

OMTA MUSIC NEWS

Opus 74, No. 10 · June 2020

UPCOMING EVENTS

ESMAR Final Recital is Postponed

Date TBA
Classic Pianos, Portland, OR

Summer Board Meetings

June 21, 2020 @ 12:00 pm-3:00 pm
Google Meet, Online

2020 OMTA State Conference

June 25-27, 2020
Streaming Online, *direct to your home*



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Selina Manson, OMTA President

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

It's Been a Pleasure

It is hard to believe that this is my last President's Corner article for *Music News*. Two years has flown by, and soon I will be a Past President, like my many predecessors.

My primary focus during this time has been moving OMTA forward with technology. A few highlights from my tenure include launching the Marketplace to order Syllabus materials, moving State Conference registration to our website, and switching to a digital membership directory. Not only did these features give members the ability to order and pay for things with a credit card, but they also save our organization money while streamlining the workload for our administrative staff, treasurer and bookkeeper.

I look forward to continuing work on our website as Past President. There are more ideas and more plans to keep our organization's online presence current.

(Continued on page 2)

Speaking of technology, I hope to “see” you at our virtual State Conference. I plan to be one of the live chat moderators. Say hello during this historic event.

Signing off,

Selina Manson
OMTA President

MTNA NATIONAL COMPETITION RESULTS

Congratulations to **Hanami Froom** and her teacher **Carol Sindell** for placing 3rd in the Junior Strings Division at the MTNA National Competition!

MEMBERSHIP



Melody Morrison, NCTM
Membership Chair

Let’s give a warm welcome to Krista, our new OMTA member!

West Portland
Krista Alsop
Piano



The link below connects you to your local District Associations, OMTA Board of Directors, and Committee Chairs:
www.oregonmta.org/about/leadership

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CONFERENCE



Sarah Barker Ball, NCTM
2020 State Conference Chair

Advantages of a Virtual Conference

Our trailblazing 2020 OMTA Virtual Conference is just around the corner! The programming planned for June 25 and 26 is arguably "The Piano Event of the Season!" Not only do we have top-notch presenters lined up for you, but also with widespread cancellation of normal recitals and concerts, you could say our Conference is a lifeline for the piano community in Oregon.

The low registration fee of just \$20 (unless you got the early bird special) per person is within reach of nearly everyone. In fact, we have non-members signing up and asking me, "Why is it so cheap for TWO DAYS of sessions plus a concert???" So hopefully many people will register AND throw in a donation while they are at it! Please reach out to friends, students, family members and colleagues. You are free to share the registration page from our website: <https://oregonmta.org/teachers/conferences/omta-state-conference>. And then, who knows, some guests might be inspired to join our organization too!

To sum it up, please consider the following advantages:

- No need to drive, no hotel reservations, no extra food expenses
- Enjoy nationally recognized piano pedagogue Peter Mack, back by popular demand
- Discover the passion of Brazilian piano repertoire brought to you by Jessica Pacheco
- Absorb teaching tips in two master classes
- Bask in the artistry of Peter Mack's concert
- Mingle online with colleagues, using the "chat" feature as you go

And finally, the whole reason we provide this event, eloquently summed up in her 2019 State Conference evaluation:

"I'm always inspired by presenters and sharing info learned with other teachers. Always looking for new ideas and the conference charges me up for the coming year." —Sandy Hull, member of Eugene District

See you there!

Sarah Barker Ball, NCTM
Conference Chair and President Elect



The 2020 OMTA Virtual Conference will be streamed live from Florence, OR!



CERTIFICATION



Rebekah Carter, NCTM
Certification Chair

The Race is On!

- The race to the end of this very unusual school year...
- The race to the OMTA State Conference in June...
- The race to get Nationally Certified and receive one of the few \$100 grants!
- (...plus one more...the race for the NCTM renewal deadline!)

OMTA offers five grants each fiscal year in the amount of \$100 each for members who have become Nationally Certified Teachers of Music through MTNA's certification process. In addition, East and West Portland collectively offer three grants each fiscal year in the amount of \$100 each.

Current numbers indicate that one of each of those grants have already been distributed or recently applied for this fiscal year. At least two more OMTA grants and one (possibly two) more Portland grant(s) are likely in the running for either this or next year's fiscal year allocations.

This 2019-2020 year has seen a happy surge in the number of OMTA members applying for National Certification, which means the grants will be in higher demand!

If you've thought about becoming a Nationally Certified Teacher of Music, this is the right time to do it.

- Students are practicing more due to the stay-at-home order, cancelled events and school.
- Recording lessons with the students has never been easier! MTNA is permitting lessons to be recorded using Zoom or other online platforms, which offer a convenient "Record" button on the bottom of most screens. If the technology of recording your lessons was keeping you away from Certification, that should no longer be a barrier! (Just remember to get the photo release form signed!)
- Recruiting students may be challenging during these times. Give yourself an edge with MTNA's Certification initials behind your name. You will also grow as a teacher, develop new skills or hone the ones you had, and provide a more satisfactory learning experience for your students which helps with retention.

Lastly, if you are already certified, remember to renew!

Important Note: even permanent status members must renew! Permanent status does not mean you do not have to renew or pay the renewal fee; it means MTNA recognizes and respects your years of professionalism and no longer requires you to submit a record of your continuation to meet the five standards of professionalism.

MTNA recently sent an email reminder, but just in case yours is misplaced in the email abyss or never arrived, you can visit the Certification website to submit your online renewal form:

<https://certification.mtna.org/Certification/RenewNow/Forms/Certification/Renew/Documents.aspx>

If you'd like to request a paper renewal form, you may email mtnacertification@mtna.org and request one. The deadline to renew is July 1. After this date, you may still renew but there is a late fee applied.

Be sure to register for and check out the Virtual OMTA State Conference in June! I will share more detailed information on Certification during one of the sessions. "See" you then!



GRANTS



OMTA/OCF Nellie Tholen District Enrichment Project Programs: Teacher Enrichment for All!

Susan Todd, NCTM, OMTA/OCF Nellie Tholen District Enrichment Project Coordinator

When our President, Selina Manson and I met with the Oregon Community Foundation in 2018 to prepare for applying for our 2019-2022 grant, we promoted the idea of helping teachers utilize technology to make their teaching more effective. Who knew how essential using technology would become to us this spring! We find ourselves using technology to connect with our students, friends and colleagues.

On April 30, we added another helpful video about teaching voice lessons online. Even if you don't teach voice, you use your voice in teaching! Joannah Ball (daughter of our President-Elect, Sarah Ball) has some excellent ideas for working online with students in effective and creative ways. I learned so much, and one tip in particular changed how I approach each and every lesson, and is helping keep my students more engaged in this online learning adventure. Watch her video today. You'll be glad you did!

On June 25 and 26 you will be able to join your friends and colleagues in our first ever virtual OMTA State Conference! For details, read the Conference article in this newsletter. Don't miss it! We are grateful to Nellie Tholen and the Oregon Community Foundation for making our State Conference a possibility.

The videos listed below are designed to help teachers adapt to teaching online are posted on the following sites:

- OMTA Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/oregonmta>
- OMTA Youtube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCU4gbeA1xzDnRBpg1sPGaBQ/>
- OMTA Vimeo channel: <https://vimeo.com/showcase/6946123>

Continuing Music Online During Social Distancing by **Megan Todd**, Masters in Learning Design and Technology

Online Teaching: You CAN Do It! —a conversation with **Dr. Thomas Otten** and **Dr. Jill Timmons** AND an online teaching demonstration by Dr. Otten

Online Teaching: Equipment, Apps, and Approaches to Remote Piano Lessons by **Dr. Stephen Lewis**
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCGZ658T9v0f6H4Qvm5vjKQ>

Teaching Online Voice Lessons During COVID-19 by **Joannah Ball**, President of NATS Cascade Chapter (National Association of Teachers of Singing)

Events previously planned for the spring may be rescheduled this fall at the discretion of the local districts.

- **2019 Conference Videos** are available with your member login on the conference page of the OMTA website: www.oregonmta.org/teachers/conferences
- **Past Workshops** are available on the Members-Only portion of the OMTA website: www.oregonmta.org/teachers/enrichment-workshops

Do let me know if you have any questions.

Stay well!

Susan Todd, NCTM, OMTA/OCF Nellie Tholen District Enrichment Project Coordinator



SYLLABUS



Heidi Evans, NCTM
Syllabus Chair

Syllabus Reflections

Summer has arrived, and what a relief to have spring behind us! I would like to take a bit of time to reflect back over the year, the triumphs and tragedies, and the hard work that has taken place.

The big tragedy of this spring has innumerable small pieces that include but are not limited to cancelled performances, exams, recitals, and events. But with its indomitable spirit, humanity rises up over and over to say “Music matters!” We find new paths—online adjudications, Zoom recitals, and so on. I’m constantly inspired by the stories of how we’re all coping and even thriving in this time period. Who would’ve guessed that Ear Training could suddenly become such a vital part of lessons? Or that score reading (measure 6, beat 3, bass clef) would make such swift strides?

The happy news is that the Level X Seniors got to take their exams in an online format, validating the

work they have put in through all the years before they head off into adulthood and university. I would like to thank every senior, every teacher, and every adjudicator who worked together, above and beyond, to make these exams happen. What an amazing group of people, pooling together skill sets and resources to bring the possible to fruition! I would also like to acknowledge all the other students who prepared for exams this spring and did not get a chance to take the exam. Each one of them worked so hard, and I hope they were able to take the exam with you, their teacher, so they can continue forward in their progress next year.

Syllabus will return in the fall, and while we would like to return to our preferred “in-person exams,” we don’t know what the future holds. The Syllabus Committee has been working hard on putting together protocols for online exams starting in Fall 2020. We might end up

having a combination of in-person exams and online exams, depending on various restrictions, but we will be back in full swing! Our Level X Seniors were this year’s guinea pigs, helping iron out the new course of online Syllabus exams. We’re finding that online exams require much more work before and after the exam for both teachers and adjudicators. We’re looking at the best ways to streamline this. Coordinating online platforms, enhancing sound quality, score sharing, and scanned paperwork are all a part of the future of online exams.

I would like to end by thanking all of you who sent encouraging messages to me and to others. Our community of teachers is unlike any other organization I know of. Thank you all for your professionalism and your positivity. I wish you all good health and a happy summer!



BLUE MOUNTAIN DISTRICT

Lea Emerson, Blue Mountain District Publicity Chair

The Blue Mountain District hosted our Popular Music Festival via Zoom on May 16. The recital was chaired by Rebekah Carter, NCTM with eight performing students, and fourteen zoom participants, including five teachers, and two family members of the students. The recital was a huge success! Zoom was set to Gallery at the beginning so everyone could be seen as they joined and were welcomed. Screens were renamed to reflect student names (rather than device names or parent Zoom account names). As the recital commenced, the host announced the performer and helped with camera and microphone set up, then Zoom was set to Speaker mode so only the performer was seen on the big screen. All other participants were muted and camera function turned off. At the end of each performance, the host clicked the "Unmute All" button so applause could be heard. At the

end of the recital, Zoom was returned to Dialog mode so a group photo could be taken.

The teachers of the Blue Mountain District are rising to the challenge of teaching throughout the pandemic. Matt Cooper is teaching via FaceTime and Facebook Messenger. Lanetta Paul is teaching via Zoom and using a new Chromebook. Lanetta collects copies of everyone's music from their mailboxes in order to see phrasing, pedaling, etc. Rebekah Carter is teaching via Zoom and is synced to the My Music Staff student portal. This is very convenient for the students to use. All they have to do is log into the student portal and click on the lesson date; they are automatically connected to their online lesson. Rebekah types lesson notes into the student portal at the end of the teaching day. The portal saves the notes and emails them to the

parent. Lea Emerson is teaching via Zoom, Google Duo, FaceTime and WhatsApp. Lea organizes using e-mail folders. Each student has an assignment folder and a music copy folder. Assignments are sent to the parent and filed in the student's assignment folder to be retrieved the following week. Providing parents clear instruction on camera angle, emailing pictures of pieces in advance, having a pencil handy and a distraction free environment have contributed to the success our District is experiencing.

We are very fortunate that with the help of technology, the needs of students can be met during this challenging time. It is wonderful to be able to offer families the option of music lessons and recitals when so many other activities are now off the table.



The Blue Mountain District hosted their Popular Music Festival via Zoom on May 16.



CENTRAL OREGON DISTRICT



Helen Jones, NCTM,
Central Oregon District
Secretary



This pandemic has changed a lot of plans that were scheduled for the spring. Many teachers are doing Zoom lessons and recitals, or something similar remotely, and some have cancelled lessons and recitals. Our last event of the school year, the Ensemble Festival in June has been cancelled. We encourage Central Oregon District teachers to submit their ensemble students for our Student's Choice Recital that will be held in the fall.

Our May 8 meeting and program featuring our own Paula Dryer has been postponed until the fall. We're still holding out for our last event of the season which will be a meeting and potluck at the home of Jodie Bischof on June 12. Our program is planned as a discussion of the book *Clara* by Janice Galloway.

next two years. We thank Gina Rosbrook for her fine leadership as President during the last two years and welcome Janet Smith into that role.

The Central Oregon District hopes all of you are staying safe and well.

Central Oregon District has a new set of officers taking over for the



Clara Wieck Schumann and
Robert Schumann



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



EUGENE DISTRICT



Sandy Hull, NCTM, Eugene District
Corresponding Secretary

I want to open my article with a great big shout out of gratitude and thanks to each and every District Officer in our beautiful state. Our organization could not operate without the talented and committed teachers out there volunteering countless hours to keep our businesses continuing on despite living through a pandemic!

Our last business meeting of the year was held on May 11 via Zoom with about fourteen teachers present. We voted in our returning and new executive board members for the coming year. We are so grateful for the commitment and expertise of our board which includes Genevieve Mason who is

continuing as District President, Janet Pollack continuing as Vice President, and Cheri Richardson continuing as Treasurer. Soriah Phillips-Meadow will be our new Recording Secretary and Sandy Hull is filling the role of Corresponding Secretary.

As we wrap up the year and prepare for summer and next fall in these uncertain times, we have so much to be grateful for. I don't know if music teachers fall into the category of "essential workers," but I know from the smiles and communications with my students and families that we are making a difference in our students' lives. Thanks to technology, we are able

to keep working. As most of us are teaching online now, our chapter is hosting weekly Zoom meetings to share ideas on equipment set ups, what is working and what is not, and practicing using our equipment. One of our teachers reported that during those beautiful sunny days, he traveled to a few homes of nearby students and taught from outside the window. What a blessing that was!

We are all looking forward to the State Conference in June. Thanks to the organizers of this event. The programs look fantastic!



ROGUE VALLEY DISTRICT

Thor Polson, Rogue Valley District Member

On May 2, the Rogue Valley District had its first virtual Sonatina Festival, which was adjudicated by Southern Oregon University professor Dr. Alexander Tutunov.

A total of fifteen students participated in this virtual event, with twelve competing and three others participating for evaluation only. Dr. Tutunov reported that all went smoothly and that he felt that everyone who took part in this event benefited from it. Some students used online formats such as FaceTime or Skype to prepare their audition; others created a YouTube performance video with a link for Dr. Tutunov so that he could access the video. The results were as follows:

Division 1

- 1st place: Natalie Hung, student of Tatsiana Asheichyk
- 2nd place: Teo Leiserson, student of Tatsiana Asheichyk
- 3rd place: Marcus Cordizar, student of Tatsiana Asheichyk
- Honorable Mentions: Ellie Woolf, student of Cynthia Stauffer; Audrey Erickson, student of Tatsiana Asheichyk; Isabella Johnson, student of Tatsiana Asheichyk; Ryleigh Ho, student of Margie Daly; Noah Tabaldo, student of Pat Daly

Division 2

- 1st place: Teagan Calkins, student of Michele Alspach
- 2nd place: Rio Lewis, student of Tatsiana Asheichyk
- 3rd place: Asa Wayne Frisbee, student of Tatsiana Asheichyk

Division 3

- 1st place: Russell Martino, student of Pat Daly

As the year winds down, our District's Executive Board is planning on meeting in a city park in Phoenix. In this new world of ours, it goes without saying that they will bring their own chairs and space their seating in accordance with the current social distancing guidelines.

Finally, our District regrets to report that its long-time member, Joyce Stevens, has moved back east to live with her son and his family in Virginia following the death of her husband Bob in March. It was difficult for her to leave the Rogue Valley, but she has settled in with her son's family very nicely. Joyce has been an amazing, dedicated musician and educator her entire life. We have been very fortunate to have had her as part of our community for so many years, as evidenced by the creation of the Joyce Stevens Scholarship Benefit Recital, which was named in her honor. She has been a friend and an inspiration to all of us and we will miss her presence in the valley very much. Those wishing to send her a card or a letter can ask for contact details by writing to President Michele Alspach at malspach@ccountry.net.



Joyce Stevens



TUALATIN VALLEY DISTRICT



Teresa Sealey, Tualatin Valley President

Greetings from the Tualatin Valley District! I am Teresa Sealey, the new President for 2020-2021. Sadly, our District meetings for March and April 2020 had to be canceled due to the current pandemic situation. However, we were able to meet via Zoom in May! It was so wonderful to see the faces and hear the voices of our beloved colleagues! Our topic of discussion was sharing “survival

tips” for teaching online lessons. Many wonderful and interesting ideas were shared!

I am looking forward to the new year for our District as we have many exciting presenters scheduled! We will have a workshop in October with Leila Viss, a nationally known and loved speaker and presenter. Leila’s workshop will be on *Inspiring*

Compositions and Creativity. Look for more details to come soon! In Spring 2021, we are excited to have Jennifer Wright, Lisa Marsh, and Dr. Matt Cooper coming to Tualatin Valley!

May you all be blessed with good health, filled with hope, and choose joy amidst our uncertain days!



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Please send articles and accompanying graphics in TIFF, EPS, JPEG or PDF format to Alexis Gibbons via email: musicnews@oregonmta.org. MS Word and Google Doc files preferred.

If a photo includes a student that is a minor, please send a completed photo release form. Here is the link:
www.oregonmta.org/wp-content/uploads/OMTA_PhotoVideo_Release_Form.pdf

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Publication dates and deadlines are listed below.

Submitting material before deadlines is always helpful and appreciated.

Submission Deadlines

The submission deadline is always the 15th of the month preceding the date of publication.

January	December 15
February	January 15
March	February 15
April	March 15
May	April 15
June	May 15
September	August 15
October	September 15
November	October 15
December	November 15

Upcoming Deadlines

August 15, 2020
 September 15, 2020



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