

OMTA MUSIC NEWS

Opus 75, No. 7 · March 2021

UPCOMING EVENTS

2021 MTNA National Conference

March 13-17, 2021
Virtual Conference

State Composition Celebration Recital

June 5, 2021 at 3:00 PM
Virtual Recital

2021 OMTA State Conference

June 24-26, 2021
Hybrid Conference
Riverhouse Hotel, Bend, OR



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CONTACT & CONNECT

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



@OregonMTA

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR



Alexis Gibbons, NCTM
Music News Editor

It is my pleasure each month to bring you a new edition of *Music News*. This publication is important to our organization because it keeps us connected to everything happening in Oregon Districts, as well as what's happening at the State level. Each edition brings readers

news about upcoming student festivals, opportunities to attend a grant program, and general information about how our organization is serving teachers and students throughout the state.

Because *Music News* is an online publication, it can sometimes get lost in our inboxes or not reach teachers that rely more on paper than technology. As editor, I want members to have access to our publication and be able to read it monthly.

For members that would like a paper copy sent to them in the mail each month, contact the State Office at office@oregonmta.org. The subscription cost is \$20 for the ten issues we produce for the school year (due during the summer). Members can also print *Music News* directly from their computers.

In order to reach members that are plugged into social media, *Music News* will also be posted on Facebook each month.

Next month, a survey will be sent to members in order to gauge interest in *Music News*. In the meantime, if you have suggestions, comments, or ideas of what you would like to see in future publications, please email me at musicnews@oregonmta.org.



OREGON
MUSIC TEACHERS
ASSOCIATION

CONFERENCE



Selina Manson
2021 State Conference Chair

2021 State Conference

Please plan for our State Conference registration to open at the start of April. Members planning to attend in person in Bend will want to register right away. There is a limit of 25 tickets that will be available for \$125 each. This number does not include a handful of leaders who will be on site helping to run our State Conference.

For all other members, you may purchase your live streaming pass up to the day before the conference begins for \$50. However, if you want a copy of our beautiful booklet, you will need to register before the mailing deadline, which is June 11.

The Conference Committee and State Office will continue to send out reminder emails as these dates approach.

Stay safe and healthy!

Sincerely,

Selina Manson
2021 State 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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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

We Are In This Together



Sarah Ball, NCTM
OMTA President

In January 2021, we surveyed our members to gauge Health and Wellbeing compared to October 2020.

Here is a report of the results:

1. Responses were received from 99 OMTA members representing 13 Districts.
2. Student populations are holding up well over all.
 - Decrease in student population: 14%
 - Steady or increase in student population: 79%
 - N/A: 7%
3. In what ways are you currently teaching your students?
 - All or mostly online: 53.5%
 - All or mostly in person: 26.3 %
 - Equal split between online and in person: 14%
 - N/A: 6 %
4. Have you, your loved ones, or your student families been directly impacted by COVID-19?
 - Yes 45%
 - No 55%

From the “yes” responses in #4, the remarks are heart-wrenching. The virus has heavily affected our organization. Here is a sampling from a total of 42 comments:

- “My college kids won’t be able to finish their senior years at school. No graduations... this is so sad.”

- “Less work opportunities, financial stress, emotional stress, loneliness, health concerns.”
- “My daughter was severely ill for over a month last February with Covid... I’ve lost six loved ones in the last six months...”
- “We have had two family members (uncles) die and several friends in the Midwest seriously ill.”
- “Three families have gotten Covid and recovered.”

In response, I have written a formal letter to the Oregon Health Authority requesting that OMTA members be included in the wave of educators currently receiving vaccines. There are no guarantees, so please check frequently for up-to-date guidelines at <https://govstatus.egov.com/OR-OHA-COVID-19>.

The survey also shows numerous needs in the areas of Technology, Repertoire, and Pedagogy. Thank you for speaking up; we hear you. Here are some immediate suggestions:

- Check our website for answers including online teaching tips, workshop videos, and livestream presentations on numerous pertinent topics, as well as OMTA State Conference information.
- Please bring your concerns to your District Presidents who are most familiar with your situations and local resources.
- Extend extra measures of kindness and care to each other.
- Rigorously follow CDC and OHA guidelines.

Sarah Barker Ball, NCTM
OMTA President



STATE COMPOSITION CELEBRATION

Icing on the Cake



Dianne Davies
State Composition Chair

Sharing the tools for composition with our students gives them a fulfilling key to unlocking self-expression on a deeper level than performing the works of others. Helping students to compose is like teaching them to bake their own cake. The District and State

Composition Celebrations are just the icing on the cake. That icing includes an extra performance of their composition, a participation certificate, and at the State level, a medal. But even more importantly, students get a sense of accomplishment from creating a piece of their own, whether they participate in these events or not. I encourage all the districts from around the state to provide this valuable component for their students.

Districts considering starting their own District Composition Celebration, please see last month's article: <https://oregonmta.org/wp-content/uploads/2021-Music-News-February.pdf>.

District Composition Chairpersons should double check the following list and submit these items as soon as possible by email to diannedavies00@gmail.com after the completion of your district's adjudication. The state registration deadline is May 5, 2021.

1. The completed Honored Composers List filled out by your District Adjudicator.
2. District Composition Celebration Report, available on our State Website.
3. A copy of your District's Virtual Composition Celebration Recital program, if held.
4. A description of any online event related to composition your district hosted, if any.

Honored composers and their teachers will mail the items listed below to Dianne Davies at 6995 SW Larkspur Place, Beaverton, OR 97008 by May 5.

1. State Student Application Forms: <https://oregonmta.org/wp-content/uploads/Composition-Celebration-State-Student-Application.pdf>.
2. A computer-generated PDF score, with the correct formatting as shown on page two of the State Application Form. Scores not following the correct formatting will not be accepted.
3. A check payable to OMTA for the state fee, which is \$15 per student.

All Honored Composers will email "unlisted" YouTube recordings to Caris Power at the OMTA Office office@oregonmta.org by May 10. The YouTube recording is limited to 7 minutes with no minimum length. Students are to perform their own work or arrange to have someone else perform it.

The State Composition Celebration Virtual Recital will be a live premiere of all the honored composers' performance videos held on Saturday, June 5, 2021 at 3:00 PM. One week prior, a Zoom recital invitation will be emailed to all participants and their teachers. After the premiere, the video link will be emailed to all the participating students and teachers, and will also be posted on the State Website. After the recital, certificates will be emailed to the teachers, and medals will be mailed to all Honored Composers.

A booklet of all Honored Composer scores will be available for purchase. This booklet will be between \$5-7, depending on the number of entries and length of scores. These will be mailed directly to the students or teachers upon receiving payment. A pdf version will be available for \$3.

Questions? Contact Dianne Davies, State Composition Celebration Chair at 503-998-5220 or diannedavies00@gmail.com.



SYLLABUS



Heidi Evans, NCTM
Syllabus Chair

Here are some of the upcoming changes to the Upper Division Baroque, Classical, and Romantic pieces in the OMTA Repertoire List. We hope to debut these changes at our State Conference this summer.

Most changes are additions, either of composers or of popular repertoire selections. Other changes include listing the titles to coordinate more closely with the MTNA Performance Competitions requirements and updating the repertoire sources to include popular current collections and publications. Women composers are listed by full names.

Potential pitfalls are in bold, so watch out for those items as you begin to assign pieces for Fall 2021 and beyond.

Baroque

- **Bach, Minuet in E Major from Fr. Suite No. 6, BWV 817**, removed from Level 7, still listed in Level 5
- **Bach, Prelude & Fugue (pair)**—the Fugue is required for Level 10

Classical: changed “classic” to “classical”

- Joseph Boulogne, Chevalier Saint-Georges, Adagio in F Minor added to Level 7

- Agnesi Pittorini, Maria Theresa, Sonata in G Major to Level 7
- **Marianne von Martinez (Martines), Sonata in E Major**, Level 9 moved from Baroque to Classical
- Marianna von Auenbrugger, added Sonata in E-flat Major to Level 8
- **Dussek, J. L., Sonatina in G**, removed from Level 7, still listed at Level 6
- Mozart K. 331, III. Rondo alla turca removed from Level 8, stays in Level 10

Romantic

- Agathe Backer Grøndahl, added Summer Song in G Major, Op. 45, No. 3 to Level 8
- Samuel Coleridge Taylor, added The Bamboula, Op. 59, No. 2, to Level 9
- Louise Farrenc, added Impromptu in B Minor to Level 8
- Joplin, added The Easy Winners and Maple Leaf Rag to Level 9, The Entertainer to Level 10
- Nazareth, Odeon added to Level 9
- **Schubert, Waltzes, Op. 9, No. 1** is listed at Level 7 and Level 5, moved all of Op. 9 to Level 5



GRANTS



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

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

We had six wonderful grant presentations in early February and have five scheduled for early March. Thanks to the local hosts, presenters, and Nellie Tholen for making this all possible. We had attendees from three states as well as members from all across Oregon. Most of the upcoming presentations are on Zoom, so come and join us!

Contact the District President or Susan Todd for a Zoom link for each program you would like to attend. Additional details are on the OMTA website: <https://oregonmta.org/teachers/enrichment-workshops>

Dr. Matt Goodrich

Integrative Alexander Technique: for Performance and Wellness

Blue Mountain District on Zoom
Saturday, March 6, 2021
10:00 AM-12:00 PM

This workshop offers principles of the Alexander Technique, integrating them immediately with the thinking and movements employed in playing an instrument or singing.

Dr. Matt Goodrich

Masterclass with Alexander Technique

Rogue Valley District at Grace Lutheran Church
660 Frances Lane
Ashland, OR 97520

THIS EVENT HAS BEEN
POSTPONED TO APRIL 2021
Date/Time To Be Determined

Dr. Goodrich will work with students using principles of the Alexander Technique.



Dr. Matt Goodrich

Dr. Alexander Tutunov, NCTM

Masterclasses

Mid-Columbia District on Zoom
Saturday, March 6, 2021
1:00-3:00 PM

The master pianist/teacher will work with piano students in a master class setting while the audience is invited to learn by observing.



Dr. Alexander Tutunov, NCTM

Andrew D'Antonio

The Inclusive Studio: Successfully Teaching Students Who Have Special Needs

Umatilla-Morrow District on Zoom
Saturday, March 6, 2021
10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Participants will learn about a range of special needs common among music students and explore resources and techniques to make lessons enjoyable and productive for everyone.



Andrew D'Antonio



Emily Ross

Teaching the Special Learner: Wisdom and Strategies for the Independent Music Teacher

Umpqua Valley-South Coast District on Zoom and (possibly live) at Douglas County Library
1409 NE Diamond Lake Blvd
Roseburg, OR 97470

Tuesday, March 9, 2021
12:30-2:00 PM

We know that studying music is good for everyone. Some children come to us, however, without the attention span or executive functioning skills to excel in private music lessons without some special considerations. Music therapist, Emily Ross, MA, MT-BC, will review the characteristics of autism, ADHD, intellectual disabilities, and emotional disturbance, and outline both specific strategies and general ideas for approaching students who present with these characteristics.

Jennifer Wright

Playing Perfectly: What It Takes to Practice and Perform Completely Without Mistakes (or Fear of Mistakes)—Yes, It's Possible!

Central Oregon District on Zoom
Friday, April 9, 2021
10:45 AM-12:15 PM

This workshop shows how to develop a joyous lifelong practice approach and gives participants

the tools and practice techniques to eliminate mistakes (and the terrible fear of mistakes) entirely from their playing.



Jennifer Wright

Dr. Johnandrew Slominski

Acquiring Aural Skills: Listening Deeply

Linn-Benton District on Zoom
Tuesday, April 13, 2021
10:00-11:30 AM

The composer and pianist Robert Schumann wrote in 1848 that, "You must get to the point that you can hear music from the page. ... A perfect musician should be able to picture a piece, at first hearing...as though he had the score in front of him." This workshop, facilitated by Dr. Slominski (former theory and aural skills faculty at the Eastman School of Music), opens a conversation about teaching and learning through a nuanced aural curriculum.



Dr. Johnandrew Slominski

Dr. Crystal Zimmerman

Non-Verbal Teaching: Identifying and Utilizing Learning Styles

Central Oregon District on Zoom
Friday, May 7, 2021
10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Learn how you can enhance non-verbal communication and overall rapport with students and identify what sensory modes might need further development.



Dr. Crystal Zimmerman



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 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>

Stay well!

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

MUSICLINK

Annette Dempsey, NCTM, Oregon MusicLink State Coordinator

Although these have been difficult times, Oregon MusicLink is holding steady and gearing up for what we anticipate to be an increased need in our state once this pandemic has loosened its grip on us all. We are currently making plans to do a statewide outreach effort when things start to open up again.

We lost a few MusicLink students as the pandemic necessitated remote lessons. These losses were due to changes in family circumstances, such as parents having to take their children to work with them as well as issues with insufficient internet connectivity. We have also linked a few new students to teachers during this time and we are hopeful that some of those who had to stop their lessons will be able to return in a few months.

Our biggest project during this time was a complex effort to move three donated pianos from Portland across the state to Ontario. This was a partnership between The MusicLink Foundation, Oregon MusicLink, MusicLink teacher Rebekah Carter, NCTM, the Portland non-profit called Play It Forward, a

public school in the Ontario area, and West Coast Piano Movers. Each partner donated funds in addition to quite a bit of time and effort to get this organized. Rebekah applied for and received a Grass Roots Grant from the MusicLink Foundation. Play It Forward, which donates instruments to students in need, offered a choice of numerous pianos for this effort. Amy Vanacore evaluated numerous pianos to determine the best instruments to send. Two of the pianos went to Rebekah's students and the third went to a public school which was sorely in need of a better piano. All recipients are delighted with their new pianos!

One of Rebekah's MusicLink students had been playing on a truly broken instrument which had a completely non-functional pedal and several keys that didn't make any sound. She is so happy to have a piano on which she can really develop her skills! Although it took a long time for everything to come together, this has been a real feel-good project for all of us.



CENTRAL OREGON DISTRICT



Helen Jones, NCTM
Central Oregon District Secretary

Our Winter Festival will be in person on March 13. This year, we are featuring Impressionistic and Contemporary Era composers. We usually have an adjudicator, but this year we will not. During this festival, protocols from the Oregon Health Authority will be followed regarding COVID-19.

Our Zoom program on March 12 will be given by our fellow teachers. They will share one teaching idea that works for them.



Our April 9 program on Zoom will be given by Jennifer Wright. Her presentation is titled *Playing Perfectly: What It Takes to Practice & Perform Completely Without Mistakes (Or Fear of Mistakes)—Yes, It's Possible.*



Jennifer Wright

Jennifer Wright, is a keyed-instruments performer, composer, educator, graphic artist, event producer and culture-maker. She is passionate about creating beautiful, thought-provoking cultural realities and memorable, multi-sensory performance experiences. Her work melds diverse artistic disciplines and expressions to create adventurous

contexts that reshape the landscape of performative experience in order to engage, inspire, move, and change both the giver and the receiver for the better. We are looking forward to hearing her present!



EAST PORTLAND DISTRICT



Liz Willis, NCTM
East Portland District President

As I sit to write this, East Portland is starting to thaw from one of the most serious ice storms in many years. Many thousands of homes are without power, which means no internet service for many. Online lessons may be interrupted or postponed, with Syllabus exams scheduled in two weeks. This new year is again testing our ability for patience and flexibility.

East Portland enjoyed a very informative program on January 23. Sarah Barker Ball, NCTM gave a presentation on constructivist

teaching methods for the music studio. The Zoom meeting concluded with a brief business meeting at the end of Sarah's program. We look forward to our next meeting on February 22, with a program titled *Muse Whispering, Teaching Techniques that Make Composition Possible for Every Student*. This program will be presented by Jennifer Wright.

We are not meeting in March but will have another Zoom meeting on Saturday, April 24. The program will be presented by Ashlee Young

and titled *A Seat at the Piano, Expanding the Teaching Repertoire*. Everyone from around the state is welcome to our programs if you can join us! The Zoom link will be on our website (www.omta-east-portland.org and click on the Calendar) about a week prior to each meeting.

Liz Willis, NCTM
President, East Portland District



EUGENE DISTRICT



Sandy Hull, NCTM
Eugene District Member

Greetings from the Eugene District!

Our District continues to persevere despite all the challenges of teaching during a pandemic. We are still in shock that we are coming up on an entire year of distance learning. We all miss our students and families!

Many of us are looking forward to attending the Virtual MTNA Conference in March. The lineup looks fantastic! Our District will also be celebrating our very own, Carol White, NCTM, as she receives the MTNA Foundation Fellow Award at the Conference Gala on Monday evening. Congratulations Carol! We are so grateful for the many hours, many years, and the expertise that you have dedicated to our organization.

Our teachers are busy practicing and preparing for our Annual Teacher Showcase Recital on Sunday, May 16 via Zoom and YouTube. This showcase recital gives students an opportunity to hear their teachers perform. In the past, we have used this recital as a fundraiser for student scholarships, as well as showcasing the student scholarship winners.

We are looking forward to hosting Dr. Matt Cooper on March 8 for our District meeting on Zoom. Dr. Cooper's lecture will be exploring American composers and is titled *Ebony and Ivory: American Composers from Copland to Ellington*. Our April presenter will be Donna Gunn giving a lecture titled *A Modern Pianist's Journey Through Discoveries from the Fortepiano*.

We heard some outstanding performances from our students who performed for the Virtual District Baroque Festival on February 6. There were two recitals, and many thanks go to Dr. Olga Aynvarg, Ellen McQuiklin, NCTM, and Andrew Pham for serving as co-chairs.

Student events are going well as we continue to experiment with different formats. Our next virtual student recital will be our Eugene OMTA District Recital on Saturday, March 13. Students will have the choice to perform live or submit pre-recorded videos.

Sincerely Submitted,

Sandy Hull, NCTM



LINCOLN COUNTY DISTRICT



Mary Morganti
Lincoln County District Member

Our District has continued to meet online each month. We miss gathering together in person, but we are happy to “see” each other monthly.

We have been having brief business meetings, and then we play a piece or two for each other. We decided that it would be nice to have something to practice for and keep our performing skills intact.

On February 5 and 6, our District

hosted Dr. Alexander Tutunov for workshops and open lessons. On Friday afternoon, Dr. Tutunov gave us a two-hour discussion on the Russian School of Music and Piano Technique. We all enjoyed the talk and learned many new things as well as having a great reminder of techniques that we have all tried in our teaching.

On Saturday, Dr. Tutunov worked for over four hours with four teachers in an open lesson format. Performing for Dr. Tutunov were

Cathy Champion, Rita Warton, Mary Morganti and Ramona Goddard.

Our District is always thrilled to host Dr. Tutunov and we always benefit greatly from his wisdom, his kind teaching style, and his humor!

Mary Morganti



ROGUE VALLEY DISTRICT

Thor Polson, Rogue Valley District Member

Dr. Alexander Tutunov, director of keyboard studies and artist-in-residence at Southern Oregon University (SOU), conducted a master class on Saturday, January 30 from 1:00 PM to 6:00 PM.

Because of the virus restrictions, the event was held remotely, and the participants played the following pieces:

- Luke Li: Running Along by Kabalevsky
- Noah Tabaldo: Fond Memories by Gurlitt
- Peter Koenig: Solfeggietto by C. P. E. Bach
- Will Brock: Prelude in C Major, BWV 846 by J. S. Bach
- Teagan Calkins: Waltz in C-sharp Minor, Op. 64, No. 2 by Chopin
- Russell Martino: Reverie by Debussy
- Ean Lawrence: Sonata in D Minor, Op. 31, No. 2, Mvt. 2 by Beethoven
- Max Woolf: Sonata in C Minor, Op. 10, No. 1, Mvt. 3 by Beethoven

Peter Koenig and Max Woolf performed their pieces live, while the others submitted YouTube recordings for Dr. Tutunov's online comments. Dr. Tutunov is a beloved teacher and performer in Southern Oregon, and it would be difficult to overstate his influence on the music community here in the Rogue Valley. For more information about his life and remarkable career, visit his website at www.tutunov.com. Many thanks to Dr. Tutunov and our District



Dr. Alexander Tutunov

President, Michele Alspach, for having made this event possible!

Other news from our region:

Our committee meetings have been held remotely since the beginning of the year. At the meeting on February 22, members started planning future events. We feel somewhat encouraged by the fact that local churches have begun to allow more people to gather, and we can only hope that that trend will continue.

Because of the virus restrictions, the Joyce Stevens Scholarship Benefit Recital, originally scheduled for February 27, has been canceled. There is some talk of organizing an unrelated, open-air piano recital this summer, but that idea is still under consideration.

Upcoming events:

Dr. Matt Goodrich will give a presentation on March 13. Dr. Goodrich, member of the SOU music faculty, will conduct a master class with coaching from a holistic, performance-oriented point of view.

Thor Polson will give a presentation on April 12. Polson, a local piano teacher and co-founder of the Janus Jazz Quintet, will talk about composing and arranging in the jazz idiom.

The Sonatina Festival and Recital will happen on May 15 and 16. All of us are determined that traditional annual events like the Festival will take place in some form or another!



TUALATIN VALLEY DISTRICT



Teresa Sealey
Tualatin Valley District President

Tualatin Valley District welcomed Lisa Marsh as our guest presenter in February with her presentation on *Body Mapping for Pianists*. Lisa directs the Coordinate Movement Program at Portland State University. The presentation was excellent with demonstrations on her piano and participation from the audience. Lisa taught us about the importance of sitting balanced at the piano, while focusing on cues that helped with the alignment of the spine, spatial awareness, and breathing. We learned about whole arm movement and flexibility of the wrist. Lisa used a variety of repertoire in her demonstrations and also included music selections suggested by our members for her demonstration. We highly recommend Lisa Marsh's program *Body Mapping for Pianists!*

The Baroque Festival in January was a huge success with 76 students participating.

The Composition Celebration is our featured event in February. By now everyone's pieces have been submitted to the adjudicator.

Coming up this Spring:

- Lower Division Syllabus is happening March 5-7. Registration is closed.
- On March 12, Dr. Matt Cooper will be presenting *Ebony and Ivory: American Composers from Copland to Ellington*.
- Upper Division Syllabus is April 30-May 2. Registration opens February 28, 2021 and closes March 31, 2021.
- Scholarship Auditions are April

23, 2021. The application deadline is April 2, 2021.

Tualatin Valley Districts extends a huge CONGRATULATIONS and applause to these Tualatin Valley colleagues for being selected for the Tholen Fellowship: Lilin Chen, Heidi Bruno, and Sally Crawford! We are so excited for you all!

Together for Music!

Teresa Sealey
President, Tualatin Valley District



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. MS Word and Google Doc files preferred.

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

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Publication dates and deadlines are listed below. Submitting material before deadlines is always helpful and appreciated.

Submission Deadlines

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

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

Upcoming Deadlines

March 15, 2021
 April 15, 2021



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EDITED BY
 Alexis Gibbons, NCTM
musicnews@oregonmta.org

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 Oregon Music Teachers Association

AFFILIATED WITH
 Music Teachers National Association

GRAPHIC DESIGN BY
 Samantha Yeung
www.samanthayeung.com

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

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