, though never love of music or enthusiasm. But they keep at it recognizing that, especially in smaller communities, the OMTA District opportunities for students is a huge unifying force, and source of pride and satisfaction for kids and their parents. To give just one example, Umatilla-Morrow District, which includes members living across a triangle stretching between the Washington Tri-Cities to the north, Pendleton to the east, all the way to Heppner in the south, is comprised of only 15 members. Yet their recent Ensemble Festival had over 100 student participants, and they are sending four student winners to the OMTA State Composition Celebration in May!

Of course the larger Districts often serve a similar functions in their localized communities, with Syllabus and the various festivals being held at multiple locations in Portland and other larger cities. Larger Districts are able to pool their greater funding clout to bring in nationally-known performers and presenters for members and students. But again, the heart of our organization is teacher-to-teacher connection. In Districts large and small, newer and younger members have the opportunity to ask questions, seek guidance, or make suggestions for the kinds of challenges all new teachers face, one to one, person to person—something that can never be replaced by reading blogs or FaceBook posts.

(Continued on next page)



President's Corner (Continued)



In leadership meetings at State, District and National levels, young professionals are often the most passionate and vocal in praise of the unique value they have found in this kind of personal interaction at their local level.

OMTA has something for every teacher, no matter where we live. As membership renewal time rolls around again, and as the school year begins to wind down, giving time for us teachers to plan for renewal (at

the OMTA/WSMTA joint summer conference, naturally!) and look ahead to the coming year in our local area, I hope you will do two things: 1) renew your membership—you can do it right now online at www.mtna.org. 2) step outside your comfort zone and at your next District meeting, volunteer to do some job next year. Celebrate Local by taking a more active part in your local District activities. You *will* make a difference.

Kathy Gault, NCTM
OMTA President

THE *golandsky* INSTITUTE'S

SUMMER SYMPOSIUM
PORTLAND, OREGON JULY 29-AUGUST 4, 2018

2018
NEW LOCATION

Join us for a transformative week of lessons, lectures, technique clinics, master classes, and concerts on the beautiful Lewis & Clark campus.

Master teachers from the Golandsky Institute will include John Bloomfield, Robert Durso, Mary Moran, Deborah Cleaver, and Elizabeth Swartfout.

Registration information can be found at: www.golandskyinstitute.org

The advertisement features a blue header with the institute's name, an orange banner with the event title and dates, and a photograph of the Lewis & Clark campus overlooking a river. A green diagonal banner in the top right corner highlights the '2018 NEW LOCATION'.



Heidi Evans, MST, NCTM
OMTA Syllabus Chair



May is the nose to the grindstone month!
Here are a few reminders:

- It's time to renew your membership!
Avoid hassles next year by renewing on time.
- Read your *Syllabus Manual* intro—the information at the beginning is very helpful in preparing students for exams.
- Don't forget to have a little fun with those skills—try them in a new rhythm!

A few notices about Level X students:

- This is a huge accomplishment for both students and teachers!
- The Level X Recital and Awards form has been updated (postage increases) and is available on the OMTA website <https://tinyurl.com/yc75zsbz>
- The Level X recital is Sunday, June 3, at 2 p.m. at Portland Piano Company's new location. If there are enough students, the second recital will be at 3:30 p.m. The Chair is Lacie Mitts.
- Email me if your Level X Evaluation students would like a personalized letter of explanation.

As always, feel free to email me with questions or concerns at heidievspiano@gmail.com



**RISING STAR:
SOPHIKO SIMSIVE**

MAY 16 at 7pm
Portland Piano Company

MAY 17 at 7pm
Salem Public Library

MAY 18 at 7pm
Hood River Middle School

All performances are **FREE.**

**BEYOND THE SCORE:
A MASTERCLASS FOR
INTERMEDIATE STUDENTS
WITH SOPHIKO SIMSIVE**

MAY 18, 2018 / 10AM
PORTLAND PIANO
COMPANY

A FREE event!

more info at
PORTLANDPIANO.ORG



State News *OMTA Teaching Award 2018*

Susan Todd, NCTM
Honors Committee Chair



The OMTA Board unanimously approved the Honors Committee recommendation to name Dorothy Fahlman as the 2018 OMTA Teaching Award recipient. Dorothy received glowing recommendation letters, some of which are excerpted below.

- On a professional level, Dorothy pointed me into a direction that I still follow today. She had me start teaching as an OMTA student teacher my freshman year of high school in 1980. I am still and active member of OMTA and have been teaching private lessons since that time. I still refer to the music I have from our lessons together and draw on her methods and inspiration often. She encouraged me to teach and get involved with OMTA. I attended conferences, enrolled my young students in Syllabus and started a practice that I continue almost 40 years later.
- Dorothy has been my friend and colleague for many years now. I first met her through working on OMTA projects where we both seemed to volunteer for many of the same types of projects. Our most ambitious project was the Russian teacher and student exchange; a very exciting endeavor and one I'll always remember. Her contributions as president of Portland District, OMTA syllabus chairman, State OMTA president, and endowing an OMTA scholarship are only the tip of her generosity and contributions to OMTA and our community.
- As long as I've known her, Dorothy never stops learning. She is always working to improve her knowledge and teaching skills. When I first joined



Dorothy Fahlman, the 2018 OMTA Teaching Award recipient.

OMTA, I would see her attend every meeting with sheet music or notepad in hand, ready to jot things down as she listened to the presentation or performance. She is always keen on improving her knowledge and teaching skills, taking ideas she learns from others (fellow teachers, adjudicators, visiting master teachers, etc.) and applying them in her studio. She would swap ideas with me and get excited, for example, when I tell her little tricks I've learned over time in teaching theory, even though she has many more years of experience in teaching piano than I have. She transmits that love for continuous learning to her students.

If you have a story and or photos you would like to add to an album for Dorothy, please send it to Portland District President, Irene Huang by the end of May. Dorothy will be recognized at the Conference Banquet coming up this June in Vancouver.



State News *OMTA District Projects Grant Programs*

Susan Todd, NCTM
OMTA District Projects
Grant Coordinator



Teacher Enrichment for All!

As the 2017–18 Grant year winds to an end with an exciting last few programs, we are busy preparing the roster for you to choose from next year! As always, if you know of presenters who would be great for our roster, let me know right away. I hope to have the roster complete and to the districts by late April.

UPCOMING GRANT PRESENTATIONS— DON'T MISS THESE!

LINCOLN COUNTY DISTRICT

Friday, May 4

10:00 a.m.–Noon

Oregon Coast Community College

South Beach Campus

400 SE College Way, Newport

Dr. Bonnie Esbensen:

*Practice Ideas from Sports
and Psychology*

Using ideas from sports as well as research on learning, music teachers may be able to change for the better the way they and their students practice and learn.

KLAMATH BASIN DISTRICT

Saturday, May 5

10:00 a.m.–Noon

First Presbyterian Church

601 Pine Street, Klamath Falls

Paul Safar:

*Guiding Your Piano Student
in Composition*

Ideas to inspire, encourage and support a student in their early attempts at composing.

CENTRAL OREGON DISTRICT

Friday, May 11

10:45 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

Studio of Gina Rosbrook

5 Mountain Rose Lane, Sunriver

Mary Hall Kogen:

Audiation and Learning

Audiation is the ability to hear and understand music for which the sound is not physically present.

ROGUE VALLEY DISTRICT

Monday, May 14

10:00 a.m.–Noon

Studio of Rebecca DeBoer

1534 Devonshire, Medford

Dr. Bonnie Esbensen:

*Cognitive Aspects of Learning
to Read Music*

Paying attention to how a student's mind processes information can help us teach more effectively.

Remember you can view one or more of the grant workshops online any time! Go to our website, www.OregonMTA.org, and click on Teacher Resources/Teacher Enrichment Workshops. There you'll find the link to our private channel. Use the same user name and log-in as for accessing the syllabus manual and repertoire lists or the membership directory. It's on the inside cover of your *OMTA Membership Directory*.



District News *Central Oregon*

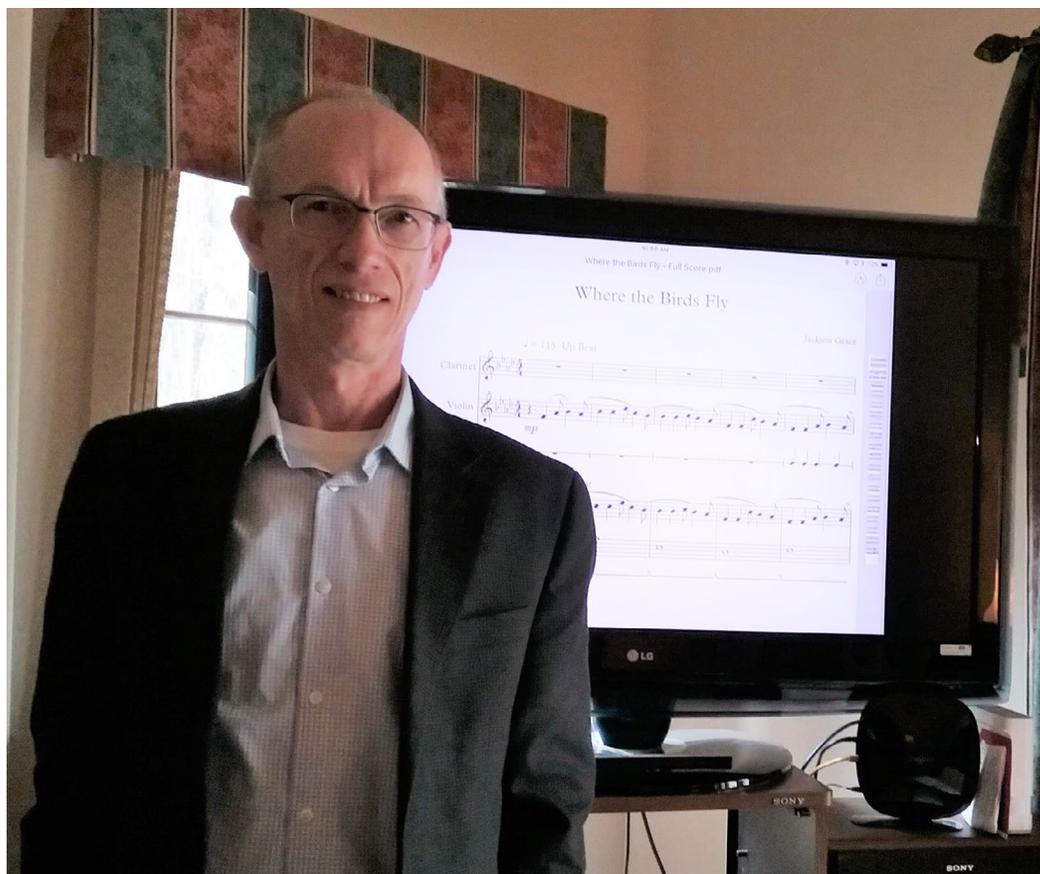
Helen Jones, NCTM



Our April 13 program featured Jeff Payne, Director of the “Fear No Music Young Composers Project” in Portland. He spoke about the student composers involved each year and showed examples of their compositions. Perks for enrolled students include attending a rehearsal of the Oregon Symphony, a master class and other freebies.

Local Bend composer and cellist with the Central Oregon Symphony, Chris Thomas, was part of this project years ago. He is now a film composer and has been commissioned by COS to write a composition about Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in Eastern Oregon. The “Malheur Symphony” will be premiered by COS possibly in the next season.

Our final student event for the 2017–18 school year will be the Ensemble Festival June 9 at Wille Hall on the Central Oregon Community College campus in Bend. Margaret Littlehales and Jenny Marsden are Co-Chairs for this event. An added bonus to the student recitals will be performances by Central Oregon District member teachers who will perform duets and other ensembles after each student recital. This will give the students a chance to hear their teachers perform. 



Jeff Payne



Alexis Gibbons, NCTM



A Busy Bee Spring

The Eugene District members have been busy bees with events. Before spring break, we had a joint event for our Spring Theme Recital and our Spring District Recital. There were three recitals total. One recital was dedicated to the Spring Theme, which was “Music of the Americas.” The other two recitals were students doing performances of the syllabus pieces and other students performing just for fun. There were eleven teachers involved and forty-three students participated.

Another event we had was our Composition Celebration. There were fifteen students that wrote original works and performed them on Friday, April 6. Our adjudicator was Jennifer Wright. She gave wonderful feedback to each student about their piece. In addition, she engaged the young composers in a fun activity with the students at the end of the recital. She had all of the students pick one measure from their piece. Then they all went on stage and she made seven areas on the piano. One was inside the piano, two were on the shell of the piano, and four on the keys. The students rotated between the stations and played/knocked their rhythms of their measure at the same time as the other students. It was an opportunity for students to hear



Jennifer Wright speaking to our Young Composers.

one part of their piece interact in a different way that was only capable in that moment.

For our April presentation, we were delighted to hear from Dean Kramer and Claire Wachter. They presented “The Fantastic Sound-World of Claude Debussy,” which they had recently given at the MTNA National Conference. It was a treat to hear them play throughout their presentation. We learned new facts about Debussy as well as heard parts of his piano concerto that most of us had never even heard of. They concluded their presentation with an original film they created that featured music from Movement II of Debussy’s suite *En blanc et noir*. The film brought new life to the piece and gave us historical context for Debussy’s motives behind composing this piece. 🌿



Dr. Claire Wachter



Dr. Dean Kramer



Guthrie and Jenks Scholarship Committee



Guthrie and Jenks Scholarship Auditions

On April 7 eleven young musicians took part in the Oregon Music Teachers Association's Guthrie and Jenks scholarship auditions. Linn-Benton Chapter of OMTA facilitates the yearly event, while Benton Community Foundation manages the endowments. The auditions were held at Oregon State University.

Among the participants, several will graduate from Corvallis, Toledo, and Albany schools this spring, while others are currently studying at Oregon State University. The following have won scholarships.

Two students won \$1,000 scholarships:

- Phillip Hommes seeks an OSU Master of Music degree and plans to teach at the high school level.
- Katey Simmons also currently studies Music Education at OSU. Both are active in choir and solo endeavors.

Three students were awarded \$650, and have chosen OSU for music study:

- Bianca Reinalda plays trombone and will begin Music Education study in the fall.
- Ryan Manhard, a tenor, will also enroll in at OSU as a Music Education major or minor.

- Maggie Newell will earn a Bachelor's degree in Vocal Performance at OSU after which she will study for a Master's degree. Her goal is membership in professional ensemble.

All of these students have participated in honor choirs and instrumental ensembles during their high school careers. They continue to contribute to the success of their award-winning high school and university choirs and bands. The eleven applicants are proven leaders as well as respected soloist and ensemble musicians. The Linn-Benton Chapter of OMTA continues to be proud of efforts made by teachers and students toward maintaining a high level of musicianship in our state. 🌿



For Sale by Original Owner
Yamaha G1 Baby Grand \$6000
Contact tombushjr@gmail.com



District News *Tualatin Valley*

Laura Davis
President, Tualatin Valley District



Tualatin Valley Dazzles Old Church Audience

Virtuosity and variety characterized the musical offerings on April 11, when several members from Tualatin Valley OMTA performed in downtown Portland's Old Church concert hall. Bringing an hour long noontime concert has become one of our favorite spring traditions. Every Wednesday year-round, the Old Church offers a free "brown bag" concert to the public. This time we were honored to receive multiple standing ovations!

We greatly appreciate our Professional Development coordinator, Dr. Anne Young, who organized and put together this

outstanding program, but could not join us as she was otherwise occupied on a long-awaited musical pilgrimage in Paris, France!

With a nod to the next generation of musicians, three of our teachers took the role of accompanist, in addition to their piano solos. Victoria Drozdova accompanied her voice student, soprano Alexandra Shenson-Collins; Lilin Chen played with her son, cellist Lucien Lasocki; and Carma Glausi was paired with her son Will on alto saxophone. Also playing piano but not pictured was pianist Dianne Davies. 🌿



Victoria Drozdova with Alexandra Shenson-Collins.



Carma Glausi with her son Will.



Lilin Chen with son Lucien Lasocki.



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



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 *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, 2018

August 15, 2018

September 15, 2018

