

OMTA MUSIC NEWS

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CONTACT & CONNECT

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@OregonMTA

UPCOMING EVENTS

2022 OMTA State Conference

Registration Now Open!
June 23-24, 2022
Florence Events Center, Florence OR
Lodging at Driftwood Shores Resort

State Composition Celebration

Registration Forms due May 5, 2022
Video Recordings due May 10, 2022



PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Sarah Ball, NCTM
OMTA President

Teachers as Learners

In the book *Growth Mindset*, Carol Dweck says, "It's been said that Dorothy DeLay was an extraordinary teacher (at Julliard) because she was not interested in teaching. She was interested in learning." DeLay was fascinated with *the process* of each student's unique musical journey. This affirming approach combined with high standards certainly rubbed off on her students, including well-known artists Itzak Perlman, Midori, and Sarah Chang.

It is in the DNA of our organization that we are all learners, and we are fortunate to have ready access to excellent role models who inspire us and thereby benefit our students. Whether exploring the many resources and presentations the OMTA website (oregonmta.org), attending the upcoming state conference (see related article), immersing ourselves in the 2022 Virtual MTNA Conference (mtna.org), or informally talking shop with colleagues, we constantly affirm and embody our vision of "Musical Growth for All."

Let's enjoy the refreshing and invigorating journey as learners together.

Sarah Ball, NCTM
OMTA President

MEMBERSHIP



Mary Morganti
State Membership
Chair

I am happy to announce the following new members. Welcome to OMTA!

- **Yoon Sung Choi** is a new active member in the West Portland District.
- **Jennifer Conlee-Drizos** is a new active member in the East Portland District.
- **Stephan Nance** is a new active member in the East Portland District.
- **Dawn DeMars** is a new active member in the Eugene District.
- **Janis Dodson** is a new active member in the Tualatin Valley District.
- **Asher Severini** is a new active member in the Rogue Valley District.

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



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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Sarah Ball, NCTM

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Liz Willis, NCTM

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SOLO

PORTLAND PIANO INTERNATIONAL



Angela Hewitt
guest artistic curator

2021 / 2022 SEASON
THE SOLO PIANO SERIES



PAUL LEWIS
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SAT & SUN
MAY 7 / 8, 2022 / 4PM
Lincoln Performance Hall
"passionate, crystalline Schubert"



**JON KIMURA
PARKER**
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JUNE 4 / 5, 2022 / 4PM
Lincoln Performance Hall
"special devotion to Americana"

JOIN US!
Special discount tickets for OMTA students & teachers!
Call our office for more info: 503.228.1388

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PORTLANDPIANO.ORG





ASSOCIATION
for BODY
MAPPING
EDUCATION

ASSOCIATION FOR BODY MAPPING EDUCATION
AND THE EXHALE MASTERCOURSE PRESENT:

“WHAT EVERY PIANIST NEEDS TO KNOW ABOUT THE BODY”

**A Virtual Course for
Performers, Teachers, and
Advanced Students
April 11-15, 2022 (10-11:30am PDT)**

Is there something you would like to change or enhance in relation to your playing or teaching? Have you or your students struggled with playing-related fatigue, strain or limitation? Would you like to explore the means to greater control, consistency, and expressive choice? If so, this course is for you!

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 will discover how well-coordinated movement increases both 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 sense of joy, freedom, and renewal.



The course is highly interactive, combining presentation, performance of illustrative excerpts at the piano, and movement activities and explorations by the participants.

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-april-22>

“We constantly came back to the music itself, and how understanding the way the body moves can help us become better and more aware pianists and artists.”

— Marcia Hadjimarkos, Recording and Performing Artist, Cluny, France

“An inspiration and a must for musicians of all levels wishing to experience physical ease and deepen their understanding of movement...”

— Nina Scolnik, Professor of Piano, University of California, Irvine

“A fascinating course, the consequences of which have been quite extraordinary: the pain in my neck has virtually disappeared...”

— Patrick Ayrton, Harpsichordist and Conductor, Royal Conservatoire in The Hague

QUESTIONS? Please contact Anita King at aking@willamette.edu or visit her website at anitakingpianist.com

2022 OMTA STATE CONFERENCE

June 23-24, 2022 · Florence Events Center · Florence, OR



Liz Willis, NCTM
2022 State
Conference Chair

Registration for the June 23-24 OMTA Conference is now open on the state website!

You will find many options for bringing family and friends with you to enjoy the Florence area, as well as information about the recitals and presentations that our guest artists are preparing for us.

The Driftwood Shores Resort has three-bedroom condos that are perfect for family and friends, and OMTA also has a small block of ten rooms on hold for us at the Pier Point Best Western just across the river from the historic section of Florence. Best Western provides a full breakfast with every room, but no full kitchens.

Remember, if you are a new member of OMTA, joining after April 1, 2021, your registration for this conference is free! Our collegiate attendees also have their registration fee waived (but are responsible for their own meals).

Looking forward to seeing many of you in June!

CORVALLIS-OSU PIANO INTERNATIONAL

PRESENTS

SERGEI BABAYAN

SUNDAY MAY 8, 2022 4:00 PM



“Sergèi Babayan is one of those chosen few: those artists capable of transporting us to their universe, of taking us to a different world.”
–Le Devoir

SPECIAL OMTA TICKETS

OMTA teachers are admitted free when their students attend.

THE LASELLS STEWART CENTER, OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY
TICKETS AND INFORMATION: **CORVALLISPIANO.ORG**

Corvallis-OSU Piano International follows OSU protocols regarding concerts at the LaSells Stewart Center.
Learn more at covid.oregonstate.edu



HONORS COMMITTEE

Honoring Mary Ann Guenther, NCTM as Oregon's 2023 MTNA Foundation Fellow Nominee

Susan Todd, NCTM, Honors Committee Chair

In January, the OMTA Board unanimously approved the recommendation of the Honors Committee to name **Mary Ann Guenther, NCTM**, of Linn-Benton District as Oregon's 2023 MTNA Foundation Fellow nominee.

Oregon's MTNA Foundation Fellow Nominee



Mary Ann Guenther, NCTM

Mary Ann Guenther was nominated by Liz Willis, who noted that Mary Ann has been a MusicLink teacher for many years and has often nominated her MusicLink students for summer camp scholarships, which they have been awarded. She has taught every student with complete dedication, many of whom received personal scholarships

from Mary Ann (outside of any other organizations). Mary Ann typifies the involved OMTA teacher. She is an adjudicator for our Syllabus Program, active in her District, and has served years on the OMTA State Board. She is such a positive, encouraging presence for OMTA.

Mary Ann received her BA from the University of Oregon, and MA from Columbia University, NYC. She taught music in the U.S. Army School in Augsburg, Germany, at Oregon State University, and Denver University.

A professional accompanist, she accompanied countless choirs and soloists. She served as organist at Maria Gruen Church in Blankenese (Hamburg) Germany, and St. Mary's Church in Corvallis.

Mary Ann's service to OMTA includes chairing two State Conferences, and four Adjudicator Training Conferences, with prominent guest artists such as John Perry and Nelita True. She served as State President from 2004 - 2006, State Secretary, Editor of the Oregon Musician, Linn-Benton President, and is an adjudicator.

When you renew your MTNA dues this spring, please consider adding a donation in Mary Ann's name to the MTNA Foundation. The Foundation actively supports students and teachers throughout the country, commissioning new music, awarding excellent performances, granting scholarships and study grants, and giving emergency assistance in times of crisis. This is a very worthwhile organization which puts your donated dollars to hard work. Be sure to indicate Mary Ann Guenther's name on your donation.

Please join us in congratulating Mary Ann for this well-deserved honor! Here is a short interview with Mary Ann and Susan Todd.

Susan: You were President of OMTA from 2004-2006. What were some of the highlights from your term in office?

Mary Ann: The main highlight for me was getting to know so many wonderful teachers. The majority are dedicated to their students, each other, to music, and to society at large. Our main policy change was to revamp the adjudicator selection and training process. Liz Willis spearheaded this project.

Susan: How has OMTA changed for the better since 2004, and what have we lost along the way?

Mary Ann: For the better, we have more adjudicators who are better trained. Another



improvement is the availability of funds (such as the Nellie Tholen Fund) that allow districts to enjoy fine presenters. I see improvement in inclusivity and diversity awareness. Many younger teachers are really into that and can teach us a lot. I see less competition and more cooperation between teachers. MusicLink has grown and improved. The quality of performances in the state, district, and national competitions has improved (see the current performance of Michael Gu).

I miss the bigger attendances we had for our OMTA State Conferences, and Adjudicator Training Conferences on the coast, with barely under two hundred teachers gathering, some from out of state. Well known musicians such as Nelita True, John Perry, and Antonio Pampa Baldi were big draws.

Susan: Liz Willis, incoming OMTA President, submitted your nomination. Liz mentioned your dedication to the MusicLink program, and that several of your students received music camp scholarships from MusicLink. What can you tell us about the relationship of OMTA and MusicLink, and the importance of helping students connect with music studies that might be beyond the family budget?

Mary Ann: I remember Mary Hulme promoting the MusicLink program when she was president. What a vital program it was, and continues to be! It is always a shame when talent is lost or underserved. Just this year, one of my MusicLink students matriculated into the Lawrence Music Conservatory as a music major. Without MusicLink, this could never have happened. This is true of many gifted students. Annette Demsey is doing a great job running this important program.

Susan: When did you first join Linn-Benton District? What were some of your favorite experiences with your Linn-Benton colleagues?

Mary Ann: I came to Corvallis in 1963 to teach at OSU. Shortly afterward I joined Linn-Benton OMTA. One of my favorite memories is of Joan Gathercoal and Jean Procter organizing the ensemble festival, and then spending lots of time in the kitchen, working and serving their signature cookies.

Susan: You have been an inspiration to others through your service and your work as a Syllabus adjudicator. I remember you being so encouraging to me when I served as president a few years after you did. Who are some of the members who inspired you along the way?

Mary Ann: Some of the members who have most inspired me are Virginia Buhn (see her Syllabus videos), Joseph Brye and Rachelle McCabe, of OSU, Sarah Ball (who valiantly led us through the pandemic), Susan Todd (for her unceasing service), and the many teachers, too countless to mention, whose devotion to students and OMTA is extraordinary.

Susan: Thank you for your kind words. Is there anything else you would like us to know about you?

Mary Ann: I've been very fortunate to have music in my life and be able to share with my family, my colleagues, and my students.

OMTA Honors Committee
Susan Todd, NCTM, Chair
Rebecca Gooch
Fern McArthur, NCTM



HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

Honoring Sarah Barker Ball, NCTM and Lucy Watts

Fern McArthur, NCTM, Honors Committee Member

In our non-profit and volunteer association, it is important to honor those who have generously devoted time, effort and imagination to our purpose. One recognition is State Honorary Life Membership to those who have been members for at least twenty-five years and have given extraordinary service at district and state levels. In the January meeting, your OMTA Board approved nominations of two Honorary Life Members, **Sarah Barker Ball, NCTM**, and **Lucy Watts**.



Sarah Barker Ball

A native of Newport, **Sarah Barker Ball** currently serves as President of Oregon Music Teachers Association (OMTA). She holds a Bachelor of Music degree from Lewis and Clark College (1977) as well as a Master of Music from University of Oregon (1984) and has pursued post-graduate coursework online through Boston University (2006).

Inspired by attending the MTNA conference in Portland in 1986, she asked a lot of questions, and with the assistance of generous mentors she spearheaded the formation of the Lincoln County District of OMTA in 1989. As a result of her devotion to the community's musical life in the Newport area, she was selected as a "Community Arts Hero" in 1997 and as a "Community Legend" by Oregon Coast Council for the Arts in 2016. Sarah was privileged to be one of the first "Tholen Fellows"

through Portland Piano International in 2015 and successfully completed the projects to become a Nationally Certified Teacher of Music in 2017. After relocating to Forest Grove, Sarah was ready to start serving OMTA at the state level. She agreed to a newly created job, Bookkeeper of Operations, where she tracked expenses and learned a lot about the workings of our organization. When OMTA suddenly needed someone to step in half-way through the President Elect position in 2019, she agreed to serve.

The pandemic threw a wrench into normal activities in our organization in 2020. Sarah stepped in where needed, threw herself into supporting successful virtual events, including the 2020 conference in Florence. Thanks to amazing vision and teamwork with Selina Manson and Caris Power, that event was considered quite forward-thinking and attracted a lot of attention. Sarah reworked the plans to provide a smooth and successful event led by a handful of key personnel on site.

In the fall of 2020, things got worse with the wildfires throughout the state. Sarah was on the phone to keep in touch with our members most heavily impacted, and reached out to Gary Ingle, CEO of MTNA to speak to our board on the topic, "Leadership Skills to Survive and Thrive (During Extraordinarily Difficult Times)." This is still available on the MTNA website. The board met on Zoom for two days to hear his remarks and form effective working relationships as we faced the unknown together. Perhaps because of this experience, Gary nominated Sarah to receive The American Eagle Award in July of 2021, representing music teachers of Oregon who persevered during this exceptionally challenging period. Sarah wants to express profound gratitude to the many leaders within OMTA for adapting over the past two years and finding ways to fulfill our shared vision, *Musical Growth for All*.





Lucy Watts

Lucy Watts has enjoyed being an active member of the Linn-Benton District for thirty years.

She has spent most of those years serving her district as Secretary, President, Treasurer and Ensemble Festival Chair. She also served six years as State Secretary.

She earned a Bachelor of Music degree in piano performance from Pacific Lutheran University in 1985, after which she chose a life of adventure traveling to many countries as the keyboard player in two different 80's rock bands. She returned to the academic world in 1989 and received the MAT (Master of Arts in Teaching) degree from Oregon State University.

After graduating from OSU, she was employed and mentored by Roma Eicher, NCTM, at the Conservatory for Music Education in Albany, and is forever grateful for all she learned there. She then started her own private piano studio and has been teaching from her home ever since. Her students participate regularly in OMTA events. At that time, she also joined the staff of the Valley Children's Choir, the LBCC Choir and Jubilate, the Women's Choir of Corvallis as accompanist. These choirs offered many wonderful performance opportunities all over the world.



2022 Grand Scholarship Competition Presented by the Piano Santa Foundation

The winner of the 2022 Piano Santa Foundation Grand Scholarship Competition will receive the use of a grand piano for 2 years, including moving costs, annual tuning, and maintenance. The competition is open to all students, ages 12–16, who have passed at least Syllabus level 6 (or equivalent) and live in the Portland Metro area.

Applications and more information are available at www.pianosanta.org or contact us at info@pianosanta.org or (503) 245-6269 for more information.

Applications Due: May 16, 2022
Auditions: June 18, 2022



GRANT PROGRAMS

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



Karen Huntsberger, NCTM
Nellie Tholen Grant
Coordinator

You are welcome at all virtual programs. Contact the District President for the Zoom link for any presentation shown below. Feel free to invite a colleague, students, or teachers interested in joining OMTA to attend. You can find contact information for each District President at <https://oregonmta.org/about/leadership/district-presidents>.

Up-to-date information is available on the OMTA website. Please email me at grant.coordinator@oregonmta.org with any questions.

Access to videos of previous presentations no longer requires a separate password. Just log in to the website with your personal login and password to view Past Workshop Videos: <https://oregonmta.org/teachers/enrichment-workshops>.

Upcoming Grant Programs:

APRIL 2



Dianne Davies

Umatilla-Morrow District via Zoom

Saturday, April 2, 2022, 10:00 AM–12:00 PM

Dianne Davies

Making Syllabus Relevant: Using OMTA Syllabus Skills to Play Music

Dianne Davies has used a series of folksongs and Christmas carols to teach all levels of the OMTA Syllabus chord progressions and put them into music, enabling students to easily transpose the ideas into all keys and understand the concepts.

APRIL 2



Dr. Johnandrew
Slominski

Mid-Columbia District via Zoom

Saturday, April 2, 2022, 12:00 PM–1:30 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.



APRIL 12



Dr. Stephen Lewis,
NCTM

Umpqua Valley-South Coast District in Person

Studio of Carolee Harbour (contact Carolee at carolee1h@msn.com for directions)
Tuesday, April 12, 2022, 11:00 AM–12:30 PM

Dr. Stephen Lewis, NCTM

Engaging Story and Narrative in Performance: Marches, Waltzes, Chorales, and Other "Topics" in Music

In this two-hour presentation, we will explore the idea of musical "topic," or reference, and how composers use topics to create uniquely musical stories and narratives. Teachers will come away with more knowledge about how to inspire their students to be expressive in their playing.

MAY 6



Dr. Thomas Otten

Lincoln County District via Zoom

Friday, May 6, 2022, 10:00 AM–12:00 PM

Dr. Thomas Otten, NCTM

Teachings of Nelita True: An Homage

Nelita True, who passed away in January 2021 due to COVID, was one of the great artist teachers and clinicians of our time. Dr. Otten counts his study with her as one of his great blessings and joys; much of his pedagogical approach is due to his work with her. This session will illuminate her highly practical, organized, and effective approach to musicianship (tone, voicing, line, rhythmic direction), technique, practice, and memorization, along with anecdotes that underscore her warm, nurturing approach to her students.

MAY 6



Dr. Matt Cooper

Central Oregon District via Zoom

Friday, May 6, 2022, 10:45 AM–12:15 PM

Dr. Matt Cooper

Duke Ellington, the Pianist

Duke Ellington has been widely acknowledged as America's greatest "jazz" composer, but from a 21st Century perspective, many are now viewing his work as the equal of other composers working from European models. Dr. Cooper will share Ellington piano works such as "The Single Petal of a Rose," "Meditation," and "The Clothed Woman" as well as original transcriptions from his book, *Duke Ellington as Pianist: A Study in Styles* (College Music Society, 2013) and attempt to place Ellington in his rightful place in the wider canon of American music and music in general.



Other Resources:

Videos from the **2021 OMTA State Conference** are now posted on the members-only part of the OMTA website. Whether you went to the Conference or not, this is a great resource!

- Programs from the 2019-2021 OMTA State Conferences: <https://oregonmta.org/teachers/conferences>

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/c/oregonmta/videos>
- OMTA Vimeo channel: <https://vimeo.com/showcase/6946123>

THE PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MUSIC & THEATER PRESENTS

The PSU Steinway Piano Series

with Benjamin Hochman

*“stylistic
insight,
elegance
and sparkle.”*

—NEW YORK TIMES



RECITAL: FRIDAY, APRIL 22 | 7:00 PM | LINCOLN RECITAL HALL | \$10-\$25

FREE MASTER CLASSES:

BENJAMIN HOCHMAN: SATURDAY, APRIL 23 | 7:00 PM | LINCOLN HALL 326

SUSAN CHAN: SUNDAY, APRIL 24 | 2:00 PM | LINCOLN RECITAL HALL

INFO AND TICKETS:

PDX.EDU/BOXOFFICE OR 503.725.3307



SYLLABUS



Heidi Evans, NCTM
Syllabus Chair

Do you have a student not quite ready for their Evaluation? Tier changes from Evaluation to Demonstration or Creative Audition can be made up to the day of the exam. Writing out the list of keys/skills/repertoire the student will be presenting is vital so the adjudicator has a concrete list to refer to while asking the student for skills and pieces.

Here are examples of when to make a change:

- Evaluation to Demonstration is a good option when one of the pieces doesn't get memorized in time, or when a key signature is not securely learned (for example, F# minor in Level 4 is a common speed bump).
- Evaluation to Creative Audition is a good option when an entire skill set is not ready, such as the Dominant Seventh Inversions or the Progressions. The student can still present what they have prepared and feel successful at a different tier. Switching tiers does not need to prevent a student from progressing to the next level. Teachers can have their students skip or repeat levels as they deem necessary.

How do you know when a student is ready? When they can play the skill in any of their required/choice keys on the first or second try. Third tries or needing fingering/key signature reminders from the teacher

means the student is not ready. Don't risk a stressful situation for the student and "hope they make it." Instead, gently tell the student why they aren't ready for that skill this time around, and have them continue to polish the rest of their program for Syllabus.

Repertoire Questions? Here's one I encountered several times this spring. Level 5-6 students should not be playing Level 10 pieces. The Syllabus Manual states, "Program of study is designed to match repertoire with musicianship skills. Therefore, all repertoire must match the level being tested. Only one piece may be one level lower..." The speed and dexterity required for Level 10 pieces does not match the tempo of the Level 6 musicianship skills. Additionally, most Level 9-10 pieces are significantly longer than those at Level 6, risking the exam running over time or the adjudicator cutting a piece short. There is certainly a lot of room for discussion, which is why we have a Syllabus Repertoire committee to whom you can direct your questions.

Final Reminder: if you forget to send in your check, your students won't be scheduled. Work professionally with your chair and send the check on its postmark date.



COMPOSITION CELEBRATION



Dianne Davies
State Composition Chair

Composition Confusion

As I put my “Heart and Soul” into the State Composition Celebration, I find three common points of confusion that lead to questions about the event and how it works.

1. How do students qualify for the event?

Before registering for the State Composition Celebration Recital, students must first enter their local district event. Secondly, the district adjudicator must list the student as an “Honored Composer.” Unfortunately, there are students that cannot participate at their district level, because their districts do not have a chairperson or event in place. Currently, only students that have been deemed “Honored” by their district level adjudicator are invited to participate.

2. What is provided for the participants?

The state recital is a non-competitive, non-adjudicated event for students to showcase their music. Our honored student composers get their pre-recorded composition performance included in a virtual recital that is available on our state website and their score printed in the state composition book. They also receive a participation certificate and an engraved medallion.

3. What is the difference between this event and the MTNA State Competition?

Many teachers confuse this event with the MTNA National Composition Competition. I encourage students that are in the OMTA State Celebration to enter the MNTA Competition, but it is not required to start with our event. The national event differs in that it is a competition and does not begin at the district level. State finalists go on to compete in their division. Our Northwest Division finalists compete by age group for one of three cash prizes at the National level. National winners get to perform their work at the MTNA National Conference.

Here is the link to find more information on the MTNA Composition Competition:

https://www.mtna.org/MTNA/engage/competitions/Composition_Guidelines.aspx

A gentle reminder: State Composition Celebration Registration forms and fees are due May 5 and composer recordings are due May 10.



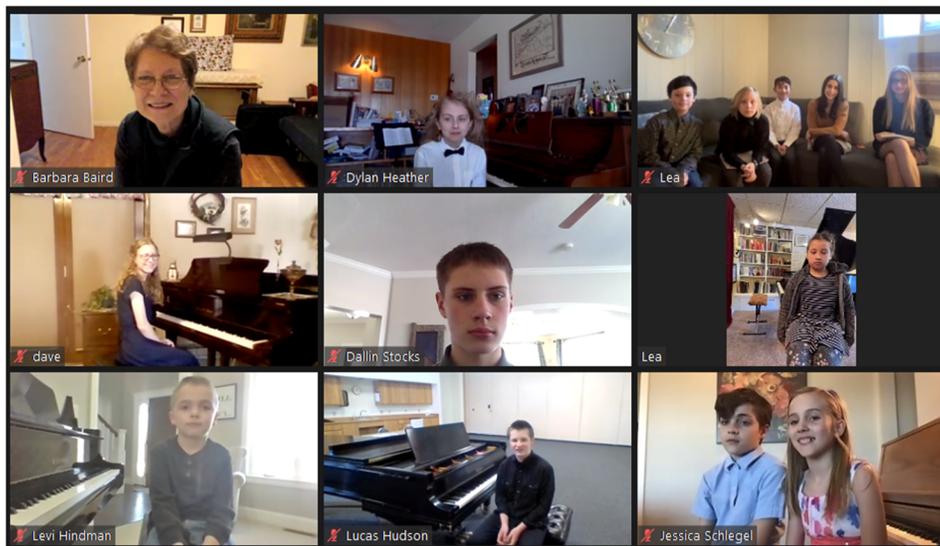
BLUE MOUNTAIN DISTRICT



Dr. Matt Cooper, NCTM
Blue Mountain District President

The Blue Mountain District is standing strong with seven members. We held our Baroque Festival on February 12, with fifteen students enrolled, thirteen of whom performed. Four students were selected in the Competitive Division to advance to the state recital. Our adjudicator, Dr. Barbara Baird (faculty at UO School of Music and Dance), was excellent and her comments were well-received by students and teachers alike.

Our next event, after spring Syllabus in April, is the Popular Music Festival on May 21. It is a non-adjudicated event. Both these festivals, and our meetings, are still being held on Zoom rather than in person.



Blue Mountain District Baroque Festival with Adjudicator Dr. Barbara Baird



CENTRAL OREGON DISTRICT



Helen Jones, NCTM
Central Oregon District
Secretary

We had a successful Winter Festival on March 5 at First Church of Christ, Scientist in Bend. The eras highlighted in this year's festival were Baroque and Classical. We had twenty-two students and eight teachers participate in two recitals. Margaret Littlehales, NCTM and Helen Jones, NCTM were co-chairs of this event.

We are looking forward to having a joint recital for Central Oregon District Teachers and Central Oregon Community College (Bend) music instructors in the fall of 2022. We will not charge admission, but rather reach out to our non-OMTA members in Central Oregon.



Our April 8, 2022 program will be at the Sunriver home of Gina Rosbrook. The title of her presentation is *Dalcroze Eurhythmics: Let the Games Begin*. This presentation is based on studies done over three summers with Robert Abramson, Dalcroze professor at the Juilliard School. His games are designed to help students of all ages translate aural sensations into physical actions. This develops rapid communication between the EARS which LISTEN, the BRAIN which ANALYZES aural sensations, and the BODY which ACTS to produce and interpret the sounds and feelings of musical rhythm. Participants will be barefoot and physically active!

HUMORESQUE

What's a golfer's favorite type of music? Swing!



EUGENE DISTRICT



Sandy Hull, NCTM
Eugene District Corresponding Secretary

Greetings from Eugene!

Eugene District OMTA continues to offer student performance opportunities and continuing education for our members with inspiring and informative monthly lectures. Thank you Janet Pollack, Vice President/Program Chair, for organizing our monthly lectures.

The Eugene District Baroque Festival was held on Saturday, February 5, via Zoom with pre-recorded videos. There were nineteen students representing five teacher's studios. The festival was adjudicated by Dr. Rachele McCabe, Professor Emerita of Music at OSU, who was very impressed with the level of the student performances. Nine students were chosen to perform in the final recital in Corvallis on February 26, of which three were three-time winners of the Baroque Festival. Thanks to Olga Aynvarg, Winnie Kerner, chair and co-chair and Neil Patton for preparing the video for the event.

Our District Recital on March 6 was in-person at the United Lutheran Church. We had two recitals and students and parents were happy to be in person. Thanks to Ellen McQuilkin for chairing the event. Our April festivals will be in person and include the Composition Celebration on Sunday, April 10, 1 PM at United Lutheran Church with Paul Safar and Nick Rieser as chairs. We are looking forward to having Daniel Vega as our adjudicator. The Contemporary Festival will be on the same day, Sunday, April 10, 5 PM at United Lutheran Church with Lucy Clevenger chairing the event. Our district Syllabus exams will be

April 22-24. The Beverly Soule Scholarship Auditions will be Sunday, April 24 for our junior and senior students.

Our final event for the year will be our virtual Teacher Showcase Recital on Saturday, May 14 on Zoom/YouTube. Thanks to Wyatt Burger for chairing this event.

We are excited to welcome our newest members Dawn DeMars and Al Villanueva. We also want to welcome the newest UO student members. Dr. Grace Ho has been busy recruiting student members and has fifteen members now.

I want to highlight an upcoming opportunity for all students around the state. The UO piano faculty and Collegiate Chapter are hosting their first community piano event on Sunday, May 8, 2022, 1:00-5:00 at the UO School of Music and Dance Frohnmayer Music Building. There will be two tracks of participation that students can choose. Track one will have a "dance" theme, where students of all levels will perform a piece with a dance title in Beall Hall on a nine-foot Steinway and receive comments. Track two will be for advanced students and a masterclass format with faculty providing comments. See <https://blogs.uoregon.edu/pianouofestival> for more information and registration.

Our April meeting will be at the U of O Berwick Hall with a brief business meeting at 9 AM followed by a lecture at 10 AM by Dr. Grace Ho titled *Goya/ Goyescas: The Transformation of Art into Music*.



ROGUE VALLEY DISTRICT

Thor Polson, Rogue Valley District Reports Chair

We were delighted to welcome OMTA President, Sarah Barker Ball, to Grace Lutheran Church in Ashland on Monday, March 14. She delivered a presentation with the following title: *How Do Children Learn?* After comparing adults' learning styles with children's, she continued by suggesting that there is a lot of middle ground between student and teacher-driven approaches, that is, a blended approach that will best accommodate both teachers and students.



Michele Alspach introduces Sarah Ball at the March Rogue Valley District Meeting.

After examining Swiss psychologist Jean Piaget's belief that children construct meaning and knowledge through experiences, Sarah went on to discuss Piaget's stages of cognitive development. She also included Belarusian psychologist Lev Vygotsky's social dimensions of learning, including his zone of proximal development based on three areas: what the child knows, what the child can learn with some help, and what is beyond the child's abilities for the time being. Sarah concluded this part of her talk by also mentioning the work of Jerome Bruner and his concept of scaffolding, which includes shared activity, mediators (i.e. tangible or visual reminders), and language. Language in particular can be harnessed through private speech, inner speech, and performance to reinforce and deepen mnemonic skills. The second part of Sarah's presentation involved a demonstration of mediators from her music studio, including a bag of blocks, notes on a magnetic staff, a homemade floor staff with

beanbags, the five-finger hand staff, and cups used to demonstrate various rhythms.

It was a fascinating and very informative presentation, and we are very grateful to Sarah for having made the long trip down to southern Oregon so that she could share her thoughts and experience with us in person. Thanks, Sarah!

As always, the presentation was preceded by a short business meeting, which was also attended by chapter member Chiharu Sai, who told us about all of the expanding musical offerings at Rogue Community College in Medford. These offerings include courses in song writing, theory, aural skills, world music, music history, and instrumental instruction (guitar and piano) as well as ensemble opportunities in choral music and commercial music. We acknowledge and appreciate Chi's work in developing that growing program in Medford.

It promises to be a busy spring with two more programs in the works as well as the Syllabus and Sonatina events. More news is on the way!



Sarah Ball demonstrating the use of blocks as mediators in her presentation *How Do Children Learn?*



TUALATIN VALLEY DISTRICT



Kristen Cichoski
Tualatin Valley District President

Hello from the Tualatin Valley District! It has been wonderful to reconnect at our district meetings and participate in presentations, festivals, and Syllabus.

In February, we had an amazing Zoom presentation by Cindy Peterson-Peart, *iPad Technology in the Traditional Studio*. She provided lots of information and ideas on incorporating technology as a way to motivate our students. We left with new apps to try and a renewed energy to make learning fun. In March, we enjoyed our annual teacher recital. Our morning was full of beautiful music from our talented membership! We were so grateful for their efforts in preparing and sharing music from their hearts.

Our Composition Festival was held in February, with ten student entries. A special "thank you" goes to Chikako Doane, who did a wonderful job organizing this event and working with our adjudicator. We also had Lower Division Spring Syllabus at the beginning of March, with twenty-one teachers participating and eighty-eight students registered. Special thanks go to Linda Rodgers, our Syllabus chair, for her remarkable service to our district over many years.

Bev Mayhew will be taking over the helm for Upper Division Spring Syllabus!

Angela Kelley and Myrna Setiawan will be overseeing our scholarship auditions coming up on April 22. Our final "Play, Listen, Teach, Learn" teacher development class will be held on April 23, via Zoom. Registration for our upcoming virtual Pop Festival will be held on Leggiero and entries/videos must be completed and submitted between May 5-16.

Our next district meeting will be Friday, April 8 at 9 AM via Zoom. From 9-9:30 AM will be our business meeting, followed by a presentation by Melody Morrison, *Bartok vs. TikTok: How to Prevent Teen Students from Losing Interest in Piano in a World of Distractions*.

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 throughout the year.



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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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