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Time to Register for the 2019 Conference!

by Sara Greenleaf
OMTA State Conference Co-Chair

THE ANNUAL OMTA STATE CONFERENCE IS NOW OPEN FOR REGISTRATION

On Thursday, August 22 through Saturday, August 24, music teachers from all over Oregon and the Northwest will gather at University of Oregon's stunning Erb Memorial Union Building (EMU) in Eugene. Registration for the conference, rooms, and parking is available online at <https://tinyurl.com/y37p73p3>.

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION

A reduced rate of \$135 is available from now until June 30.

Registration from July until the conference will be \$165 for OMTA members. Day passes, family passes, etc., are also available for purchase online.

Lunches are buffet-style and are included with registration unless otherwise noted. The banquet dinner tickets are \$40, and menu selections are available on the registration site.

Financial incentives available for OMTA members are as follows:

- New members of MTNA and OMTA since June 2018 register for free.
- Travel grants for ongoing members (joined before June 2018) who are attending an OMTA conference for the first time.
- Free registration for college students (lunches not included).
- Room rebates for up to half the cost of a double room for those who might otherwise not be able to afford the conference.

If you'd like to reserve your room and parking passes at a later date to break up the cost, go to <https://tinyurl.com/y5wh9hdc>.

Light and bright, state-of-the-art Kalapuya Ilahe Residence Hall

(Continued on next page)



Time to Register for the 2019 Conference!



Ballroom where our lectures, masterclass, cocktail hour, and recitals will take place.

dorm-style rooms are available in singles and doubles with linen service. Rates are \$60 per night (single), and \$48 per night (double). Breakfast is not included, but there are many dining options nearby on the UO campus, including the Dux Bistro, which is en route to the EMU. Inside the EMU, Starbucks and Fresh Corner Market will be open for quick breakfast items like pastries, bagels, and espresso. Other food vendors such as Jamba Juice, Chipotle, Falling Sky Pizzeria & Public House, Subway, Panda Express, and Joe's Burgers will be open for business in the EMU during the week as well.

CAMPUS PARKING PASSES

Overnight parking passes (\$12 per night) are required on weeknights if you intend to park overnight on campus. \$8 day-only passes are also available. These passes can only be purchased online at the link above, and will be handed out at the conference during registration. (If you come on Saturday only, note that weekend parking is free). For example: If you are staying from Wednesday thru Saturday you buy three \$12 passes. If you are staying Thursday–Saturday, you buy two \$12 passes. There are also pay-to-park lots throughout campus, and metered park-

ing spots for people who are only parking for a short time on the weekdays.

Other hotel options available in Eugene near UO to choose from with special OMTA conference rates (\$118–\$139 per night): Holiday Inn Express, Phoenix Inn Suites, Home2 Suites by Hilton Eugene, Residence Inn by Marriott, and Hyatt Place at Oakway Center.

Business meetings will occur on Wednesday, August 21 in the Erb Memorial Union Building's Cedar and Spruce rooms.

Our conference officially begins Thursday morning in the EMU Ballroom with opening remarks from MTNA President Martha F. Hilley, NCTM, professor of group piano and pedagogy at University of Texas at Austin, and features presentations by Joy Morin, Dr. Helen Marlais, and Dennis Alexander. There will also be the Composer of the Year recital that day where we will hear “Four Silhouettes for Two and Three” for flute, piccolo, alto flute, percussion and piano by David Bernstein; an Independent Music Teachers Forum session; a Young Professionals/New Member Meet-Up; and we are currently working on a fun, optional evening activity.

(Continued on next page)



Time to Register for the 2019 Conference!



Common spaces within Kalapuya Ilahe Residence Hall.

Friday's schedule continues with sessions from our three presenters and an intermediate/advanced master class featuring our Conference Artist Dr. Oksana Ezhokina, Chair of Keyboard Studies at Pacific Lutheran University. If you have a piano student or chamber group (including piano) that would like to play in the master class please send their name, age(s), and selection to Sara Greenleaf at president.elect@oregonmta.org for consideration.

In the evening, our banquet dinner and awards in Redwood Auditorium will be preceded by a cocktail hour and mini-concert featuring UO music students, and followed by our Artist Concert presented by Dr. Ezhokina and Marie Wang, Associate Professor of Violin at Northern Illinois University.

Our conference will end on Saturday at noon following our general membership meeting and the final presentation by Dennis Alexander, entitled "Why Didn't I

(Continued on next page)



One on-campus dining option, Dux Bistro (located in LLC North Building near the Erb Memorial Union Building where the conference events are taking place) will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily. Meals are available on a walk-in basis. Their many options include breakfast sandwiches, breakfast burritos, soups, sandwiches, salads, café, bowls and other specials, as well as grab-n-go items.



Time to Register for the 2019 Conference!



Redwood Auditorium where our banquet dinner will be held.

Think of That?" Dennis will address many of the questions he has received over the years from piano teachers through workshops, conferences, and correspondence.

Please remember to bring your donations for our wall of wine raffle and our

silent auction. These funds are for the OMTA & MTNA Foundation.

Information for the conference can also be found on the OMTA website. A detailed daily schedule of events will be available soon. Can't wait to see everyone in Eugene!



Inside the EMU (on the floor below our conference events) these food and retail outlets will be open during their regular hours of 7:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

President's Corner



Selina Manson
OMTA President



State Conference Registration

By now I am sure you have received at least one e-mail that conference registration is open. This year, OMTA is offering conference registration on our website! Please follow this link to register for conference: <https://tinyurl.com/kohxx2w>

This is what we call a live form. You simply click on the appropriate boxes and enter information as necessary. Once you are finished, simply hit submit. Then you will be directed to our secure PayPal page, where you can pay using your PayPal account or a credit card. You will receive an e-mail confirmation of your conference registration, and the state office will receive record of your registration.

Some people may be ready to register for conference, but not ready to pay for housing or parking at the same time. That is completely fine. Simply register without

filling out those areas. Housing and parking registration will continue to be available on the website in another form that you can come back to at any time.

If you're a new MTNA/OMTA member or collegiate member, please don't miss your opportunity for free conference registration. And if you are a new member, or a young professional (those under age 40), please be sure to join us for a networking, social meet-up with hors d'oeuvres on Thursday.

See you there!

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Selina Manson".

Selina Manson
OMTA President



State News *Sonatina Festival—Save the Date!*

Fern McArthur, NCTM
Sonatina Festival Chair



Sonatina Festival—October 19, 2019

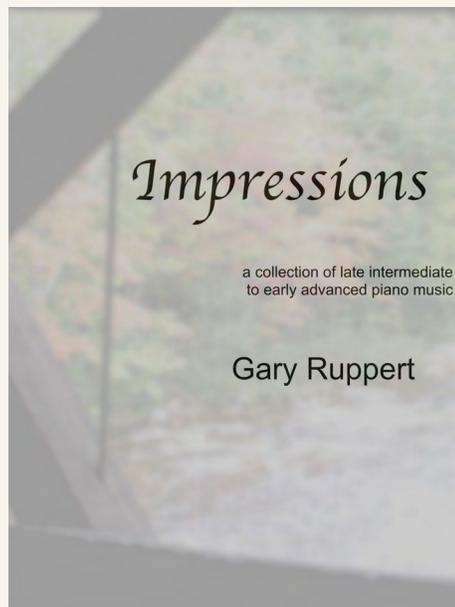
Summer is approaching, which means it is time to learn Sonatinas! Please consider preparing your students to join us in Eugene this fall for a fun-filled afternoon of sonatinas.

The date is Saturday, October 19, noon to 4:00pm. The repertoire for all 10 levels, plus further information, can be found on our state website. Please visit <https://tinyurl.com/y5mkj6bm>

Please contact me if you have questions. We hope to see you in October!

Best regards,

Fern McArthur, NCTM
fernmc1@comcast.net
541-484-1567



Available at
Amazon.com

This collection provides an opportunity to explore multiple styles of contemporary piano music with a rich array of creative interpretations.

listen to these pieces at
garyruppert.com



Jan Mittelstaedt, NCTM
ESMAR Chair



2019 OMTA's ESMAR Attracts Two Gifted Piano Students

Two gifted students of Nationally Certified teachers have recently completed assessments for OMTA's *Extended Study of Musicianship and Repertoire* (ESMAR). Zoe Beyler, student of Carol Ratzlaf, NCTM, had this to say about the ESMAR program: "ESMAR definitely pushed me, and I had to put in a lot of work, but I also learned a lot, and I got a lot of good feedback and performance opportunities. All of this has definitely helped me progress as a musician, while giving me a fun and challenging goal to work towards."

Her teacher Carol Ratzlaf praised the eight-year-old program: "I am very impressed with ESMAR! It is a wonderful program for ambitious and gifted piano students who want a challenging goal after the Level Ten Syllabus Program that OMTA offers."

Zoe Beyler and Elizabeth Cichoski have also completed the Community Service requirement and are preparing a recital that will include some of their repertoire. The recital will be held at Classic Pianos on Sunday, May 19. The girls will plan all aspects of the recital. At the end of the recital, they will receive the coveted trophy as a culmination of the program.

"We took two years," said Elizabeth's teacher Heidi Evans, NCTM, "to learn and hone the materials. During that time, my student's facility and dexterity improved markedly, thanks in no small part to the scale and arpeggio routines. We also had a lot of fun arranging the national anthem and birthday songs. Some of the skills such as transposition really stretched us, but all of them left my student with the confidence that whatever her musical future, she has the skills to meet and succeed with every new experience and challenge. Dr. Timmons' suggestions were insightful, helpful, immediately successful, and very supportive of the work my student has put in to achieve this level of playing. We are so grateful to have had this opportunity through OMTA."



Zoe Beyler and Carol Ratzlaf, NCTM



Heidi Evans, NCTM and Elizabeth Cichoski

Elizabeth Cichoski added, "Preparing for ESMAR has stretched me musically, and has taught me discipline and patience. Because of ESMAR, I feel more thoroughly prepared for my continuing music education. I had a wonderful experience during the evaluation, and feel grateful for the feedback I received from Dr. Jill Timmons."

We are grateful to our dynamic and knowledgeable assessor, Dr. Jill Timmons, who helped our committee create the program. In a 90-minute ESMAR assessment,

(Continued on next page)



Dr. Timmons spends approximately 30 minutes on musicianship, including:

- Reading from a lead line
- A comprehensive scale routine
- An arpeggio routine
- A chord progression using a secondary dominant and a German sixth chord
- Sight reading a chorale tune
- Beginning transposition
- Harmonizing (*Happy Birthday* and the *Star Spangled Banner*, etc.)

Next Dr. Timmons listens to the student's repertoire for about 20 minutes, followed by a 30–40 minute master class.

Dr. Timmons shared the following with us: "The OMTA ESMAR assessment is

a more comprehensive and rigorous curriculum than Level X of Oregon's Syllabus program. It is not for everyone, however, much like the AP curriculum in high school it is selective. But for those students who have aspirations for music study at the collegiate level (major, minor, or non-major), or who are competing for valuable music scholarship awards, the ESMAR program can prepare the student for a nationally competitive audition."

We have already begun to plan ESMAR 2020. Please contact Jan Mittelstaedt, NCTM, if you have interested students, or even a student who might think about becoming part of the program in the future. The next assessments will be held at Classic Pianos on June 6 and 7, 2020.

Jan Mittelstaedt, NCTM
503-645-2066
janrm@frontier.com



Heidi Evans, NCTM
State Syllabus Chair



Wrapping Up Syllabus Season

I would like to close out the year by thanking all the teachers who worked so hard to prepare over 2,200 students for OMTA Syllabus exams. I would also like to thank the chairs for their volunteer time and skills.

My thanks also goes to the adjudicators for supporting the teachers and students, and to the many volunteers whose time and effort make this program happen for OMTA. I deeply appreciate each and every one of you and I hope to see all of you at the OMTA conference in August.

Congratulations to all of the students who completed Syllabus Level X this year—this is an enormous accomplishment and the number of Level X exams was the highest it's been in recent memory! I'm looking forward to hearing some of the students perform on the OMTA Level X Recital this Sunday, June 2, at Portland Piano Company. Many thanks also to the Level X Awards and Recital chair, Lacie Mitts, for all her hard work, mailing out the awards and putting the recital together.

Don't forget to renew your MTNA membership. Late renewals are locked out of their Leggiero account, which can cause hassles in the fall when event deadlines are looming.

Have a creative idea for teaching a specific Syllabus skill? Send it to me at heidievspiano@gmail.com by August 8, and I'll compile everyone's ideas for the September Music News article, with full credit to everyone who contributes (or anonymity if you prefer). My deadline for the article is due August 15, so late contributions might get used another time.

Finally, take a moment to thank your district Syllabus Chairman. It's a big job, and a little gratitude is doubly blessed. 



State News *Independent Music Teachers Forum*

Holly Counts
IMTF Chair



At this summer's state conference in August, there will be a special session for all independent music teachers. Since last year's IMTF session was such a hit at the combined Washington/Oregon conference, we'll be following a similar format, allowing teachers to interact, network, and discuss

topics of importance to those of us with private studios.

What issues would you like to talk about with fellow teachers? Please e-mail me with questions, topics, and ideas at hollycounts@gmail.com. As the IMTF Chair, I'll look forward to seeing you there! 



State News *MusicLink*

Liz Willis
MusicLink Chair



Do you know that MusicLink is designed to support all music teachers that are giving heavily discounted tuition for financially challenged students? We are the Oregon Chapter, but MusicLink is a national organization with active chapters in every state. It is not necessary to be an OMTA teacher to be affiliated with MusicLink.

If you have students whom you are teaching for 50 percent or less than your normal tuition, they may qualify for support from the program. Oregon is one of the most active states, and the reimbursement we allow teachers of registered MusicLink students is \$100 for lower division (OMTA Syllabus Levels 1–6) and \$200 for upper division (Levels 7–10). These reimbursements are for registration fees for festivals, syllabus, and for supplies such as scores, strings, reeds, etc. Also, Oregon supports our MusicLink students with summer camp scholarships! The online

application is at www.oregonmta.org under “programs for students.” Check it out! Our Oregon deadline is every year on May 1.

At www.musiclinkfoundation.org there is an application process for parents of students to complete. If you would like to become a MusicLink teacher and receive referrals for these students, please contact me at lizewillis@aol.com for instructions on how to volunteer. Teachers must be willing to give the lessons for 50 percent or less than their normal tuition.

Oregon also has a list of corporate sponsors that have committed to give discounts to MusicLink students, so that there is additional support for our teachers. This includes free or heavily discounted concert tickets, discounts on music, and even help with tunings (in Portland).

MusicLink is a terrific program. Look for our table at the upcoming State Conference in Eugene this August! 



State News *Membership*

Melody Morrison, NCTM
Membership Chair



Melody Morrison, NCTM

Let's give a warm welcome those who have recently joined OMTA! Make sure to reach out to them and let them know you are excited that they're here!

Portland
William Chou
Piano

Linn-Benton
Rebecca Williams
Violin, Viola, Chamber Music,
Music Education, Theory, Orchestra

Eugene
Steven James
Piano





**THE SOLO
PIANO
SERIES**
**2019 / 2020
SEASON**



**MARC-ANDRÉ
HAMELIN**
OCT 5 & 6, 2019



**INON
BARNATAN**
NOV 16 & 17, 2019

PDX DEBUT



**DASOL
KIM**
JAN 25 & 26, 2020



**ANDERSON
& ROE**
MAR 14 & 15, 2020

PDX DEBUT



**IMOGEN
COOPER**
MAY 2 & 3, 2020

PDX DEBUT



**JONATHAN
PLOWRIGHT**
MAY 30 & 31, 2020

PORTLANDPIANO.ORG



State News *OMTA District Projects Grant Programs*

Susan Todd, NCTM
*OMTA District Projects
Grant Coordinator*

and

Sue Nelson



Your grant writing team, spearheaded by Dr. Janet Pollack, Eugene District and aided by Selina Manson, President, Fern McArthur, Treasurer, and Caris Power in the OMTA Office is finishing dotting each “i” and crossing each “t” on the application for a new grant. As soon as that is completed, I will send out our 2019–20 presenter roster. Please plan to book programs with the hope that they will be funded. Check your September or October Music News for the results. It has been a pleasure to serve OMTA as the District Projects Grant Coordinator this nearly five years, and I hope to continue to serve in the coming grant term.

We do have one last exciting event for the 2018–19 year, organized by Sue Nelson, Umatilla-Morrow district. If you will be anywhere near Pendleton on June 14, do plan to pop in to see Dr. Artina McCain working with the U-M District teachers and students. Details follow.

Happy Trails,
Susan Todd, NCTM
OMTA District Projects Grant Coordinator



On Friday, June 14, the Oregon East Symphony will host Dr. Artina McCain as guest soloist for the Saint-Saens Piano Concerto No. 2, G Minor. Artina was a presenter at the recent MTNA Conference in Spokane, so some of you may have met her.

In conjunction with her performance, Umatilla-Morrow OMTA will present a workshop for students. The workshop with Dr. McCain will take place on Thursday, June 13 at 4:30 p.m., in the Vert Auditorium. After the workshop, pizza will be provided at the Presbyterian Church, a 2-block walk from the auditorium. Students will then attend a rehearsal of the orchestra with Dr. McCain at 7:00.

Students will prepare during the weeks ahead of the workshop by studying the concerto with their teachers. A study guide (available from Sue Nelson) will help with this preparation. Students will:

1. Watch the concerto on YouTube with their teachers
2. Learn how to access Public Domain scores through IMSLP, and print their own full orchestral score of the concerto.
3. Perhaps learn (according to their abilities) some passages from the concerto.
4. No public performance of any material is involved for the students. This is simply for the purpose of hearing a performance they otherwise would not hear, learning about IMSLP, learning how an artist and an orchestra work together, learning how to read an orchestra score (especially interesting for those who may play an orchestral instrument), and if desired, learn to conduct some of the music, with the teacher.

(Continued on next page)



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

There is no charge for the workshop or the pizza. This event is supported by the Nellie Tholen District Projects Grant from the Oregon Community Foundation.

The only requirement is to let Sue Nelson know who is coming, including teachers, students, and perhaps parents, so that we will have enough pizza for everybody. We're expecting perhaps 20 students from Umatilla-Morrow District. There will be plenty of room in the auditorium for as many students as you want to bring. If you want to hear the actual performance, you would need to stay overnight at your own expense or return the next day.

The website for OES is
www.oregoneastsymphony.org

So let me know who is coming. I hope you will think this is an exciting way to end your teaching year!

Sue Nelson
musicdoc3@mac.com

REMEMBER—as before, 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



District News *Central Oregon*

Helen Jones, NCTM



Our last meeting of the year will be June 14 with our special guest Selina Manson, OMTA State President. She will present a program on Erik Satie, as well as visit our district and greet our members. This meeting is also our traditional potluck luncheon at the home of Jodie Bischof in Sunriver.



Selina Manson

Our final Central Oregon District's highly popular student event will be June 8 at Wille Hall on the COCC campus in Bend. The Ensemble Festival will be divided into two recitals at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. Students can perform any ensembles or combination of instruments for this recital. Teachers will perform in ensembles at the beginning of each program.

This is the second year of Central Oregon District's Honor Society. OMTA teachers may nominate their students who either pass OMTA Syllabus or National Federation of Music Clubs. Students must also meet other requirements in their schools and in the community. Students are selected in August of each year for the school year just completed.

Wishing you a wonderful summer from Central Oregon District! 



Ensemble Festival



District News *Tualatin Valley*

Patti Widener NCTM
Tualatin Valley District President



Greetings from Tualatin Valley District

April brought our Sacred Recital, chaired by Laura Davis. Thank you Laura for providing our students this opportunity.

In May we celebrated the school year's end with our Annual Brunch.

While we feasted, we honored our officers and chairs with flowers and chocolate! We also voted in our new President Elect, Teresa Sealey.

Our officers for next year are:

- Patti Widener: President
- Teresa Sealey: President Elect
- Laura Davis: Past President
- Kristen Cichoski: Treasurer
- Secretary: position open

Our slate of 2019–20 Festival and district chairs is nearly complete. We look forward to providing our students and members great events and great programs in 2019–20!

Our student scholarship audition honors a graduating senior planning to major or minor in music. This year's winner is Chandler Wells. Chandler studies piano, percussion and composition with Nicole Wells. He will be attending Belmont University in Nashville, majoring in Music Business with a music minor.

As is our tradition, Chandler performed at our May brunch. He shared his composition titled "Project" for piano and orchestra. What a treat! We believe Chandler will be an influence in the music world in years to come. Congratulations, Chandler!

Thanks to our scholarship committee Anne Young, Sally Crawford and Pauline Eidemiller, and our guest adjudicator, Chris Whyte.



Chandler Wells, graduating senior and future music business major, receiving his Tualatin Valley scholarship from Sally Crawford.

We also want to acknowledge our amazing members Pauline Eidemiller and Dr. Anne Young, who are stepping down from the committee. We thank them both for their years of work and contribution in this area. We are all better for it.

We wish everyone a warm and happy summer! 



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:

August 15, 2019

September 15, 2019

October 15, 2019

