

OMTA MUSIC NEWS

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UPCOMING EVENTS

ESMAR Assessment

May 7, 2023
Willamette University, Salem, OR

2023 OMTA State Conference

June 22-23, 2023
Southern Oregon University, Ashland, OR

Sonatina Festival

October 14, 2023
Frohnmayr Music Building, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR



PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Liz Willis, NCTM
OMTA President

Dear Members,

I hope that your spring break was everything you needed. For the 24 of us of who attended the MTNA National Conference in Reno, I think I can say that our experience was professionally inspiring and full of fun. It was an honor to attend as your President.

After the past 3 years of one cancellation and two virtual conferences, this conference was really special. The excitement and collegiality were palpable. Two students, Seojeong Huh and Alfonso Keller-Casiellas, represented Oregon in the final MTNA Performance Competition. Coffee was a MUST with so much to take in. Such a rich amount of interesting presentations, master classes, and recitals! The topics ranged from adjudication workshops to technological options for studio recording to presentations on lesser-known composers such as Emma Lou Diemer and Mel Bonis. A personal highlight was the master class given by Angela Cheng and Alvin Chow.

The Gala evening was totally celebratory and included an excellent dinner, a very entertaining and sophisticated musical/magical act for everyone's enjoyment, and of course the joy of honoring Mary Ann Guenther as Oregon's MTNA Fellow.

I sincerely hope that many of you will consider attending an MTNA National Conference sometime during your teaching career. It is a valuable experience in terms of professional development while providing the inspiration, encouragement and collegiality that is



helpful as independent music teachers. The 2024 conference will be in Atlanta, Georgia, from March 16-20. That should be a lovely time of year to visit Georgia!

Liz Willis, NCTM
OMTA President



Honoring Mary Ann Guenther, 2023 Oregon MTNA Foundation Fellow, at the MTNA Conference in Reno.



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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SYLLABUS

Barbara Roberts, NCTM



SYLLABUS



Barbara Roberts, NCTM
Syllabus Chair

We're now in the thick of Spring Syllabus. I hope all is going well for you and your students! Below are a few reminders:

- Please make sure that your students' repertoire matches the level of their Syllabus exam. The Syllabus manual states that the "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."
- There are extensive Rep Lists on the website. If you are still unsure about the level of a certain piece after checking the Repertoire Lists, email a member of the repertoire committee and they will help you! Their names and contact information are on the website under Syllabus/Manuals/Have Repertoire Questions.
- After your Syllabus exams, please fill out the Adjudicator Evaluation forms found under "Teacher Forms" on the website. We continue to try to make Syllabus the best experience possible for all students, and your evaluations really help. You can fill these out on your computer and send them in electronically.



November 6, 2022 | 4:00 PM

Vadym Kholodenko

FROM UKRAINE

Van Cliburn International Piano
Competition, Gold Medal 2013

February 26, 2023 | 4:00 PM

Sofya Gulyak

FROM RUSSIA AND ENGLAND

2009 Leeds International Piano
Competition, 1st Prize and
Princess Mary Gold Medal

2007 William Kapell International
Piano Competition, 1st Prize

May 7, 2023 | 4:00 PM

Martín García García

FROM SPAIN

2021 Cleveland International Piano
Competition, 1st Prize

2021 International Chopin Competition,
3rd Prize

Students admitted free.

\$25 in advance **\$28** at the door

OMTA teachers admitted free
when their students attend.

LaSells Stewart Center | corvallispiano.org
Oregon State University, 875 SW 26th Street, Corvallis





PORTLAND PIANO

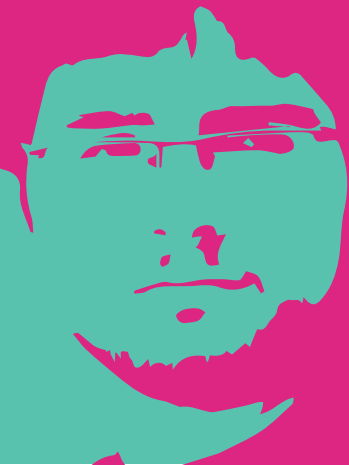
INTERNATIONAL

THE SOLO PIANO SERIES



2022 / 23 SEASON

VLADIMIR FELTSMAN GUEST ARTISTIC CURATOR



ROMAN RABINOVICH

Israeli / American / Canadian

MAY 6 + 7

Lincoln Performance Hall at Portland State University

“A true polymath, in the Renaissance sense of the word.”

— Lucy Jefferey
for *Seen and Heard International*



ALEXANDER KORSANTIA

Georgian-American

JUNE 3 + 4

Lincoln Performance Hall at Portland State University

Dubbed a “quiet maverick” by the *Daily Telegraph*, Korsantia has been said, by the *Calgary Sun*, to have a “piano technique where difficulties simply do not exist.”



Discounted tickets for OMTA teachers and students are available. Please call the PPI office for details.

503.228.1388 PORTLANDPIANO.ORG

2023 OMTA STATE CONFERENCE

June 22-23, 2023 · Southern Oregon University · Ashland, OR



Heidi Evans, NCTM
2023 State Conference
Chair

Our Ashland Conference is taking its final shape, with some nice touches of rubato along the way, and a couple of glitches nicely disguised by a ritardando. But the tempo is picking up, and here is peek at the activities you can expect on June 21-23.

We have masterclasses for intermediate, advanced, and duet/duo teams which will be conducted by our conference artists, Giorgi and Anna Latso. We can expect great playing and wonderful musical and teaching insights from these events.

Their recital on Friday evening at 7:00 PM will feature works by Schubert, Gershwin, and Prokofiev—what a treat!

Feed your soul! Many of us will never perform or teach the Chopin Etudes, but these iconic piano works are an unending source of joy and inspiration. Giorgi and Anna will present some of the etudes, along with talking about the technical and artistic joys and pitfalls of these wonderful works that transcend the human experience.

Build your teaching tools repertoire with lectures and workshops by Kevin Olson. He will share three workshops with us, covering the first years of piano study, pillars of interpretation and music fluency, and has just added a third workshop titled "Ready, Set, Compose!"

We also have two discussion/panel groups, one focused on repertoire for small hands at varying levels, and one focused on how to make your teaching life easier. Bring your questions and your solutions to share with colleagues.

Finally, we have a pre-conference treat—a limited number of tickets at a group discounted rate for the Oregon Shakespeare Festival's production of "Twelfth Night" which is not to be missed!

Best of all, we've built in lots of time for renewing acquaintances and forging new friendships. Lunches are included in the registration fee, and I'm looking forward to chatting with my friends and colleagues from around the state! The dorm stays in Cox Hall include some seating areas and the campus itself is lovely with lots of walking paths. Each room has a mini-fridge, microwave, and sink for a quick breakfast, and you know I'll have coffee available (and tea) during the morning sessions.

Hurry and register, the Early Bird special ends on May 24!



FESTIVALS

Dr. Janet Pollack, Chair of Education

I am pleased to report that plans are finalized for the **2023 Sonatina Festival**. It will take place October 14, 2023, from 12:00-5:00 PM at the University of Oregon, Frohnmayer Music Building, Eugene. All documents pertaining to the festival are now updated and on the OMTA website. Entries open on August 7 and close September 11. In an effort to create the festival's specialness, the Required Repertoire Committee attempted to make their choices more inclusive and unique with additional compositions by women and less familiar composers and works. We sincerely hope you enjoy the musical gems. Marla Hansen and I are co-chairing the event, and Sandy Hull, NCTM, Dr. Grace Ho, and Nobuko LeBeau have offered their time and energy in a number of preparatory jobs as part of the Sonatina Festival Team. To them I offer my deepest appreciation. We still need monitors and other help the day of the event. If you would like to volunteer, please email me at janetkippollack@comcast.net or text/call 970-556-3729.

In other news, Craig Hanson and Momoko Muramatsu co-chaired a very successful **Baroque Festival Honors** Recital in February in spite of

dangerous weather requiring the cancelation of the initial recitals and subsequent rescheduling. The event eventually took place on two separate days at the First Presbyterian Church in Newport. It is worth noting that more than 284 students from across the state participated in the district Baroque festivals, resulting in more than 71 students chosen for the Honors Recitals. Congratulations to everyone who participated and especially to Craig and Momoko for quick thinking and excellent stewardship.

The virtual **State Composition Festival**, chaired by Dianne Davies, is set and all documents updated and on the OMTA website. Applications for participation must be postmarked by May 6, 2023 and final videos are due May 13, 2023.

This year Dr. Anne Young is chairing **ESMAR**, an event intended for students—school age and adult—who are beyond Syllabus Level X and desiring further musical challenges. Description and all documents are on the OMTA website. The 90 minute assessment is scheduled for May 7, 2023 at Willamette University, Department of Music, in Salem.



BAROQUE FESTIVAL

Craig Hanson, Baroque Festival Chair

The 2023 OMTA State Baroque Festival final event was held on the weekend of March 18-19 at the First Presbyterian Church of Newport. Overall, the festival was a success despite having been rescheduled due to icy road conditions from the original February 25 date. Out of the 280 student entrants statewide, 73 were chosen to perform at the event. There were a total of five recitals, each lasting around one hour. It was very impressive to see the high level of artistry displayed by these budding musicians. Listening to their renditions of Baroque music imparted a feeling of hopefulness for our collective future.

Although most of the performances were on the piano, there was also a larger than usual number of string players, as well as a single organist, which added both variety and interest to the concerts. Quality of the playing aside, it was very moving to see families coming from all corners of the state to

support their children's musical journeys. Thank you parents and teachers for your support and engagement!

We have been considering moving the festival to March or early April in order to avoid the need to reschedule in the coming years, and to facilitate travel for those living in Central and Eastern Oregon. Although this may not be easy for a number of reasons, notably conflicts with syllabus exams and other events, if you have any ideas or suggestions, we'd love to hear from you. We are also planning on rotating the location around the state from year to year, both for fairness and to offer everyone a good excuse to travel. Keep up the great work with your students and we look forward to seeing you again next year!



ESMAR ASSESSMENTS COMING IN MAY

Extended Study of Musicianship and Repertoire

Dr. Anne Young, ESMAR Chair

ESMAR assessments will take place this May at Willamette University in Salem, overseen by Dr. Crystal Zimmerman. Registrations are due soon. ESMAR is an educational program that offers a challenging performance goal for advanced teenage and adult students who wish to continue their music education beyond the requirements of the OMTA Level X Syllabus. Students are eligible by studying with an active OMTA teacher, or a non-member teacher who has paid the non-member exam fee.

Current OMTA teachers who wish to further develop their own piano skills in advanced repertoire, keyboard theory and technique are also welcome to participate.

The program culminates in a non-graded 90-minute individual assessment/master class with a college teacher who has a doctorate in music. ESMAR students have the opportunity to perform in a group recital at the end of the assessment day.

Please find additional information and ESMAR forms under "Programs for Students" on the OMTA website. Find upcoming ESMAR dates on our calendar page.

Questions? Contact Dr. Anne Young at 858-232-4888 or aypiano@comcast.net.



2023 Grand Scholarship Competition

Presented by the Piano Santa Foundation

The winner of the 2023 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 22, 2023
Auditions: June 24, 2023



CERTIFICATION

Anastasia Kitaev, NCTM and **Sarah Barker Ball, NCTM**, Certification Co-Chairs

Congratulations to Craig Hanson, NCTM. He recently completed the requirements in both piano and organ—a double credential!

Becoming a Nationally Certified Teacher of Music (NCTM) through MTNA is a significant step in the career of any music teacher, and it very well may be even more beneficial for immigrant teachers. This program has become increasingly popular among newcomers lately, and it is worth noting many of them are working in a second language and an adopted culture. Impressive! Earlier this year we celebrated the Certification of Hung Ton (originally from Vietnam) and Tatsiana Asheichyk (from Belarus). Certification Co-Chair Anastasia Kitaev is an adoptive citizen herself, and shares her reflections below about the rewards that Certification offers to OMTA's immigrant teachers.

A large percentage of American music teachers immigrate from foreign countries. They bring different performing and teaching traditions and new ideas from other parts of the world, making musical life in the US more exciting and diverse. However, any newcomer, no matter how accomplished, needs to study and adapt to the American system, its beautiful traditions, and musical opportunities to become functional and effective in their field. That is when the National Certification program might step in!

During the program, teachers study the local pedagogical approach and learn useful terms and phrases in English to use when working with students. They also will likely find more opportunities to meet and interact with other music teachers. For example during the monthly virtual "Certification Coffee Meetings," teachers can directly contact their colleagues in an informal setting from their homes. They can ask questions, listen to other teachers sharing their experiences, and even learn about other OMTA programs.



Craig Hanson, NCTM

Finally, the schedule flexibility of the Certification program is also quite an essential feature for people who recently came to a new country and are entirely occupied trying to establish their personal and business lives. Applicants can work on the program at their own pace, making managing their time and resources easier. National Certification does enable a talented immigrant to get a foothold in American culture.

We hope this article sparked an interest in some of you, and we look forward to hearing from you soon. Please e-mail us to learn more about the MTNA Certification program. We'll gladly give you more information and share an invitational link to our next Zoom Certification Coffee Meeting. We meet on the first Thursday of each month, at 9:00 AM. Hope to see you there!

certification@oregonmta.org

www.oregonmta.org/teachers/certification



MUSICLINK

Annette Demsey, Oregon MusicLink State Coordinator

Oregon MusicLink student Ava Imbert-Diaz gave her first-ever solo piano recital at Lydian Music Studios in Portland on January 7, 2023, featuring pieces by several composers, including Bach, Beethoven, Schumann, Villa-Lobos, Muczynski, and Yiruma.

Following are excerpts from an interview with Ava, a middle school student who first began her piano studies with Ramona Goddard and who is currently studying with Amy Vanacore and preparing for a Syllabus Level 8 evaluation.

What did you learn in the process of preparing for and performing in this recital?

Ava: I learned how to keep getting better with practice by varying the way I practiced. I also learned how to connect with an audience.

Anything you'd like to share about MusicLink?

Ava: When I started piano seven years ago, I didn't know much about money or MusicLink, but looking at it now, I'm so grateful for this experience, and to have the support of my piano teachers, parents, and grandparents. If you love something, keep going for it. Money should not block dedication and happiness.

Why is music important to you?

Ava: I love that with music, you have an infinite space to learn and an infinite space to feel.

MusicLink is a national non-profit foundation, with an affiliate in Oregon, that provides support to music teachers who offer scholarships to students in



Ava Imbert-Diaz (holding bouquet) with her family, on the evening of her solo recital.

financial need. If you are already teaching a student at half or less of your normal fee, you may register yourself and your student for MusicLink and begin to take advantage of the many benefits offered, including reimbursement of sheet music purchased for the student, reimbursement of Syllabus and Festival fees, free piano tunings for the student, and scholarships for summer music camps.

Would you like to help a promising student who has financial needs? Contact Oregon MusicLink State Coordinator Annette Demsey to be placed on our list of potential teachers:

annettedemsey.mac@mac.com.



HONORS COMMITTEE

Rebecca Gooch, Fern McArthur, NCTM, and Susan Todd, NCTM, Honors Committee

We had a wonderful time celebrating our Oregon MTNA Foundation Fellows at the Conference Gala in Reno. We had two full tables of Oregonians cheering not only for our 2023 Fellow, Mary Ann Guenther, but also for our 2020 Fellow, Cindy Peterson-Peart, who stood to be recognized along with all the 2020 fellows who were only celebrated virtually. We also cheered when photos of our 2021 Fellow, Carol White, and our 2022 Fellow, Carolee Harbour were shown on the giant screens. MTNA also made a nice display of photos of the fellows who were celebrated online only.

Always ready to celebrate our members, your Honors Committee has much good news to report. The OMTA Board approved nominations for our 2024 MTNA Foundation Fellow, designated three new Honorary Life Members, as well as awarding the Nellie Tholen Excellence in Teaching Award for the first time since 2020. Read about our Fellow and Teaching Award designees below, then send your congratulations to our esteemed colleagues.

We were not able to apprise all recipients of the Honorary Life Member awards prior to press time, so look for their congratulations in our September issue. If you would like to help serve on this very fun committee, please contact any of the committee members listed below.

The **2024 Nellie Tholen Excellence in Teaching Award** goes to Jan Mittelstaedt, NCTM, Hillsboro Area and West Portland Districts. Jan was nominated by friend and colleague, Velma Schludermann, NCTM, former student and colleague, Melissa Terrall, and fellow composer and colleague, Lisa Marsh.

This award brings recognition to members who have demonstrated exceptional and inspirational music teaching, who have contributed greatly to their communities and to OMTA, and who have been members of OMTA for at least 20 years. Jan Mittelstaedt, B.S. in Education, Bucknell University; B.A. in Music, Marylhurst University; and M.M. in composition from The University of Portland.



Jan Mittelstaedt, NCTM, 2024 Nellie Tholen Excellence in Teaching Award Recipient

Honors include Ernest Bloch Composers Symposium, 1993; OMTA Composer of the Year, 1994; ASCAP special awards; published piano music; piano pieces in two NFMC Junior Festival bulletins; and 2020 semi-finalist in the vocal chamber music division of The American Prize in Composition and finalist in 2021 and 2022.

A teacher of piano, Nationally Certified by MTNA, Jan has adjudicated many student compositions, given workshops on composition pedagogy to teachers, and in 2017 received an Honorary State Membership award from OMTA. She is founder and former chair of OMTA's educational program, Extended Study of Musicianship and Repertoire (ESMAR) and is on the OMTA syllabus adjudicating staff.

Past President of Cascadia Composers, she remains on the board and is chair of Cascadia Composer's annual In Good Hands student concert. Velma wrote that Jan's students have excelled in Syllabus, Junior Festival, and various OMTA events. She is a composer who has several compositions nationally published, and she encourages her students to compose as well. Jan holds Christmas and summer recitals where the students perform and also play a "summer surprise" in September to encourage them to learn a piece over the summer.



Jan has given composition workshops throughout the state and is always available if teachers have questions or concerns about syllabus or composition. Jan is also a syllabus adjudicator and is positive in her comments for students and teachers.

Melissa Terrall enthusiastically endorsed Jan's nomination, noting that "Jan saw my potential to be a professional pianist when I did not believe in myself. She nurtured strong theory, technique, and performance skills in all of her students, a foundation that served me well when I embarked on my music degrees." Melissa continues, "Jan's wholehearted commitment to her students' growth has, in turn, contributed significantly to OMTA. One example is the groundbreaking Extended Study of Musicianship and Repertoire (ESMAR), a comprehensive performance exam that Jan [along with Dr. Jill Timmons] developed to give advanced pianists a challenging goal beyond OMTA Syllabus Level X. ESMAR exposed me to less traditional classical skills such as transposition, harmonization, lead sheets, and advanced aural skills, priming me for the rigors of college auditions and professional piano gigs. Over a decade later, ESMAR is still going strong, with this year's exams taking place at Willamette University."

Lisa Marsh highly recommended Jan: "We first met through Cascadia Composers in 2012. Jan and I were part of a group that produced many concerts of women composers' music. Jan was one of our strongest and most reliable leaders. She was consistently a voice for the inclusion of all the women composers. Her music is beautiful—always imaginative and accessible to all."

Jan continued her role as a leader in Cascadia Composers by creating the "In Good Hands" concert series. This series brings composers, teachers, and young performers together each year for a series of concerts.

Throughout the years that I have known Jan, I have observed how she supports and honors the accomplishments of her many colleagues and friends. She is a role model for humility and generosity."

All letters of recommendation, as well as notes and letters from colleagues and students will be gathered

into a booklet to be presented to Jan at the OMTA Conference in June.

The OMTA Honors Committee is pleased to announce Dr. Matt Cooper as the **2024 Oregon MTNA Foundation Fellow** nominee. Dr. Cooper, from the Blue Mountain District, has been recognized for his outstanding contributions as a teacher, performer, and leader in the music community. He has served as the Blue Mountain District President and has held various offices in both the district and the state, including serving as the state president of OMTA. Dr. Cooper's dedication to music education and his expertise in both classical and jazz piano has made him a highly respected figure in the Oregon music community.



Dr. Matt Cooper, 2024 Oregon MTNA Foundation Fellow Nominee

Matt Cooper is a Professor Emeritus of Music at Eastern Oregon University, where he was awarded the 2019 Distinguished Teaching Faculty award, retiring after a 31-year college teaching career. He served as OMTA President from 2000 to 2002, during which time he traveled to Khabarovsk, Russia as part of the "Music Without Borders" exchange program, leading to two additional invitations to perform in Khabarovsk in 2002 and 2004.

Dr. Cooper earned his Doctor of Musical Arts degree at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. He has done extensive study in the



Taubman approach at the Golandsky Institute and Princeton University and has studied Tango music in Buenos Aires. A former prizewinner in the Thelonious Monk and Great American Jazz Piano competitions, he is the author of "Duke Ellington: A Study in Styles".

Dr. Cooper has adjudicated many piano festivals and competitions and has performed numerous solo recitals, chamber recitals, and concerto appearances throughout the Northwest. He has recorded six jazz and classical CDs and is in frequent demand throughout the Northwest as a performer, adjudicator, clinician and presenter.

Lanetta noted that in addition to his leadership roles, Dr. Cooper has been an advocate for music education and has adjudicated numerous festivals and contests. He has also continued his own education, taking classes in the Taubman technique to further his knowledge and skills as a pianist. Dr. Cooper is known for his kindness, modesty, and his commitment to excellence in teaching and performance.

The MTNA Fellow program is a prestigious honor that recognizes outstanding individuals in the music community while supporting the efforts of the MTNA Foundation Fund through donations in the nominee's name. If Dr. Cooper's nomination is fully funded by January 15, 2024, he will be honored at the annual MTNA Conference in March 2024 in Atlanta, Georgia.

The OMTA Honors Committee encourages all members to consider adding a donation in Dr. Matt Cooper's name to the MTNA Foundation when renewing their MTNA dues this spring. The MTNA Foundation actively supports students and teachers throughout the country through commissions of new music, awards for excellent performances, scholarships, study grants, and emergency assistance in times of crisis. Donating to the MTNA Foundation is a meaningful way to honor exceptional leaders in the music community like Dr. Cooper and support the important work of the Foundation.



MEMBERSHIP



Andrew D'Antonio, NCTM
Membership Chair

Thank you to everyone who participated in the survey! We had 173 members participate—one of our highest participation rates for any survey we've distributed. Having this data will be important as we navigate the future of OMTA and the needs of our members. Our plan is to reissue this survey every few years so that we can start to identify trends in our membership. A few highlights from the results:

- Blue Mountain was the outstanding district—100% of their members participated!
- 85% of participants prefer to receive communication via email, and 13% prefer to receive communication via text. Less than 2% would like to receive communication via phone or other methods.
- Participants belong to OMTA *primarily* for professional development (74%), peer support & networking (73%), and participation in OMTA programs (64%)
- The most important factors for participating in district meetings are schedule (41%) and program content (25%)
- About 20% of participants indicated some barriers they face in OMTA, including location and transportation issues, schedule conflicts, health issues, and language.
- Many members expressed interest in learning about programs they haven't participated in yet, such as certification and teacher grants.
- A majority of participants said they would 10/10 recommend OMTA to other music teachers.

We received hundreds of comments and suggestions, including many words of thanks to everyone who helps make OMTA thrive. These have all been passed along to state and district leadership.

We also have several new members! Please look for new members in your district and make sure they receive a warm welcome:

- **Diane Christiansen** is a new active member of Lincoln County District
- **Nevada Jones** is a new active member of East Portland District
- **Matt Krein** is a new active member of East Portland District
- **Bokyoung Lee** is a new active member of Eugene District
- **Shinmyung Rho** is a new active member of West Portland District
- **Stephanie Siegel** is a new active member of Linn-Benton District
- **Rory Stitt** is a new active member of East Portland District
- **Dildar Tulkubaeva** is a new active member of Hillsboro Area District

Welcome to OMTA! We look forward to meeting and working with you.



GRANT PROGRAMS

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



Karen Huntsberger, NCTM
Nellie Tholen Grant
Coordinator

Make a plan to attend one or more upcoming grant programs featuring outstanding presenters and topics of interest for all teachers!

Check with the District President a few days in advance of any program to get the Zoom link: <https://oregonmta.org/about/leadership/district-presidents/>

Locations for in-person programs are listed with the event information. You're always welcome to email me at grant.coordinator@oregonmta.org with any questions.

Visit the Teacher Enrichment page for the latest workshop updates: <https://oregonmta.org/teachers/enrichment-workshops>



Umatilla-Morrow District

Saturday, May 6, 2023, 10:00-11:30 AM

Location: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 850 SW 11th St., Hermiston

Dr. Lark Powers, NCTM

Practice Smarter, Not Longer

This presentation will delve into fascinating research on how the brain learns and how this relates to music and practicing. Offering innovative and practical advice, topics discussed will include organization, spacing, the effectiveness of interleaved (random) repetition, first-time retrieval strategies, performance preparation, and common practice mistakes. With strategies to overcome the challenge of getting started, making improvement that sticks, staying focused, and planning the next session, this presentation will suggest ideas that can make practice rewarding and effective.

staying focused, and planning the next session, this presentation will suggest ideas that can make practice rewarding and effective.



Rogue Valley District

Saturday, May 13, 2023, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Location: Grace Lutheran Church, 660 Frances Lane, Ashland

Emily Ross

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

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





Central Oregon District via Zoom

Friday, June 9, 2023, 10:45 AM-12:00 PM

Location: Zoom, for access please contact Janet Smith

Dr. Thomas Otten, NCTM

Teachings of Nelita True: An Homage

Nelita True, who passed 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 get 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.



46TH SEASON SUMMER FESTIVAL AUGUST 4-17, 2023 SUNRIVER & BEND

Artistic Director & Conductor Brett Mitchell leads world-class orchestra musicians in a remarkable season of the landmark concert series.

*Sunriver Resort Great Hall
Tower Theatre, Bend*

**4 CLASSICAL CONCERTS
POPS CONCERT
SOLO PIANO CONCERT
DISCOVER THE SYMPHONY**



William Hagen, violin



Kathryn Mueller, soprano



Andrew von Oeyen, piano



**SUNRIVERMUSIC.ORG for Year-round Events and Tickets
541-593-1084 • information@sunrivermusic.org**



BLUE MOUNTAIN DISTRICT



Dr. Matt Cooper
Blue Mountain District President

Blue Mountain District is transitioning to spring, though the weather in this part of the state seems to be still stuck in winter!

Our main event during the spring has been Syllabus. 32 students representing four teachers took exams over three days, March 16-18, in La Grande. We were very fortunate to have Carol Kilmer as our adjudicator.

The Syllabus Honors Recital was held on March 19 at the United Methodist Church in La Grande. There

were 18 students who participated, each playing one of their Syllabus pieces—announcing his or her name, the title and composer of their chosen piece, as well as the time period in which it was composed. All the students played well, even when two students of different ages ended up playing the same piece back to back! The audience responded with warmth and enthusiasm. We even had one student, who had done a demonstration, perform a Thelonious Monk tune with a play-along track—no doubt a first for our district.



CENTRAL OREGON DISTRICT



Helen Jones, NCTM
Central Oregon District
Secretary

The Teacher's Recital on April 30, 2023 at Christian Science Church on Greenwood in Bend (just across the street from Pilot Butte Drive-In) featured some of our members performing on piano, oboe, harp & voice, from Beethoven to Jazz.

The June 9 meeting will be held at the home of Jodie Bischof. We will have a potluck luncheon with Dr. Thomas Otten presenting a program "Teachings of Nelita True: An Homage".



Dr. Thomas Otten



EUGENE/SPRINGFIELD DISTRICT

Dr. Janet Pollack, Eugene District Corresponding Secretary

The Eugene/Springfield District had a busy two months hosting recitals, educational programs and more. Our spring district recital chaired by Sarah Burch took place on March 12 and was a resounding success. Participation was excellent with 36 students from 10 teachers.

We are pleased to report that membership in our district is continuously growing with our newest member Bokyoung Lee. With increasing membership and the addition of young teachers who are eager to establish studios and participate in our chapter's events, we are optimistic that the Eugene/Springfield chapter of OMTA will thrive and continue to have a strong presence in the area.

The academic year may be rapidly evaporating, but our district still has a number of exciting events scheduled. Our Contemporary Music Festival, chaired by Lucy Clevenger, is scheduled April 16th at the United Lutheran Church of Eugene; Syllabus will take place on April 28th-30th; the Soule Scholarship auditions are scheduled for April 30th; and our district Composition Festival will be held May 6th at Eugene's Broadway Metro co-chaired by Paul Safar and Nick Rieser. This year Paul and Nick have devised an exciting and creative project for the composition students: they must compose a soundtrack for a prerecorded movie. The planned showing of the film with student soundtrack is on the above recital date. This will be a one time only showing. Our Teachers' Showcase, an annual fundraising event, is planned for May 13th. In addition, our newly formed collegiate chapter will

again sponsor the University of Oregon Piano Festival on Sunday, April 30, from 12:00 PM to 6:00 PM. Students can participate in one of two possible tracks: performance only or performance and master class (available only to students level eight and up). The festival's theme this year is "Character Pieces." The Collegiate chapter is guided by UO faculty member and our district's current vice president, Dr. Grace Ho.

Before concluding the report a mention of our excellent programs is in order. On Monday, March 13th Professor Emeritus Martha Hilley (former MTNA president) presented the much anticipated program *Are you and your students getting full value out of the repertoire?* Professor Hilley shared helpful hints on how to wring out technical and musical concepts from common repertoire. On April 10 members were again treated to an outstanding program by University of Oregon Professor Dr. Alexandre Dossin, an acclaimed pianist and Steinway Artist, who introduced members to the eminent twentieth-century African American composer George Walker. Both programs took place at the University of Oregon, Berwick Hall, and were very well attended. Our district's breakfast meeting scheduled for May 8 and our annual spring potluck on June 17 are social events we all enjoy. If you would like further information about our programs and/or meetings, please contact Dr. Grace Ho at gho@gmail.com.



HILLSBORO AREA DISTRICT

Holly Counts, Hillsboro Area District President

This has been a busy spring for the Hillsboro Area District. We had strong participation in our Spring Lower Division Syllabus exams, with many students completing in-person exams for the first time. Our March meeting, featuring a presentation by Dr. Ricardo de la Torre about teaching repertoire by Mexican composers, was incredibly rich. In addition to a survey of Mexican composers, we were treated to samples of so much wonderful music, given resources for finding it, and also had the opportunity to evaluate the pedagogical value of specific pieces. We have an average of ten teachers attending our meetings in person, and several more watching over Zoom.

April is our first annual Hillsboro Area Period Festival, where students will perform in five different recitals, with master class-style adjudicating by Molly Wheeler. We are proud to offer this type of event for students in our area, and hope it grows in years to come. This is followed by our Upper Division Syllabus Exams.

It's hard to believe that in June, we'll have our annual brunch meeting, which will mark our first year as an official district. I'm grateful for the work we have continued and the new things we've tried as we grow and develop into our own district!



LINCOLN CITY DISTRICT

Jessie Treon, Lincoln City District

On March 18, 2023, Lincoln County District celebrated a return to normalcy with our first Ribbon Festival since 2019. This was our 32 Ribbon Festival! The original Ribbon Festival was designed by Sarah Barker Ball and other OMTA members in our District. This year's theme was "Carnival of the Animals." Ribbon Festival is a participation festival with five specific areas. All any student needs to do is participate in a category to receive a ribbon in that category.

There are five ways to earn a ribbon. The first is to perform a solo. If the piece is memorized the student receives a rainbow ribbon. If they use their music they get a purple ribbon.

The second category is Ensemble which is two or more performers. Ensembles must include one or more students, but can include a teacher, parent, or other musician to fill the group.

The third category is Musicianship which varies from year to year. This year the students earned a ribbon by attending a concert put on by the teachers. We teachers played selections from the Carnival of the Animals by Camille Saint-Saens with Rita Warton reading the accompanying verses written by Ogden Nash in 1949. We were joined by community member Dr. Charmaine Leclair, cellist, who, of course, played The Swan. The event was entertaining as well as informative, demonstrating recital etiquette for performers and audience.

The fourth way to earn a ribbon is to write an original composition which must be notated and performed. Dr Mary Lee Scoville, our resident composer, adjudicates this event and select the students who go to the Summer Composition Festival if there is one.

Our last category is Art. Students must submit a work of art of any kind so long as it's design or topic is musical. This year's entries included drawings, paintings, clay art, and poetry. Each festival also includes a student designed t-shirt. Students who enter the t-shirt contest also earn an art ribbon. The

teachers choose the best design and the colors of the shirt. The t-shirts are then sold at the Ribbon Festival.

Ribbon Festival is our favorite event in Lincoln County. We had lots of young pianists and a smattering of other instruments including vocals, ukulele, and violin. We had parent performers, teacher performers, and students from elementary through high school. Enthusiasm ran high and we were all happy to have such a successful event.



ROGUE VALLEY DISTRICT

Thor Polson, Rogue Valley District Reports Chair

March was a busy month with the composition master class offered by l'ana Cotton on the 13th and the Sonatina Festival on the 18th. Six students (aged 10-17) participated in the master class, and l'ana talked to the group about form, the development of ideas, the expansion of themes, etc. Each student received a notebook containing all of the compositions presented that day. The results of the Sonatina Festival are as follows:

Division 1:

Dana Li (1st), Luke Li (2nd), Solomon Finney (tied for 3rd), and Cameron Moss (tied for 3rd)

Division 2:

Ralph Marcus Cordizar (1st), Cecilia Baida (2nd), and Noah Tabaldo (3rd)

Division 3:

Teagan Calkins (1st), Natalia Hung (2nd), and Teo Leiserson (3rd)

The studios of Tatsiana Asheichyk, Michele Alspach, and Pat Daly were represented in the competition. In addition, an informal presentation on jazz was presented to members on Monday, March 13th at member Rebeka Harnois' house in Central Point. Polson discussed the recording of three originals in Kansas City in the summer of 2021 and used them as the basis for an in-depth look into what is involved in

organizing, composing, arranging, and recording jazz compositions.

On Monday, April 10, Dr. Lark Powers gave a presentation entitled "Practice Smarter, Not Longer" at Grace Lutheran Church in Ashland. Dr. Powers, who currently teaches at Pacific Lutheran University, received a DMA in piano performance from the University of Colorado at Boulder, and she also holds three master's degrees as well as a graduate performance diploma in piano from Peabody Institute.

The hand-out that she distributed at the presentation is a rich resource deserving of further study at home, and among other things, Dr. Powers highlighted the following: recording one's practice sessions, interleaved practice, iterative practice, attentional endurance, structured vs. unstructured practice, keeping a practice schedule, purposeful practicing, the perception of success, the use of imagery in developing a conception of the given piece, short- vs. long-term memory, and other items drawn from the resources listed on the final page of the hand-out. I think that I can easily speak for the other participants in saying that we left with our minds brimming with varied approaches to make the task of practicing more manageable in a very busy world.



WEST PORTLAND DISTRICT



Elizabeth Caswell, NCTM
West Portland District President

Greetings from the West Portland District!

As our year comes to a close, so does my two-year term as West Portland District President. There are so many wonderful colleagues who have done immeasurable work for the District: our Treasurer Debra Sostrin, Secretary and Festivals Chair Marla Hansen, Membership Chair Celia Bartel, and Immediate Past President Irene Huang. Our Syllabus Chairs Leslie Chen, Irene Huang, and Fen-Fang Tsao do fabulous work for our students and teachers. OMTA legends Susan Todd, Cindy Peterson-Peart, and former State President Sarah Barker Ball were always supportive and willing to take my call!



Marla Hansen, West Portland
District President Elect

I am very excited to introduce your new President for 2023-2025, Marla Hansen. Marla graduated with an MM in Collaborative Piano from Southern Illinois University and completed her undergraduate studies at Principia. She has worked as a Staff Accompanist at Bakersfield College before moving to Oregon, where she runs a private studio for piano and violin students and has a great love for teaching. She holds memberships in OMTA, ASTA (American String Teachers Association), and SAA (Suzuki Association of the Americas.) Marla has served our District as Secretary and Festivals Chair. Welcome Marla!

With thanks and gratitude—farewell!



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