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## OMTA State Conference

August 22 to 24, 2019

by Sara Greenleaf

OMTA State Conference Co-Chair

Our 2019 OMTA State Conference at University of Oregon is getting very real! After an April filled to the brim with planning lodging, programming, and meals, I can almost see, hear, and taste it!

Let's focus on some of the knowledge our dynamic presenters, Joy Morin, Dr. Helen Marlais, and Dennis Alexander, are going to drop this summer. These three have some solid and timeless, foundational topics for us that fit into our general conference theme, *The Essential Teacher: Returning to What We Know (But Sometimes Forget)*.

Among other sessions, Joy will bring us *The Quarter Note Equals One Beat and Other Lies My Music Teacher Told Me*, which explores how rhythm can be approached more naturally through movement-based activities and aural comprehension. Helen will present *The Essentials for Success: Self-Directed and Intelligent Practicing* (yes, please!). Dennis will send us off with *Why Didn't I Think of That?*, an interactive presentation that will include input from the audience and will answer our burning ques-

tions about technique, motivation, repertoire, sight-reading, rhythm, artistry, memorization, teaching adults, stage-fright, and other issues we all grapple with.

In addition to our inspiring presenters, we can look forward to a mini-concert featuring students of the University of Oregon's School of Music and Dance. We will also be treated to an evening recital where we will take in Beethoven's marvelous "Kreutzer" Sonata, played by conference artist Dr. Oksana Ezhokina (Chair of Piano Studies at Pacific Lutheran University) and violinist Marie Wang (Associate Professor at Northern Illinois University). Oksana will also be teaching our master class. Details about the master class are forthcoming.

Stay tuned for more enticing tidbits about what you can expect at this summer's OMTA State Conference. For more information about our presenters, please go to the State Conference link at <https://tinyurl.com/kohxx2w>. Early Bird Registration will begin online on May 15. See you in Eugene!



# President's Corner

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Selina Manson  
OMTA President



I am sure many of you received the e-mail from MTNA about membership renewal. In case you missed it, MTNA is in the process of mailing out renewal notices. You can fill out the paper form you receive in the mail, or renew on the MTNA website through your account. To access your MTNA account, log in using your e-mail address and the password you created.

As we head towards summer, many people wonder, "Why should I renew now?" There are many good reasons to take care of renewal now instead of later. The most important reason being the State Conference this summer. Without current membership, you cannot register for Conference. If you are a new member, collegiate member, or high school member this is especially important because you receive free registration!

Another reason to take care of your renewal now is so you do not forget! How

often does our summer get packed with fun outdoor activities, family visits, BBQ's and suddenly it's fall? Time to register students for Fall Syllabus? You might not be able to because you are locked out of Leggiero for not renewing your membership.

And lastly, it is important to renew so you don't miss out on all of the discounts we have through MTNA. Keeping your membership current allows you to access the "members only" section of the MTNA website. There are wonderful discounts we receive as members of MTNA. It also contains the archived webinars, as well as access to the online publications.

I'm one of those people who like to check things off my list. Take a few moments and check membership renewal off your list.

Sincerely,

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

Selina Manson  
OMTA President



# State News *Oregon Pianists Garner National Competition Award*

Dr. Jill Timmons



Dr. Jill Timmons

On March 30, two Oregon pianists placed first in the National Federation of Music Club's Ellis Competition for Duo Pianists. The Carney-Terrall Duo was awarded the first place prize of \$20,000 in this national competition. Additionally, they also received the \$1,000 competition prize for outstanding performance of an American work.

Colleen Carney, age 22, and Melissa Terrall, age 24, are two highly talented young pianists who have received extensive training with several OMTA professionals. Colleen began her piano studies with Paula Watt, and Melissa with Jan Mittelstaedt. I had the pleasure of working with Colleen and Melissa during their high school years. It was then that they formed their piano duo in tandem to their solo studies.

During their K–12 years, both young women participated in OMTA Festivals, Syllabus, ESMAR, master classes, concerto competitions, and scholarship auditions. Over the course of many years, they tested their mettle by competing, performing, participating in guest artist master classes, and seeking valuable feedback from a rich array of artists in Oregon and beyond. They received numerous awards, including solo concerto performances with the Jewish

Community Orchestra. Throughout high school, they worked as collaborative pianists.

As undergraduates, both Colleen and Melissa were scholarship students at their respective universities. Colleen received her Bachelor of Music degree from University of Nebraska (Lincoln), working with Dr. Ann Chang. Melissa was a student of Dr. Julia Lee at Portland State University, where she completed her Bachelor of Music degree.

They have both enjoyed teaching piano in addition to performing. The rich panoply of OMTA performance and educational opportunities has served to prepare both women for a professional track. For the past six years, I have had the pleasure of being the Carney-Terrall Duo coach. In 2016, they garnered their first national duo prize with the United States International Duo Piano Competition.

A few words about the Ellis Competition: it's rigorous, to say the least. In fact, the first place award is not always given, regardless of the number of applicants. In 1993, 2001, 2007, 2011, and 2015, no first place award was presented. The director for this year's competition was Dr. George Keck. The age requirement is from 18

*(Continued on next page)*



The Carney-Terrall Duo.



## State News *Oregon Pianists Garner National Competition Award*

through 38. All duo repertoire is performed by memory. Performers present an hour of music, plus a duo concerto. The program the Carney-Terrall Duo chose for this competition included the following: Billy the Kid by Aaron Copland, Variations on a Theme by Haydn, Op. 56b by Johannes Brahms, Deux Valses by Germaine Tailleferre, Variations on a Theme by Paganini by Witold Lutoslawski, and Four Polonaises for Four-Hands, D. 599 by Franz Schubert. Additionally, they selected the Concerto for Two Pianos and Orchestra by Francis Poulenc for their concerto entry.

The competition's preliminary audition was submitted online as a live performance. No editing was possible. From the preliminary submissions, finalists were then selected to give a performance for the competition jury at the Belhaven Center for the Arts in Jackson, Mississippi.

Colleen and Melissa prepared for over a year and a half for this event, with countless performances of the program. Many of my OMTA colleagues hosted House Concerts to enable the duo to run their program. Being able to perform under pressure eventually becomes routine when artists are highly experienced on the concert stage. A big thank you to so many terrific OMTA colleagues.

A special heartfelt thanks also goes to Maurice Unis and the superb staff at

Classic Pianos. They not only opened their doors to the duo for rehearsals on state-of-the-art pianos in the Recital Hall, but they also welcomed them for concerts, the preliminary audition recording, and invited them for performances at their other stores throughout the United States.

These days, Colleen and Melissa continue their work here in the Portland area. Currently, they are preparing for their featured performance at the NFMC National Convention. They also continue to teach privately and through community music schools. They are both making plans for graduate work as well. The Ellis award will sculpt their professional paths in new ways. If you wish to hear them in the near future, closer to Portland, they will be participating in the piano master classes at the Piano Arts in Netarts festival September 5–8, 2019.

It takes a village to raise a professional pianist. No one teacher, no one prize, nor one single musical event creates the pathway to a musical career. It is the collective and committed experiences over many years that prepare a young artist for a professional career. We know that out here in Oregon, we can provide that rich and rigorous environment from which top flight artists can emerge. I am grateful to be part of the OMTA village. Please join me in congratulating these terrific young Oregonian pianists! 🌿



# State News *New Member Spotlight . . . Melody Morrison*

Rebekah Carter, NCTM  
Certification Chair



This month, please enjoy our member spotlight on Melody Morrison, NCTM! Melody is also our OMTA Membership Chair and recently became a Nationally Certified Teacher of Music. Please read on and join us in recognizing her professional achievement. As always, if you are interested in learning more about how to become a Nationally Certified Teacher of Music with MTNA, visit the certification website (<https://certification.mtna.org/>) or contact me ([rw4jc@hotmail.com](mailto:rw4jc@hotmail.com)).

*Q: What inspired you to become a Nationally Certified Teacher of Music?*

*A:* I have always strived to become the best I can be in anything I do. I have always had great respect for MTNA. When I discovered that this organization had a professional certification process, I made it a goal to attain NCTM status once I was finished with my master's degree. So many great pedagogues I looked up to had the NCTM initials after their name, and I couldn't wait to one day have those initials as well.

*Q: Which project did you enjoy completing the most, and why?*

*A:* I would have to say that Project #2 (Analyze Four Teaching Pieces) was my favorite part of the process. I was given four piano pieces of varying levels which I had to thoroughly examine and then answer questions about from a list.

One of these questions was about form and theory and asked how I would approach teaching these elements to a student. I enjoyed completing harmonic analysis and observing key areas of the piece and then writing up how I would clearly teach this to a student of a specific level of knowledge.



Melody Morrison, NCTM

I also enjoyed tackling the section where I had to identify potential problems that the student might encounter while learning these specific pieces, and how I would solve those difficulties. This required me to look even deeper into the music and think about all the different ways one can fix a problem. This prompted much thought about piano pedagogy and motivated me to do additional study in the area of strategic lesson planning and problem solving.

Overall, I enjoyed all five of the projects that completed my submission to become nationally certified; every activity helped me to become a more mindful and well-rounded teacher. I would encourage anyone who has not worked through the NCTM certification process yet to start today. It's quite a bit of work but overall an enjoyable task as well as a great professional achievement. 🌿



# State News *Syllabus*

Heidi Evans, NCTM  
State Syllabus Chair



Merry May everyone! The Syllabus season is drawing to a close, and I hope you and your students had a good experience this year.

For those districts who are still upcoming, please remember that teachers are **REQUIRED** to be present for all Syllabus exams and to not ask for changes after the deadline. Also, there are no makeups or rescheduled exams.

Clarification on Syllabus *Evaluations* vs. *Demonstrations*, by Barbara Berg, NCTM:

- If a *Teacher* changes a student from a complete Evaluation, the student can pass with a Successful Demonstration.
- If an *Adjudicator* on the day of adjudication must change a student from Evaluation, it's a No-Pass. That student will receive Participation only.
- Therefore, *it's up to the Teacher* to determine which option students are prepared to take: *Evaluation* or *Demonstration*.

May Reminders:

- Renew your MTNA membership to avoid being locked out of Leggiero in September.
- Thank your chairperson for all their hard work this year!
- Send in an Adjudicator Evaluation form found here:  
<https://tinyurl.com/y5tzrp9x>
- The Level X Recital deadline is May 24, and the recital is Sunday, June 2. Find more information here:  
<https://tinyurl.com/yc75zsbz>

Have a creative idea for teaching a specific Syllabus skill? Send it to me at [heidievspiano@gmail.com](mailto:heidievspiano@gmail.com) by August 8, and I will compile everyone's ideas for the September *Music News* article with full credit to everyone who contributes (or anonymity if you prefer). 



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and Processional

*for Piano*



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# State News *State Composition Recital*

**Dianne Davis**  
*State Composition Recital Chair*



Dianne Davis

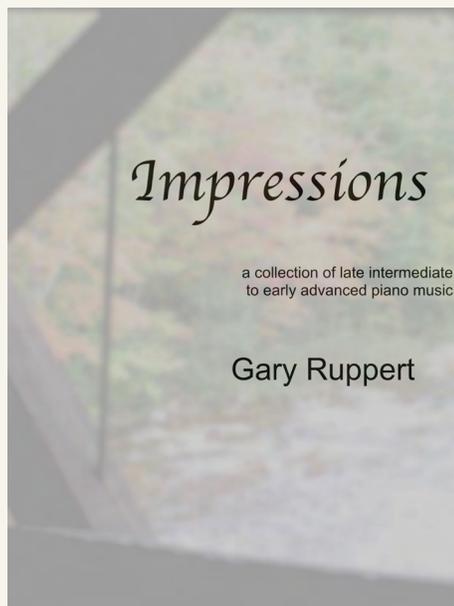
The State Composition Recital will be held Saturday, June 1 at 1 and 2:30 pm. The recital will be located at the Portland Piano Company on 8700 NE Columbia Blvd, Portland, OR 97220.

If your student was chosen as an Honored Composer by your District Composition Festival adjudicator, fill out the Student Applicant Form on the state website: <https://tinyurl.com/jedm2xf>

Send your completed form by e-mail at [diannedavies00@gmail.com](mailto:diannedavies00@gmail.com) or by mail, Dianne Davies 6995 SW Larkspur Place, Beaverton, OR 97008. The deadline is Sunday, May 5.

A Note for Teachers: Please check a recital time on the form for 1:00 pm, 2:30 pm or either. This helps me during the scheduling process. There are directions on how to prepare the score so that I can collect a booklet of all the participants to be reserved and sold the day of the recital.

Happy Creating,  
Dianne



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](http://garyruppert.com)



# State News *Membership*

Melody Morrison, NCTM  
Membership Chair



Melody Morrison, NCTM

## *Let's Get to Know Our Members!*

As music teachers, we are usually busy with lesson planning, giving lessons, scheduling recitals, playing gigs, and taking care of too many other responsibilities. Our lives can get crazy, and it seems impossible to fit anything else in there.

Can I suggest adding one more activity to that list? I'm encouraging everyone this month to focus on getting together with fellow district members (and no, official district meetings don't count). Just a night out or a lunch or dinner party can provide much needed breaks from the whirlwind of work. Fellow district members are invaluable resources that we have available to us and who also live relatively close by. We have so much to learn and gain from each other!

Most importantly, other members in your district can become lifelong friends who will support, encourage, and have fun with you. It is so enjoyable to have friends who know exactly what teaching is like, and who you can laugh and cry with throughout your musical journey. I became good friends with another member of my MTNA collegiate chapter in Idaho. Although we do not live in the same state anymore, we still frequently call each other with teaching questions, insights, and sometimes just to blow off some steam after a long day. She's been a huge encouragement and support to me, and it all started with a connection in an MTNA chapter.

Be the first one to get the ball rolling in your district. Start fun traditions and make professional connections that will create lasting memories and friendships!

Let's welcome Andrew to OMTA!

**Portland**  
Andrew D'Antonio  
Piano, Violin





### THE SOLO PIANO SERIES

**2019 / 2020 SEASON**



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

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

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PDX DEBUT



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

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PDX DEBUT



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

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**PORTLANDPIANO.ORG**



# State News *OMTA District Projects Grant Programs*

Susan Todd, NCTM  
*OMTA District Projects  
Grant Coordinator*

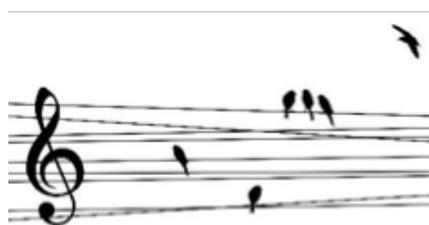


We just have a few programs left this spring. Make plans to attend one near you! We'll be back in the fall with details of how the next Nellie Tholen Grant can help you continue to grow as an OMTA Music Teacher.

**Friday, May 3**  
10:00 a.m.–Noon  
Lincoln County District  
Oregon Coast Community College  
South Beach Campus  
400 SE College Way, Newport

Matt Katz  
*Becoming the Accompanist*

Have you ever asked yourself, “Outside of teaching cadences and harmony, how can I teach my student to accompany?” Matt will present 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. This will be a master class style workshop with demonstrations and audience participation.



**Friday, May 10**  
10:45 a.m.–12:15 p.m.  
Central Oregon District  
Studio of Janet Smith  
60775 Breckenridge, Bend  
Mary Hall Kogen  
*Audiation and Learning*  
Audiation is the ability to hear and understand music for which the sound is not physically present.

**Saturday, May 11**  
10:00 a.m.–Noon  
Klamath Basin District  
First Presbyterian Church  
601 Pine Street, Klamath Falls  
Dr. Diane Baxter, NCTM  
*Stepping into the Light:*  
*Thoughts on Performance Anxiety*  
Learn some of the causes of performance anxiety, and tips on how to do your best under duress.

**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 *Blue Mountain*

Lea Emerson



The Blue Mountain District Baroque Festival was held on February 23 at Eastern Oregon University. Dr. Mio Aoike and Dr. Matt Cooper were our fabulous adjudicators. The festival was presented as a master class. Dr. Aoike and Dr. Cooper guided the performers to bring about exciting changes by using creative suggestions and innovative performance practices.

The La Grande/Baker Syllabus program was held March 7–9, with the Syllabus Honors Recital on March 10. The Ontario

Syllabus program was held March 9–10, with the Syllabus Honors Recital on March 17. We are pleased to report that sixty students participated in Syllabus representing five teachers!

In May, we have some exciting events that will be happening. We are looking forward to the Sacred Festival as well as the Ensemble Festival. Both happening on May 18 at the United Methodist Church in La Grande. 



Students Jakob Graffunder, Ethan Jacobson, Daniel Durrell and Lana Emerson at the Baroque Festival.



La Grande/Baker Syllabus Honors Recital Participants with Dona Schmitt.



# District News *Central Oregon*

Helen Jones, NCTM



We are looking forward to our program on May 10 that will be presented by Mary Kogen on *Audiation & Learning*. Mary Kogen retired in 2003 after twenty-six years of teaching at Portland State University. She now holds seminars around the United States on learning, curiosity, and play. Mary specializes in asking questions that people often don't know the answer to. These questions open up realms of thought that individuals often haven't visited in a long time. An expert in how people learn, Mary has taught stage presence, performance skills, and how to think creatively.

Our own Gary Ruppert presented a workshop in conjunction with the Sunriver Music Festival's Piano Showcase, held April 12-13 at the Tower Theatre in Bend. The two-day event featured Sean Chen (classical), Arthur Migliazza (boogie) and Adam Birnbaum (jazz). *What is This Thing Called Jazz?* was Gary's presentation topic. He has written the jazz piano guidelines for OMTA's Jazz Syllabus and has a CD titled, *Jazz for a Rainy Day*. 



Mary Kogen



Gary Ruppert



# District News *Eugene*

Alexis Gibbons, NCTM  
and  
Lucy Clevenger, NCTM  
*Eugene District Members*



Alexis Gibbons, NCTM

FROM ALEXIS GIBBONS, NCTM:  
April was a productive and wonderful month for the Eugene District. We were treated to a presentation from local member Dr. Betsy Parker with the help of Dr. Genevieve Mason titled, *Popular Music Repertoire: From Old Favorites to Recently Published*. Betsy has done extensive research into contemporary composers and provided us with a wide variety of pieces to use with our students. Betsy and Genevieve started the program by performing numerous duets that could be used in the Ensemble Festival. Then Betsy performed some wonderful solo pieces. Her artistry and talent made the performance such a treat for our District.

On April 5, we had our annual District Original Composition Celebration. A wide range of students participated, and we were delighted to have some older adults presenting their original compositions. Paul Safar chaired the event, and we thank him for putting together this festival. Seven students were selected as “Honored Composers” and will be performing at the state recital in June.

In May, we are looking forward to two events. We will have our annual brunch at Valley River Inn on May 13 in which we enjoy socializing as well as exchanging teaching tips and ideas. We will also have our Teacher Showcase Recital on May 18. This recital is a benefit for the Beverly Soule Scholarship Fund. The scholarship awards prize money to high school juniors and seniors.

FROM LUCY CLEVINGER, NCTM:  
The Festival of Contemporary Music took place on Sunday, April 14 at Unity of the Valley Church in Eugene. There were two recitals with twenty-six students and six teachers participating. All performers were well prepared and sounded great on a newly rebuilt Yamaha grand piano. Twentieth century piano repertoire was represented by a wide variety of composers from Claude Debussy and Maurice Ravel to Aram Khachaturian and Leonard Bernstein. It was Eugene OMTA’s first Contemporary Music Festival, and I hope not the last. 🌿



Betsy Parker and Genevieve Mason.



Original Composition Celebration Participants.



# 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:office@oregonmta.org)

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## State Website

[www.oregonmta.org](http://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:

*May 15, 2019*  
*August 15, 2019*  
*September 15, 2019*

