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Certification Spotlight: Sarah Barker Ball, NCTM

by Rebekah Carter, NCTM

A Note from Certification Chair, Rebekah Carter, NCTM: *This year, I want to recognize OMTA members who have recently achieved the professional designation, Nationally Certified Teacher of Music. Sarah Barker Ball, NCTM, became nationally certified and shared inspiring words about the process that prompted me to become an NCTM teacher as well. I hope her story has the same affect on you! Visit www.certification.mtna.org or e-mail me at rw4jc@hotmail.com to get started on your Certification Journey!*

From Sarah Barker Ball, NCTM: For many years, I thought about becoming a Nationally Certified Teacher of Music. I attended many OMTA conferences and workshops, all the while putting off the ominous hurdle that was required, "The Test." Each year a handful of teachers would study on their own, following the written guide. I saw them plod into a designated quiet room at the OMTA Convention and sit there for several hours, answering questions and writing in detail about Music History and

(Continued on next page)



Sarah Barker Ball, NCTM



other topics. They left looking wrung out and wondering if they had cleared the NCTM bar.

When the system changed recently and the “Profiles” approach was put into place, I became intrigued. The topics seemed so practical.

1. Write your teaching philosophy.
2. Present your teaching through videos including a written self-evaluation.
3. Present your own performance through a video.
4. Show how you provide a positive teaching environment through photos and descriptions.
5. Revise and present your business policies.
6. Analyze and explain how you would teach four different pieces of advanced repertoire.

To me, these projects were not only very challenging, but also aligned with my own commitment to becoming the best piano teacher that I possibly can be. So I signed up, printed out the materials and chopped it into doable chunks. The process took me about eight months to complete. The flexibility meshed with high standards to provide a fantastic new perspective of piano teaching and an upgraded set of teaching tools.

I thoroughly enjoyed the process and hope many other OMTA teachers will avail themselves of the opportunity. It's something you can do at home, reaching out for advice or coaching when needed, and tailor your teaching upgrade to your unique situation. I wish you all well in your journey to becoming an NCTM teacher! 🍷

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President's Corner



Selina Manson
OMTA President

MTNA Summit

I am writing this article after attending a busy few days at the MTNA Summit. The Summit for MTNA Leadership is designed to encourage networking and accomplish the following objectives:

1. To better understand the workings of an association
2. To plan for long-term stability of the association
3. To strengthen “The MTNA Connection” which is the link between local, state and national levels
4. To deal with crucial issues confronting the association
5. To determine MTNA’s role in the future of the music teaching profession

And I have to say, that is exactly what happened. Speaking with some of the MTNA staff, they said over eighty people were in attendance. That number consists of state presidents, division directors, officers and staff all coming together to share ideas, concerns and triumphs. It was a wealth of information and knowledge. I walked away feeling inspired and overwhelmed!

Pete Jutras, NCTM was our keynote speaker, and gave an amazing presentation called “The Future of Music Teaching.” It was filled with facts and statistics and included several break-out group discussions. The takeaway from it was the idea of being inclusive of all kinds of students: talented, regular practicers, pop/movie music oriented, weekly practicers, casual players, adults, etc. It is important to keep our personal egos out of the lessons. Because honestly the whole idea is to share music right? More people playing and reading music is the goal!

One of the most exciting discussions I participated in was about the 2019 National Conference taking place in our division in Spokane, WA. I hope you all plan to attend next March 16–20. Start planning your budget now for hotel, travel, and registration. You won’t want to miss this amazing opportunity! The national conference does not come to our area very often. Check out the MTNA website for more information about the location, hotels, and registration: <https://tinyurl.com/y9l42nfy>

Our NW Division director-elect Jody Graves is planning a dinner for all the NW attendees at conference. It will be a lot of fun, hope to see you there!

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

Selina Manson
OMTA President



State News *Syllabus*

Heidi Evans, NCTM
State Syllabus Chair



Dear Colleagues,

The school year is off to a rainy start, students are getting into the swing of practicing, and it's time to register for Fall Syllabus! Here are a few tips to help the process go smoothly for you.

- **Questions:** I answer lots of questions about Syllabus and welcome them! You can also ask your district/local chairman, an experienced teacher or a local Syllabus adjudicator. There are many wonderful resources available to us all over the state!
- **Leggiero:** all accounts are locked out until membership for 2018–2019 is renewed. Unlocking an account can take several days. Renewal in a timely manner avoids hassles with deadlines!
- **Syllabus Update:** the online version is having some small updates to the information at the beginning of the manual. We are removing rules that no longer exist, rephrasing a few that get a lot of questions, and adding some clarifications for Creative Auditions, repertoire, and Level X awards. Take a look—it's always a good idea to read the introductory material once a year! It can be found on the OMTA website at <https://tinyurl.com/zwrohrs>.
- **Communicate:** take the time with your Syllabus families to be sure to request a date they are available, and remind the families to leave the entire day open for Syllabus so the student doesn't feel rushed or stressed at the exams. Do NOT ask for schedule changes after the deadline has passed.

- **Preparation:** if a student isn't ready, the exam can be changed to a Demo/Creative Audition anytime after the deadline, right up to the moment you introduce them to the adjudicator.
- **New Exam Policy:** you cannot make up or reschedule an exam. The student can always participate in the next season, or the teacher can join (pay dues and volunteer) another district with later dates.
- **Volunteer your studio,** even if the set-up isn't quite perfect. Do make sure your piano is in reasonably good condition and tuning.
- **Repertoire questions** may be addressed to any of the following:
 - Carol Ratzlaf
carolratzlaf@aol.com
 - Geneva Wright
genevaw@comcast.net
 - Ellen McQuilkin
ellenmcquilkin@gmail.com
 - Heidi Evans
heidievanpiano@gmail.com
- The Super Scales a la Syllabus has been updated and reprinted. Great thanks to Susan Todd for all her work on that project!

I appreciate all the effort you put into using Syllabus as a wonderful tool for both teachers and students!

Sincerely,
Heidi Evans



Debra Sostrin
MusicLink Chair



It was a busy summer for MusicLink marked by continued outreach and growth!


In June, our presence at the WSMTA/OMTA Joint State Conference allowed us to connect with teachers from across the states of Oregon and Washington. In addition to our table in the Vendors Room, we hosted a forum session entitled “Finding Meaning and Connecting With Your Community Through MusicLink.” This allowed us to meet teachers interested in deepening their connection to their community and serving students from socioeconomically diverse backgrounds. As a direct result of our conference outreach, we added several new teachers and students to our MusicLink roster and received some generous donations.

In July, MusicLink was invited to be the special guest at a concert presented by Chamber Music Northwest. We were mentioned in the opening speech and provided with a table in the foyer, allowing us to spread the word about MusicLink and take donations. Chamber Music Northwest has been a generous sponsor of MusicLink, offering free tickets to many of its concerts to MusicLink students, their family members, and their teachers.

In August, we were delighted to host a well attended Benefit Recital and reception.

Many thanks to cellist Adam Eason, pianist Dianne Davies, and bassoonist Joel Kleinbaum for their beautiful performances and for generously giving their time and talent to support MusicLink’s fundraising efforts. Our thanks extend also to our sponsors Classic Pianos for their recital and reception space as well as New Seasons, Bales, and QFC grocery stores for donating refreshments.

The donations we receive directly fund MusicLink’s programs in Oregon. This summer we were thrilled to award thirteen scholarships for summer music camps, making it possible for students from low-income families to have enriching and transformative experiences at programs including Young Musicians and Artists and Interlochen. In addition, the support that MusicLink provides its students means that they can participate in Festivals and Syllabus programs.

It is now easier than ever to make a donation to Oregon MusicLink! If you would like to support us, go to the MusicLink page on the OMTA State website: <https://oregonmta.org/programs/musiclink/>. Click on “Make a Donation to MusicLink” (under “Forms”). We can take payment by check or online by credit card or PayPal. Thank you! 



Cellist Adam Eason and pianist Dianne Davies performing at the MusicLink Benefit Recital.



State News *Independent Music Teachers Forum*

Holly Counts
IMTF Chair



Holly Counts

Are you an independent studio teacher? I would love to hear from you! As the Independent Music Teachers Forum Chair, I gather information from teachers around the state and then forward it to our board for discussion. What issues would you like to see presented to them in the future? Contact me, Holly Counts, at hollycounts@gmail.com.



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State News *OMTA District Projects Grant Programs*

Susan Todd, NCTM
OMTA District Projects
Grant Coordinator



Teacher Enrichment for All!

We are entering the final year of the five-year Nellie Tholen District Projects, and programs are planned throughout the state! All are welcome to attend these free workshops. We have had teachers join OMTA after visiting workshops, and many students and community members have also enjoyed what has been on offer. Here's what we have for October:

Monday, October 1

10:00 a.m.–Noon
Umpqua/South Coast District
Studio of Marge Connet
2968 Ralinda Terrace, Roseburg 97471

Heidi Evans, NCTM:
*Spooky Improvisation:
Fun for your Fall Recital*

Six weeks to performance-ready improvisation for the Fall Recital, all ages/levels, in 10-minute increments.

Saturday, October 6

Time TBA
Blue Mountain District
Groth Recital Hall, Loso Hall (Room 126)
EOU Campus

Dr. Thomas Otten, NCTM:
*Music of the Baroque, Classical,
Romantic, Contemporary Eras:
Differences in Tone, Articulation,
Pedal, Rubato*

Examining pedal and articulation to shed light on the often-confusing musical choices we have when performing and teaching music from many different style periods.

Monday, October 8

10:00 a.m.–Noon
Rogue Valley District
Location TBA

Daniel Stephens and Judith Kennedy
Baroque Dance Rhythms

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

Tuesday, October 9

10:00 a.m.–Noon
Linn-Benton District
Location TBA

Dr. Stephen Lewis
*Engaging Story and Narrative in
Performance: Marches, Waltzes,
Chorales, and Other "Topics" in Music*

In this two-hour presentation, we will explore the idea of musical "topic," or reference, and how composers use topics to create uniquely musical stories and narratives. Teachers will come away with more knowledge about how to inspire their students to be expressive in their playing.

Friday, October 12

10:00 a.m.–Noon
Lincoln County District
Oregon Coast Community College
South Beach Campus
400 SE College Way, Newport

Dr. Thomas Otten, NCTM:
*Music of the Baroque, Classical,
Romantic, Contemporary Era*

(See October 6 details above for Blue Mountain District)

Sunday, October 21

3:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m.
Mid-Columbia District
Location TBA (Goldendale, WA)

Dr. Jill Timmons, NCTM:
*Playing Well: Strategies for
Performance Preparation*

How to Develop Detailed and Reliable Preparation, Supporting a Fully Focused Performance

(Continued on next page)



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

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



Laura Davis
Membership Chair



Membership Makes Memories

It's October, and the new school year is now in full swing. Music studios that take a break for part of the summer are usually back to business and greeting eager students once again. (Well, most of mine are eager! The reluctant one probably just needs some different music to grab his interest. I'm working on that.)

I would like to welcome our newest OMTA members. So many new plans are taking shape. Festivals to prepare for, recitals to plan, and new repertoire to explore. You are now part of a vibrant community of extraordinary musicians and teachers! Oregon's districts are all so unique, and the passion for great teaching and constant improvement that vibrates from our beaches to our mountains, up and down the valleys, and across the prairies is truly inspiring.

You have paid your dues granting you access to riches of fellowship, networking, world-class seminars, professional presentations, and allowing your students to participate in master classes, festivals and competitions.

Now I would like to encourage you to make the most of your special status. Yes, you! You are special. We are all special, because of all these opportunities that have been laid at our feet. What will we do with the great abundance of musical and professional opportunities awaiting us through this coming school year? Will you step up and contribute your voice, your time and your unique expertise?

Here's to making some Musical Memories together!

WE WELCOME THESE NEW MEMBERS:

Central Oregon District

Paula Dreyer
Piano

Eugene District

Wonkak Kim
Clarinet

Lincoln County

Leatrice Lily
Voice

Linn-Benton

Kiana Berrey
Piano

Portland District

Geneva Houx
Piano, Voice

Marina Hueffer
Piano, Theory

Hyeyoung Jeong
Clarinet

Dr. Shin-Young Kwon
Violin

Dr. Yuan-Chen Li
Composition, Theory, Piano

Richard Littledyke
Piano

Elizabeth Morris
Piano, Guitar, Voice

Rogue Valley

Christine Eggert
Piano, Accompanying, Theory

Heidi Jarvis
Piano

Salem

Carly Eilers
Piano

Trinity Goff
Piano

Melody Morrison
Piano

Tualatin Valley

Marcia Fischer
Piano

Myrna Setiawan
Piano, Theory

Umpqua Valley/South Coast (formerly Roseburg District)

Tamara Johnson
Piano



District News *Central Oregon*

Helen Jones, NCTM



Central Oregon District's first meeting of the new school year took place September 22 at the home of Patti Petersen. A special program was presented by Dr. Jeanine Jacobson, NCTM entitled, "How Can I Teach so my Students Will Be Motivated?" This program was presented by OMTA in partnership with the Oregon Community Foundation and the Nellie Tholen Fund. Teachers of all instruments greatly benefited from her workshop which was free for any interested teachers.

At the 2018 Sunriver Music Festival this summer, several students of Central Oregon District teachers either soloed with the orchestra or took part in a Master Class with pianist Kenneth Broberg who was a recent winner of the Van Cliburn Competition. Participating students and their teachers were: Matthias Santucci, Ben Bonetto

(Margaret Littlehales) and Gabe Reed (Jan Saito). Gabe Reed and Sally Drutman (student of Angelina Anello-Dennee) performed as soloists in the Family Concert with the Sunriver Music Festival Orchestra conducted by George Hanson.



Gabe Reed



Dr. Jeanine Jacobson, NCTM



Sally Drutman with George Hanson.




District News *Eugene*

Alexis Gibbons, NCTM



At our September meeting, Michael Reiter presented, “The Other End of the Key: learning the language of the piano technician.” Michael is the piano technician at the University of Oregon. He has a background in organ, has built harpsichords, and maintains historic instruments (one of which was a part of his presentation). He started his presentation with important terms that pianists need to know in order to communicate effectively with their technicians. He had four different pianos that he used to demonstrate how to identify possible problems with the pianos. He also demonstrated how two pianos with the same key weight can have vastly different sound traits.

Beyond the quality of information that he presented, Michael was an engaging speaker with a wicked sense of humor. He ended his presentation with this quote: “Please remember that piano technicians are grand and upright people!”

Our District will be having two events in the month of October, the Festival of Popular Music and the Sonatina Festival. Our October meeting will have President Selina Manson presenting about MTNA’s eFestivals as well as other features of OMTA’s website. You can find information about that presentation at <https://omta-eugene.org/meetings/>. We hope to see you there! 



Michael Reiter, RPT



District News *Portland*

Irene Huang, NCTM
Portland District President



Irene Huang, NCTM

The Portland District leadership has decided to divide the current District into two separate districts—East Portland (east of the Willamette River) and West Portland (west of the Willamette River) instead of three districts as originally proposed. Our District will remain as one for 2018–2019, while we proceed with our plans to reorganize into two effective July 2019. Liz Willis will be the President of East Portland and Irene Huang will be the President of West Portland.

We believe this new division will allow us to achieve our original objectives for the reorganization, while simplifying the process as we make the transition from one large District into two smaller ones. Importantly, it will also allow us to keep the current Syllabus areas as they are without redrawing them to fit the new East and West Districts.

To begin our transition into two local Districts, we will be holding our regular Portland District meeting every month in the coming year, except for December (holidays) and March (spring break). The meeting location will alternate between East Portland and West Portland. To kick off the new school year, we will have a presentation on “How to Take Advantage of Everything Syllabus Has to Offer” by Geneva Wright and Liz Willis in our September meeting. We will no longer have our focus groups meeting this year, (except for the Hillsboro focus group which has chosen to continue), while East Portland will host a new monthly performing group for teachers starting in October.

Portland will continue to host our very popular period festivals for all Portland members: Classical Festival (November),



Irene and Dorothy Fahlman.

Ensemble Festival (January), Baroque/Contemporary Festival (February), Composition Festival (February), Romantic Festival (April and May), Concerto Festival (TBA). We are also launching a new non-competitive, non-adjudicated themed event called Halloween Showcase which will take place on October 27 and is being organized by Monica Sanders.

Last but not least, two of our District members were recently recognized and honored. Dorothy Fahlman, NCTM, received the Nellie Tholen Excellence in Teaching Award at the banquet dinner during the WSMATA/OMTA joint conference in June. Susan Todd, NCTM, has been nominated by OMTA for the 2019 MTNA Foundation Fellow Award. The Portland District is very grateful to Dorothy and Susan for their contributions and commitment to

(Continued on next page)





Dorothy Fahlman receiving the Nellie Tholen Excellence in Teaching Award award.

OMTA and our District over the years. Portland District member Cindy Peterson-Pearl was installed as the Northwest Division Director for her two year term, at the 2018 MTNA National Conference in Orlando, Florida in April.

Upcoming Meetings

All meetings will begin with the business part of the meeting at 9:30 a.m., followed by a short break with refreshments and the program which starts approximately at 10:15 a.m. Here are the dates and locations for the district meetings in the upcoming year:

September 26, Wednesday
Christ United Methodist Church
12755 NW Dogwood St., Portland 97229

October 24, Wednesday
Portland Piano Company
8700 NE Columbia Blvd., Portland 97220

November 30, Friday
Christ United Methodist Church

January 23, Wednesday
Portland Piano Company

February 27, Wednesday
Christ United Methodist Church

April 24, Wednesday
Portland Piano Company

May 22, Wednesday
Christ United Methodist Church




District News *Rogue Valley*

Marsha Hall



The Rogue Valley District is off to a great start for the 2018–2019 school year! At our September meeting we welcomed several new members, recently returning members, and our dependable, reliable, consistently present “old” members! With a review of upcoming events, we were all reminded how fortunate we are to be members of OMTA and share with each other our love of music and teaching.

We bid a fond farewell to member Thor Polson who will be moving to Kansas City, Missouri. Thor has been a supportive and enthusiastic member of the Rogue Valley District and will be greatly missed. Thor will be pursuing his love of jazz piano performance, in addition to striving to stay flexible between performing, teaching, and writing a book. 



District News *Tualatin Valley*

Patti Widener, NCTM
Tualatin Valley District President



Greetings from Tualatin Valley District!

We hope everyone is off to a wonderful fall teaching start!

Our district began the teaching year with a well attended September business meeting and program. Our own Lilin Chin, Laura Davis, Heidi Evans and Bev Mayhew presented on “Repertoire Gems, Favorite Teaching Pieces with Pedagogical Considerations and Teaching Strategies.” They shared pieces from John Robert Poe to Mozart, engaging us with a relevant and interesting program.

In October, we look forward to welcoming nationally known presenter Kristin Yost who will give a two-hour workshop on “Recitals Reimagined: Making music come to life at a recital everyone loves.” Kristin was recently the keynote speaker for the Minnesota Music Teachers Association. Her keynote address was titled “Create everyday!” We are excited to present Kristin to all area teachers and hope you will join us. Her presentation will have something for everyone, giving us creative ideas to take our recitals to the next level. She will include her expertise on teaching, preparing and executing a pop/Broadway recital, complete with a rhythm section. Attendees

are invited to prepare a pop or jazz standard to play with a rhythm section at the end of the workshop. Here is the information for her presentation:

Date:

Friday, October 12 at 10:00 a.m.

Coffee and networking:


9:40

Place:

Tigard United Methodist Church

Kristin is an engaging and energetic speaker; you won't want to miss her!

Our students are happily preparing for our first student events in November. The Ensemble Festival is Friday, November 2 from 4:00–8:00 p.m. This is both competitive and noncompetitive in which the winners will advance to state. The Festival of Ribbons is Saturday, November 3 from 8:30 a.m.—5:00 p.m. This is our largest signature event. It is adjudicated but noncompetitive. A big thank you to all our teachers that volunteered to plan and organize these events so our students have the opportunity to shine!

Happy Fall! 



Tualatin Valley Music Teachers
Association presents:

Kristin Yost

Recitals

Reimagined !

Making music come to life at a
recital everyone loves.

October 12, 2018
Tigard United Methodist Church
10:00 a.m.

Coffee and Networking 9:40

**Spark your inner creative and
find new ways to provide a
meaningful performance
experience for your students.**

**Master clinician Kristin Yost will
present ways to elevate your studio's
value through reimagining the piano
recital.**

**This 2 hour workshop will explore
creative recital ideas for every
teacher. Whether it is standard
teaching repertoire or Broadway and
pop music, teachers will come away
with innovative recital concepts that
are sure to motivate students and
engage the audience.**

Teachers are invited to learn a pop
standard and perform with a rhythm
ensemble at the end of the workshop.



As an active performer, author and teacher, Kristin comes with a nationally recognized name attributed to her published works, conference presentations and level of students. Kristin holds the Masters degree in Piano Pedagogy and Performance from Southern Methodist University.

She is the founder and Executive Director of The Centre of Musical Minds in Frisco Texas, where through a decade of experience and research has achieved a formula of success not only for her students but also for herself.

She emphasizes joy, creativity and perseverance with long-view goals that focus on each person as a collection of strengths.

Kristin has over 10 years of putting on great shows with her students.

You can read more about Kristin at
KristinYost.com



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.

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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/>

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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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Information & Acknowledgements



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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
julie@tobiasweissdesign.com
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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:

October 15, 2018

November 15, 2018

December 15, 2018

