

OMTA MUSIC NEWS

Opus 75, No. 1 · September 2020

UPCOMING EVENTS

Fall OMTA Board Retreat

September 18-19, 2020
Virtually Online

2021 MTNA National Conference

March 13-17, 2021
Atlanta, Georgia

2021 OMTA State Conference

June 24-26, 2021
Riverhouse on the Deschutes, Bend, OR



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PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Sarah Ball, NCTM
OMTA President

Possibilities

Greetings! This year we are discovering new possibilities in OMTA. You read that right, possibilities! Our members are innovating new ways to carry out our shared goal, to promote the art of music and the advancement of musical knowledge.

It is truly inspiring to reflect on our activities over the past few months, thanks to your creativity and dedication.

Our first OMTA Virtual State Conference is complete, and plans are well underway for fall Syllabus to happen online. Members have hosted virtual recitals and playing groups, discussion groups to share needs and practical solutions, while enjoying Conference sessions from MTNA and OMTA on our website, and more. And this all during our "down time" in the summer!

One of my favorite books is *The Art of Possibility* by Benjamin Zander. The main idea is we have a choice of viewing our situation through a lens of scarcity or a lens of abundance. There are charming anecdotes and inspiring insights in the context of Zander's work as conductor of the Boston Philharmonic; seemingly impossible situations that are transformed by his boundless optimism.

Curious about his latest efforts, I found he is currently presenting a series of open-air concerts called *Safe and Sound* outside his home

(Continued on page 2)



OREGON
MUSIC TEACHERS
ASSOCIATION

in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Passersby who pause to listen are astonished and often moved to tears! You can check it out on the OMTA Facebook page.

What are the possibilities that lie within your ability? I cannot wait to find out how you will contribute to our association's shared success in the coming months.

*Sarah Ball, NCTM
OMTA President*

CONFERENCE



Selina Manson
2021 Conference Chair

I am so proud of how our first OMTA Virtual State Conference turned out. There were over 200 people who virtually attended, amazing! It was a joy to see our efforts to adapt and move forward produce something so valuable. The videos from this summer's virtual conference are now available to all our members, using the member-only login information, on the Conferences page of the OMTA website: <https://oregonmta.org/teachers/conferences>.

The 2021 State Conference will be held June 24-26 at Riverhouse on the Deschutes in Bend. Please mark your calendars. At this time we are hoping for a hybrid conference with in-person and virtual attendance. Much like 2020, decisions will be made based on recommendations and regulations from the State of Oregon.

Selina Manson
2021 Conference Chair



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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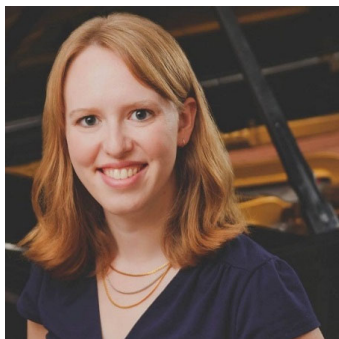
Alexis Gibbons, NCTM

SYLLABUS

Heid Evans, NCTM



CERTIFICATION

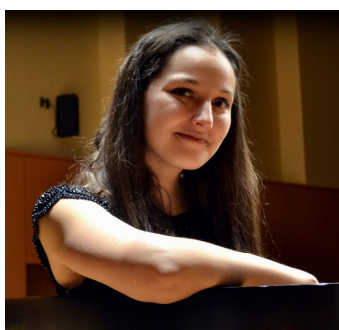


Rebekah Carter, NCTM
Certification Chair

Greetings and well-wishes for this new school year!

The summer music highlight for me was the OMTA Virtual State Conference, live-streamed from Florence, Oregon. Conference included a presentation on MTNA Certification—what it is, who it is for, its value in the music teaching community, and what to expect in the process of applying. This session has information relevant for all members whether you are in the process of becoming certified, interested in certification, already certified, or think you are not interested in certification.

The great news is that you can now view this presentation on the OMTA website at <https://oregonmta.org/teachers/conferences/>. Be sure to check out the other excellent sessions as well by Dr. Peter Mack, Dr. Jessica Pacheco, and our very own Melody Morrison, NCTM!



Melody Morrison, NCTM
Certification Co-Chair

In fact, Melody is also stepping into the role of Certification Co-Chair. Welcome, Melody! She is knowledgeable, cheerful, and brings the experience of having completed the Certification Teacher Profile Projects. She is an excellent resource for members who may have specific questions about the projects. Melody can be reached at mmorrison@corban.edu.

MTNA AND OMTA FOUNDATION

Rebecca Gooch, MTNA Foundation Chair

Hello from the Foundation Chair!

I wanted to give a HUGE shout out to all the districts and individuals who contributed to the Foundation Fellow Fund (FFF). Before the pandemic, OMTA held an auction and a Wall of Wine raffle at our State Conference to raise funds for the FFF. Each district would donate an item or items to be auctioned off to the highest bidder and bottles of wine to be raffled off at the banquet. Those funds were divided between the State and National Foundation Fellow Fund which is used for student travel, student competitions, teacher enrichment/education, and more.

This year, since we were virtual, we asked the general membership to please support this worthy cause with cash donations. And did you all deliver! We raised \$1660! According to Fern McArthur, NCTM, this is our largest sum to date. Thank you for your support and generosity!



ESMAR

Jan Mittelstaedt, NCTM, ESMAR Chair

Isaac Price, student of Dr. Kenn Willson of George Fox University, recently created a video of musicianship skills required for completion of the ESMAR program. See this video for Isaac's outstanding demonstration:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1RMIZWbolyv7Wn5nYPRg5srj2qUmmcb2l/view>.

In 2020, Isaac graduated from being homeschooled. This year, he participated in his third Monster Piano Concert at George Fox. He has been a finalist in multiple young artist competitions, completed Level X Syllabus, with distinction, and would have finished our ESMAR program this year if the pandemic hadn't forced us to cancel the program. He plans to attend Whitworth University this fall with a pre-med focus. In his video, Isaac demonstrated the major scale routine, the arpeggio routine and chord progression (in his key choices), some harmonization from a lead line, and his improvised versions of *Happy Birthday* and *The Star Spangled Banner*. I am extremely grateful to Isaac for his important contribution to OMTA.

ESMAR became part of OMTA's program, under the Education Umbrella, ten years ago after two years of intensive planning by a committee of OMTA Syllabus adjudicators who wanted to offer advanced students new goals after they had completed Level X of our Syllabus program. Although it is not necessary for ESMAR students to complete the Syllabus program or even to be part of it, ESMAR was created to fulfill a need. ESMAR is unique. As well as repertoire and musicianship, beginning improvisation and transposition, reading from a lead line, sight reading a chorale hymn, and playing *Happy Birthday* and *The Star Spangled Banner* by ear, are included. A community service project is also required. The culmination is an assessment by a master teacher with a doctoral degree. Students who are prepared for the assessment are invited to be part of a student recital which, in normal times, is produced by the students themselves.

Although ESMAR assessments were cancelled this year, four students gave a virtual recital of some of the repertoire they had learned for the program. They recorded pieces on YouTube which were played through a Zoom presentation on June 6, 2020. Susan Todd was our technician for the recital. If you would like to hear the student performances, please contact Jan Mittelstaedt for a link. ESMAR will be offered again this year. Please contact Jan if you have an interested student.

Jan Mittelstaedt, NCTM
janmitt@gmail.com



Isaac Price



GRANTS



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

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

I hope you have all had a healthy and refreshing summer. As we turn to September, we find ourselves teaching and learning in new ways. OMTA members are so fortunate to have the resources of the District Enrichment Project, thanks to the Nellie Tholen Fund with the Oregon Community Foundation. I am pleased to serve as coordinator for this program. In that capacity I have put together a roster of presenters who are ready to give programs to districts throughout the state online this fall, and perhaps all year. Many are willing to travel to present in person when that option becomes healthy once again. If you are interested in being included on the roster, or know a colleague who would be an excellent fit, do let me know.

In addition to booking an online presentation, your district may wish to plan to watch any of the following resources “together” and follow with a discussion via Zoom, Google Meet or other platform.

Programs from the 2019 and 2020 OMTA State Conference are available to members on the Conference page: <https://oregonmta.org/teachers/conferences>. Many past district workshops are posted on the members-only portion of the OMTA website: <https://oregonmta.org/teachers/enrichment-workshops>.

Videos created this spring to help teachers adapt to teaching online are still available 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**

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

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.



MUSICLINK

MusicLink Senior Achievement Award Winner

Annette Dempsey, NCTM, Oregon MusicLink State Coordinator

Andrew J. Kim has been awarded the 2020 MusicLink Senior Award of Excellence. The award of \$1000 is provided by the Arline and Russell Endowment Fund. Andrew has been a piano student of Ruth Sadilek for the past 12 years, adding violin to his studies under her tutelage for the past 8 years.

His mother was a strong positive influence during his early years of training. When she passed away on Andrew's eleventh birthday, a week after his sister was born, he chose to play a piano version of the Pachelbel Canon at her funeral. He learned to express his emotions about his mother by composing his first piece two years later, titled *Again*. He explains that, "it was the only thing I thought I could do that had enough distance from me so that I could show weakness without explicitly showing vulnerability. Hidden behind my composition and the ones that came after it, I started to tell people more about myself through my compositions."

In ninth grade, Andrew attended the Young Musician and Artists camp where he excelled in piano performance. He also spent three years in Fear No Music's *Young Composers Project* for young musicians in the Pacific Northwest excelling at composing. Through YCP, he was commissioned to compose for a youth orchestra. He completed Oregon Music Teachers Association Level X Syllabus with distinction. He



Andrew Kim with teacher Ruth Sadilek

earned the Grand Cup in the festival put on by the National Federation of Music Clubs in solo piano. He flourished as a piano accompanist, began teaching piano, and excelled academically at the International School of Beaverton, a full International Baccalaureate school.

Andrew explains, "I was going to give this gift that is music to others just like my mother had done for me. I keep my mother close to me when I play pieces or when I write music and thank her in my thoughts for just forcing me to keep going back then. Music has become such an emotional outlet for that. I have no idea who I'd be without it. I mentioned that I was looking for someone to acknowledge me, but now I realize

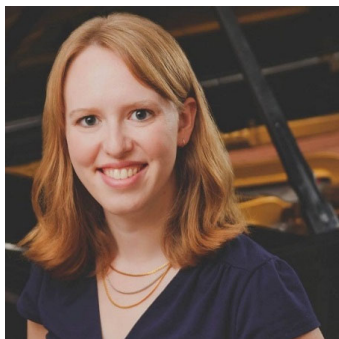
that no one needs to. Playing the piano and making music is enough for me and now I take full enjoyment in just playing because I *want* to."

"I realize I have many things to say, and I should start saying them because time is limited. I'll make those people that have no appreciation for classical music to at least acknowledge the power that classical music has. It saved me, and I know it can do the same for others. And after I do all that I need to do, Mom, I'll be seeing you *Again*."

Andrew will be attending Oregon State University with plans to double major in biochemistry/biophysics and music.



SONATINA FESTIVAL



Rebekah Carter, NCTM
Sonatina Festival Chair

Many teachers and students from around the state look forward to participating in the OMTA Sonatina Festival each year. The festival typically takes place on the University of Oregon campus in Eugene each October.

However, it is important to note that the Sonatina Festival has been moved to a biennial format. This decision was made at the October 2019 OMTA Board Meeting and is unrelated to the current COVID-19 pandemic (although the timing has been fortuitous).

Planning for the festival takes many hours of dedication from a large team of volunteers. It requires reserving a venue and adjudicators as well as forming a repertoire committee far in advance. In addition, efforts to recruit a new Chairperson were still in progress at the time the window of opportunity to hold the festival in 2020 had come and passed. Due to the year-round nature of this festival's planning and the other factors specified, it was

determined to hold the event every other year.

The next Sonatina Festival will take place in October 2021. The repertoire list will be posted in January 2021 on the website at <https://oregonmta.org/programs/festivals/sonatina-festival/>.

Registration forms and other important information will be posted as they become available.

If you have never participated in the OMTA Sonatina Festival, please contact me or visit the website to learn more about it!

Although I had not heard of the festival before and had not had students participate in it, this event grew special to me as I learned more. This festival is in a central location for rural districts yet accessible to Portland students. To me, as a former rural-district OMTA student and as a current rural-district OMTA teacher, this is particularly important to continue

an event which has statewide participation. As Chair of this event, I aim to do my best to facilitate a smooth, well-planned festival which appeals to teachers and students from across the state.

Although I am new to the Festival and to my role as Chair, I do have experience chairing district festivals and chairing a local competitive festival in my greater eastern Oregon/Western Idaho area for the past three years. In addition, we are in excellent hands under the leadership and direction of Co-Chair and former Chair, Fern McArthur, NCTM, and the volunteers from the Eugene District. If you have any questions or concerns about this shift in the Festival format or would like to learn more about what this Festival is all about, please be in touch. I'd love to talk with you.



SYLLABUS



Heidi Evans, NCTM
Syllabus Chair

Syllabus has had a very busy summer, and I have good news to share!

Fall 2020 Syllabus exams will be held in virtual format, for all levels. The district dates and new protocols for virtual exams have been posted on the OMTA website. Please read them carefully, and direct questions to your district chair first. There are no exceptions for in-person exams for this fall.

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

This summer's events and our own OMTA State Conference inspired

some changes in Syllabus Repertoire. We're updating the lists to include more diversity, with deepest thanks to Ashlee Young for her many hours of research to spearhead this project. If you have suggestions for adding diversity to the Syllabus Repertoire Lists, please feel free to email me with composer/repertoire selections. Not all suggestions will be adopted (time/space/idioms), but we will make a big effort to incorporate many changes. Stay tuned!

In addition to adding diversity to the Repertoire Lists, the Syllabus Committee is creating a list of crossover repertoire from the Festivals Bulletin put out by the National Federation of Music Clubs for Levels 3-6 that meet the requirements for a Contemporary

Idiom. Syllabus Levels 7-10 already overlap the Festival Bulletin with many composers from the Romantic/Impressionist/Contemporary eras. This Repertoire List Addendum will be posted on the OMTA website as an addendum to the current Repertoire Lists when it is finished.

Wishing you all a happy fall season of teaching!

Heidi Evans, MST, NCTM
OMTA Syllabus Chair



WSMTA DISTRICT CONFERENCE INVITATION

Evelyn Hartwell, WSMTA District II Director

As the Director of District II of Washington State Music Teachers Association, I would like to invite members of OMTA to the WSMTA District I & II Virtual Regional Conference at the WSMTA member discount rate! The conference will go live on October 10, 2020 at 10:00 AM and will remain active for one month following the live sessions on October 10. We will be holding the live version of the conference on October 10 from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM with live video of presentations from our speakers as well as live Q&A sessions on Zoom with each presenter following each of the three video presentations. There will also be downloadable copies of handouts for each session!

Our featured presenters this year are Dr. Jensina Oliver, NCTM, Dr. Lark Powers, NCTM, and Dr. William Chapman Nyaho, NCTM. All three presentations will be wonderful and on different aspects of teaching and musicality! Check out this WSMTA website link: <https://wsmta.org/aboutwsmta/districts/district-i-ii-conference>. Online registration is up and OMTA and IMTA members will also be eligible for the member discount price!

I am so excited that we will have the opportunity to create a new experience for members with this conference!

Hope to "see" you there!

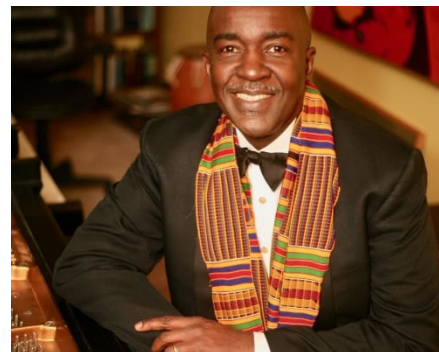
Evelyn Hartwell
WSMTA District II Director



Dr. Jensina Oliver, NCTM



Dr. Lark Powers, NCTM



Dr. William Chapman Nyaho, NCTM



CENTRAL OREGON DISTRICT



Helen Jones, NCTM,
Central Oregon District
Secretary



I hope all of you had a great (despite being an unusual) summer. Welcome back! Have you got online lessons figured out?

Since a lot of our monthly programs got canceled because of the virus, we are having a Zoom program on the book *Clara* on September 11. Our teachers will discuss this book, which was written by Janice Galloway.

We have new officers for the next two years. They are Janet Smith as President, Gary Ruppert as Treasurer and Helen Jones as Secretary. We are still missing a President-Elect. Since we weren't able to get together, we're including pictures of individuals.



Clara Wieck Schumann and
Robert Schumann



Janet Smith, Central
Oregon District President



Gary Ruppert, Central
Oregon District Treasurer

We have two new members of the Central Oregon District Honor Society! Matthew Broberg and Caroline Broberg, students of Helen Jones, are our latest honorees. Students that are inducted into our honor society have to either pass Syllabus OR a National Federation of Music Clubs successful audition. They will receive tickets to the Central Oregon Symphony concerts and Pine Bucks from Pine Mountain Sports in Bend. Congratulations Matthew and Caroline!



EAST PORTLAND DISTRICT



Liz Willis, NCTM, East
Portland District President

As was the case for everyone in OMTA, the planned activities in the spring for East Portland District were all cancelled or postponed. Simply dealing with the new "life protocols" of masks, gloves, social distancing and having hand sanitizer in every possible location has been mentally fatiguing. But missing our students and our colleagues has added a level of spiritual exhaustion that I'm sure many of us have experienced.

I am so grateful to my Executive Board! We have met via Zoom and

planned our calendar for next year. Pattie Duthie is President-Elect, Lauren Buck is Treasurer, Janae Geurts is Recording Secretary and Alice Lyle is Corresponding Secretary. East Portland District meetings will be on the last Mondays of September, October, February and May, with two meetings on Saturdays (January 30 and April 24) for our members that cannot make a weekday meeting. We hope to be able to video our programs and offer them online. That means that anyone in the state can participate!

Our first program will be on September 28 at 10:00 AM and is titled *Teaching in the Time of COVID: From Virtual Recitals to Sterilizing Your Studio and Beyond!* by Andrew D'Antonio. This will include a Q and A session, so watch for the meeting invitation (likely on Zoom...) and have your questions ready!

Liz Willis, NCTM
President, East Portland District



EUGENE DISTRICT



Sandy Hull, NCTM, Eugene District
Corresponding Secretary

The Eugene District has been very busy this summer preparing for our upcoming teaching and festival season. All festivals this year will be online using the Zoom platform. We will continue with our Festival of Popular Music in October and will present a new festival in December, the Classical and Romantic Music Festival, along with our traditional festivals for the rest of the year. We are so fortunate to have members like Neil Patton, who will be collecting and putting together student's pre-recorded videos for our festivals. We are finding sound quality is much better and more reliable with pre-recorded students performances. We have prepared

guidelines for teachers and parents for presenting pre-recorded videos and how to submit students for these festivals. Most of our teachers are continuing to teach online lessons with a few teachers teaching both online and in person.

Our district is also upgrading our website this summer. We are so grateful for Alexis Gibbons, NCTM who is doing the work. It will be beautiful and easier to use.

Our first meeting of the year will be Monday, September 14 on Zoom at 9:00 AM. We will be hosting our OMTA State President, Sarah Ball, NCTM for a lecture

titled *How Children Learn: An Investigation of Constructivist Psychology*. The focus is on Jean Piaget, one of the ground breaking thinkers in this movement, and how their approaches might enhance our work in the music studio. Thomas Otten will present in November with an online program focused on *How to Teach Artistry to Our Students*.

Looking forward to a great year ahead!

Sandy Hull, NCTM
Corresponding Secretary
Eugene District OMTA



TUALATIN VALLEY DISTRICT



Teresa Sealey, Tualatin Valley District
President

Hello Everyone! Tualatin Valley District has been getting prepared for a busy fall. Our Executive Board has made the decision to hold our Fall meetings and festivals on Zoom. While this is not ideal and we all wish we could be meeting together in person, it is the best case scenario for the challenging times our nation is experiencing. We will reassess in November the possibility of moving back to in-person meetings starting in January.

Many of our favorite festivals and professional development classes are returning this year. In the fall, we will have the Festival of Ribbons (virtual), Ensemble Festival, and Fall Syllabus, plus our PLTL (Play, Learn, Teach, Listen) class each month.

Coming up in September:
We will welcome everyone back together with our first monthly

Zoom meeting on September 11, 2020. Our question of the month is "What is your Superpower?!" Each one of us has a skill, training, or gifting we can share to help our District run smoothly. I have also asked Ramona Goddard to bring us a presentation on the process and benefits of Leggiero! Many of our newer members need training on Leggiero and our seasoned members can use some refreshment on the software.

On Saturday morning, September 26, we will host our first ever New Members Welcome Meeting on Zoom. We hope to help our new members feel glad they've joined us, get to know them, and answer any questions they may have about the Tualatin Valley District.

Coming up in October:
I have scheduled the wonderful Leila Viss to come to the Tualatin Valley District to teach a workshop

on *Finding Time to Be Creative* along with *Blossom with Boundaries: A Recipe for Budding Composers*. Due to the limitations we are experiencing with in-person meetings and spaces to have those meetings, we have asked Leila if she would be willing to do a virtual workshop online for us. Leila has agreed, so we are in the process of working out all the details for that workshop. We welcome you to enjoy the workshop and learn from Leila along with us! Mark Friday, October 9, 2020 on your calendars. More details to come regarding registration, timing, and workshop agenda.

Together for Music!

Teresa Sealey
Tualatin Valley District President



WEST PORTLAND DISTRICT



Irene Huang, NCTM, West Portland District President

Due to the continuing uncertainty of the pandemic, the Festival Committee for the combined Portland Districts has decided that it is only realistic to have online recitals for the upcoming season. This already began with the Trula Whelan Concerto Festival June 20, 2020.

For the upcoming school year, we have planned six online district meetings on these dates: September 23, October 14, January 27, February 24, April 28, and May 26 (They all fall on the fourth Wednesday of the month, except for the month of October).

Selina Manson will be the host of these meetings. For our first meeting on September 23, we will have a session titled *Q&A for Online Teaching*. Mark your

calendar and join us. Bring your questions or perhaps your experience with online teaching to share. The program for the October 14 meeting will be a demonstration on *How to Host an Online Syllabus Exam*.

Our next recital is the Classical Festival. Janae Geurts and Marla Hansen will be the co-chairs and the dates have been set for the beginning of November. With an online format, there will be some differences which will all be explained well before the deadline for submission of student's videos. Please continue to read your *Music News* and check on our district webpages for current updates:

www.omta-portland.org

www.omta-east-portland.org

Below are the dates for the 2020 Fall Classical Piano Syllabus, which will be online exams.

- October 23-25: Beaverton North
- October 30-November 1: Hillsboro
- November 6-8: Bethany East
- November 13-15: Portland NW (includes West Hills), Beaverton South, Bethany West



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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. 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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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

September 15, 2020
 October 15, 2020



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