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MTNA National Conference March 16 to 20, 2019 Spokane, Washington

As teachers, we spend a lot of time and effort meeting the needs of those around us; children, spouses or partners, parents, students, colleagues. There are only so many hours in a day and it seems most of us are using those hours to capacity. But what do you do for yourself? I'd like to recommend the upcoming MTNA National Conference.

The MTNA National Conference is one of the most invigorating, stimulating and enjoyable experiences in my teaching year. Talk to anyone who's attended a national conference and they'll tell you it's a wonderful opportunity for continuing education, collegial connection, and amazing entertainment. They're hooked! For those of you who've never tried it (or who haven't been for a while), this is your year. The 2019 MTNA National Conference will be held in

Spokane, Washington. The location is practically in our own backyard.

What's holding you back? If it's the cost, here are some great money saving tips (and remember that all conference-related expenses are tax deductible!):

- Carpool—Spokane is a manageable car trip from almost anywhere in Oregon. Sharing the hours on the road with your friends and colleagues can be a wonderful treat.
- Share a room—There are two official conference hotels this year and the quad room rates are \$169 to \$199 per night. If you share a room with three of your closest friends, the cost per person comes down to \$43 to \$50 per night. It's hard to beat that price.



- Register early—If you register by December 5, full conference attendance is only \$345. Your registration includes the wonderful opening night concert by the Transcontinental Saxophone Quartet and an evening recital by acclaimed pianist Ingrid Fliter. And don't forget to add Pedagogy Saturday (\$95), one of the best offerings at the conference, planned this year by Peter Mack.

For those of you who enjoyed Hans Boepple's sessions at our state conference in June, you'll be excited to know that he'll be giving two presentations at Pedagogy Saturday on March 16. Other highlights of that day include fascinating sessions by Kay Zavislak, Theresa Bogard and Veda Zuponcic. All of this, on top of the fabulous sessions, master classes, recitals, concerts, and national student competitions . . . how can you afford NOT to go?

For more information and to register, visit the MTNA conference page here:
<https://tinyurl.com/y9l42nfy>

I look forward to seeing you in Spokane!

—Cindy Peterson-Peart, NCTM
 MTNA Northwest Division Director

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SPECIAL OMTA DISCOUNTS!

Students/families of OMTA teachers can purchase tickets for just \$5 each. OMTA teachers may purchase tickets for \$20 each. Seats are assigned the day before the performance and tickets are held at will call. To order, please call our office at **503.228.1388**.

Note: Regular ticket prices are \$45 / \$55.

PORTLANDPIANO.ORG



President's Corner



Selina Manson
OMTA President

Syllabus, it's that time of year!

In October, I had the pleasure of being invited to attend the Syllabus Adjudicator Retreat. Having been Syllabus Chair for several years, I was curious what this day would hold. It was amazing to see all the topics and discussions they were able to have in just one day!

The morning included discussions about written and spoken comments. They discussed what kind of traits they listen for in each of the five music periods: Baroque, Classical, Romantic, Impressionist, and Contemporary. They had a thorough discussion about repertoire issues. There was an entire conversation about contemporary repertoire. And this was all before lunch! Needless to say it was a day full of learning.

Syllabus adjudicators are a special bunch. To begin with, they are all Nationally Certified Teachers of Music. Without that distinction, one cannot even apply. Next, they go through a rigorous training process. Once they accomplish all of that, the real work begins.

I think of them like the Navy Seals of the music teaching world. They have extensive literature and composer knowledge. Their technique and theory is amazing. Then on top of all those skills, they have patience like you have never seen. All

of those traits are paired with a smile on their face while they listen to students for hours and we all know the quality of what they hear can vary significantly from hour to hour!

The next time you come across one of these distinguished teachers, please thank them for all of their hard work. They choose to give up their weekends to hear our students play and provide us with feedback at our conferences. I am sure they could be doing many other activities, like spending time with their families. Instead, they opt to adjudicate to help our organization. Without them our Syllabus program simply could not exist.

If you are already a Nationally Certified Teacher of Music, I encourage you to fill out the adjudicator application and take a leap into something great. And if you're not yet certified, reach out to our state chair Rebekah Carter for more information on how to become certified.

Happy Fall Syllabus!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Selina Manson".

Selina Manson
OMTA President



Heidi Evans, NCTM
State Syllabus Chair



Dear Colleagues,
Here are a few important reminders for teachers of Syllabus:

- Use the 2016 edition of the Syllabus manual. The Introductory Pages were updated in September 2018 (no changes to the Levels I-X guidelines). You can download this for free from the password-protected portion of the OMTA website. Click on “Refresh.” We clarified a few rules that get a lot of questions so go and check it out! <https://tinyurl.com/zwrohsr>
- Read all the information for each level (it’s easy to overlook things).
- Volunteer your studio for exams.
- Do NOT ask for schedule changes after the district deadline. Finalize family schedules beforehand.
- Out-of-season exams are not permitted.
- Suggestion: have your Level X programs pre-approved by the Syllabus committee to avoid any hassles or last-minute questions.
- Teachers may request a letter of explanation from heidievspiano@gmail.com for their students who complete a Level X Evaluation. It is printed on the OMTA letterhead and personally signed by the OMTA Syllabus Chairman. Be sure student’s names are spelled correctly in your e-mail.
- New postage rates will come into effect in January 2019 for *Super Scales a la Syllabus* books and for Level X Plaques and medals.

Contemporary Repertoire Choices: if you venture off the repertoire/composer list for this era, run your selection past the Syllabus Repertoire Committee right away. Below is a list of useful Contemporary Idioms pre-

pared for OMTA in 2006 by Carol Ratzlaf, NCTM. My own personal favorites are Nos. 3, 4, 7, 9, 12, 16, 19 . . .

1. Aleatoric or ‘chance’ pieces
2. Prepared instruments
3. Shifting meters, no meters, polymeters and polyrhythms
4. Unresolved dissonance
5. Disjunct melodies (wide leaps)
6. Atonality, polytonality, serialism (12-tone system)
7. Cluster chords, added note chords
8. Triadic, quartal, and quintal harmonies
9. Whole tone, pentatonic, modal and synthetic scale systems
10. New forms of notation
11. Shifted accents, asymmetric meters and divisions
12. Ostinato, pedal point and pulsating rhythms
13. Prose Rhythms (style of ancient plainchant)
14. Melodic doubling (style of ancient tenth century organum)
15. Parallelism of triads, seventh and ninth chords, planing
16. “Wrong-Note” writing
17. Use of harmonics (keys are depressed silently)
18. Percussive use of harmony
19. Non-traditional key signatures
20. Pandiatonicism (white-note writing)
21. Shifted and expanded tonality
22. Unison writing and widely spaced sonorities and extreme registers
23. Pointillism and fragmentation
24. Asymmetric and irregular-length phrases

Thank you all for your fine and diligent work with your students in helping to make our Syllabus program a success! Please look for updates from our Annual Adjudicator’s Retreat in upcoming articles. I will be sharing tips from adjudicators regarding what they listen for in each era of music . . . so stay tuned!

Yours sincerely,
Heidi Evans, NCTM
heidievspiano@gmail.com



State News *The Six W's of ESMAR*

Jan Mittelstaedt
ESMAR Chair



What:

Extended Study of Musicianship and Repertoire (ESMAR)

For Whom:

Any advanced student (grade 10 to age 100) of an OMTA member.

Why:

More and more students are completing the OMTA syllabus program before their senior year in high school. Many of these students are not interested in competitions but still need goals to inspire them to reach a higher level of music proficiency. Universities will be interested in ESMAR alumnae, both potential music and non-music majors, because they have demonstrated that they can learn a quantity of repertoire in a relatively short time, have taken on the responsibility of community service and planning a recital, have good sight-reading skills, and have begun to work on improvisation and reading lead lines. Universities are impressed with this versatile type of student more than with students who have studied one composition for two years before winning a contest. ESMAR offers a

program for teachers and performers who want to revitalize their skills. Although ESMAR is NOT an extension of the syllabus program, the program introduces students to new musicianship skills and repertoire. An exciting adventure is offered for students who may quit lessons before they graduate from high school. You can find requirements on the state website at <https://oregonmta.org/programs/esmar/>.

When:

ESMAR assessments will be given by Dr. Jill Timmons on Saturday, April 27. The final recital will be on Sunday evening, May 19.

Where:

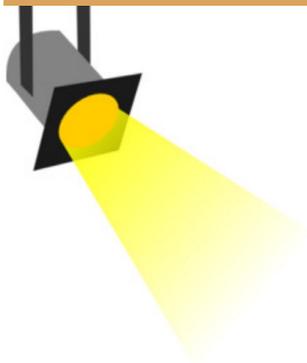
Assessments and the recital will be held at Classic Pianos on SE Milwaukie Avenue in Portland.

Who:

If you need more information or have an interested student for 2019 or 2020, please contact Jan Mittelstaedt (503-645-2066) janrm@frontier.com. 



Certification Spotlight *Jeana Graham, NCTM*



A Note from OMTA Certification Chair, Rebekah Carter, NCTM

Last month a group of OMTA members from around the state committed themselves to becoming Nationally Certified Teachers of Music this year. To get started, they began research for their Teacher Profile Projects and became familiar with the Certification process. This month, these members will be developing and writing about their Teaching Philosophy. In the following Member Spotlight, Jeana Graham, NCTM shares why writing her Teaching Philosophy was her favorite project, and how the Certification process has had a positive and successful impact on her studio.

In this article, Jeana refers to a \$100 application fee reimbursement from OMTA. This reimbursement is available in 2018–2019 for the first five newly certified OMTA teachers! In addition, Portland District is offering three additional \$100 awards specifically for Portland OMTA members. If you have thought about pursuing National Certification, I encourage you to visit www.certification.mtna.org or e-mail me at rw4jc@hotmail.com. The Certification process is available to you to begin at any time!



Jeana Graham, NCTM

I was thrilled to get my NCTM certificate on the first try! At first, I went after the certificate because our local district president relayed information that the first five people to be awarded their NCTM for that year would be reimbursed \$100. These kinds of incentives work for me. I applied for my certificate on October 31, 2016 and worked away on the projects for 364 days submitting them one day before the deadline.

Early in 2015, I began teaching piano lessons. I accepted a Level V transfer student months later. To my great delight, by joining MTNA and taking advantage of the National Certification Program, this student is fast approaching Level IX and would like to do a high school senior recital in December.

The most enjoyable project from the Certification Program for me was developing and writing my philosophy of teaching. It was a valuable experience researching the various modes of learning. I discovered my own mode of learning and can now better understand and appreciate each mode. I appreciate all of the challenges and excellent resources the MTNA Certification Program has provided.

Sincerely,
Jeana Graham, NCTM
<https://tinyurl.com/ycart4jm>



State News *OMTA District Projects Grant Programs*

Susan Todd, NCTM
*OMTA District Projects
Grant Coordinator*



Teacher Enrichment for All!

We have so many good workshops this fall! Be sure to read carefully and mark your calendar for any you can attend. Bring a colleague and double your enjoyment!

Monday, November 5

10:00 a.m.–Noon
Rogue Valley District
Pioneer Village (Library)
805 N 5th St., Jacksonville, OR 97530
Heidi Evans, NCTM

Tips for Preparing for Syllabus Exams

Advice on choosing repertoire, with an emphasis on the Contemporary Era and how to figure out the level of any given piece.

Friday, November 9

10:00 a.m.–Noon
Portland District
Portland Piano Company
8700 NE Columbia Blvd., Portland, 97220
Donna Gunn, NCTM

Papa Haydn and the Sonata

Explore the development of the sonata through the life experiences of Franz Joseph Haydn, including artful performances of selected Haydn sonatas.

Monday, November 12

10:00 a.m.–Noon
Eugene District
First Congregational Church
1050 E 23rd St., Eugene, OR 97405
Daniel Stephens & Judith Kennedy

Baroque Dance Rhythms

Examining Baroque dance music through the medium of steps, patterns and dances from the period.

Monday, November 12

10:00 a.m.–Noon
Umpqua/South Coast District
Studio of Faye Rounds
160 Live Oak Ct., Roseburg, OR 97470
Paula Watt, NCTM
*Teacher Training: Working with
teachers on the Syllabus program*

Saturday, December 1

10:00 a.m.–Noon
Klamath Basin District
First Presbyterian Church
601 Pine St., Klamath Falls, OR 97601
Deborah Cleaver
*Starting Out Right: Taubman
Approach for Young Children*
An overview of the concepts of the Taubman approach.

(Continued on next page)



Remember—you can view these grant presentations online at:
<https://tinyurl.com/zxluqok>

Nurturing Potential into Passion
by Leila Viss

Starter Steps for Playing 18th Century Repertoire on the Modern Piano
by Donna Gunn, NCTM

Tips for Preparing for Syllabus Exams
by Heidi Evans, NCTM

Succeeding with Sonatinas
by Dr. Crystal Zimmerman

Music and the Brain: How We Hear and Understand Melody and Rhythm
Dr. Crystal Zimmerman

Authentic Baroque Dance
by Judith Kennedy and Daniel Stephens



Central Oregon Symphony Association 2018 Young Artist Competition

Saturday, December 8, 2018
Central Oregon Community
College, Bend, OR

First Place: \$1000
Second Place: \$750
Third Place: \$500

Winners will perform with the
Central Oregon Symphony on
their February 23-25, 2019
concerts.

Visit the COSA website for
details and registration forms:
www.cosymphony.com



District News *Blue Mountain*

Lea Emerson



At our October 12 meeting, Dr. Thomas Otten, NCTM presented *Performance Practices Throughout the Eras of Music History*. In his presentation, Dr. Otten focused on difficult to interpret pedaling issues, bringing about clarity of melodic line, and how much freedom can and should be applied given each historical era. He gave many examples to demonstrate these practices. Dr. Otten's engaging presentation style and sense of humor were a delight to every-

one! Rebekah Carter and Dr. Mio Aoike participated by performing several excerpts throughout the lecture to be used as teaching examples. Dr. Otten also gave an afternoon Master Class featuring students from our District.

On November 17, we will be hosting the Contemporary/Impressionist Festival featuring students from our District. The recital will be held at the United Methodist Church in La Grande, Oregon at 1:00 p.m. 



Dr. Thomas Otten and Rebekah Carter.



District News *Central Oregon*

Helen Jones, NCTM



We would like to welcome our new officers for Central Oregon District for 2018–20: President Gina Rosbrook, President Elect Janet Smith, Treasurer Jenny Marsden, and Secretary Helen Jones.

Our October program featured favorite Baroque and Classical pieces from Syllabus levels I and II. These favorites were presented and played by our teachers. It was fun to see what pieces the teachers chose. Our District has a Baroque/Classical Festival this winter so teachers can use these pieces for that festival as well as Syllabus in May.

We continue to be amazed at the number of talented young musicians in Central Oregon. The Sunriver Music Festival has given over \$500,000 to 148 students over 23

years. Headed by Jodie Bischof, the Young Artists Scholarship Committee gave over \$39,000 this year to deserving music students who plan to be professional musicians.

The following music students received monetary awards this year from the Sunriver Music Festival: Brandon Azbill, Eponine Bell, Otmar Borchard, Jon Caponetto, Michael Cook, Emma Ditmore, Sally Drutman, Sam Ellibee, John Fawcett, Mateo Garza, Zeta Gesme, Taylor Gonzales, Nathan Hughes, Taylor Hulett, Ben Kroeker, Grace Miedziak, Gabriel Reed, Kiarra Saito-Beckman, Miya Saito-Beckman, Kimberly Santaguida, Matthias Santucci, Mathew Seals, Hannah Song, Joan Song, Amy Wheeler and Lindsey Williams. 



Kiarra Saito-Beckman



Jodie Bischof



Gina Rosbrook, Jenny Marsden, Janet Smith and Helen Jones.



District News *Eugene*

Alexis Gibbons, NCTM



At our October meeting, our District had the honor of hearing from OMTA President, Selina Manson. Selina took us through the MTNA website and showed our group the many offerings that it has. We learned how to make sure potential parents can find us on the website. She showed us member benefits that include discounts at different companies, webinars, grants, and publications. Her main focus in her presentation was MTNA eFestivals. She educated us on how eFestivals work, took us through the application process, and included cute videos of her toddler at the piano. We are grateful to Selina for her presentation and commitment to keeping us informed about benefits we have at the national level.

In November, we are looking forward to having Daniel Stephens and Judith Kennedy present *Baroque Dance Rhythms: Examining Baroque dance music through the medium of steps, patterns and dances from the period*. Their presentation will be held at the First Congregational Church in Eugene on Monday, November 12. Our District Ensemble Festival will be held Saturday, November 11. In order to encourage participation, we have members that have done outreach to non-member teachers as well as school bands to drum up some interest in the event. Our District appreciates the extra time they have put into this event and hope we will have some extra students participating. 



Eugene Members with President Selina Manson.



District News *Lincoln County*

Jessica Treon



The Lincoln County District members of OMTA presented *Spotlight on the Teachers Benefit Concert: Classics You Love* on Sunday, September 23 at the Newport Performing Arts Center. Admission was by donation to the Suzanne Brown Student Aid Fund. “The Spotlight recitals are held twice a year. They are the primary means of support for our scholarship fund,” says Christine McKenney, treasurer of our local District. “We currently have seven students using the scholarship fund. It is used to provide tuition for lessons, books, or festival fees for those students whose families cannot afford the full costs of music education. The family contributes what they can, teachers discount their fees, and the fund makes up the difference.”

This year’s fall concert featured nine local music teachers and two guest instrumentalists. “Our group of performing teachers is really growing. It’s exciting to have so many joining us on stage. It’s fun for us to change partners and come up with new combinations of partners,” says Jessie Treon. “Just from our own teachers we have a wide selection of vocal numbers, piano and violin, piano duets, two piano duos and a quartet. In addition, our talented guest performers Kathy Follett on violin, and Walt Hogsett on cello, joined Mary Lee Scoville in a trio. Both Follett and Hogsett perform in the Newport Symphony Orchestra and other groups.”



Rita Warton (left) and Andrea Roesel rehearsing their quartet parts.

The teacher-performers in the Lincoln County District represented communities all along the coast. Andrea Roesel, Doreen Thorusen, and Rita Warton all come from Lincoln City. Newport is represented by Christine McKenney and Diane LaRue. Tonia Storm is from Toledo and the southern part of the county is covered by Cathy Champion-Predmore, Mary Lee Scoville, and Jessica Treon.

This was an extremely successful concert. We had a great audience and their contributions set a new record for our con-



Cathy Champion-Predmore and Diane LaRue performing a duet.



District News *Lincoln County*

certs. We have been holding these concerts biannually for twenty years. These performances increase our member participation, make connections with other arts groups like the Newport Symphony Orchestra, and increase our presence in the community at large. They also keep us on top of our skills and demonstrate to our students and their families that we can do what we teach.

Two weeks after the *Spotlight on the Teachers Concert*, most of us traveled to

Lincoln City to perform again in a *Coffee Concert* held at the Lincoln City Cultural Center. This concert raises funds for the upkeep on the Baldwin piano at the center. This series of concerts is run by LCOMTA president Rita Warton.

Our District truly loves performing together and we will have our next concert, *Broadway Movies and Fun!* in February. 🎶

Cathy Champion-Predmore,
NCTM



The Digital Age: Practicing in the Age of Distraction will be the topic of a Lecture/Workshop by Dr. Daniel Immel to members of Lincoln County District. A grant from the Nellie Thoelen enrichment funds enabled the group to bring Dr. Immel to the PNW from Kutztown, Pennsylvania where he is the Assistant Professor at Kutztown University. The Saturday afternoon lecture follows a Friday night solo piano recital at the Lincoln City Cultural Center which will include sonatas by Rachmaninov and Barber. The recital starts at 7:00 p.m. and donations will support the Suzanne Brown Student Aid Fund which continues to be critical in allowing students to pursue high quality music instruction. For more information, contact Cathy Champion-Predmore at backlit17@gmail.com or 541-270-4814. 🎶



Dr. Daniel Immel



District News *Portland*

Irene Huang, NCTM
Portland District President



Irene Huang, NCTM

The Portland District had a wonderful first meeting of the year on September 26 at Christ United Methodist Church. We had many new member teachers (around 25) in attendance as Liz Willis, NCTM and Geneva Wright, NCTM presented a very informative and well received program on *How to Take Advantage of Everything Syllabus Has to Offer*.

Our October 24 meeting, which was held at Portland Piano Company, invited Dr. Alexander Schwarzkopf to give a presentation entitled *Music Perception: Translating Visual Contours of Melodic Lines into Physical Movements*. He discussed and demonstrated the intersection of cognitive perception and physical movement in piano playing as a means to develop a multidimensional approach during the learning process.

We are happy to announce that we have found a new chairperson for the Concerto Festival (previously known as Trula Whelan

Concerto Competition) after a long search since last spring. She is Karey Miles and she will be a great chair. We have reserved April 6, 2019 for the date of the event. We want to thank everyone (nine of you) who expressed interest in chairing the Concerto Festival, as well as those who expressed support for this event but could not commit to serving as its chair. Our leadership was heartened by the immediate response to our call for help to keep this event going—from longtime members to new members who joined in the past year; from members who never had a student in this event to a member who once participated and won in this event and who is now a professor of piano. It was truly humbling and inspiring to see the spirit of volunteerism alive and well in our District. After all, the very foundation of our Association rests upon this spirit of volunteering and mutual support. Thank you all. 🌸



Geneva Wright (left) and Liz Willis.



District News *Tualatin Valley*

Patti Widener, NCTM
Tualatin Valley District President



Happy Fall Greetings from Tualatin Valley District!

In October, we hosted the *Recitals Reimagined* workshop featuring guest presenter Kristin Yost from Dallas, Texas. Kristin challenged us to think outside the box as we meet the needs of today's students. Are we giving them the skills they need to play the music that is most relevant to them? Kristin gave us examples of many spins on the traditional recital, including the pop recital complete with a rhythm section. This also translates well into a sacred worship style of a recital. She encouraged us to remember "why we teach" as we broke out into groups to discuss our core values. After a full morning, we adjourned for lunch with Kristin at La Provence. Kristin has a variety of materials on her website at <http://www.kristinyost.com/>.

We have 180 students registered for the Festival of Ribbons which will be held on November 3 at Tigard United Methodist Church. We are excited to welcome Joseph Hoffman and Jill Hickenlooper as adjudicators. Our Ensemble Festival will be held Friday afternoon and evening on November 2, with Molly Wheeler adjudicating. Many volunteers are working tirelessly to make sure our students and teachers have the best festival experience possible. Our District extends a big heartfelt thanks to Dianne Davies, Deana Peabody, Renee Masanque, Chikako Diane, Sherry Poole Todd, Kristin Cichoski and Janet Olsen. 



Kristin Yost presenting to the Tualatin Valley District.



Information & Acknowledgements

Submit Articles in *Music News*

Please send articles and accompanying graphics in TIFF, EPS, JPEG or PDF format to Alexis Gibbons via e-mail: ahgibbons@gmail.com. MS Word and Google Doc 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

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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:

November 15, 2018

December 15, 2018

January 15, 2019

