

OMTA MUSIC NEWS

Opus 76, No. 1 · September 2021

UPCOMING EVENTS

Fall State Board Meeting

September 25, 2021 from 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm
Tualatin Public Library Community Room, Tualatin, OR

2021 Syllabus Adjudicator Retreat

October 2, 2021 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm
Virtual/Online

2021 Sonatina Festival

October 9, 2021 from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm
University of Oregon School of Music and Dance, Eugene, OR

2022 MTNA National Conference

March 26-30, 2022
Minneapolis, Minnesota



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CONTACT & CONNECT

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@OregonMTA

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Sarah Ball, NCTM
OMTA President

Musical Growth for All

As we launch into a new teaching year, our new Vision Statement leads the way: **Musical Growth for All**. Think of it as a banner out in front with a parade of OMTA events following behind, each with their own drumbeat, character, and décor. Teachers, students, and their families are all swept up in the excitement and possibilities that lie ahead.

We have come through such a difficult and challenging time; I am confident you will adapt and succeed in the coming year. In fact, congratulations on your **American Eagle Award!** This summer, the National Music Council chose to recognize OMTA for continuing to teach music during the 2020-2021 school year.

Here is a message from Gary Ingle, CEO of MTNA, when he announced the award, "You and your teaching colleagues truly did heroic work to keep music and music education alive during the pandemic. We send our very best wishes for a successful new year of teaching that begins this fall."

Enjoy the parade!

Sarah Ball, NCTM
OMTA President



OREGON
MUSIC TEACHERS
ASSOCIATION

GRANT JOB OPENING ANNOUNCEMENT

OMTA is now soliciting applicants for the paid position as Grant Coordinator following the resignation of Susan Todd, effective in Fall of 2022. During the 2021-2022 academic year, the new coordinator is invited to job shadow with Susan to ease the transition. The term of service is three years.

Duties

The OMTA/OCF Grant Coordinator will be responsible for maintaining and recruiting for a roster of master teachers and presenters and coordinating presentations in all districts outside the Portland metropolitan area. Said districts are eligible annually for one two-hour presentation. Additionally, the identified rural or underserved districts are eligible for one multi-day session.

The OMTA/OCF Grant Coordinator will prepare a budget, request funds as needed from the Restricted Funds Treasurer to compensate presenters, write annual reports for the Oregon Community Foundation, and communicate on a regular basis with the OMTA Board of Directors.

Qualifications

The Grant Coordinator should be a current OMTA member with knowledge of the various districts throughout the state, experience as an OMTA teacher, familiarity with OMTA curriculum, and the goals and values of OMTA, as well as be familiar with the leadership in each district.

Compensation

The Grant Coordinator will receive an honorarium of \$3,000 per year.

To Apply

The application deadline is October 1, 2021. For further information or to apply for this position, please contact Liz Willis at this email address: president.elect@orgonmta.org.



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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PAST PRESIDENT

Selina Manson

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Selina Manson

CERTIFICATION

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Selina Manson

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PUBLICATIONS

Alexis Gibbons, NCTM

SYLLABUS

Heid Evans, NCTM



“WHAT EVERY PIANIST NEEDS TO KNOW ABOUT THE BODY”

A Virtual Course for Performers, Teachers, and Advanced Students
Presented by Dr. Anita King
September 14-18, 2021

In this 5-session course, pianist Anita King offers an in-depth introduction to the somatic method of “Body Mapping.” Body Mapping teaches us to move in relation to accurate anatomical information about the body in motion. It awakens and enhances self-perception through our tactile and kinesthetic senses, and teaches us to expand our attention to include our performance space and its contents. In addition to preventing and resolving performance-related injuries or limitations, musicians discover how well-coordinated movement increases ease and control in playing, greatly enhances and expands artistic choices, and helps lessen and even eliminate any negative effects from performance anxiety. In the end, our movement and expressive possibilities will be limitless and our playing a continual source of joy, freedom, and renewal.

Anita King is Prof. of Music Emerita at Willamette University, an active performing pianist, a certified teacher of the Alexander Technique and a Licensed Body Mapping Educator.

Each 90-minute session will be held from 10:00 am-11:30 am each day (PT, USA). Sessions are recorded and available to registrants who may have a time conflict with the live events.



The course is highly interactive, combining presentation, performance of illustrative excerpts at the piano, and movement activities and explorations by the participants. **NOTE:** The course will be taught in relation to playing the piano. However, the information and movement principles learned can be applied to any performance medium so any musician interested in Body Mapping and improving overall coordination is welcome to join.

This course is sponsored by The Exhale Master Course, a forum on musicians’ health and well-being. For more complete information about each individual session and how to register please click on the following link:

<https://www.the-exhale.com/class/what-every-pianist-needs-to-know-about-the-body-sep-21>

“Anita King’s workshops on Body Mapping are revelatory! Her presentations situate participants in their bodies with sensory experiences that deepen “conversations” between various parts of the body, the instrument, and the environment. Anita’s musical demonstrations at the piano are a special highlight of her presentations. I left her workshops with new insights that translated immediately into my playing and teaching. Anita’s engaging workshops are an inspiration and a must for musicians of all levels wishing to experience physical ease and deepen their understanding of movement and its relationship to artistic musical performance.”

Nina Scolnik, Professor of Teaching, Piano, Department of Music, University of California, Irvine

2021 OMTA SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Kelli Stephens and Paula Watt, Scholarship Chairs

The competitive OMTA Scholarship Awards for 2021 were held live on Saturday and Sunday, May 15 and 16 at Portland Piano Company. There were sixty-six student entries representing twenty-six teachers. Our most resilient, valued, and accomplished judges were Renny Ko and Belinda Chen for piano, and Janet Coleman and Angela Niederloh for string and voice. Congratulations to all who entered! Here are the results:

Jean Williams

1st: Timmy Cho, student of Lucy Clevenger
2nd: Alicia Cheng, student of Rachele McCabe
HM: Evelyne Knight, student of Kelli Stephens

Tom O'Brien Senior

1st: Aidan Burris, student of Elizabeth Morris
HM: Janet Zhang, student of Elena Istratova

Edith Strange

1st: Jesse Nieman, student of Julia Lee
2nd: William True, student of Shirley Brendlinger
3rd: Carter Bowlin, student of Elizabeth Morris

Cris Tapang Memorial

1st: Katie Liu, student of Leslie Chen
2nd tie: Macy Gong, student of Monica Ohuchi Bunch
2nd tie: Peter Wang, student of Paula Watt
3rd: Ishika Chakraborty, student of Lucy Clevenger
HM: Angela Ye, student of Elizabeth Morris

Tom O'Brien Junior

1st tie: Haruka Hirai, student of Momoko Muramatsu
1st tie: Yooeun Kang, student of JungAh Lee
HM: Pavlina White, student of Julia Lee

D. Suzanne Raines

1st: Cyrus Ngan, student of Maria Garcia
2nd: Daniel Sutanto, student of Paula Watt
3rd: Michael Hsu, student of Thomas Otten
HM: Nikita Istratov, student of Elena Istratova
HM: Raynah Cheng, student of Linda Barker

Portland District Instrumental

1st: Paul Nguyen, student of Kelli Stephens
2nd: Justin Bian, student of Paula Watt

Gladys Strong

2nd: Emily Chiu, student of Claire Wachter

Eleanore East and Edward G. Michaels

1st: Ellie Choi, student of Linda Barker
2nd: Emma Wang, student of Paula Watt
3rd: Murat Acar, student of Elena Istratova
HM: Candace Ngan, student of Maria Garcia

Donna and David Eason

1st: Michael Gu, student of Rachele McCabe
2nd: Jaeheon Bang, student of Yunhee Lee
3rd: Alan Ma, student of Elena Istratova

Dorothy Pederson Fahlman

2nd: David Thomas, student of Paula Watt

Lillian Pettibone

1st: Rain Wong, student of Kelli Stephens

Aurora Underwood

1st: HaoYang Jiang, student of Rachele McCabe
2nd: Michael Sutanto, student of Paula Watt

OMTA Voice

1st: Athena VanDyke, student of Vanessa Jump Nelson

Lina Belle Tartar

1st: Ian Schipper, student of Elizabeth Caswell
2nd: Amy Guo, student of Vanessa Jump Nelson

OMTA Orchestral Instrumental—High School

1st: Claire Youn, student of Hae-Jin Kim
2nd: Ellie Kim, student of Carol Sindell
3rd: Elyse Nah, student of Martha Long

Maude Sardam Collaborative

1st: Timothy and Paul Lee, students of Paula Watt

Jeannette Scott Briggs—Elementary

1st: Emily Rhew, student of Hae-Jin Kim
2nd: Yoojin Kang, student of Hae-Jin Kim

Jeannette Scott Briggs—Middle School

1st: Andrew Lee, student of Hae-Jin Kim

Jeannette Scott Briggs—High School

1st: Derek Choi, student of Hae-Jin Kim

Respectfully submitted,
 Kelli Stephens and Paula Watt



CONFERENCE



Selina Manson
2021 State Conference Chair

Rewatch the 2021 OMTA State Conference

Videos from the 2021 OMTA State Conference will soon be available!

If you were unable to join our hybrid conference in Bend this year, no problem! Our videographer captured all the action and created a video of each session and concert.

Each week, one new video will be added to the website. Here are the releases for September:

September 3

Artina McCain: *Kaleidoscope: Introducing Students to Underrepresented Composers*

September 10

William Chapman Nyaho: *Performance Anxiety: Tips on Combating "The Shakes"*

September 17

Artina McCain: *Building Healthy Practice Techniques from Injury to Prevention*

September 24

Gary Ruppert: *The Beatles Reimagined*

To watch these amazing sessions and others from the 2019 and 2020 Conferences, simply follow this link: <https://oregonmta.org/teachers/conferences>. Until September 10, continue to use our OMTA login and password. Then switch to logging in with your own unique username and password when our website updates.

Watch for an update in next month's *Music News* for the October video schedule. I greatly enjoyed planning this Conference and hope you enjoy watching these sessions as much as I did.

Sincerely,

Selina Manson
2021 Conference Chair



COMPOSITION CELEBRATION



Dianne Davies
State Composition Chair

One Step at a Time

As we walk into a new school year with the hopes of freedom from COVID-19, it is the perfect time to prepare for some new curriculum. If you have not provided opportunities for composition in your studio, perhaps now is the time to start.

One step you can take is to check out the video concert on the OMTA state website for ideas from the current participating students:

<https://oregonmta.org/programs/festivals/composition-celebration>. The 2021 State Compositional Recital will remain on the Composition Celebration page through October 2021.

Another step you can take is to look for workshops on teaching composition. MTNA National Conference 2021 had several good workshops and there are more to come in 2022. Regular online webinar announcements come from MTNA, the Francis Clark Center and Compose Create. Sign up for information at www.keyboardpedagogy.org or with Wendy Stevens at www.composecreate.com.

A final suggested step to take is to check opportunities in your district and see what composition events are already in place. If your district does not have a Composition Festival/Celebration, consider chairing the event or join a district that does. You can do this by registering for dual membership. Currently, I am a member of West

Portland and Tualatin Valley Districts. Dual membership gives me more scheduling options for my students to participate in OMTA events.

As we move forward, I would like to take the giant step to keep the online virtual recital for the State Composition Celebration. My plan is to recruit the outer regions of Oregon to participate. One silver lining from the pandemic is learning how to do an online event and see the benefits of statewide activities that do not demand travel. My hope is that composition will become an even bigger part of what our organization offers. I would encourage any feedback about this plan moving forward. Please email me at diannedavies00@gmail.com.

Students that have participated in the State Composition Celebration and are looking for more opportunities, please see the MTNA website under the tab ENGAGE. The first option, Competitions, will provide the applications and fees, entry guidelines, and winner awards. The deadline for the MTNA Composition Competition is Wednesday, September 15, 2021, 3:00 P.M. Eastern Time:

<https://www.mtna.org/MTNA/Engage/Competitions/Competitions.aspx>.

Inspire—Imagine—Impassion

Dianne Davies
State Composition Chair



EXTENDED STUDY OF MUSICIANSHIP AND REPERTOIRE (ESMAR)

Jan Mittelstaedt, ESMAR Chair

Three students of Grace Chen, Jan Mittelstaedt, and Dr. Anne Young participated in ESMAR this spring. We had a wonderful day on June 5 when Dr. Jill Timmons assessed our students in person!

Now, two months later, we are reevaluating the ESMAR program and making a few changes to the requirements that will make our program even more relevant in the changing times. How will ESMAR competencies most benefit our students? We believe that sight reading skills leap to the top. Dr. Jill Timmons says, "From state and national conferences along with entrance testing for colleges and universities, sight reading is a key competency that has moved to the fore." Even those students who do not study music in college or who do not apply for a music scholarship will benefit from having strong sight reading skills. They may accompany a choir, be part of a chamber ensemble, be an accompanist for a high school musical, accompany an instrumentalist or singer, be their child's first piano teacher, and the list goes on and on. I believe that a person is more likely to enjoy playing the piano for pleasure if one is a good reader. The updated 2021-2022 guidelines will be available by the beginning of September.

I would like to create a sight reading guide for students and teachers that would include many ideas. For example, while working on Reverie by Mendelssohn today, I asked the student to play the melody only while counting aloud. When she was secure, I played the piece as written on a second piano while she played the melody. She was forced to keep going when she made an error and had to practice fitting the melody into the rest of the piece with the correct rhythm. This could have been done on one piano, as well. Please send me your ideas as they would be appreciated for this project.

Please send me the names of your students who are currently working on ESMAR for spring 2022. The assessment date will also be announced early this fall.

Thanks to all the teachers who have been part of ESMAR throughout the years, and special thanks to Dr. Jill Timmons, who has not only been our assessor since the beginning but helped with curriculum design from the committee's first meeting.

Jan Mittelstaedt, NCTM
janmitt@gmail.com



SONATINA FESTIVAL



Rebekah Carter, NCTM
Sonatina Festival Chair

The biennial OMTA Sonatina Festival is scheduled for Saturday, October 9, at the University of Oregon. Registration opened Monday, August 9 on **Leggiero** (<https://omta.leggierosw.com>) and closes Friday, September 10, 11:59 PM PST.

Registration is \$30 per student for OMTA members, \$35 per student for nonmembers. Students must select repertoire from the **Required Repertoire List** (https://oregonmta.org/wp-content/uploads/Sonatina_Festival_Repertoire_List.pdf). All registrations are final.

Please refer to the OMTA Sonatina Festival website page for festival guidelines. Contact festival chairs with any questions:

Rebekah Carter, NCTM, rebekah@carterpiano.studio
Sandy Hull, NCTM, hullpiano@gmail.com

2021 OMTA Sonatina Festival: COVID-19 Policy

The Sonatina Festival is planned to be held in person. If necessary, the festival will be converted to an online event and participants will be notified. CDC and OHA guidelines for COVID-19 will be observed, in accordance with OMTA policy. The following guidelines are subject to change, and will follow the most current CDC and OHA recommendations.

OHA is now recommending universal mask use in public indoor settings throughout the state. In addition, it is **strongly recommended** that individuals who are unvaccinated or who are at risk for severe COVID-19 disease maintain physical distancing of at least six feet from other individuals when in crowded areas and in large gatherings of individuals. Hand sanitizer will be placed beside each piano for students to use before and after performing. In addition, the keys will be sanitized between performers according to University of Oregon policy and procedure. Do not attend the

festival if you are experiencing any symptoms of illness.

Leggiero & Registration Instructions:

1. Log into your Leggiero account.
2. Select "Edit My Account" and confirm your address is current, even if you have updated your address with MTNA/OMTA. (Leggiero requires a separate address update.)
3. Choose "State" as the district.
4. Under "Festivals" select "Sonatina Festival."
5. Input the title, composer, and duration of the piece.
6. Check the "Special Circumstances" box and list Level with a zero in front of the number (e.g. 04). Level 10 does not require a zero in front of the level number. Also, please indicate if you are able to volunteer as a room monitor that day.
7. Print the receipt. Mail the receipt and a check made payable to OMTA to:

Rebekah Carter, NCTM
OMTA Sonatina Festival Co-Chair
9529 W Mossywood Dr.
Boise, ID 83709

Checks must be postmarked by the registration deadline. Please write **one** check for all participants.

8. Complete a **Photo Release Form** (https://oregonmta.org/wp-content/uploads/OMTA_PhotoVideo_Release_Form.pdf) and **COVID-19 Liability Waiver Form** (https://members.mtna.org/FAQs/COVID_Waiver.pdf) for each participant. These forms are mandatory regardless of the festival taking place online or in person. Either print and mail, along with the receipt and check, or scan and email to: rebekah@carterpiano.studio.

Photo Release Forms and COVID-19 Liability Waiver Forms are **required** for each participant by the registration deadline.

*Note: If a participant has already signed a Photo Release Form or COVID-19 Liability Waiver Form this year, a copy of this may be submitted. It is not necessary to complete an additional form.

—Rebekah Carter, NCTM, Sonatina Festival Chair



SYLLABUS



Heidi Evans, NCTM
Syllabus Chair

Syllabus is kicking off the Fall 2021 season with high hopes for a hybrid season with both virtual and in-person adjudications. Here's a preview of what to expect:

In-person Syllabus: Per the guidelines from the Oregon Health Authority, all participants will wear masks, regardless of vaccination status. Everyone should wash hands upon entering the host studio. Parents and siblings are to remain in the car. Look for updates to in-person Syllabus safety protocols on the OMTA website under Syllabus.

Virtual Syllabus: We had a steep learning curve this past year but we met the challenge! A few minor tweaks to the virtual Syllabus protocols include a Monday/Tuesday deadline for all PDFs and links, and that video links are for Upper Division only, Levels 7-10.

Hoping for both in-person and virtual exams for your students this fall? Expect them to happen on different days. Asking an adjudicator to switch between in-person and virtual from a host studio is not a likely proposition.

Requests for in-person exams will be accommodated as much as possible within adjudicator availability. Some requests will have to be switched to virtual if we don't have enough available adjudicators, so please be patient with your chairperson as we navigate the uncharted waters of a hybrid Syllabus season.

Teachers of Level X Syllabus students should check with the Syllabus Repertoire Committee if the pieces aren't on the Syllabus Repertoire Lists or chosen from a reputable graded series. The biggest heartache each year is having to tell teachers that the repertoire doesn't meet the requirements to pass an Evaluation, and a few minutes of research when assigning pieces can keep this from happening.

Questions? Ask your district chairperson first, always! If they're not sure, they can direct you to the person who has the answers you're looking for. Repertoire questions can be addressed directly to the Syllabus Repertoire Committee members who are listed on the OMTA website.

Heidi Evans
OMTA Syllabus Chair



GRANTS



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

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

As we prepare for our students to return this fall, whether virtually or in person, we also prepare to continue our own education. Hopefully you were able to view some or all of the OMTA Conference in June. The Conference Committee did an amazing job of bringing in top-notch presenters. The OMTA/OCF grant helped fund videography to enable members to attend via livestream, and for all members to view the presentations on the members-only part of our website.

Meanwhile, do mark your calendar and plan to attend a grant program near you, or attend virtually if that is available. We will be following current CDC and OHA guidelines, so be sure to check with the District President a few days in advance of any program you'd like to attend to see if it is live or virtual.

We will try to keep up-to-date information on the OMTA website, and you are always welcome to email me with any questions. Visit <https://oregonmta.org/teachers/enrichment-workshops> for the latest workshop updates.

Upcoming Grant Programs for Fall 2021:

Umpqua Valley-South Coast District Live, Location TBA

Tuesday, October 12, 2021, 10:30 AM-12:30 PM

Dr. Johnandrew Slominski:

Acquiring Aural Skills: Listening Deeply

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.

District Lincoln County District via Zoom

Friday, November 5, 2021, 10:00 AM -12:00 PM

Rebekah Carter, NCTM:

Lions and Tigers and... PARENTS!... Oh My!
Constructive Communication With Parents

This workshop will use humor and interactive activities as well as practical tools to help teachers communicate with parents.. This workshop includes a handout of useful phrases for common "sticky situations," interactive role-playing, exploration of your studio's communication style, other not-so-

obvious forms of communication you use every day, helpful apps, and a practical look at the MTNA Code of Ethics for professional guidance.

Rogue Valley District Live, Location TBA

Monday, November 8, 2021, 9:30-11:30 AM

Rebekah Carter, NCTM:

Lions and Tigers and... PARENTS!... Oh My!
Constructive Communication With Parents

See description for the program on November 5 for Lincoln County.

Eugene District via Zoom

All members welcome, contact Susan Todd for link
Monday, November 8, 2021, 10:00-11:30 AM

Deborah Cleaver

The Taubman Approach

Musicians utilizing the Taubman approach can improve technique, prevent fatigue and injury, and maximize their ability to express music. This presentation will focus on the practical aspects of the Taubman approach that can be incorporated without a lot of training. Teachers will learn the most advantageous physical relation to the keyboard, how to successfully perform leaps, polyrhythms, chords and octaves, and improved tone production.



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*

HUMORESQUE

What type of music are balloons afraid of? Pop music!



WEBSITE UPDATE



Selina Manson
Website Chair

Unique Member Website Logins Coming Soon

OMTA would like to share some exciting updates that will happen on our state website soon. Beginning September 10, members will need to have their own unique username and password to access member-only portions of the website. Members will no longer share a common username and password. When the new website changes launch, active members will receive an email from the state office indicating that it is time to create your password. Simply click the link and follow the steps outlined in the email to complete the process.

One section of the website that will change significantly is our membership directory. The directory will include new functionality that will allow active members to search by any field and to filter by specialty and district.

Members should also note that you'll need to log in to access Syllabus manuals and repertoire lists (both downloads and in the Marketplace) and recorded State Conference session videos.

Any updates to personal contact information will still need to be updated with MTNA and sent to OMTA.

You can access your MTNA account online here: https://www.mtna.org/MTNA/Sign_In.aspx?. Please email the state office with your changes: office@oregonmta.org.

The new system requires usernames to be in an email address format and will be based on addresses supplied to MTNA. For members who do not have email addresses, a proxy address, based on the member's MTNA number, will be created and used for login purposes only. These members will maintain the ability to create a unique and private password. This will require the assistance of the state office.

We hope you are as excited as we are for these new advancements which enhance your member experience and protect member-only content on the OMTA state website.

Sincerely,

Selina Manson, Website Chair
Caris Power, Website Coordinator



CENTRAL OREGON DISTRICT



Helen Jones, NCTM
Central Oregon District
Secretary

We had a wonderful OMTA State Conference in Bend in June. We enjoyed presentations, master classes, and performances from Dr. Artina McCain and Dr. William Chapman Nyaho. We learned so much from each of them. We had members attend online and in person. We were especially proud of Matthias Santucci, a former piano student of Margaret Littlehales, NCTM and now studying with Janet Smith, who performed in the Advanced Master Class with Dr. Nyaho. He played Waldesrauschen by Franz Liszt.

Central Oregon District plans to meet in person this fall. Our September program will be pianist,

composer and educator Paula Dreyer from Bend. She will be presenting *Rote Pieces: One Piece of the Pedagogical Puzzle*. She has composed the album (among others) called Central Star and has traveled around the world as a performer. We look forward to hearing her present to our District.

Congratulations to Carolee Harbour, NCTM for being our MTNA Foundation Fellow and to Cindy Peterson-Pearl NCTM and Susan Todd NCTM for the Honorary Lifetime Membership Award. We are proud of you!



Matthias Santucci



Paula Dreyer



EUGENE DISTRICT



Sandy Hull

Eugene District Corresponding Secretary

Greetings from Eugene District!

As we all tentatively plan how to approach reopening our studios both online and in person, it is comforting to know we have the guidance of MTNA and OMTA at the State and District level to help us safely navigate our ever changing policies and protocols. Be sure to investigate MTNA's COVID Toolkit that is packed with Legal FAQ's and valuable resources compiled specifically for teaching music in these challenging times. Some tips I learned were to make sure disinfecting wipes kill both bacteria and viruses and are alcohol based (avoid bleach based or citrus). I also learned that using an air purifier with HEPA filter and UVC light can help. Most important is to communicate expectations clearly with parents abouts options for online lessons, in-person lessons or both as well as precautionary measures you need to instate to maintain a safe environment for students while showing that you are staying informed with local guidelines.

We look forward to hosting the OMTA Sonatina Festival on Saturday, October 9 at the University of Oregon in Eugene. We hope to see everyone in person. We are also moving ahead with our traditional student festivals with the precedent of securing performance venues a minimum of four weeks prior to the event or event will be hosted online.

Janet Pollack, our Vice President and Program Chair, is busy planning our monthly programs for our

District meetings. Programs will cover a wide range of topics including historically informed workshops, new jazz Syllabus, ideas for teaching composition, insight into the piano's action and musical expressivity, among others.

As you may have been informed, a dear long-time member of our District, Victor Steinhardt, passed away peacefully at home on July 30 in Eugene.

Please see the obituary that was sent via email to all OMTA members. His witty and wonderful sense of humor will be missed as well as his amazing beautiful artistry at the piano. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be offered to Pete Moore Hospice and/or Parkinson's Resources of Oregon.



Victor Steinhardt

Sincerely Submitted,

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



ROGUE VALLEY DISTRICT

Thor Polson, Rogue Valley District Reports Chair

On May 15, our District hosted the Sonatina Festival throughout the day with Dr. Alexander Tutunov as the adjudicator. Twelve students and their teachers (Michele Alspach, Pat Daly, and Tatsiana Asheichyk) participated in the event. The recital took place the following day at Artistic Piano at 3 PM. It was a performance that was very welcome to an audience starving for live music.

This year, the Joyce Stevens Scholarship was awarded to Morgan List. Morgan is a student at Southern Oregon University (SOU) who is pursuing a graduate degree in music pedagogy; she is also the president of the OMTA Collegiate Chapter at SOU. Morgan would like to become a music teacher, and we are delighted to have been able to offer her some additional support in this way.

A benefit recital was held at Grace Lutheran Church in Ashland on Saturday, June 12 from 11 AM to 1:30

PM. This event intended to raise money for the church's benefit fund donated annually to the SOU Music Department. There were many participants in this event, including Dr. Alexander Tutunov and Dr. Matt Goodrich from SOU, their students, local piano teachers, and several local musicians. A total of \$695 was donated by audience members.

Rogue Valley members Catherine Darnall, Terri Horn, and Michele Alspach attended the OMTA Conference in Bend at the end of June. Michele had a glowing review of the Conference, "All three of us felt that it was a fantastic Conference. Kudos to the Conference organizers for having invited such interesting and engaging presenters to speak in such a lovely setting in Bend!" The three participants plan on reporting on the Conference in detail at our first meeting in September.

Thor Polson, Rogue Valley District Reports Chair



Staying cool at a chapter meeting in Phoenix, OR



TUALATIN VALLEY DISTRICT



Kristen Cichoski
Tualatin Valley District President

Hello from the Tualatin Valley District! We are excited about the upcoming school year and are looking forward to meetings, programs, and festivals that will give our members and students opportunities to learn, grow, and perform.

First, a special thank you to our Immediate Past President, Teresa Sealey. Her positive approach and leadership helped our district navigate through the uncertainties of last year. One of her greatest strengths was her ability to connect with members one-on-one. She helped them feel welcomed, noticed, and needed. We appreciate her vision and helping us meet the challenges of presentations and festivals online.

Our new board is excited to begin working together. Our leadership team includes Kristen Cichoski (President), Linda Rodgers (Secretary), Renee Masanque (Treasurer), and Teresa Sealey (Immediate Past President). We are hopeful to fill the position of President Elect soon. Our District continues to be blessed with wonderful volunteers who dedicate their time and talents to chairing festivals, organizing Syllabus, and coming up with topics for our *Play, Listen, Teach, Learn* teacher development class. We are grateful for their commitment.

Our first district meeting will be held on Friday, September 10 at 9:00 AM. Our business meeting will include an overview of the events for the school year and an update from committee chairs. At 10:00 AM, we will have a teacher round table to share our favorite tips, games, teaching resources and business practices. With the uncertainties of the Delta variant, we will update our website as to whether the meeting will be available over Zoom or in person at Rise Church, located at 10445 SW Canterbury Lane in Tigard.

Our District presentation on Friday, October 8 will start at 9:30 AM and will be given by Joseph Hoffman. The presentation is titled, *Training the Ear and the Eye from the Start*. Drawing on his Kodály training, Joseph Hoffman (M.M.) will be sharing his innovative method for teaching piano to young children. We're looking forward to drawing on his expertise and improving our effectiveness with this demographic.

For a complete list of our meetings, festivals, programs, and deadlines, please visit our website at www.tvomta.org. Our calendar will continue to be updated as we make adjustments and decisions throughout the year.

Kristen Cichoski
President, Tualatin Valley District



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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



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