

OMTA MUSIC NEWS

Opus 74, No. 9 · May 2020

UPCOMING EVENTS

Syllabus Level I-IX Exams are cancelled. Syllabus Level X Recital is cancelled.

Please see page 7 for more information.

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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@OregonMTA



Selina Manson, OMTA President

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Ever-Changing Landscape

For the majority of my presidency, having a *Music News* deadline on the 15th of the month was never a problem. But for April and May, it has been a real problem. Our lives are changing on a daily basis and it seems whatever is written is quickly out-of-date.

As a piano teacher, I have spent all of April fine tuning my online teaching. I'm sure you have been too! OMTA has been sharing and creating resources for this in case you've missed our emails.

Resources can be found on our Facebook page and our website:

<https://www.facebook.com/oregonmta/>
<https://oregonmta.org/2020/03/covid-19-updates/>

The board held our first ever all digital meeting in April and it was a success! We are planning our next meeting in June to be online also. It was wonderful to see so many faces and hear about successes and issues across the state.

(Continued on page 2)



OREGON
MUSIC TEACHERS
ASSOCIATION

Our State Conference is going online too! Details and registration can be found on our website:

<https://oregonmta.org/teachers/conferences/omta-state-conference/>

Make sure to read the Conference Chair's article for more information.

And now, I'm tired of looking at computer screens, so I'm going to head into my backyard and watch my daughter chase after bubbles. Happy social distancing in the sunshine!

Stay healthy,



Selina Manson
OMTA President

MEMBERSHIP



Melody Morrison, NCTM
Membership Chair

Let's give a warm welcome to our new OMTA member!

Portland
Andrea Olson
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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SYLLABUS

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CONFERENCE



Sarah Barker Ball, NCTM
2020 State Conference Chair

The annual OMTA State Conference will be a *new* experience this year! We decided to live stream our presentations and hold virtual meetings due to social distancing rules during the COVID-19 pandemic. We will be providing it to you on YouTube, facilitated by a small handful of leaders and a videographer on site. Those who register (just \$15 each) will be sent a private internet link by email to click and access the Conference, will be able to chat in real time and ask questions, and will also receive a Conference booklet in the mail. It is simple to register; just go to our website at oregonmta.org and follow the directions. If you need assistance, please contact me at president.elect@oregonmta.org. Those who register by June 15th

will receive a Conference booklet in the mail, but you can still register for the Conference right up until it starts.

When you click on the link **Thursday June 25** and **Friday June 26**, you will see and hear our amazing, exciting featured artists **Peter Mack** and **Jessica Pacheco-Hjelmstad**. Check out their bios on our website. We will also have the “latest scoop” on National Certification presented by our own Certification Chair, Rebekah Carter, NCTM including the ability to ask questions via online chat. The Composer of the Year, Nick Yandell, will be presenting his composition “A Quiet Place in the Rain” for harp and cello. We will include our Awards and

Recognition via a special video prepared by Susan Todd. Our conference will culminate with Peter Mack’s sure to be exciting and entertaining piano concert Friday evening!

The OMTA General Membership meeting will be woven into the schedule and will be conducted online Friday morning. You will be able to “join” on YouTube even if you are not “attending” the conference. Watch our website for details. The meetings that usually take place on Wednesday are being rescheduled to occur online several days ahead of time. Hoping to “see” you in there!

*Sarah Barker Ball, NCTM
Conference Chair and President
Elect*



Dr. Peter Mack, Conference Artist



Dr. Jessica Pacheco-Hjelmstad, Conference Artist



GRANTS



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

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

Our world took a sharp turn in March. With the inspiration of our President, Selina Manson, approval of the Oregon Community Foundation, and with the assistance of Robin and Caris Power in the office and our Marketing Chair, Angela Kelly, we were able to respond in a way that has proven helpful to our members.

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>

These videos are designed to help piano teachers, and we are looking to create helpful videos for our voice and other instrumental teachers.

- **Continuing Music Online During Social Distancing** by **Megan Todd**, Masters in Learning Design and Technology
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MQmwGOMSY1o>
- **Online Teaching: You CAN Do It!** —a conversation with **Dr. Thomas Otten** and **Dr. Jill Timmons** AND an online teaching demonstration by Dr. Otten
Conversation with Dr. Otten and Dr. Timmons: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DExZyQCzfTA>
Teaching Demonstration: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2uGg7Mu9aZo>
- **Online Teaching: Equipment, Apps, and Approaches to Remote Piano Lessons** by **Dr. Stephen Lewis**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=93Rb2B_Q0uw

Only one of the planned spring workshops detailed in the April Music News was able to shift to an online option. Thanks to Emily Ross for giving her talk on *Teaching the Special Learner: Wisdom and Strategies for the Independent Music Teacher* via a Zoom presentation for the members in Mid-Columbia District.

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.

Happy Trails,

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



OMTA HONORS COMMITTEE

Susan Todd, NCTM, Honors Committee Chair

Honorary Life Member Awards and 2021 MTNA Foundation Fellow Nominee

In its April Zoom meeting, your OMTA Board approved nominations of two Honorary Life Members—**Pattie Duthie** and **Fern McArthur**, as well as our 2021 MTNA Foundation Fellow nominee, **Carol White**.

Honorary Life Member Awards

Patti Duthie, NCTM, of the East Portland District was nominated by East Portland President, Liz Willis, who wrote this about Patti:

Patti has maintained an active studio for over 30 years, entering her students in the Syllabus program and festivals that OMTA offers. She has served as the Portland trophy chairperson for a number of years, housing and



Patti Duthie, NCTM

distributing the Participation Trophies to teachers and students annually. Patti has served OMTA in many capacities. Among those offices I know of are: State Foundation Chair, Past President of the Portland District, and now she is the Vice President of our new East Portland District. Patti has been so generous with her time and experience as a Past President in helping organize and support the first year of our new East Portland District. She is always willing to attend outside meetings, fill in for an officer that can't give a report at our meeting, furnish the coffee and snacks and basically support the District in any way that she can. She is a GEM!

Fern McArthur, NCTM, of the Eugene District was nominated by Eugene President, Genevieve Mason, who wrote this about Fern:

Fern has always been willing to volunteer as the chair or co-chair of student activities such as district recitals and Syllabus examinations. She chaired the Sonatina Festival these past two years, which is a big commitment.

She has adjudicated Syllabus for many years, and her warm and positive attitude has made many students have a great time! The amount of service that Fern provided to OMTA is impressive. Fern has held a number of officer positions or committee positions

for our Eugene District including the District President, and actually the Mentorship and Recruitment Committee Chair. She has been the OMTA State President and is currently the OMTA State Treasurer (her second term!). I met Fern around 2000, when I joined OMTA. She was the President of Eugene District then. She has been present for our meetings all these years, being one of the pillars of our Eugene District group. Fern is very good at bringing wise thoughts and clarity in case of challenges. She has a way of communicating that inspires me and others deeply. She does it with a smile, a little bit of humor, kind words, clear views, and securing remarks!!! She has always helped new officers with their tasks, answering questions, and reminding of the big picture for our organization. Also, I heard her share many times how much OMTA brought to her life, especially the great friends she has made through great work. She inspires others to join!

Oregon's MTNA Foundation Fellow Nominee

Carol White, NCTM, of the Eugene District was nominated by Fern McArthur and Cindy Peterson -Peart. Fern McArthur wrote this about Carol:



Carol is a dedicated teacher who has touched the lives of many students in her home studio and through her work as director of the student piano program at her church. As a member of the syllabus committee, she has worked tirelessly to support and improve OMTA's most popular student program. As an adjudicator, she has provided support and guidance for innumerable students over many years. On the district level, Carol chaired ALL district festivals at one time or other and held several local offices. She wrote grants for Eugene District and for OMTA, procuring conference funding for several years.

Cindy Peterson-Peart wrote this about Carol:

Carol White has been a friend and

colleague to me and a source of support during my tenure as state president. She is one of those "behind the scenes" members who often maintains a low profile but without whom OMTA would not be the wonderful organization we all cherish. Fern wrote – "She is a rock for Eugene district and always cheerfully so!"

When you renew your MTNA dues this spring, please consider adding a donation in Carol's name to the MTNA Foundation. The Foundation actively supports students and teachers throughout the country, commissioning new music, awarding excellent performances, granting scholarships and study grants, and giving emergency assistance in times of crisis. This is a very worthwhile organization which puts your donated dollars to hard work.

Be sure to indicate Carol White's name on your donation.

Since we won't be able to celebrate these awards (as well as Mary Kogen's Nellie Tholen Teaching Award, announced in last month's issue) in person at the June Conference, perhaps you would drop them a note of congratulations. While we will recognize our esteemed colleagues at our online gathering, we hope to celebrate them in person soon!

Your OMTA Honors Committee,

Rebecca Gooch
Fern McArthur, NCTM
Susan Todd, NCTM

CERTIFICATION



Rebekah Carter, NCTM
Certification Chair

Please join me in congratulating newly certified OMTA member, **Talia Neely-Sanfilippo, NCTM**, as a Nationally Certified Teacher of Music in Piano!



Talia Neely-Sanfilippo, NCTM



SYLLABUS



Heidi Evans, NCTM
Syllabus Chair

I've gotten a lot of questions about why Syllabus exams are cancelled for the remainder of the year when so many of my amazing colleagues have adapted to teaching lessons online. In this article, I am offering a brief explanation and a suggestion or two for moving forward with your students.

Why not continue with online exams for everyone?

- Coordination of multiple online platforms creates a huge workload for both the teacher and the adjudicator.
- Repertoire – getting scores to the adjudicator ahead of time is easy if it's a 1-2 page piece, but gets harder with more pages.
- Prep time for EACH exam is anywhere from 15-30 minutes (unpaid time for adjudicators).
- Sound quality varies from bad to mediocre.
- Smaller inconveniences such as camera setup, sight

reading, bad connections, ear/eye strain...

- Stress. Right now, we all need less stress.

What can I do for my students Levels I-IX?

- Administer the Syllabus exams yourself—we're permitting exams by teachers to count towards the Level X awards for this spring only. More information is posted on the OMTA website.
- Trade students with another teacher.
- Host an online Syllabus party(s) and let multiple students in one level test each other and play for each other... get creative this spring—that's something every musician has in abundance!
- MTNA e-Festival

Level X students who are seniors or juniors, and seniors who are taking an Upper Division Eval/Demo/

Creative Audition will have the opportunity to take their exam online during the weekend of May 15-17. That way, students hoping for Level X "With Distinction" can still be eligible for the honor and its privileges. Many thanks go to Irene Huang for volunteering to chair this Syllabus event for everyone across the state!

The Level X recital has been cancelled for 2020, but awards can still be requested from chair Lacie Mitts with the form on the OMTA website, and letters of explanation are still mailed out to teachers who request them for students who have completed Level X.

I'd like to thank each of you who have reached out with suggestions and encouragement over the last month. I've not had time to respond to every email, but I deeply appreciate everyone's wisdom and ideas! We will definitely have a new perspective going forward into the next year!



CENTRAL OREGON



Helen Jones, NCTM,
Central Oregon District
Secretary

What strange times we are in! Central Oregon District teachers are using Skype, FaceTime, Facebook, phone calls and other means to keep up remotely with their students during this pandemic. Unfortunately, OMTA Spring Syllabus has been cancelled and so many teachers throughout the state of Oregon are affected by this cancellation.

Our April 10, 2020 meeting at Gary Ruppert's has been postponed until this fall. We are still holding out for our local meeting/program planned for May 8 at the home of Paula Dreyer. Paula will present the program titled *Rote Pieces: One Piece of the Pedagogical Puzzle*.

Paula is about to release her debut, original solo piano album titled *Central Star*. She will also be publishing a sheet music book of the complete album. For more details or to subscribe to her mailing list, please see www.pauladreyer.com.

Our Central Oregon District Honor Society to recognize music students in grades k-12 (deadline Aug. 1, 2020) will have difficulty honoring many of the students because OMTA Spring Syllabus is cancelled—one of the requirements for Honor Society. Central Oregon District teachers are encouraged to nominate those students who qualify.



Paula Dreyer



EAST PORTLAND DISTRICT

Liz Willis, East Portland District President

East Portland District was fortunate this winter with no real ice or snow to interfere with our meetings. Selina Manson gave a very informative program in February covering Erik Satie's "other" pieces, which were new to most of us. On March 9, Andrew D'Antonio, one of our newest members with significant background in special education, gave a very detailed presentation on teaching music lessons to

students on the autism spectrum. Both programs were inspiring and very helpful.

With the arrival of the COVID-19 virus in the Northwest, our final meeting of the year (May 11th) will need to be postponed or held virtually. However, our Performance Group had a very fun Zoom meeting on April 1. Thank you, Amie Belisle, for organizing it! It was comforting to me to get to

see and interact with colleagues during this time of isolation. Our Executive Board will be meeting online before summer begins to plan for next year. We are all learning a lot about Doodle Polls, Zoom, FaceTime, Skype, and being flexible!!!

EUGENE DISTRICT

Alexis Gibbons, NCTM, Eugene District Corresponding Secretary

On April 13, the Eugene District had our first business meeting via Zoom. During the meeting, we had a great time sharing our experiences of teaching online and also hearing from everyone on how they are personally coping with the new world we are living in. It was a wonderful way for us to connect and I can say it lifted my spirits! Aside from the time we spent checking in on one another, we had to attend to some business. Each spring, we hold the Beverly Soule Scholarship audition for juniors and seniors in high school. We have decided that due to limitations of online adjudications that we should cancel the

scholarship this year and we hope to hold it next year. We also had to cancel our annual Teacher Showcase, which we hold as a way to raise money for our scholarship fund. We do plan to have a Zoom recital so we can enjoy the music we were planning on playing for the Teacher Showcase.

One event that we did not have to cancel was our District Composition Celebration. Paul Safar expertly chaired this event and made the recital happen on Zoom. We had fifteen students participate and the recital went quite smoothly for being hosted online. Thanks so much to Paul

Safar for being brave and helping us keep a sense of normalcy!

I want to extend some thanks to members that have had to do extra work due to COVID-19. Thanks to Carol White for chairing Syllabus by answering emails and keeping us all up-to-date on the changes that came with this event being cancelled. Thanks to Neil Patton for taking time to send our membership some much needed tips for teaching online. My final thanks go to Genevieve Mason for keeping our District going as much as possible during this trying time.



LINCOLN COUNTY

Mary Morganti, Lincoln County District Member

Our spring plans for hosting the Ribbon Festival, Syllabus exams, a concert and workshop with a visiting pianist have all been cancelled. We have cancelled all of our upcoming chapter meetings and I suspect all of our individual student recitals as well. We feel sad that the National Conference could not be face-to-face, but the anticipation of viewing the workshops, concerts, master classes and more online bring a sense of hope and joy. Our members are keeping in touch with each other through phone calls and emails. We have discussed doing some online Skype or Zoom meetings, but so far I think we are all just trying to navigate this strange new reality one day at a time.

There's no denying we are living in a time of fear and uncertainty. Our world has been shaken, and we are all challenged every minute of every day to hold ourselves together, take care of each other,

and keep living our lives. In the best of times, a music teacher's mission—to help our students to grow their knowledge and treasure the beauty of music—is difficult. Busy schedules, frustrating setbacks, and the (sometimes) indifference of our students are obstacles with which we are all familiar. And now there's this. We are locked away from each other. I am now, like so many others, teaching my beloved students by the grace of bandwidth and the internet. It's hard!

I know online lessons have been happening for some years now. Given the choice, however, between doing what we do in person or doing it with screens, I know I don't speak for everyone, but I'd lay odds the majority prefer face-to-face. There is no substitute for live, in-person music. We all know that.

But here we are. And we are making the best of it. It's tiring,

exasperating, and always somehow inadequate. My days invariably end with a sore back from leaning toward the screen and a worn out voice from trying to talk over background noise or a bad connection. Navigating the digital world of Skype versus Zoom, PayPal versus Venmo and so forth has nearly driven me to the brink of insanity. And yet... we keep up our work with the same passion as ever. What is it that drives us?

Well, it's a living, of course, if not a path to wealth. But we all know it's more than that. It has always been more than just a living. It's a calling. We are mission-driven people, with the Muse riding our backs and love for musicians constantly reenergizing us to push, plead, cajole, and celebrate our students in the cause of a more musical world. Keep your spirits up fellow teachers! Damn the computers—full speed ahead!



ROGUE VALLEY DISTRICT

Thor Polson and Michele Anspach, Rogue Valley District Members



Rogue Valley Landscape

Our presentation, featuring Johnandrew Slominsky, was canceled in January due to inclement weather. We postponed our April presentation featuring Doug Harvey to a date later in the month, but the postponed event was ultimately canceled because of the virus outbreak. Our May speaker, Deborah Cleaver, also had to cancel her presentation for the same reason. We hope that all of these wonderful presenters will be able to be on our schedule for the coming year, and we extend

our sympathy to the other OMTA Districts that have also had to face similar difficulties and frustrations.

In spite of these setbacks, our Sonatina Festival will take place remotely on May 2nd with SOU professor Alexander Tutunov as the adjudicator. We're pleased to say that as many as fifteen students have already expressed their interest in participating. Speaking of virtual activities, we can add that several teachers have managed to make the leap to online teaching

during this strange hiatus. Teachers have found it useful in keeping students engaged in music while they're home from school, not to mention the fact that it's been quite a learning experience for the teachers as well.

In closing, we offer you a photo of the beautiful landscape surrounding the Rogue Valley.



ABOUT *MUSIC NEWS*

Submit Articles for *Music News*

Please send articles and accompanying graphics in TIFF, EPS, JPEG or PDF format to Alexis Gibbons via email: ahgibbons@gmail.com. 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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Please send ads and accompanying graphics in TIFF, EPS, JPEG or PDF format to Caris Power or Robin Power: office@oregonmta.org.

Half Single Column	\$25	2.6" W x 4.375" H
Full Single Column	\$35	2.6" W x 8.75" H
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Half Page	\$70	8.5" W x 5.5" H (no bleed)
Full Page	\$140	8.5" W x 11" H (no bleed)

Visit www.oregonmta.org/publications to order ad space.

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

May 15, 2020
 August 15, 2020



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