

OMTA MUSIC NEWS

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CONTACT & CONNECT

office@oregonmta.org
www.oregonmta.org
PO Box 5335
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UPCOMING EVENTS

2021 OMTA State Conference

June 24-25, 2021
Riverhouse on the Deschutes, Bend, OR

2022 MTNA National Conference

March 26-30, 2022
Minneapolis, Minnesota



PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Sarah Ball, NCTM
OMTA President

Renewal

Congratulations, you made it to summer! It is finally time for some well-earned rest and renewal after an extremely challenging year. Although our personal R & R summer activities vary widely, we share two significant means to professional renewal:

1. We can **renew our membership** in our vibrant organization by clicking here: https://www.mtna.org/MTNA/JoinAndRenew/Membership/Renew_Membership

Be sure to check your profile to make sure it is up-to-date.

Membership and active participation in OMTA make a difference in so many ways. It fosters our professional and personal growth, supports our students' musical journeys, pursues musical excellence and inclusion, strengthens our association, and more! The positive ripples keep flowing, and the possibilities keep growing, all because we renewed our connection.

2. We can **renew our teaching** by registering for the 2021 OMTA State Conference by clicking here: <https://oregonmta.org/teachers/omta-state-conference>

For two delightful days, June 24 and 25, OMTA members will be gathering at the Riverhouse Hotel in lovely Bend, Oregon. Registration is still open for virtual attendance at just \$50 per person.

This event is made possible thanks to support from the Nellie

Tholen Fund through the Oregon Community Foundation, the unwavering dedication of our Conference chair, Selina Manson, and the devotion of committee members Liz Willis, Cindy Peterson-Peart, and Kathy Gault. Thank you, Conference Committee!

Wishing you rest and renewal.



*Sarah Ball, NCTM
OMTA President*

NOTE OF APPRECIATION

Dear Colleagues,

I have been asked by Margaret Littlehales to extend her heartfelt appreciation for the outpouring of love and support she has received from so many in OMTA after the death of her husband Tom. Her grand piano could barely display all of the cards. As she is understandably overwhelmed at this point, she cannot manage to return the correspondence in kind. However, she wants to send out her love back to everyone in the musical family of OMTA.

*Liz Willis, NCTM
OMTA President Elect*

CERTIFICATION



Rebekah Carter, NCTM
Certification Chair

Please join me in congratulating **Lauren Fraley, NCTM** who has recently become a Nationally Certified Teacher of Music!

Lauren serves as Treasurer for East Portland District. She is nationally certified in piano. Congratulations!



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

OMTA Board of Directors

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SYLLABUS

Heid Evans, NCTM



FOUNDATION

Rebecca Gooch, OMTA Foundation Chair

Hello Fellow Teachers, Students, and Supporters of Music,

OMTA and MTNA have a long history of supporting teachers, students and community music. An important part of our organization that provides cold hard cash in the form of grants and awards to students, gifted composers, outstanding teachers and performers, and to local associations is the Foundation Fund.

Our own OMTA Foundation supports MusicLink and other worthy projects recommended by the OMTA President and the Foundation Chair. It also helps fund our Foundation Fellow nomination for the MTNA National Conference. Contributions to this fund are always welcome.

Some of the grants provided by the MTNA Foundation Fund are the Teacher Enrichment Grant programs which enables teachers to apply for grants to fund further musical study and educational or research projects. The Studio Teacher Fellowship is given to an independent music teacher to assist in developing and enhancing a newly established studio. The Collegiate Chapter of the Year Award recognizes an outstanding collegiate chapter, its advisor and members, for showing an exceptional level and depth of activities. MTNA local-affiliated associations may apply for grants for projects that benefit teachers, their students, and their communities.

At our State Conference in Bend on June 24-25, there will be a wine wall raffle to help raise money for OMTA Foundation Fund and MTNA Foundation Fund. The auction will be postponed, so I will not be contacting Districts for donation items to auction this year. In lieu of an auction item donation, I am asking for cash donations from each District or individuals. The donations are tax deductible. There will be a QR Code to scan in the Conference booklet to make a donation or donations may be made on the OMTA website.

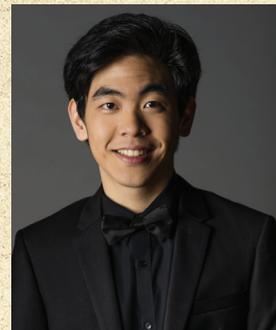
Thank you for all your support this year and in past years! I hope to see you all virtually at the Conference!

Sincerely,

Rebecca Gooch, Foundation Chair



PRESENTS



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MEMBERSHIP



Mary Morganti
Membership Chair

I am happy to announce the following new members of OMTA:

- **Jian Shao** is a new Active member in the Tualatin Valley District.
- **Anthony Bock** is a new Collegiate member in the Rogue Valley District.
- **Seth Burrows** is a new Active member in the Central Oregon District.
- **Yutong Chen** is a new Collegiate member in the Rogue Valley, Southern Oregon University Chapter District.
- **Dr. Hana Lim** is a new Active member in the West Portland District.
- **Mary Kaye Owen, NCTM** is a new Active member in the Umatilla-Morrow District.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Morganti
State Membership Chair

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Canadian
FEB 5 / 6, 2022



JANINA
FIALKOWSKA

Canadian
MAR 12 / 13, 2022



NICOLAS
NAMORADZE

Georgian/Hungarian
APR 2 / 3, 2022



PAUL
LEWIS

English
MAY 7 / 8, 2022



JON KIMURA
PARKER

Canadian
JUNE 4 / 5, 2022

SEASON SUBSCRIPTIONS will be available for purchase May 15, 2021. Please order online or call **(503) 228** during office hours (9-4 Mon-Thu).

SINGLE TICKETS go on sale September 1, 2021. Some student and teacher discounts for single tickets will be available. Contact Robin Power for details. Email robin@portlandpiano.org.

All recitals are at 4PM in Lincoln Performance Hall

portlandpiano.org

CONFERENCE



Selina Manson
2021 State Conference Chair

Conference Presenter Spotlight: Dr. William Chapman Nyaho, NCTM

OMTA is excited to welcome **Dr. William Chapman Nyaho, NCTM** as one of our main presenters at the annual OMTA State Conference in Bend on June 24 and 25.

As an advocate for music of Africa and its diaspora, Chapman Nyaho's publications include a five-volume anthology, *Piano Music of Africa and the African Diaspora*, published by Oxford University Press. You can visit Nyaho's website to learn more about him: <https://www.nyaho.com>.

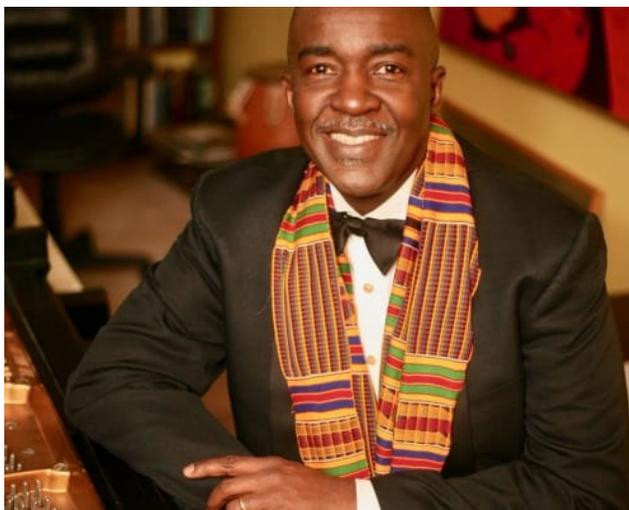
Dr. Nyaho plans to give a presentation about performance anxiety. He will also give a concert featuring African American composers and host an

advanced master class. Visit the OMTA State Conference page to read Dr. Nyaho's full bio: <https://oregonmta.org/omta-state-conference>.

Be sure to register online by May 28 to receive a printed copy of the conference booklet. Livestream attendees will receive their booklet by mail the week prior to the Conference. Streaming passes are \$50.

Sincerely,

Selina Manson
2021 Conference Chair



Dr. William Chapman Nyaho, NCTM



COMPOSITION CELEBRATION



Dianne Davies
State Composition Chair

We have had another fantastic year for young composers. We have four active districts that provided a Composition Festival for 2021. A big thank you to our district chairs for continuing to provide this wonderful opportunity for our students. This year, chairs included Eugene

District Co-Chairs, Paul Safar and Nick Reiser, Linn-Benton District Chair, Sandra Coolen-Reitmeier, Tualatin Valley District Chair, Chikako Doane, and Umatilla-Morrow District Chair, Phyllis Peterson.

Linn-Benton, Tualatin Valley, and Umatilla-Morrow Districts had adjudicators choose honored composers to participate in our State Recital. A total of seven teachers, ten students, and twenty-five minutes of new music will be featured on our state website on June 5. A big thank you to Caris Power who will assemble all of the composition videos into a recital that will be available for our state membership to enjoy. Check it out and recognize these students' achievements. Consider sharing the art of composition in your own studio. It is amazing what our fabulous young composers have been up to during this year of pandemic restraints.

Here is a list of the compositions and honored composers:

- *Beneath the Surface* by 17 year-old **Niah Andrus**, student of Karen Huntsberger, Tualatin Valley
- *Nostalgia* by 13 year-old **Amaia Arismendi**, student of Lucy Watts, Linn-Benton
- *The Revenge of the Cheeze* by 15 year-old **Karter Arritt**, student of Sarah Milburn, Umatilla-Morrow
- *Tremblin' Trees* by 11 year-old **Nolan Barber**, student of Heidi Evans, Tualatin Valley

- *Chaconne in G Minor* by 16 year-old **Aiden Dolan**, student of Sandra Coolen-Reitmeier, Linn-Benton
- *Sam the Snake* by 13 year-old **Liam Early**, student of Phyllis Peterson, Umatilla-Morrow
- *Rainwater* by 13 year-old **Zoey Griffith**, student of Sarah Milburn, Umatilla-Morrow
- *Haywire* by 12 year-old **James Lee**, student of Heidi Evans, Tualatin Valley
- *Glistening Light* by 13 year-old **Corinna Lobsheid**, student of Roseanne Smith, Linn-Benton
- *Riverbank* by 9 year-old **Karlee Marks**, taught by Phyllis Peterson, Umatilla-Morrow

Each honored composer will receive a certificate of participation and a medallion. Each one is also eligible to apply for the Regional Composition Celebration, which then in turn recommends students to the National Composition Competition. Teachers of the honored composers can contact me at 503-998-5220 or diannedavies00@gmail.com for more information.

The State Composition Book, consisting of all the pieces composed by the honored composers, will be available for our membership to purchase in two ways:

1. A digital copy for \$2.50
2. A hard copy for \$5.50, plus postage

Contact me for your copy of this stellar new music!

Keep making music,

Dianne Davies
State Composition Chair



SONATINA FESTIVAL



Rebekah Carter, NCTM
Sonatina Festival Chair

The OMTA Sonatina Festival is tentatively scheduled for October 2021 on the University of Oregon campus in Eugene. Possibilities for a virtual or hybrid festival are also being discussed. Specific information will be announced on the OMTA website as details become available. The Sonatina Festival Committee will be working hard over the summer to finalize details, set up registration, and contact adjudicators. To request more information, please contact myself at rebekah@carterpiano.studio or visit the website at <https://oregonmta.org/sonatina-festival>.

The repertoire list features a variety of Sonatinas of all levels. Some will likely be familiar to you, and

others may become new favorites! My own student is eagerly studying her piece for the festival. Take a peek at the list over the summer and consider assigning a piece to your student as a great summer project. Even if your studio has not participated in the Sonatina Festival before (I had not!), this could be a great time to explore the repertoire with your students.

Happy practicing, and happy summer!

Rebekah Carter, NCTM
Sonatina Festival Chair



SYLLABUS



Heidi Evans, NCTM
Syllabus Chair

Well it's been quite a year, hasn't it? We've learned a lot of new skills along the way, and hopefully honed our patience and our kindness to a fine sheen. But we have a couple more milestones to achieve this year. June will see the first virtual Level X recital go up on the OMTA YouTube channel. A huge congratulations to all the Level X students who took their virtual exams this year, and to their teachers for finding ways to keep the students learning at such a high level!

So many volunteers make Syllabus possible:

1. **Teachers**, who put in extra time to get students ready, registered, and communicate in advance with adjudicators.
2. **Chairs**, who had to learn a new scheduling system on the fly and answer all the teachers' questions.
3. **Adjudicators**, as I mentioned last month but must mention again because they are all so wonderful.
4. The bookkeeper, **Karen Huntsberger**, who manages the flow of finances.

5. **Cindy Peterson-Peart**, who handles the scheduling needs all year long.
6. **Crystal Zimmerman**, who trains new adjudicators.
7. **Lacie Mitts**, who handles the Level X Awards and Recital.
8. My amazing co-chair, **Ellen McQuilkin**, who's been a wonderful support through a year that's had ups and downs.

There are many others who've supported the program in ways large and small, and I appreciate you all— teachers, chairs, adjudicators, and volunteers!

In looking forward to next year, we're all envisioning an upward trajectory, and I'll do everything I can to make that happen. Wishing you all a peaceful, restful, and re-creative summer!

Heidi Evans
OMTA Syllabus Chair



IN MEMORIAM: FRAN GEER

Patti Widener, NCTM, Past President of Tualatin Valley District



Fran Geer

On Monday May 3, OMTA lost longtime member Frances Ragozzino Geer. Fran has been an OMTA member since 1959, but most recently has been a beloved member of Tualatin Valley District.

Past TVOMTA president Sherry Todd reminisces:

“Fran was a wonderful pianist, esteemed teacher, devoted friend, mother, and wife. Her early years teaching were in Eugene where she was an active OMTA member and highly regarded piano teacher, active in her professional and collegial roles with other Eugene teachers and OMTA members. I first met Frances Ragozzino when working as rehearsal accompanist and performance pianist with then husband Ed Ragozzino’s many theater successes. Fran had such an active role in her own right, but also hosted many faculty, student, and social events that they both enjoyed. Fran was a fine performer and especially thrived on the two piano performances she was known for in the Eugene area, and beyond. After moving to Portland, she kept her beloved two grand pianos in her home overlooking a stellar view of the

valley. She hosted benefits and concerts which enriched several musical groups, student performances, and the performance of Tualatin Valley’s commission in 2014 of a two piano composition entitled *Was Matter* by composer John Ling. All who were fortunate to be invited to listen and socialize in her beautiful, welcoming home had an experience like no other. She was the delight of TVOMTA and we looked forward to many Holiday Brunches she hosted. Such grace, beauty, and unselfishness was Fran through and through. How we will miss her!”

Fran is survived by her four children; Laurabeth, Matt, Julie, and Kate; her grandchildren; and husband Jack Geer.

Cards and remembrances can be sent in care of:

Laurabeth Ragozzino
8975 SW Sweek Drive, Apt 236
Tualatin, OR 97062

Patti Widener, NCTM
Past President of Tualatin Valley District



Fran Geer with Tualatin Valley District members



BLUE MOUNTAIN DISTRICT

Matt Gilman, Blue Mountain District Publicity Chair

We are keeping busy here in Eastern Oregon!

In February, we held a Sonata/Sonatina Festival for our students. Twenty-one students were registered with twenty performing in the festival. Blue Mountain teachers Rebekah Carter, Lea Emerson, Jan Miller, Lanetta Paul, and Dona Schmitt had students in the festival.

Pianos were donated to several Eastern Oregon students as a result of a generous partnership with Play It Forward and the MusicLink Foundation. One school in Pendleton and two students in Ontario were able to obtain quality pianos as a result of the cooperation among the various organizations.

The month of May saw our students perform in their annual Syllabus exams. An honors recital capped the week off for the students.

Also, later in May, we were busy planning our Spring culminating event. This event allows students to demonstrate their hard work, and let down their hair somewhat, by performing music from both popular and sacred genres for an online Pop/Sacred Festival.

Respectfully submitted,

Matt Gilman
Blue Mountain District Publicity Chair

CENTRAL OREGON DISTRICT



Helen Jones, NCTM
Central Oregon District
Secretary

Central Oregon Syllabus was held online from May 14-16. The judges were Dr. Crystal Zimmerman, NCTM and Sarah Ball, NCTM. There were twenty-nine students from eight teachers that performed. This is about half the number of students we usually have. Students were given the choice to go to their teachers' studios or do their exams from their own home, with their adjudicator at their own home or studio across the state. Upper Division students prerecorded their pieces and sent them ahead of time, but the skills evaluations were still in real time.

The Central Oregon District will postpone our Ensemble Festival. It may happen in the summer or kids can do ensembles for the Fall Festival later this year.

We will have a short business meeting on Zoom on June 11.





Smelt Sands near Yachats, OR

LINCOLN COUNTY DISTRICT

Cathy Champion-Predmore, NCTM, Lincoln County District Vice President

Members of the Lincoln County District were treated to back-to-back presentations thanks to the Nellie Tholen District Enrichment Project. On May 7, Dr. Crystal Zimmerman, NCTM engaged us with a series of slides about how the human brain perceives information. Participants even took some tests, which helped identify their own learning styles. Becoming more aware of our students' dominant styles enables us to make a secure connection before expanding and strengthening less secure methods of learning. The research that has become available to educators is profound, and we thank Dr. Zimmerman for sharing her interest and study of this truly informative topic.

Dr. Daniel Immel has been with us previously, and we are looking forward to his next visit to the coast. On April 30, bright and early, Dr. Immel played a fabulous solo piano recital. He can electrify an acoustic piano! Sonata Op. 20, No. 3 in F Minor by Hummel was his first piece, followed by *Six*

Transcriptions of Songs by Charles Trenet composed by Alexis Weissenberg. There was plenty of gas in his tank because the last piece was Liszt's Sonata in B Minor, S. 178.

The following morning, Dr. Immel presented *Swimming In The 20th Century Ocean*. He guided us through teaching techniques and analysis of works by Tcherepnin, Pieczonka, and Debussy.

There will be two more District meetings before we take a summer break, but plans are being made for festivals and performances just as soon as the venues open up again.

Best to all of you from Highway 101!

Cathy Champion-Predmore, NCTM
Lincoln County District Vice President



EUGENE DISTRICT



Sandy Hull

Eugene District Corresponding Secretary

Greetings from Eugene District!

Lucy Clevenger chaired our Virtual Contemporary Festival on Saturday, April 17. This Festival had twenty-three students from seven studios performing in two recitals at 2 PM and 3 PM on Zoom.

Congratulations to the students and teachers who participated and presented diverse selections of repertoire through live and recorded performances.

Spring Syllabus for Eugene District took place April 23-25. We are especially grateful to our adjudicators for the virtual online exams for the weekend including Crystal Zimmerman, Alena Dubauskaya, Heidi Evans, Irene Huang, Sue Nelson, and Liz Willis. We had eighteen teachers present seventy-six students with one forfeit for exams. Congratulations to our Level X students and teachers including Laura Zhou, student of Olga Aynvarg, Asher McKinnon, student of Sandy Hull, and Eddie Wei, student of Margaret Gowen Gates.

We are also proud to announce the winners of our Annual Beverly Soule Scholarship Audition including 1st Place (awarded \$700.00) Baird Quinn, student of Paul Safar; 2nd Place (awarded \$250.00) Emilie Nelson, student of Alexis Gibbons; 3rd Place (awarded \$100.00) Aisha Brunden, student of Genevieve Mason; and Honorable Mention, Asher McKinnon, student of Sandy Hull. All award winners

were invited to perform in the Teacher Showcase Recital. A special thank you goes to Liz Willis for adjudicating the virtual auditions that took place during our Syllabus weekend.

The Teacher's Showcase Recital was on Sunday, May 16, at 3:00 PM on Zoom. The program included our talented members performing classics like *Prelude in G Minor, Op. 23, No. 5* by Rachmaninoff (Alexis Gibbons, piano), *Five Selections* by Kabalevsky (Betsy Parker, piano), *Waltz Presto* by Nick Rieser (Nick Rieser, piano), *Over the Rainbow* by H. Arlen and *Someone to Watch Over Me* by Gershwin (Carol White, piano), *Mazurka in G Minor, Op. 67, No. 2* by Chopin (Soria Phillips-Meadow, piano), *Three Fantastic Dances* by Shostakovich (Wyatt Burger, piano), *Prelude Op. 12, No. 7* by Prokofiev (Ellen McQuilkin, piano), and *Summerstorm* (1985) by Arthur Maddox (Betsy Parker, piano). Student scholarship winners performed *Prelude in G Major, BWV 884* by Bach (Aisha Brunden), *First Arabesque* by Debussy (Emilie Nelson), and *Nocturne in F Minor, Op. 55, No. 1* by Chopin (Baird Quinn).

In OMTA's continuing effort to expand and diversify our studios' repertory, we joined with the University of Oregon's Pedagogy Department to welcome Lara Downes for two masterclasses in place of our regular monthly program. Downes is described as among the foremost American pianists of her generation. The masterclasses featured piano works of two black American woman composers, Florence Price and Margaret Bonds. Lara conducted the master classes, and suggested ways to teach this unfamiliar repertory to students and the nuances required to bring it alive.

We look forward to seeing our colleagues at the OMTA State Conference in June!

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



ROGUE VALLEY DISTRICT

Thor Polson, Rogue Valley District Reports Chair

A master class entitled *Integrative Performance Skills* was presented by Dr. Matt Goodrich from 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM on Saturday, April 24 at Grace Lutheran Church in Ashland. Matt Goodrich is a graduate of Oberlin College Conservatory and the University of Washington. He was a national finalist in the MTNA (Young Artists Division) Competition and is a frequent collaborative performer, recently presenting French and emerging repertoire throughout the western United States. Equally at home in the world of musical theater, he spent 2016 with the Broadway national tour of *If/Then* and has performed with the Oregon Shakespeare Festival for seven seasons. He holds Alexander Technique International teaching certification, continues to work as an instructor of piano at Southern Oregon University (SOU), and is currently the incoming music director at Sandpoint Conservatory in Sandpoint, Idaho.



Dr. Matt Goodrich

Besides commenting on the given pieces, Dr. Goodrich brought all of his experience with the Alexander Technique to bear as he worked with the following students on their pieces: Luke Li (*Theme and Variation* by Gurlitt), Ryleigh Ho (*Children's Game* by Bartok), William Brock (*Valse Sentimentale, Op. 50, No. 13* by Schubert), Teagan Caulkins (*Little Shepherd* by Debussy), Russell Martino (*Sonata in F Minor, Op. 2, No. 1, Mvt. 1* by Beethoven), and Ean Lawrence (*Prelude No. 4* by Debussy). The event was well attended and very welcome indeed after so many months of virtual musical events.

There are two upcoming events at the time of this writing: the Sonatina Festival and Recital on May 15 and 16 as well as a benefit recital on June 12 that will feature local pianists and many of Dr. Alexander Tutunov's students at SOU. Reports on these events will appear in the September issue of this newsletter.



Dr. Alexander Tutunov

In closing, I'd like to offer our chapter's heartfelt thanks to Dr. Tutunov for his tireless work in educating high-calibre pianists and bringing classical music to the general public here in southern Oregon.

Our President, Michele Alspach, has known Dr. Tutunov for many years and has the following thoughts on his longstanding contribution to our region: "Alexander Tutunov not only works tirelessly with excellent pianists, but he also works with pianists of all ages, levels, and abilities. I have always been impressed by the amount of energy and effort he gives to each and every student. Alex has given countless master classes for our young pre-college students, countless enriching programs for our OMTA members on technique, and has invigorated the entire community of classical musicians with his excellent Tutunov Piano Series. I can't think of anyone who has given more of himself throughout the Rogue Valley, northern California, all of Oregon, and numerous places beyond."

I can add that, after taking lessons from Alex as a part-time adult student at SOU and on occasion in the



years since, one of many things that has always impressed me about him is his lack of dogmatism in his approach to piano pedagogy. In other words, Alex has always been accepting of my interpretation of any given passage as long as it conforms to what's on the page and if I can offer carefully reasoned explanations of what I intend to convey musically. This is the mark of an excellent teacher.

In closing, I'd like to offer some of his thoughts on performing. Alex once pointed out to me that performances involve three things: how the audience

perceives the performers, how the performers perceive themselves, and what actually happens at any given performance. We know that the first two points can vary drastically, but the third point is a brilliant addition in that it completely relativizes the first two, leaving me with this interpretation of his words, "Just stay with the music, and let the perceptions take care of themselves!"

Enjoy the summer, everyone!

Thor Polson, Rogue Valley District Reports Chair

OMTA Hybrid State Conference

Thursday, June 24-Friday, June 25, 2021 · Riverhouse Hotel in Bend, OR

Location

Hosted at the Riverhouse Hotel in Bend, OR, where modern sophistication and world-class amenities meets the relaxing location on the banks of the Deschutes River, this conference will stimulate and inspire as colleagues from around the state gather to collaborate, refine their craft, and refresh themselves.

Conference Artists

OMTA is honored to welcome **Dr. William Chapman Nyaho, NCTM**, and **Dr. Artina McCain** as our acclaimed conference artists, accompanied by presenters **Cindy Peterson-Peart, NCTM** and **Gary Ruppert**.

Conference Presentations

- *Performance Anxiety: Tips on Combating 'The Shakes'* by Dr. William Chapman Nyaho
- *Kaleidoscope: Introducing Students to Underrepresented Composers* by Dr. Artina McCain
- *Building Healthy Practice Techniques from Injury to Prevention* by Dr. Artina McCain
- *The Beatles Reimagined* by Gary Ruppert
- Concerts, Masterclasses, and more!

REGISTER TODAY AT WWW.OREGONMTA.ORG



TUALATIN VALLEY DISTRICT



Teresa Sealey
Tualatin Valley District President

Greetings from Tualatin Valley District!

Our District has finished this year of changes and adjustments with flying colors! We all survived and learned many new ways to teach our students and adjusted to meeting together virtually. Although we greatly miss meeting in person, we were still blessed to connect through Zoom. It's time to look forward with eager anticipation to the coming school and piano year!

We are excited to announce that Allison Craner is the recipient of Tualatin Valley OMTA's Scholarship for 2021. Allison is the student of Heidi Evans.

Congratulations, Allison and Heidi! Allison will receive our scholarship of \$750 to go towards her studies at Brigham Young University as a minor in music. The Scholarship team reflected that they appreciated seeing the dedication and effort Allison has demonstrated by being involved in OMTA events and other performance opportunities throughout her school years. The Scholarship Team enjoyed hearing her Chopin and Bach pieces as well as her beautiful arrangement of hymns that she put together and played at her grandmother's funeral. We all wish Allison the best in her continuing study of music!

Friday, May 14, was our last District meeting for the 2020-2021 year! We were delighted to meet our Tualatin Valley Scholarship winner, Allison Craner, and participate in the presentation of Tualatin Valley Scholarship by Chair Angela Kelly and Allison's teacher, Heidi Evans. We were then treated to a mini concert by Allison of her arrangement of hymns and her Bach piece. After the concert, we continued the

meeting by voting in our new President, Kristen Cichoski! Kristen has been serving our District as Treasurer for the past five years. She will be an excellent President for Tualatin Valley! We are still in need of a Secretary and a President Elect for the coming year. Our Membership Chair, Lisa Mendes, announced that we have recently welcomed three new members into our District. Tualatin Valley now has seventy-seven members!

At our last meeting of the year, we traditionally have a celebration brunch to thank all the members who have volunteered to chair the many festivals and Syllabus exams Tualatin Valley is known for. Since we didn't get to do that in person again this year, I am planning to host a celebration in a local park in early June to honor and celebrate these volunteers who have worked alongside me and made this year so successful. Hopefully many of our members will be able to attend!

Sadly, we received news last month that our beloved colleague, Frances (Fran) Geer, passed away. Fran was so warm and welcoming to everyone she met. She was full of joy and always smiling. Fran will be greatly missed as she was very dear to all of us!

It has been my honor and privilege to serve Tualatin Valley District as President this year! I have gleaned much knowledge and insights into OMTA as well as making many friends along the way. Thanks for your encouragement and support! And so... I pass the gavel to President Kristen!

Teresa Sealey
Immediate Past President, Tualatin Valley District



WEST PORTLAND DISTRICT



Irene Huang, NCTM,
West Portland District
President

How time has flown! Four years ago I had the great privilege and responsibility to start my term as President of the Portland District. Together with the board and input from our membership, we were able to make the difficult transition of reorganizing the Portland District into two smaller local

associations, the East Portland District and the West Portland District. Over the past two years, I have served as the President of the newly formed West Portland District, and the time has come for me to pass the baton to Elizabeth Caswell who will be our new President starting July, 2021.



Elizabeth Caswell

Elizabeth Caswell graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Music in piano performance from Augustana College (IL), and a Master of Arts and Master of Fine Arts degrees in piano performance and music theory pedagogy from the University of Iowa. She has been a member of the piano faculty at New York University, and has performed as a collaborative pianist at

Carnegie Hall, Alice Tully Hall, and Town Hall in New York City. She is a Nationally Certified Teacher of Music with Music Teachers National Association, and an Adjudicator with Oregon Music Teachers Association. She is currently a staff accompanist at Pacific University and a sought-after accompanist for solo voice, choral, and chamber music. We are happy and excited to have Elizabeth to lead the West Portland District.

Looking back on a most challenging year of 2020-2021, we were able to continue hosting our popular

period festivals, together with the East Portland District, using various online formats, as well as holding our district meetings and presentations online. Thank you all for helping make an impossible year possible!

- 9/23/20 — *Q&A for Online Teaching* by Cindy Petersen-Peart and Ruth Sadilek
- 10/14/20 — *How to Host and Setup Syllabus Online Exams* by Heidi Evans
- 1/25/21 — *Ornamentation and Performance Practice by the Sonatas of Scarlatti* by Dr. Matt Cooper
- 2/23/21 — *Interdisciplinary Approach to Piano Pedagogy* by Dr. Elise Yun
- 4/27/21 — *Diversity and Anti-Racism in Piano Teaching: How to Navigate Historical Racial, Gender, and National Disparities in the 21st Century World* by Dr. Stephen Lewis
- 5/26/21 — *Johann Nepomuk Hummel: A Reconsideration* by Dr. Andrew Brownell

Member Spotlight: Marla Hansen



Marla Hansen

I met Marla at our OMTA State Conference in 2019. At the time she had just joined OMTA. We had a nice chat at the Conference during lunchtime and had a great time connecting. Later when our District desperately needed a new Secretary, I immediately thought of Marla. She came on board with her talent in

technology and energy. I really appreciate her reliability and efficiency as our District Secretary. She has also served as a co-chair for the Classical Festival and has done a wonderful job. But if you asked me to use just one word to describe Marla, it would be that she is kind. Thank you Marla! You are a real gem to our District.

Gratefully yours,

Irene Huang, NCTM
President, West Portland District



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



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 Alexis Gibbons, NCTM
musicnews@oregonmta.org

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GRAPHIC DESIGN BY
 Samantha Yeung
www.samanthayeung.com

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS
 Robin Power & Caris Power
office@oregonmta.org

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CONTACT & CONNECT

office@oregonmta.org
www.oregonmta.org
 PO Box 5335
 Portland, Oregon 97228



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