

# OMTA MUSIC NEWS

Opus 75, No. 2 · October 2020

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Oregon MTNA Competition

Video Upload Deadline: November 1, 2020

### Annual Syllabus Adjudicators' Retreat

October 3, 2020 at 10:00 am –3:00 pm

Virtually Online

### 2021 MTNA National Conference

March 13-17, 2021

Virtual Conference

### 2021 OMTA State Conference

June 24-26, 2021

Riverhouse on the Deschutes, Bend, OR



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@OregonMTA

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER



**Sarah Ball, NCTM**  
OMTA President

### Carrying the Torch

Each generation is called upon to carry the torch and face the challenges of their day. While lifting my torch to find the way while serving as your president, I find the path is well-lit by your dedication, creativity, and resilience. Thank you! And it is worth noting we have support available on local, state, regional and national levels. After attending the virtual MTNA Summit for Leadership in mid-September, I received this lovely, uplifting statement from our NW Division Director, Dr. Jody Graves, DMA, NCTM:

"We indeed hold the torch for those who are struggling to see and feel possibility in this moment. Our work goes far beyond how to play a beautiful scale, or inflect a lovely Chopin phrase. It's to ensure that those things remain important in the hearts and minds of every student, and to shine the light on the reality that we will be playing and teaching again in person, enjoying concerts and bringing something beautiful into our communities. While we don't have that timeline, we always have the assurance that our work will be more crucial than ever when we are able to share in live music events as we come through this unprecedented time."

Thank you, Jody for this uplifting message, and I hope it serves to give you hope in these difficult times.

*Sarah Ball, NCTM*  
OMTA President



OREGON  
MUSIC TEACHERS  
ASSOCIATION

## MEMBERSHIP



**Mary Morganti**  
State Membership Chair

I am happy to announce that we have new members! Welcome to OMTA!

**Jacqueline Loeliger** is a new High School member in the Rogue Valley District.

**Andrea Llafet, Debbie Lee, Ralph Huntley, and Robin Ziari** are all new to the East Portland District.

**Samantha Yeung, Yiyang Yu, and Martha Long** have all joined the West Portland District.

**Sheila Gephart and James Kindle** are new members of the Umatilla-Morrow District.

**Connie Titterington** is a new member of the Tualatin Valley District.

**Susan Buchert** is a new member of the Eugene District.

**George Barker** is a new Patron Member in the Salem District.

We extend a most gracious welcome to OMTA, and we look forward to meeting and working with each of you!

*Mary Morganti*  
*State Membership Chair*



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

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# BETTY BALMER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP



**Fern McArthur**  
OMTA Treasurer

## A Special Gift

From the estate of Don and Betty Balmer, OMTA has received a generous gift of \$5,000. Betty was a long-time member of OMTA, teaching piano, volunteering great service to the association and offering friendship to her colleagues. It has been decided to use this donation as a base on which to establish a scholarship in Betty's name. We will need to reach the \$10,000 amount to fully fund the scholarship, so we are asking for donations from our members to achieve that goal. You can find details on how to donate at the end of this article.

Betty Balmer grew up in Longview, WA where she began her piano study with her mother who taught from her wheelchair. Betty's good friend, Margaret Littlehales, suggests that from that early age, Betty acquired her generous spirit and sunny disposition.

Betty graduated from the University of Washington where

she met her husband, Don. They settled in Portland where Don was a professor at Lewis and Clark College, and they raised their four sons. Betty joined OMTA in the 1970's and was active in many levels of leadership. She was awarded OMTA's Honorary Life Membership in the 1990's. She was also a member of the Mu Phi Epsilon national board.

Betty and Don were philanthropists. Their generosity included helping to fund a piano for Lewis and Clark College. The piano honors their names and is now housed in the college chapel.

Don and Betty's son, Dan, has requested that the scholarship be in some way need based. Dan has had a long successful touring, recording and teaching career as a musician, and Betty's grandson, Elliot, was an outstanding piano student of Pauline Eidemiller. This scholarship will extend Betty's musical legacy.

The proposed Betty Balmer Memorial Scholarship will be a non-adjudicated grant to benefit piano students with financial need. Students must be studying with an OMTA member. Decisions are based on need, dedication to learning, and their willingness to share talents with their community.

To help bring this generous donation to a funded endowment level, please join us in donating to the Betty Balmer Memorial Scholarship. You can donate by

sending a check payable to OMTA to our Restricted Funds Treasurer,

Susan Todd, NCTM  
2620 SE Meadowlark Drive  
Hillsboro, OR 97123

In either case, please note Betty Balmer's name on your donation.

Your support for this endowment is much appreciated. Perhaps, in the future, one of your students will benefit from this scholarship.



Don and Betty Balmer



# COMPOSITION



**Dianne Davies**  
State Composition Chair

## State Composition Celebration Recital

During uncertain times of isolation fused with scrambling to learn virtual forms of performance outlets for students, the State Composition Celebration Recital was a successful online event. It was a 45 minute virtual concert that included twelve students ranging from ages 9 to 75, representing eleven teachers from the Eugene, Linn-Benton, Tualatin Valley and Umatilla-Morrow Districts. A beautiful collection of each young composer's pre-recorded YouTube links were seamlessly strung together by our gracious host, OMTA State Administrative Assistant, Caris Power. Students, their families, and teachers could view the concert upon receiving the link or viewing it on the state website. For the first time, the State Composition Book and participant certificates were sent as a PDF to the teachers of all the honored students to download, print, and share with their students. Medallions instead of trophies were mailed to each honored composer. Next year, we are looking to hold the event again on the first Saturday of June, but as an in-person event. Details will be posted on the state website as soon as possible.

To be included in 2021, enter your young composers in your District composition event. If chosen as an honored composer, student compositions must be electronically submitted by May 1, 2021 to State Composition Celebration Chair Dianne Davies at [diannedavies00@gmail.com](mailto:diannedavies00@gmail.com). If you have questions, contact Dianne Davies at (503) 998-5220. More updates to come!

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## GRANTS



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

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

What a challenging year this has been so far. Please take care of yourselves and stay safe! One good way to take care of yourself is to connect with colleagues and continue your education online. We are working to schedule workshops for districts around the state this year. Two are coming right up. Please contact the local association president for a link to join their meeting as all are welcome.



### Central Oregon District on Zoom

Friday, October 9, 2020, 10:30 AM

**Dr. Stephen Lewis, NCTM:** Online Teaching: Equipment, Apps and Approaches to Remote Piano Lessons

*This presentation gives many practical pointers to make your remote teaching easier and more effective.*



### Linn-Benton District on Zoom

Tuesday, October 13, 2020, 10:00-11:30 AM

**Dr. Thomas Otten, NCTM:** How Do I Get My Student to Sound Artistic?

*What makes for an artistic performance? This session will delve into issues of tone, rubato, rhythm, articulation, pedal, tempo and how to use these elements to create artistry in students.*

#### Other Resources:

- Programs from the 2019 and 2020 OMTA State Conferences: <https://oregonmta.org/teachers/conferences>
- Past District Workshops: <https://oregonmta.org/teachers/enrichment-workshops>

#### Videos to help teachers adapt to teaching online, created Spring 2020, are still available:

- 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>

Stay well!

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

## OMTA/OCF District Enrichment Programs Online This Fall

OMTA members can virtually attend any meeting in the state.  
Visit <https://oregonmta.org/teachers/enrichment-workshops> for updated details.



# SYLLABUS



**Heidi Evans, NCTM**  
Syllabus Chair

## Fall Virtual Syllabus Exams

I have a few suggestions for helping the virtual Syllabus exams to go smoothly this fall.

### Optimal Piano View

Set the device to the treble side of the piano, with a full view of the keys and the student, from slightly above (where you would stand to take a picture of the keys). The device should be made stable, not hand-held. Clear off the music rack before beginning the exam. The same setup from the bass side of the piano works just as well. A well-lit keyboard space is vital.

Please ask family members to avoid clogging bandwidth during exams.

### Rhythm Reading

Sound is much easier to communicate virtually if the student plays the rhythms on the piano, using one finger/key for Lower Division exams, and both hands one finger each for Upper Division Exams. For example, the Lower Division student might choose to play one key close to Middle C. An Upper Division student might choose to play the bass clef part on F, and the Treble Clef part on A or D. Harmony seems to be easier to hear than octaves.

### Sight Reading

This can be done in several ways, with screen sharing being the most optimal way to make sight reading work. In this case, the student would place the device on the music rack, enlarge the image if needed, and play just like they normally do in a lesson/exam. If the device is easily moved, this can be done at the normal time in the exam (usually right before the repertoire) or

if the device is not so easily moved, sight reading can take place at the end of the exam, and the five-minute break between exams can be used to replace the device in its optimal piano view. Please continue to be the amazing colleagues that you are by being calm, capable, adaptive, and patient. Sometimes technology glitches occur (ask me about my 8th grader's first class!) and we have to go to Plan B.

### Piano Repertoire Updates

The Syllabus Repertoire Lists have been updated to remove out-of-print selections and to add diversity. We hope to have the new lists published by early October. In addition, the list of crossover repertoire from the NFMC Festivals Bulletin for Levels 3-6, that meets the requirements for a Contemporary Idiom is/will be available in the same place. We were not able to access all repertoire selections, as some required download purchases and there are no funds for repertoire research at this time, but we reviewed the majority of the solo piano repertoire in the Bulletin.

Spring 2021 format (virtual vs. in-person) will be announced in either November or December. Check with your district chairperson and with the OMTA website for updates.

My wish for you all this season is to experience major successes in your teaching, augmented progress from your amazing students, minor questions, and diminished technology glitches!

*Heidi Evans, MST, NCTM*  
*OMTA Syllabus Chair*



# MARKETING

Angela Kelly, State Marketing Chair

## OMTA Marketing Materials are Available!

Help us promote interest in OMTA by distributing these beautiful postcard-style brochures and posters throughout your community. Some great places to share them would be colleges, music stores, piano retailers, community centers, and with your local piano technician.

To request materials to be sent to you, please contact:

Angela Kelly, State Marketing Chair  
angelakellypianostudio@gmail.com



The Oregon Music Teachers Association is a vibrant community of music teachers with expertise in music theory, instruction, and performance. OMTA teachers are competent and dedicated to excellence in music education. We are music mentors passionate about learning. We encourage creativity. We believe in music's power to free your mind. Through music festivals, competitions, scholarships, recitals, master classes, and our renowned Syllabus Evaluation Program, we celebrate your accomplishments – large and small.

If you're a music teacher, OMTA is committed to becoming your professional partner. Join like-minded professionals for workshops and conferences designed to help you continue to grow as an educator. OMTA membership includes membership with the Music Teachers National Association, which provides access to legal advice, insurance, webinars, e-journal, American Music Teacher magazine, special member discounts, and more.

Let us give you rhythm. Let us help you find your voice. Let us empower you with the skills you need to turn your musical dream into a reality.



## CENTRAL OREGON DISTRICT



**Helen Jones, NCTM,**  
Central Oregon District  
Secretary



Our first meeting and program of the school year occurred on September 11. We met using Zoom since the smoke in the air was so bad due to wildfires around the state of Oregon. Our group discussed the book *Clara* by Janice Galloway. Thanks go to our President, Janet Smith, who led the discussion. We also welcomed our new officers for the next two years. Our President is Janet Smith, our Treasurer is Gary Ruppert, and our Secretary is Helen Jones.

Our program on October 9 will be provided by a Nellie Tholen Grant.

Dr. Stephen Lewis, NCTM will present via Zoom on *Online Teaching: Equipment, Apps and Approaches to Remote Piano Lessons*. This presentation will give many practical points to make remote teaching easier and more effective.

Student's Choice is our first student event of the year. It is scheduled for November 7, 2020. The co-chairs for this event are Jodie Bischof and Gina Rosbrook. It is still unknown if it will be an in-person recital or online.



Dr. Stephen Lewis



## EAST PORTLAND DISTRICT



**Liz Willis, NCTM, East**  
Portland District President

As I write this, Oregon is suffering from fire and smoke on top of the restrictions of COVID. It is a challenge to imagine that our musical lives will ever return to normal. However, meeting with colleagues, sharing music and our stories of hilarious online teaching experiences can be very therapeutic!

East Portland District's first meeting has been rescheduled for Wednesday, September 30. The program is titled *Teaching in the Time of COVID—From Virtual Recitals to Sterilizing Your Studio*

*and Beyond.* This will be a Zoom meeting. We are looking forward to our meeting on October 26 (also via Zoom), which will be a *Syllabus Symposium* with Heidi Evans, NCTM. Heidi is the Syllabus Chair for the state and she will emphasize what adjudicators are looking for during the Evaluations, Demonstrations, and Creative Auditions. There will be plenty of time for Q&A during this meeting. Any members of OMTA are welcome to join us on Zoom, but we ask that you please RSVP to me ahead of time.

The monthly member performance group is "zooming" along nicely with more players and audience each meeting. We meet the first Wednesday of each month at 10:00 AM on Zoom, and Amie Belisle is the coordinator of the group. Watch for the email announcements, which always list the pieces performed at the previous gathering. We look forward to meeting in person, as soon as it is safe to do so.

*Liz Willis, NCTM*  
*President, East Portland District*



## EUGENE DISTRICT



**Sandy Hull, NCTM,** Eugene District  
Corresponding Secretary

The Eugene District is off and running as we just had our first meeting of the year via Zoom on Monday, September 14. Our guest speaker was OMTA State President, Sarah Barker Ball, NCTM. Her lecture was fantastic!

Our District continues to work on our website upgrades and guidelines for our upcoming Virtual Festivals for our students. These guidelines are available to anyone. If you are working on formats for your district, please feel free to visit our website at <https://omta-eugene.org/district-recital-guidelines-2>.

Online lessons and festivals are bringing us together to utilize our creativity and give us courage to keep learning, so we can provide the most current and professional music instruction, as well as opportunities, for our students.

We are all worried for our colleagues around the state with the recent fires, and we hope everyone is safe. At our recent meeting, members wanted to help in any way possible. We voted to give a financial donation to our local Red Cross from our District.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 12 at 9:00 AM on Zoom. Our time together will be devoted to sharing ideas on *Creating Videos for OMTA Virtual Festivals*. Please contact me at [hullpiano@gmail.com](mailto:hullpiano@gmail.com) or our District President, Genevieve Mason, at [ginou@soundmason.com](mailto:ginou@soundmason.com) for our meeting ID so you can attend. We hope to see you there!



# ROGUE VALLEY DISTRICT

Michelle Alspach and Thor Polson, Rogue Valley District Members



The Rogue Valley District had an outdoor meeting held by our District's Program Committee. This committee plans events for the coming year. That has been quite a bit more difficult this year, not knowing what the future will bring as far as being able to meet in person and have in-person presenters. There is a strong preference among our members to have in-person programs rather than online programs. We hope that that will work out beginning in the early months of 2021. We consider ourselves very fortunate in having Dr. Alexander Tutunov and Dr. Matt Goodrich as members, who are

also on the roster as presenters. We hope to provide some excellent opportunities for master classes for our students in the coming year, when it is safe to do so. We have a member who is an excellent jazz pianist and teacher of jazz, Thor Polson, who will possibly provide us with a workshop on composition, when it is safe to do so in person. In spite of the recent wildfires, we still look forward to an enriching year that will include Syllabus, our District Sonatina Festival and, hopefully, the Composition Celebration and the Joyce Stevens Scholarship Benefit Recital.



# TUALATIN VALLEY DISTRICT



**Teresa Sealey**, Tualatin Valley District  
President

Happy Fall from Tualatin Valley District!

## In September...

We had to make the hard decision to postpone our September District meeting by one week due to the fire crisis. Many of our members were affected physically by the overwhelming smoke in our area as well as power and internet outages. Our first meeting of the year was held on September 18, 2020. Ramona Goddard gave her presentation titled *Leggiero—how to use it and the benefits of the program*. Many of our newer members got much needed training on Leggiero and our seasoned members got some refreshing tips on using the software.

The Executive Board hosted a Welcome New Members Meeting via Zoom on Saturday, September

26. Our goal was to help our new members feel glad they've joined us, get to know them, and answer any questions they had about the Tualatin Valley District.

## Coming up in October...

### LEILA VISS! October 9, 2020 at 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

The Tualatin Valley District presents a virtual workshop by Leila Viss on Friday, October 9, 2020 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM.

Leila is a nationally known presenter, well loved for her enthusiastic and creative ideas in the studio, teaching online, and in her compositions. Leila's topics for the workshop are the following: *Keeping It All Together When Life Falls Apart* (so very timely for us!) and *Blossoming Within Boundaries: A Recipe for Budding Composers*. We welcome you to

join us and enjoy the workshop from Leila along with us! Mark Friday, October 9, 2020 at 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM on your calendars. Registration is required to receive the link for the workshop. Please email me at

[teresasealey.omta@gmail.com](mailto:teresasealey.omta@gmail.com) to request the workshop link. In your email subject, write, "Please add me to the Leila Viss Virtual Workshop." In the body of your email, include your name, email address, and a good phone number. **The deadline to register is Tuesday, October 6, 2020.** This is a FREE workshop!

Together for Music!

*Teresa Sealey*



# 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: [musicnews@oregonmta.org](mailto: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](http://www.oregonmta.org/wp-content/uploads/OMTA_PhotoVideo_Release_Form.pdf)

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

<b>January</b>	December 15
<b>February</b>	January 15
<b>March</b>	February 15
<b>April</b>	March 15
<b>May</b>	April 15
<b>June</b>	May 15
<b>September</b>	August 15
<b>October</b>	September 15
<b>November</b>	October 15
<b>December</b>	November 15

## Upcoming Deadlines

October 15, 2020  
 November 15, 2020



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