

OMTA Music News

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March 2019

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Introducing OMTA Marketplace

Dear OMTA members,

I am very excited and pleased to introduce OMTA's new online retail store. On our website you can now purchase all of your Syllabus materials, *Super Scales a la Syllabus* books, and a printed copy of the OMTA membership directory. Just follow this link and you will find our Marketplace:

<https://oregonmta.org/shop/>.

Our new system uses a secure PayPal check-out process and accepts credit cards. The shipping is calculated when you check out and lists available options.

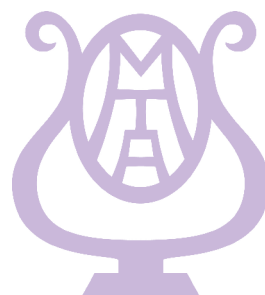
Please take note that we are replacing the system of mailing orders and checks to the office. As of May 1, 2019, we will only sell Syllabus materials online and at the State Conference. The office staff will not be able to accept your checks or cash after April 30, 2019.

Please take a few minutes and familiarize yourself with our Marketplace page. Also, don't forget to let your student families know as well. If you have any questions do not hesitate to e-mail me at president@oregonmta.org.

Happy shopping!

Sincerely,

Selina Manson
OMTA President



President's Corner



Selina Manson
OMTA President



In January, I was part of a Skype call with the other state presidents of the North West as well as our Northwest Director, Cindy Peterson-Peart, NCTM. During that call, information was relayed back and forth between the national level and the state level. Here are some of the highlights from that call:

Online scams continue to be a problem. Oregon has experienced this firsthand. The most important thing to do when receiving questionable looking e-mails is to check the e-mail address. Many times it is not a real e-mail address. If you are unsure, e-mail or call the person claiming to e-mail you with their listed contact information in our online directory. Never respond to the e-mail you received or click any links within the e-mail.

The eFestival has gone through a redesign. The price has come down to \$25. Here's a link to the most up-to-date information: <http://tinyurl.com/yy5qwgl5>

MTNA is focusing on diversity and inclusion. Back in 2002, MTNA created a diversity task force and now MTNA is recommitting "to implementing the recommendations." They plan to create a "Diversity and Inclusion Policy Statement" and develop a "Diversity and Inclusion Strategy." If you're curious, you can read more about it from the MTNA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes: <http://tinyurl.com/y4pv2lrj>

Sincerely,

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

Selina Manson
OMTA President



Grand Piano Scholarship Competition

Presented by the Piano Santa Foundation

The winner of the 2019 Piano Santa Foundation Grand Scholarship Competition will receive the use of a grand piano for 2 years, including moving costs, annual tuning and maintenance. The competition is open to all students, ages 12-16, who have passed at least syllabus level 6 (or equivalent) and live in the Portland Metro area.

Applications and more information are available at www.pianosanta.org or contact us at info@pianosanta.org or (503) 245-6269 for more information.

Applications Due: May 17, 2019

Auditions: June 15, 2019





NW Division

Northwest Chamber Music String:

Representative

Portland State University Ensemble:

Benjamin Gimm

Ricky Chan

Amanda Chan

Teacher: Susan Chan

Northwest Junior Performance Piano:

Alternate

Jacob Nenow

Teacher: Renato Fabbro

Northwest Junior Performance String:

Winner

Hanami Froom, Violin

Teacher: Carol Sindell

Northwest Junior Performance Woodwind:

Alternate

Joseph Baik, Clarinet

Teacher: Hyeyoung Jeong

Northwest Senior Performance Piano:

Alternate

Jenna Tu

Teacher: Renato Fabbro

Northwest Senior Performance String:

Alternate

Hailey Kang, Cello

Teacher: Hyun-jim Kim

Northwest Senior Performance Woodwind:

Alternate

Julie Chen, Flute

Teacher: Sandy Norman

Northwest Young Artist Performance Piano:

Alternate

Joan Tay

Teacher: Dean Kramer



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Students/families of OMTA teachers can purchase SOLO Series 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.

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Portland 2019

JOIN US FOR PIANO DAY!
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State News *Syllabus*

Heidi Evans, NCTM
State Syllabus Chair



We're up to our ears in musicianship skills and *almost* memorized repertoire, so spring must be around the corner!

Encourage your students to improvise a little on the musicianship skills to keep interest levels high (broken chords, fun rhythms, etc.) or to write them out on staff paper.

Send me your ideas for keeping students engaged with skills and I'll collate them together for a future *Music News* article!

E-mail me at heidievspiano@gmail.com, and I'll include your name unless requested otherwise and your idea(s). I hope to publish these ideas in September 2019.

March Reminders (these change monthly for relevance):

- Treat chairmen and adjudicators with respect and professionalism.
- No makeups/rescheduling of exams—this is too great of a burden on the volunteers who run the program. The student can always participate in the next season, or the teacher can join (pay dues and volunteer) another district with later dates.
- No photocopies—music must be legally procured downloads, presented in binders with proof of purchase, or original sheet music (books).
- Teachers are **REQUIRED** to be present for all Syllabus exams. In extreme circumstances, contact the district or state chairman for advice.
- Repertoire must match the level being tested with only one piece being one level lower; all others must meet or exceed the level being tested. Direct questions to the Syllabus Repertoire Committee of Ellen McQuilkin, Geneva Wright, Liz Willis, Carol Ratzlaf, or Heidi Evans.

- Do not register students for exams with the expectation that they will fail. Determining Level and preparation is the teacher's responsibility. If the student is not prepared, the exam can be changed from Evaluation to Demonstration or Creative Audition on the day of the exams. This is the teacher's choice, not the parent's choice. Forcing an adjudicator to fail students puts everyone in a difficult position.
- Have a question you'd like to see addressed here? E-mail me at heidievspiano@gmail.com.

For information about the following topics, please check out previous publications of OMTA's *Music News* at <http://tinyurl.com/y4att7pp>.

- Contemporary Repertoire, see November 2018, <http://tinyurl.com/y47mps74>.
- Baroque and Classical Repertoire, see December 2018, <http://tinyurl.com/y5ygs6qf>.
- Romantic and Impressionist Repertoire, see January 2019, <http://tinyurl.com/y4wtqhxl>.
- Level X information, see February 2019, <http://tinyurl.com/y39mpnd2>.





In Memoriam



Dear OMTA members,

I am deeply saddened to share the passing of one of our District Presidents, Tiffany Jefferson, of Lincoln County. Below is a tribute written by the members of her District.

*Sincerely,
Selina Manson
OMTA President*

Tiffany Denise Jefferson

October 4, 1970 to December 15, 2018



A Tribute to Tiffany Jefferson of Lincoln County District

The Lincoln County members are saddened by the loss of our recent President, Tiffany Jefferson. She was a dynamic and organized President. Some of her contributions include being one of the first of the Nellie Tholen Fellows, she specialized in teaching Spanish speaking students, worked with Sarah Barker Ball on the Ribbon Festival and eventually took over that responsibility, participated in Spotlight Concerts and was beloved by all who knew her.

Here is what her teacher, Matt Goodrich wrote about Tiffany:

Tiffany was a wonderful piano student. She was so motivated to learn and improve for her own playing enjoyment as well as to serve her large teaching studio. She was fascinated by our lessons and repeatedly expressed gratitude for all that she was able to pass on to her students. I was inspired that she wanted to walk alongside them by going through the Syllabus examination process and seeking out performing opportunities to expand her abilities. Her improvement was dramatic because of her diligence. Our lessons often ran a couple of hours because it was so interesting to talk with her about her life and the cultural fabric of the Oregon Coast. We also shared a love of cats, and last fall she generously offered to take care of my ailing old feline over both Thanksgiving and Christmas so I could spend the holidays out of town with my family. I always enjoyed when we arranged to have lessons at her red Toledo farmhouse. There was such life there, with the piano right by the kitchen, chickens by the door, roosters crowing, and her daughter Carlyn—whose musical talent made Tiffany so proud—and the rest of the family going in and out. Hers was a life all too short, but beautifully lived. I am honored to have been a small part of it these last few years.

Every member of our group endorses the above. We miss her greatly.



Jan Mittelstaedt, NCTM
ESMAR Chair




ESMAR Students Prepare for Spring Assessment and Recital

Two students are preparing for ESMAR 2019. They study with Heidi Evans, NCTM, and Carol Ratzlaf, NCTM. Individual assessments/master classes with Dr. Jill Timmons are scheduled for April 27 (AM) and May 2 (PM) at Classic Pianos. If any OMTA teacher and/or her student(s) would like to observe one of the assessments, please contact Jan Mittelstaedt. You will be very welcome. The students will also present a joint recital on Sunday, May 19, which is also at Classic Pianos. This recital is open to the public, and interested teachers and students are especially invited.

ESMAR is in its ninth year. In addition to repertoire, the program offers advanced students an opportunity to learn new musicianship skills that haven't previously been offered in our Syllabus program. They include reading from a lead line, some basic improvisation, playing by ear, an exciting scale routine, and an arpeggio routine which includes familiar chords as well as chords that are new to students. A community service project is also part of the program. ESMAR appeals to future music majors as well as to those majoring in a different discipline.

As a participant from 2018, I can safely say that ESMAR is a great opportunity to take your musicianship to the next level. The rigorous, year-long curriculum not only introduced me to new repertoire and advanced musicianship skills, but also strengthened my knowledge of music history and the styles of individual composers. ESMAR has also introduced me to a network of incredibly talented fellow students and professionals, and is actually how I met my current piano mentor in Seattle, WA! I'm now continuing to play piano through college, while pursuing a major in engineering at the University of Washington.

—Selina Teng
2018 ESMAR Graduate

I am proud to say that OMTA now has over 25 ESMAR graduates. Some are in college and some are college graduates. However, all the students learned much more than music by being part of ESMAR. I encourage you, OMTA teachers, to spread the word and introduce your students to our Extended Study of Musicianship and Repertoire. Teachers of ESMAR alumni, please ask your ESMAR graduates to let me know what they are doing and what ESMAR meant to them. 



State News *MusicLink*

Liz Willis, NCTM
MusicLink Chair



I am so excited to share the growth that our Oregon MusicLink program has experienced. We now have thirty-eight teachers from around the state teaching sixty-five students. More teachers are outside of the Portland city limits, reaching students in the more underserved areas of the state. This is a terrific outreach and way of fostering the next generation of musicians! The following are quotes from MusicLink students:

MusicLink has impacted my life in wonderful ways. Through MusicLink, I am able to study piano with a teacher that has incredible talent and has devoted her life to the piano. My teacher, Debra, helps me to understand that the pieces we play are more than just notes on a page. They are feelings, stories, pictures, celebrations, and whispers. They are lemon poppyseed muffins on a Saturday morning ... MusicLink helps me carry out my dreams of playing the piano for my whole life.

—Raquel F.

Thank you for the scholarship you gave me so that I could go to YMA (summer camp). YMA was truly a life-changing experience that I will never forget. At YMA, I gained so much musical knowledge in all areas of music ... No joke, I didn't know 95 percent of the things I learned there.

—Andrew Kim

MusicLink is a national non-profit that links promising students in need with professional music teachers. For those of you who are interested in helping financially challenged families provide music lessons to their children, a certain amount of financial support for the student's festival fees, Syllabus fees, music, and supplies can be granted from our Oregon Association. Please contact me, Liz Willis, lizewillis@aol.com for more information on how to get started! 🌿



Available for
download at

store.cdbaby.com
iTunes
Amazon

for more information visit
garyruppert.com



State News *Membership*

Melody Morrison
Membership Chair



Melody

Let's welcome those who have recently joined OMTA! If they are in your district, keep an eye out and say hi when you see them!

Portland

Laura Blattner
Piano

Amanda Sloane
Music Education

Amanda Chan

Central Oregon

Meagan Iverson
Piano, Accompanying

Tanya Bruce
Piano

Eugene

Alainna Norland
Piano, Accompanying, Flute, Voice

Tualatin Valley

Keara Bingham
Piano

Umatilla-Morrow

Rachel Pariseau
Piano, Violin



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Scott McBride Smith

MTNA President
& Keynote Speaker



Jill Timmons

Artistic Director,
Performing Artist:
J.S. Bach, Goldberg Variations



Ludovica Mosca

Baroque Dancer
and Bach Scholar

Welcome to a weekend immersion for artist/educators looking to explore special topics pertaining to the piano, finding voice to their ideas & inquiry, & connecting with their professional tribe. Performances, master classes, lectures, somatic education, a conference salmon BBQ, & beach time! Join us in the Netarts, where music meets the sea!

Registration deadline is May 1, 2019
Limited enrollment.

For registration, audition, housing,
and fee information contact:

Dr. Jill Timmons at:
jtimmons@linfield.edu

Jill Timmons
Artistic Director

State News *OMTA District Projects Grant Programs*

Susan Todd, NCTM
OMTA District Projects
Grant Coordinator



Teacher Enrichment for All!

There will be changes to the grant program in the coming year. We will be applying for a new grant, and are grateful to Dr. Janet Pollack of the Eugene District, who has volunteered to be our grant writer. We have many programs scheduled this spring so take advantage of all the programs you can get to!

Friday & Saturday, March 1 & 2

Friday: 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
Oregon Coast Community College
Lincoln County District
South Beach Campus
400 SE College Way, Newport 97366

Saturday: 8:00 a.m.–2:30 p.m.
First Presbyterian Church
227 NE 12th Street, Newport 97365

Dr. Alexander Tutunov, NCTM
Masterclasses and workshops
Contact Mary Morganti
maryjo3663@msn.com for details

Friday, March 8

10:00 a.m.–Noon
Salem District
Our Savior's Lutheran Church
1770 Baxter Street, Salem 97306
Paul Safar

*Teaching Beginning Jazz:
playing from a lead sheet*
Explore teaching jazz standard tunes (Real Book format) to early intermediate students of all ages. Ideas will also be presented on arranging and improvising on these tunes.

Saturday, March 9

10:00 a.m.–Noon
(rescheduled from February 9)
Umatilla-Morrow District
Hermiston Church of Christ of
Latter Day Saints
850 SW 11th Street, Hermiston, 97383
Joseph Hoffman

*Training the Ear and the Eye from the
Start: The Hoffman Method*
Drawing on his Kodály training, Joseph Hoffman (M.M.) has developed an innovative method for teaching piano to young children.

Monday, March 11

10:00 a.m.–Noon
Umpqua/South Coast District
Studio of Karen Gibbs
1744 NE Reagan, Roseburg 97470
Joseph Hoffman

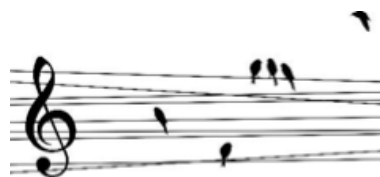
*Training the Ear and the Eye from the
Start: The Hoffman Method*

Tuesday, March 12

10:00 a.m.–11:30 a.m.
Linn-Benton District
Dr. Bonnie Esbensen Residence
2993 NW Acacia Place, Corvallis 97330
Dr. Jill Timmons, NCTM

*Music for the Piano Duo:
Two Heads are Better Than One*
Discover new resources and ideas for exploring the two-piano and four-hand genres.

(Continued on next page)



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

Saturday, March 16

11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.
Mid-Columbia District
St Paul's Episcopal Church
1805 Minnesota Street, The Dalles 97058
Dr. Thomas Otten, NCTM
*Gems of African American Piano
Repertoire: Featuring Piano Etudes
by Leslie Adams*

Friday, April 5

10:00 a.m.–Noon
(rescheduled from the fall)
Lincoln County District
Oregon Coast Community College
South Beach Campus
400 SE College Way, Newport 97366
Dr. Thomas Otten, NCTM
*Music of the Baroque, Classical,
Romantic, and Contemporary Eras:
Differences in Tone, Articulation,
Pedal, Rubato*

We will examine pedal and articulation to shed light on the confusing musical choices we have when performing and teaching music from many different style periods.

Saturday, April 6

10:00 a.m.–Noon
Umatilla-Morrow District
First Presbyterian Church
201 SW Dorion, Pendleton 97801
Matt Katz
Becoming the Accompanist

A practical approach to using current pop music and classics as a way to keep a student engaged who might be losing steam with studying piano repertoire and to get them to use music theory in an applied way to teach themselves a song quickly.

Monday, April 8

10:00 a.m.–Noon
Umpqua/South Coast District
Studio of Janel Hahn
354 Northstar Lane, Sutherlin 97479
Mary Hall Kogen
The Art of Phrasing
Learn to put excitement and meaning into every note while playing from your musical heart and soul.

Tuesday, April 9

10:00 a.m.–Noon
Linn-Benton District
Dr. Bonnie Esbensen Residence
2993 NW Acacia Place, Corvallis 97330
Dr. Johnandrew Slominski
*Acquiring Aural Skills:
Listening Deeply*
This workshop opens a conversation about teaching and learning through a nuanced aural curriculum.

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



District News *Central Oregon*

Helen Jones, NCTM




Our February program featured our own Kathy Gault, NCTM. Her topic was *Silent Voices: Women Composers and Their Music*. Kathy played piano excerpts from many of these female composers. Through the ages, how many female versus male composers you can name?

We held our student Baroque/Classical Composers Festival on February 9. Due to other activities, the number of participants was down. Our own Paula Dreyer served as our clinician.

Our March program will feature pianist Dr. Thomas Otten, NCTM from University of North Carolina. He has been hailed by

the New York Times as “an extremely original player who puts a formidable technique at the service of his ideas.” He made his debut at age seventeen with the National Symphony Orchestra at the John F. Kennedy Center, and has since developed a global profile, performing in Australia, Europe, the Caribbean, and throughout the U.S.

His program will be on African-American Music and later in the day will conduct a Master Class of middle and high school students from Central Oregon District teachers. Please contact Janet at 408-206-2714 if you would like more information or to attend this program. 



Dr. Thomas Otten



Kathy Gault, NCTM



Paula Dreyer and Baroque/Classical Festival Students.



District News *Eugene*

Alexis Gibbons, NCTM




The Eugene District was treated to an insightful presentation on February 11, given by Dr. Johnandrew Slominski titled, *Classical Music on the Spot: The Training of an Eighteenth-Century Musician*. In his presentation, Dr. Slominski presented the history of classical improvisation through demonstrating the teaching techniques of Mozart as well as giving examples of ways CPE Bach improvised. He encouraged us to include classical style improvisation with helpful activities that we can pass on to our students. A highlight of the presentation was listening to him play, as well as his witty sense of humor.

Our District held the first student event of 2019, the Baroque Festival, on February 9. Thirteen teachers and thirty-six students ranging in age from eight to eighteen

participated in the event. The music of J.S. Bach, Couperin, Telemann, Scarlatti, Rameau, Pescetti, Zipoli, and Graupner was heard in the performances. There were winners in every division and several honorable mentions. Many thanks to David Cragun for chairing this event!

At our meeting on March 11, we will have teachers from our District present on *Creating a Methodology for Mastering Sight-Reading*. Our Vice President, Dr. Janet Pollack, has been collating information from our teachers to present at our next meeting. The month of March will also include the Eugene OMTA District Recital which is a recital that many students use as a practice performance for Syllabus.

We wish you all the best of luck during the stresses of Syllabus and recital season! 



Dr. Johnandrew Slominski




District News *Portland*

Irene Huang, NCTM



Portland District hosted a very well-received lecture/demonstration in January titled *How Can a Wrong Note Be Perfect*. Dr. William Westney was the presenter. He is an internationally known educator from Texas Tech University. This presentation was inspiring, peppered with humor and challenged the conventional wisdom of music lessons. Above all, Dr. Westney reminded us not to let a wrong note kill the spirit of a performance and the importance of keeping one's natural joyousness in our musical pursuits. Music students should be encouraged to express themselves through music making instead of focusing on meeting the expectation to play "note perfect." In our February meeting, Dr. Johnandrew Slominski, Assistant Professor of Piano and Theory at Linfield College, presented

a workshop titled *Acquiring Aural Skills: Listening Deeply*.

Looking forward to April, Portland District will host our annual Trula Whelan Concerto Festival for piano and string students. This year we are requiring all students to play with an accompanist for the festival. The goal of this format change is to encourage the student to learn a concerto movement with the orchestral parts and to receive all the educational benefits they can potentially gain from pursuing this very worthy endeavor. It also provides an opportunity for the student to perform their concerto with an accompanist before an adjudicator and receive a ten minute masterclass. We are very glad to have Karey Miles as the new chairperson of this long-standing event in our District. 



Dr. William Westney



Irene Huang, Liz Willis, and Dr. Westney.



District News *Tualatin Valley*

Patti Widener, NCTM



Greetings from Tualatin Valley District!

As I write, twenty-three hard working students from our District are preparing for the Baroque Festival State Recital held on February 23. We congratulate these students and their teachers! We also want to congratulate Tualatin Valley's student member Jessie Nieman for winning "Audience Favorite" at the PYP Concerto Competition on January 25. Jessie did a magnificent job playing Rachmaninov Concerto No. 2, Movement 1. He was accompanied by Dianne Davies. Jessie is a student of member Pauline Eidemiller.


Last month, Cindy Peterson-Peart presented to us on *Syllabus for Everyone: Observed Syllabus Exams and Thoughts on the Creative Audition*. Two brave and prepared students agreed to take their Syllabus exams before our audience. We saw Cindy adjudicate a level four and seven exam. As she spoke most of her comments instead of writing, we learned what she observed as adjudicator. After the exams she answered

all our Syllabus questions and spoke about the Creative Audition. Cindy was a fabulous adjudicator and presenter. I highly recommend her and this OFC-Nellie Tholen Grant presentation.

March brings our annual Teacher's Recital. Several of our teachers are preparing works by Liszt, Kuhlau and Poulenc. This occurs Friday, March 8 at 10 a.m. at the Tigard United Methodist Church. The address is 9845 SW Walnut Place, Tigard OR, 97223.

Everyone is welcome!

Our next student event is the Sonatina Gallery on March 9, held at Tualatin Presbyterian Church. Students are preparing their sonatinas to perform in a non-adjudicated recital format. This is a popular event. We give a big thank you to Teresa Sealey for chairing this event.

As we enter Syllabus and recital season, we wish everyone happy teaching! 



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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Heidi Evans, NCTM



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office@oregonmta.org



State Website

www.oregonmta.org

Please visit our Website to find any further information you need. We encourage you to explore the pull-down menus under *Teacher Resources* and *Programs for Students*. Complete listings of State and District leadership are found in the pull-down menu under *About OMTA*.

Upcoming Music News copy DEADLINES:

March 15, 2019

April 15, 2019

May 15, 2019

