

OMTA MUSIC NEWS

Opus 76, No. 10 · June 2022

UPCOMING EVENTS

2022 OMTA State Conference

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

Composition Celebration Virtual Recital

Available Online June 4-November 1, 2022

Oregon MTNA Competitions

November 12, 2022
Lincoln Hall, Portland State University, Portland, OR
Registration Deadline: September 14, 2022 at 3:00 PM ET



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PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Sarah Ball, NCTM
OMTA President

Connections and Compassion

The Oregon Community Foundation recently held its 2022 Annual Meeting, and I had the honor of representing OMTA as one of many nonprofits that are recipients of their funds. Keynote speakers Reverend Nontombi Naomi Tutu (daughter of Desmond Tutu), and Pulitzer-prize winner Ron Suskind, brought tears to my eyes as they shared stories from their lived experiences that demonstrate the power of working together for greater good. CEO, Max Williams, emphasized OCF's core value of kindness toward all and the fact that *connection and compassion* enable us to respond to Oregon's challenges together.

As I reflect on the past two years serving as your president, I feel immense gratitude for the connection that our organization provides, and for the compassion demonstrated by our members toward one another during an extremely difficult period. District presidents, officers, committee chairs and teachers throughout the state have pivoted to virtual meetings, music lessons, and festivals that have all proven to be our lifeblood. Your adaptability, determination and quickly acquired technology skills have been an inspiration and a gift to this organization that will long be remembered as we move forward.

In closing, I want to share a quote from Gary Ingle (CEO and President of MTNA), who spoke at the OMTA virtual board retreat in September of 2020 and said, "Engagement is the dwelling place of opportunities, brilliantly disguised as 'impossible situations.'" In

the midst of confusion, fear, and change, these words have proven true. I am confident that OMTA will continue to adapt and thrive as we meet future challenges together.



*Sarah Ball, NCTM
OMTA President*

MEMBERSHIP



Andrew D'Antonio
OMTA Membership
Chair

I am happy to announce the following new member:

- **Dorianne Wright** is a new active member in the Linn-Benton District.

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

HUMORESQUE

How do you fix a broken bandstand? With a tuba glue!



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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portlandpiano.org/festival

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RECITALS

SUSAN DeWITT SMITH AND YOKO GREENEY

A world premiere, a rag, and Bartok with percussion

HONORS RECITAL

Stunning young local pianists – winners of our special contest!

STEPHANIE AND SAAR

Another world premiere, adventuresome new pieces, Brahms for two pianos

ARTINA McCAIN

Slamming the familiar against composers we should have known forever

IMOGEN COOPER

A sublime take on the romantic repertory of the piano's "Golden Age"

LECTURES / DEMOS

IMOGEN COOPER

The Life of a Solo Pianist

DARRELL GRANT

art: the universal currency of human connection

ARTINA McCAIN

*Becoming a Performance Juggernaut:
Taming the Mind*

STEPHANIE AND SAAR

Quartets for Two

PASSES AND TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

2022 OMTA STATE CONFERENCE

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



Liz Willis, NCTM
2022 State
Conference Chair

There is still time to register for our annual State Conference happening June 23 and 24 in beautiful Florence, Oregon! Registrations received by June 9 will include the buffet lunches. Reservations for the banquet on Thursday evening, June 23, close on June 9 as well.

Thanks to a Nellie Tholen Fund grant, OMTA members living more than 25 miles from Florence and in need of help to cover the costs of their hotel can receive a housing rebate of \$50 per night (up to 3 nights). The application form for the rebate will be included in your packet received at check-in.

The discounted rates for OMTA at the Driftwood Shores Resort and the Pier Point Best Western expired May 22, but there are still reasonable rates at both locations for AAA and AARP members.

Wondering how to decide if that Bach Minuet is right for your Level 4 Syllabus student's Baroque requirement? Or what level is that Andante movement of your favorite Beethoven sonata? Attend the panel discussion *How Hard Can It Be?* at the conference. Bring your questions!

Learn about the wonderful music of a lesser known Classical giant, Johann Nepomuk Hummel, from the expert on his life and work, Dr. Andrew Brownell. Dr. Jeeyoon Kim will be presenting *Contemporary Ideas on Shepherding Aspiring Young Musicians Toward Finding Their Own Musical Path in the 21st Century*. We are honored to welcome MTNA President, Karen Thickstun, who is speaking on *An Entrepreneurial Mindset in a Disrupted World*.

The two master classes and two concerts with our artists promise to inspire our teaching and provide balm to our musical souls. Additional concert tickets for guests and family will be available for purchase at the conference.

If you know of a new member (as of April 1, 2021) in your district, they receive FREE REGISTRATION this year!

Registration is open on the state website at www.oregonmta.org. Join us at the beach!



SYLLABUS



Heidi Evans, NCTM
Syllabus Chair

As I close out my fifth year as Syllabus Chair, I have a couple of important announcements. First, I am announcing a change of leadership in the Syllabus program. I'm stepping down as State Syllabus Chair to take on a different role within OMTA. I'm delighted to introduce our new State Syllabus Chair, Dr. Barbara Roberts! I leave the program in her capable hands.

Dr. Roberts has performed frequently as a soloist and chamber musician, earning advanced degrees in music from Stanford University and University of Michigan, and has served as faculty at Stanford and UC Santa Cruz. In addition to her lengthy performing career, she has also served on the boards of the School for Piano Technology for the Blind and Visually Impaired in Vancouver and on Portland Piano International, and is an active Syllabus adjudicator. She enjoys fishing and spending time at the coast with her husband, Don, and traveling to see her four children, their partners, and her soon-to-be six grandchildren.

My second important announcement is the creation of a Syllabus Virtual District (Classical Piano), for students from any district who are unable to attend on their regularly scheduled Syllabus dates. Virtual Syllabus will have a few additional rules, such as mandatory teacher attendance and conferences, Rhythm and Sight Reading will be included, as well as following the protocols we have been using for Virtual Syllabus these past two years. Syllabus dates for all districts will be posted on the OMTA website during the summer.

It's been an honor to serve OMTA as Syllabus Chair, and a joy to get to know so many of you through this wonderful program.



COMPOSITION CELEBRATION



Dianne Davies
State Composition Chair

Nine teachers and ten students participated in this year's festival from the following districts: Eugene, Linn-Benton, Umatilla-Morrow and Tualatin-Valley. These students were adjudicated at the district level and were given the distinction of Honored Composer. The participating teachers were Phyllis Peterson, Sarah Milburn, Paul Safar, Alexis Gibbons, Craig Hanson, Laura Davis, Heidi Evans, Roseanne Smith, and Winifred Kerner. The virtual recital will be up on the state website www.oregonmta.org on June 4. Honored Composers receive a Participation Certificate and an engraved medallion. You can find it on the homepage under Latest News, and it will be up until November 1, 2022.

The Composers Booklet is \$7 each with a \$3 fee to cover postage. If you are interested in a copy, contact Dianne Davies at diannedavies00@gmail.com.

Here is a list of Honored Composers featured in the recital and have their scores included in the booklet:

- **Nolan Wattenburger**, age 7, student of Sarah Milburne, *Time Traveling* (piano solo)
- **Ariana Hanson**, age 8, student of Craig Hanson, *Bunnies' Adventure* (piano solo)
- **Melody Proudfoot**, age 10, student of Winifred Kerner, *EvEryThing "E" EnsEmblE* (ensemble)

- **Miranda Miranda**, age 12, student of Phyllis Peterson, *Las Tres Lunas* (piano solo)
- **Valentina Gaspar**, age 13, student of Laura Davis, *Golden Firefly* (piano solo)
- **Pearl Carter**, age 14, student of Alexis Gibbons, *Rue* (piano solo)
- **Eden Enky**, age 15, student of Sarah Milburn, *Evening Dance* (piano solo)
- **Corinna Lobscheid**, age 17, student of Roseanne Smith, *Perpetua* (violin cello duet)
- **Jaden Larson**, age 18, student of Heidi Evans, *Prelude to the Wind in Bb Major* (piano solo)
- **Mary Johnson-Armstrong**, adult student, student of Paul Safar, *The Quiet of Snow in Winter* (piano solo)

More specific directions for creating the video performance link will be on the website and application form for 2023. In the settings for the YouTube link, set the video as **Public** or **Unlisted**.

- Do NOT set the video as made for kids.
- Do NOT set the video as private.
- Do NOT upload it as a YouTube short.

I hope these details will help make this event run smoothly next year.



BLUE MOUNTAIN DISTRICT



Dr. Matt Cooper
Blue Mountain District
President

Blue Mountain District Syllabus exams were held in person Friday and Saturday, April 22 and 23 in La Grande. There were thirty-two student participants, representing four teachers. An Honors Recital was held on Sunday, April 24, via Zoom. Nineteen students chose to participate in this event, performing one of their Syllabus pieces after announcing the title and time period in which it was composed.

In addition, three students of Lea Emerson traveled 520 miles round trip to participate in a festival at University of Oregon, where they performed in a recital and master classes led by UO faculty member, Dr. Grace Ho.



EUGENE DISTRICT



Sandy Hull, NCTM
Eugene District Corresponding Secretary

As our teaching year comes to an end, it is time to reflect and appreciate our colleagues who have graciously served in leadership roles as board members and committee chairs, so we can continue to offer performance opportunities for our students and educational programs for our membership. Eugene District would like to especially thank our Past President, Dr. Genevieve Mason, for serving our district as President for the past four years. Genevieve, along with the rest of the board and committee chairs, were able to keep many of our programs and events running during the pandemic.

We all had to step up and learn new skills of teaching online, video recording students to submit videos for events, and flexibility as we navigated into the Zoom reality. We owe so much gratitude to everyone who shared their time and expertise in presenting wonderful programs and festivals and kept the membership vital and active.

Please take a minute to notice how many people it takes to keep our OMTA running, and notice how many are serving multiple roles. If you or someone you know in the organization has a passion or special interest in any of these capacities, please contact your district President and ask what you can do for the organization. It is gratifying, and you will meet the most wonderful people!

We would like to recognize our incoming leadership for the Eugene District:

New 2022-2024 Board:

- President: Nick Reiser
- Vice President: Dr. Grace Ho
- Treasurer: Sarah Rose
- Recording Secretary: Soria Phillips-Meadow
- Corresponding Secretary: Dr. Janet Pollack
- Past President and Membership Chair: Dr. Genevieve Mason
- Student Activities Liaison: Ellen McQuilkin, NCTM

Congratulations to Alexis Gibbons, NCTM and her students for completing their Level X Syllabus exams! The students were Morgan Young, Hazel Barrett and Emilie Nelson. Congratulations!

Our annual Music Teacher Showcase Recital took place on Saturday, May 14 at 2:00 and can be viewed on YouTube here: <https://youtu.be/Fma-UGAlyQA>.

Please take a moment to watch at your convenience and enjoy the Beverly Soule student winners as well as teachers performing for our fundraising event. We are accepting donations that go directly towards our fundraiser here: <https://fundly.com/beverly-soule-scholarship-fundraiser>. Thanks to Neil Patton for producing the video, Wyatt Burger for chairing the event, and Lucy Clevenger for chairing the Beverly Soule scholarship auditions.

Congratulations to the Beverly Soule Scholarship winners:

- **Isaac Li**, *piano*, first place winner, student of Olga Aynvarg
- **Hannah Seubert**, *piano*, second place winner, student of Lucy Clevenger
- **Faith Piowaty**, *piano*, third place winner, student of Grace Ho
- **Emilie Nelson**, *piano*, honorable mention, student of Alexis Gibbons

Our final event for our district is the much anticipated potluck at Lucy Clevenger's home, which will take place Monday, June 13 at 6 PM.

Have a wonderful summer!



ROGUE VALLEY DISTRICT

Thor Polson, Rogue Valley District Reports Chair

At the monthly meeting held on May 9 at Grace Lutheran Church in Ashland, our chapter elected new officers for the upcoming school year. The new officers are Margie Daly (President), Pat Daly (Vice-President), Marsha Hall (Secretary), and Cathy Gerking (Treasurer). All committee chairs agreed to remain in charge of their respective programs.

The meeting was followed by a presentation offered by chapter member Catherine Darnall entitled *Venturing into Wonderland, or Why Didn't I Offer This Sooner?* Catherine is very passionate about introducing her students to the joys of composing as



Catherine Darnall

soon as she possibly can, and she focused in particular on her work with beginners during the first two or three months of instruction. An initial meeting and the first lesson are important to her approach, with the following receiving particular emphasis in the early stages: clapping rhythms, introducing

pentascales (including the black-note scales), swaying while reciting particular note values, using hands to indicate pitches, running through the musical alphabet both forwards and backwards, and finding keys while crossing hands.

Reading notes is not introduced until the student is completely familiar with the pentascales in all keys. Initial composing is based on the pentascales accompanied by simple chord progressions, with the theme-and-variation approach used to develop musical ideas.

For more information on Catherine's approach to working with beginning students, you can refer to her article in *The Oregon Musician*, published in the spring of 1996. She also recommends materials by Wendy Stevens, available on composecreate.com. Our Sonatina Festival took place on May 21 and 22 with Dr. Alexander Tutunov as the adjudicator, and a board meeting is scheduled to take place mid-June.

We wish all of you a pleasant, and very musical summer!



Rogue Valley District Members



TUALATIN VALLEY DISTRICT



Kristen Cichoski
Tualatin Valley District President

Hello from the Tualatin Valley District!

In April, we had an amazing Zoom presentation by Melody Morrison, *Bartok vs. TikTok: How to Prevent Teen Students from Losing Interest in Piano in a World of Distractions*. Melody provided lots of information and ideas on incorporating technology to motivate our Gen Z students. She introduced us to repertoire ideas, apps, YouTube Channels and TikTok Profiles. She even provided a Gen Z communication and emoji guide. Thanks for getting us up to speed!

We also held Upper Division Spring Syllabus, with twenty-eight teachers participating and seventy-seven students registered. Special thanks to Bev Mayhew, our Syllabus chair, for running a very successful weekend of music! At the end of April, we had our scholarship audition, and awarded our district scholarship to Kate Nordlund. Kate has been taught by two of our Tualatin Valley teachers, Myrna Setiawan (currently) and Linda Rodgers. She will use her scholarship towards her studies as a music major at Wheaton College and Conservatory of Music. We appreciate the work of our scholarship adjudicators, Angela Kelly, Mahroo Hamedani, and Kaori Noland,

for their collaboration on this event. Our district members are enjoyed hearing Kate perform at our May meeting.

The Tualatin Valley District is also excited about our Virtual Pop Recital, which was made available to our membership, family, and friends on Saturday, May 21. This event features students performing music in the genres of pop, blues, jazz, ragtime, film, praise team, and new age as well as improvisations. What's great about this recital is that students were able to share their music globally, in cities throughout the US, Canada, England, France, India, Lithuania, and Ukraine. We appreciate the work of Jim Walls, Laura Davis, and Nico Johnson (Senior Student Production manager), who have worked tirelessly to prepare an informative and creative program. Thank you for your vision!

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 begin the planning for the coming school year.



UMPQUA VALLEY SOUTH COAST DISTRICT



Carolee Harbour, NCTM

Umpqua Valley South Coast District President

As outgoing president of Umpqua Valley South Coast District, I would like to introduce our new President. Tammy Johnson is a native Oregonian, having grown up in the small town of Myrtle Creek. In her youth, she participated in and won awards in the Oregon Bach Festival and successfully completed all ten levels of Syllabus with honors. She pursued a B.M. in Piano Performance at Willamette University under the tutelage of Jean-David Coen. She went on to complete a M.M. in Piano Performance at San Francisco Conservatory of Music where she studied with Mack McCray. Tammy was Miss Oregon in 1997. She placed in the top ten for Miss America, winning the Steinway Award for her talent.

Tammy currently is an instructor of piano at Umpqua Community College in Roseburg, Oregon. She also has a small private studio in her home and is the accompanist for several local high schools and choral ensembles. She currently resides in her hometown, and she and her husband have three kids. Thank you so much for taking on the role of President!



Tammy Johnson



ABOUT *MUSIC NEWS*

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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.

Related imagery is encouraged to be submitted along with your article. Images must fall into one of these categories:

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Attach images to the same email as your article submission. Include a short (one sentence/phrase) caption of each image.

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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



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