

# OMTA MUSIC NEWS

Opus 78, No. 2 · November 2023

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Oregon MTNA Competitions

November 4, 2023  
Frohmayer Music Building, University of Oregon,  
Eugene, OR

### Virtual Syllabus — Fall 2023

November 17-19, 2023  
Virtual/Online

### State Ensemble Festival

December 9, 2023  
Frohmayer Music Building, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR



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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER



**Liz Willis, NCTM**  
OMTA President

Empathy, Generosity, Humor and Love: these are qualities that I routinely encounter and greatly appreciate in my OMTA colleagues.

As we continue through the upcoming academic year with all of its deadlines and stresses, it serves us all well to remember not to take our students or colleagues for granted. We never know the influence, good or bad, that we have over the children we teach, or our professional

associates. I know many in OMTA who have received appreciative feedback from a student or colleague years after a seemingly-small gesture, piece of advice, or support had been given.

Not taking people or events for granted is also important in the collegial efforts necessary to provide all of OMTA's programs to both students and members.

I encourage you to read Dr. Karen Thickstun's article *The Value of Volunteering*, found on page 14 of the August/September issue of *American Music Teacher*. She leads the article with a quote from Winston Churchill: "You make a living by what you get. You make a life by what you give." Dr. Thickstun writes a compelling piece about how the value of volunteering is not only greater than the time given, but even has additional health benefits for those who give of themselves. Here is a link to the article:

[https://www.mtna.org/MTNA/Business\\_Resources/Career\\_Development/Development/2023\\_AS.aspx](https://www.mtna.org/MTNA/Business_Resources/Career_Development/Development/2023_AS.aspx)

Please don't wait to be asked! Let your district president (or me!) know if you would like to be more involved, because with planning



and holding festivals, social events, or our flagship Syllabus program, it really is “the more, the merrier”! Your OMTA leadership team is always open to constructive feedback.

Empathy, Generosity, Humor and Love—all these are also qualities exemplified by two of our most recently-deceased members, Dorothy Fahlman and Rosanne Smith. We will miss them and hold in our hearts the aspiration to follow their example in this regard.



*Liz Willis, NCTM  
OMTA President*



## Winter Grand Scholarship Competition

*Presented by the Piano Santa Foundation*

The winner of the 2024 Piano Santa Foundation Winter Grand Scholarship Competition will receive the use of a **brand new Yamaha grand piano** courtesy of Classic Pianos and Yamaha Corporation of America. This scholarship is for 2 years, and includes 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 are available at [www.pianosanta.org](http://www.pianosanta.org), or contact us at [info@pianosanta.org](mailto:info@pianosanta.org) or 503-245-6269 for more information.

**Applications Due: January 8, 2024 | Auditions: February 3, 2024**



The link below connects you to your local District Associations, OMTA Board of Directors, and Committee Chairs:  
[www.oregonmta.org/about/leadership](http://www.oregonmta.org/about/leadership)

### OMTA Board of Directors

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# 2024 OMTA STATE CONFERENCE

## July 12-13, 2024 · Portland Community College · Portland, OR



**Heidi Evans, NCTM**  
2024 State Conference  
Chair

Mark your calendars! The 2024 Conference will be held Friday–Saturday, July 12–13 at PCC-Sylvania Campus, in the Performing Arts Center. Watch your inboxes for a digital “save-the-date” postcard with the exciting artists that I announced in the previous issue of *Music News*.

OMTA is also inviting Kate Boyd, a frequent presenter at MTNA’s National Conference. She will be conducting a master class for upper intermediate students and giving two workshops, including *If You Like That, You’ll Love This! Piano Repertoire Alternatives for Overplayed Pieces*, which a few of us heard in Reno this past year. We always love to expand our repertoire horizons! Dr. Boyd is a professor of piano at Butler University. You can learn more about her at her website: <https://www.kateboyd.com>.

Conference is my favorite OMTA event of the year. I enjoy reconnecting with my friends and colleagues from across the state and region, catching up on life and our studios, and hearing about recent performances. Best of all, I get to do this in a learning environment where new possibilities inspire my teaching, playing, and skill sets. I hope to see you all in July, if not sooner!



# MEMBERSHIP



**Andrew D'Antonio, NCTM**  
Membership Chair

A few months ago, I met with the membership chairs from the other northwest states. It was fascinating to hear the perspective of our neighbors. All states are working to increase membership, and more rural states like Montana are trying ideas like hosting a local potluck for prospective teachers who have not yet joined MTNA. Alaska was very inspiring in how they have embraced technology: because their members are so spread out, they utilize a number of online options that could serve as a model for us here in Oregon. I'll be meeting with our district chairs and presidents soon to discuss our ideas for welcoming and recruiting new members.

The great news is, we have several new members here in Oregon! If you happen to meet one of these new members, please give them a warm welcome:

- **Dr. Eugenia Alikhanova** is a new active member of East Portland District
- **Susannah Burcham** is a new high school member of Umatilla-Morrow District
- **Esther Chris** is a new active member of West Portland District
- **Marcella Cody** is a new active member of East Portland District
- **Dr. Jason Duckles** is a new active member of Linn-Benton District
- **Suzanne Gaye** is a new active member of Hillsboro Area District
- **Dr. Asya Gulua** is a new active member of Salem District
- **Dr. Brian Hsu** is a new active member of Eugene District
- **BoMi Kim** is a new active member of West Portland District
- **Grace Ko** is a new active member of West Portland District
- **Noah Morris** is a new active member of East Portland District
- **Samantha Prewitt** is a new collegiate member of Tualatin Valley District
- **Cinda Redman** is a new active member of East Portland District
- **Darcey Ridgway** is a new active member of Umatilla-Morrow District
- **Michelle Singrin** is a new collegiate member of Salem District and Willamette University
- **Dr. Wyatt True** is a new active member of Eugene District
- **I-Chieh Wang** is a new active member of West Portland District
- **Kyle Watkins** is a new active member of East Portland District
- **Dr. Harriet Wong** is a new active member of East Portland District

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



# CERTIFICATION

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

OMTA Certification is thrilled to share yet another remarkable achievement. **Dianne Davies**, who chairs our Composition Festival, is an exceptional musician, composer, and educator. Now she proudly holds the title of a Nationally Certified Teacher of Music. We take immense joy in commemorating this significant milestone with her.

Here are her reflections on this transformative journey:

*Inspiration:* When all the Syllabus exams shut down in the spring of 2020, the Syllabus committee graciously gave teachers the option to have a fellow teacher adjudicate even if they were not certified. So, when a friend asked me to give her students an online adjudication, I said "sure!" Then I had so much fun preparing, and enjoyed the actual adjudication process so much, that I felt stirred to finally pursue certification.

*Teacher Profile Projects:* First, I must say I learned so much from all five of the projects. Project four, entitled "Share Information about Your Teaching Environment", was personally encouraging. It allowed me to appreciate and document all the practice-incentive charts I have designed, the games I use for group classes, and the artwork in my studio. My favorite project was number three, called "Present Your Teaching". Recording three lessons with the same student and evaluating myself at the Introductory phase, Intermediate phase, and the Final phase, taught me so much about my own teaching style and pacing of each lesson. I think this project would be the most valuable for all of us pedagogues to consider on a regular basis. I record my own performances and evaluate them, but I never previously recorded my teaching and evaluated that. This was the most helpful and the most revealing project among the five.





# COMPOSITION



**Dianne Davies, NCTM**  
State Composition Chair

## State Composition Competition Winners

Oregon had eleven young composers participate in the MTNA State Composition Competition. This year, the Oregon adjudicator was Kevin Olson. His superb insights and encouragement of our students was greatly appreciated.

### Elementary Winner

Isaac Pendergrass III, student of Ruth Sadilek

### Honorable Mention

Ariana Hanson, student of Jon Hanson

### Honorable Mention

Ricky Lee, student of Dr. Gary Noland

### Junior Winner

Skye Neal, student of Grace Waites, NCTM

### Honorable Mention

Frances Holman, student of Denise Steinbach, NCTM

### Senior Winner

Elaina Stuppler, student of Grace Waites, NCTM

### Honorable Mention

Charles Martin, student of Kristy Moore

### Honorable Mention

James Lee, student of Jennifer Wright

The three winners automatically advance to the division competition. The results of that competition will be announced in mid-December. From there, the division winners advance to the National Competition.

Thank you to all the students' teachers and their families for supporting their creativity in composing new music. I look forward to seeing the growth in all of the Composition Competition participants.



# MUSICLINK

Annette Demsey, NCTM, Oregon State Coordinator for MusicLink Foundation

## MUSICLINK BENEFIT RECITAL AND MASTER CLASS WITH SPECIAL GUEST PIANIST INES IRAWATI



**January 27, 2024**

**Recital at 2:00 PM**

**Master Class at 3:45 PM**

Classic Pianos Recital Hall  
3003 SE Milwaukie, Portland

Ms. Irawati's program will include:

Beethoven, Sonata in C Major ("Waldstein")

Debussy, *L'isle joyeuse*

Ravel, *La valse*

Respighi, *Notturmo*

The master class will be open to intermediate and advanced students. The application process will begin mid-November. Inquiries in the meantime should be directed to Anette Demsey at: [annettedemsey.mac@mac.com](mailto:annettedemsey.mac@mac.com)

Every child deserves the opportunity for music lessons! We are hard at work matching music students from low-income families with professional music teachers who are willing and able to offer reduced lesson fees. If you are already teaching students at a reduced rate and would like to find out how MusicLink can partner with you in supporting these students, please reach out to me at the email address given above.



# FESTIVALS

Dr. Janet Pollack, Chair of Education

State festivals are off to a good start this year! Once again the University of Oregon graciously opened its doors to OMTA and welcomed the **2023 Sonatina Festival** on Saturday, October 14. The pianos were in excellent condition and the rooms required for adjudications were comfortable and spacious. The two-phase competitive festival attracted 74 young pianists from 23 teachers. Dr. Pat Buchanan, an aspiring pianist and one of our awesome volunteers, said he found the student performances excellent and inspiring! The festival ran smoothly and was a success for all who participated. Our outstanding and diverse panel of adjudicators included Dr. Hung-Yun Chu, Winnie Kerner, NCTM, Dr. Renato Fabbro and Dr. Brian Hsu. They listened, evaluated and carefully commented on performances for over five hours.

As co-chair of the event, I am overwhelmed by the dedication of my co-chair, Marla Hansen, and our astounding festival team, Sandy Hull and Nobuko LeBeau. Together, we worked tirelessly for weeks pulling together the many threads that make up a successful festival. I am also sincerely touched by the outpouring of goodwill and support displayed by the many volunteers from the Eugene District and our community. I send my heartfelt thanks to volunteers Fern McArthur, NCTM, Soria Phillips-Meadow, Nick Rieser, Winnie Kerner, Dr. Grace Ho, Dr. Pat Buchanan, Charles LeBeau, and the University of Oregon's piano technician, Mike Reiter.

Only days before the event, I tested positive for COVID and found myself in the difficult position of sending my apologies to the team for not being able to attend the festival and help as planned. Without all these wonderful volunteers and an extraordinarily competent team, we would not have had such a successful, multifaceted festival. This experience further convinces me that each festival must have a team behind it, and not one chair shouldering the entire event. With this article is a photo showing the

sea of smiling faces, an image that captures the reason why so many of us give of our time and ourselves to make these festivals happen. Full results, with the list of the names and placements of trophy recipients, will be reported separately. If you have any questions concerning this year's or future Sonatina Festivals, please reach out to the current co-chairs Marla Hansen (4marlarae@gmail.com) or myself (janetkippollack@comcast.net).

The **2023 State Ensemble Honors Festival** is next and it is scheduled for Saturday, December 9 in the Frohmayer Music Building, room 163, University of Oregon, Eugene. Please remember that the deadline for districts to register their selected student ensembles is November 12. All necessary documents pertaining to the festival are available on the OMTA website under Programs for Students/Festivals/Ensemble Festival. Please feel free to contact either Dr. Genevieve Mason (gdupassieux@gmail.com) or myself (janetkippollack@comcast.net), if you have any questions.

The popular OMTA **2024 State Baroque Honors Festival** is scheduled for March 16, 2024, and will take place in the lovely Lincoln Recital Hall at Portland State University. Registration will be on Leggiero. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to the co-chairs Dr. Kaori Noland, NCTM (kaori.noland@yahoo.com), Natalya Klimov (romanatalya@gmail.com), and Irena Burkett (irena.burkett@gmail.com).





## GRANT PROGRAMS

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



**Karen Huntsberger, NCTM**  
Nellie Tholen Grant  
Coordinator

OMTA has provided conference support since 2015 with an extremely generous grant from the Oregon Community Foundation Nellie Tholen Fund. That financial support has allowed OMTA to bring in top-notch presenters and disburse housing rebates. During the school year, the same grant provides programs for individual districts outside the Portland metro area. These continuing education opportunities provide teachers with new ideas and inspiration.

Mark your calendar and plan ahead to attend an upcoming grant program. Check with the District President a few days in advance of any program to get the in-person location: <https://oregonmta.org/about/leadership/district-presidents>

You're always welcome to email me at [grant.coordinator@oregonmta.org](mailto:grant.coordinator@oregonmta.org) with any questions.

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

Videos of previous presentations and conference programs are available on the OMTA website. Just log in to the OMTA website with your personal login and password to view past workshop videos:  
<https://oregonmta.org/teachers/enrichment-workshops>

Programs from the 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 OMTA state conferences are also available:  
<https://oregonmta.org/teachers/conferences>



#### Umpqua Valley-South Coast District

Tuesday, November 14, 2023 11:00 AM–1:00 PM

##### Dr. Barbara Baird

*Performance Practice in Baroque Keyboard Music*

This workshop explores some basic considerations of performing Baroque keyboard music, including: the articulations used during the Baroque era—staccato, non-legato, legato and over-legato—and how to determine when to use each of these; the interpretation of ornament signs and their execution, as well as the practice of adding ornamentation; understanding tempo markings, as well as implied dynamics when no markings are present.

#### Linn-Benton District (in person)

Tuesday, January 9, 2024, 10:00 AM–12:00 PM

##### Dr. Lisa Neher

*Incorporating Composing into Your Studio Teaching*



**Umatilla-Morrow District (in person)**

Saturday, January 20, 2024, 10:00 AM–12:00 PM

**Dianne Davies**

*Composition: Stealing from the Masters*

**Rogue Valley District (in person)**

Saturday, January 20, 2024, 9:00 AM–2:00 PM

**Dr. Alexander Tutunov**

*Master Class*

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# SYLLABUS



**Barbara Roberts, NCTM**  
Syllabus Chair

Sign-ups are due soon for Fall Syllabus. Some reminders:

- Make sure to include all piece identification when registering for Syllabus. For example, Minuet by Bach or Sonata by Beethoven is not enough information for adjudicators, who need to look up pieces beforehand to check levels.
- Please make sure the printed music that will be given to the adjudicators includes measure numbers. If not, please write them in! When there are no measure numbers it is incredibly time-consuming and difficult for adjudicators to refer to specific measures in their comments.
- Consider signing up for Syllabus on Fridays. Weekends are the busiest and most sought-after, so if Friday works for you, they are generally open and available!
- One teacher-adjudicator conference is required and is now included in your Leggiero registration. However, if you will have a long day and many students, you are encouraged to sign up for more than one teacher conference. You can also ask your District Chair to space them a certain way—for example, one before lunch and another at the end of the day. You could also schedule two back-to-back at the end of the day.
- String Syllabus is now on Leggiero. If you know any string teachers who are already OMTA members or interested in becoming members, please encourage them to get involved!

Good luck to you and your students this Fall Syllabus season!



## BLUE MOUNTAIN DISTRICT



**Dr. Matt Cooper**  
Blue Mountain District  
President

Blue Mountain District held our first meeting of the season over Zoom on September 9. We had hoped to inaugurate the season with a potluck at the home of Dona Schmitt in beautiful Halfway, Oregon, but unfortunately, we had to cancel those plans owing to unforeseen circumstances. Perhaps another time!

On September 30, we enjoyed two workshops given by Dr. Michelle Huang of Seattle, funded by a Nellie Tholen District Enrichment Grant. Dr. Huang presented *Creating Beautiful Tone in Piano Playing* and *Playing What's NOT on the Page: Cultivating*

*Creativity*. Numerous examples, both pre-recorded and demonstrated live at the piano, underscored her points about tone production and achieving more nuance and interpretive variety in dynamics, articulation, and pedaling.

On Saturday, November 4, we will hold our non-adjudicated District Choice Festival, which this year will be a Sonata/Sonatina Festival. This festival is not affiliated with the State Sonatina Festival.



Dr. Michelle Huang works with student Peter Donovan.



## EAST PORTLAND DISTRICT



**Andrew D'Antonio, NCTM**  
East Portland District President

East Portland has begun its fifth year as a district! Inspired by the survey results and conversations with other district leaders, we have decided to change things up. Instead of having all our meetings at Portland Piano Company as we have in the past, this year we are having meetings at a variety of locations around our district, from Oregon City to the south, Troutdale to the east, Vancouver, Washington to the north, and close-in Portland to the west. Our goal is to make meetings more accessible to more members, as well as highlighting home studios, music shops, and colleges in our area. Our first meeting this September was in Happy Valley at the home of one of our members, with a presentation on Syllabus by OMTA President Liz Willis, NCTM, and I'm pleased to announce that this was one of our best-attended meetings in years!

Another change we've made is to not have all of our meetings be traditional presentations: instead we will have two socials (December and April) and two member presentations on our own programs, highlighting Syllabus and the Composition Festival.

In addition to meetings, we are looking forward to having our first Honors Recital this November. This is a non-adjudicated event that celebrates the achievements of our teachers' most-accomplished students. The recital will take place in the beautiful concert hall at Classic Pianos.





## EUGENE DISTRICT

**Dr. Janet Pollack**, Eugene District Corresponding Secretary

The Eugene District had its second meeting of 2023 on Monday, October 9 in Berwick Hall on the University of Oregon campus. Our district has been extremely productive over the summer and early fall, researching ways to improve our website, expand our membership and devise monthly educational programs that best support our teachers' needs. As a result of this preliminary work, Alexis Gibbons, NCTM, and Nick Rieser were able to present a proposal to members at the first meeting that suggested migration of the current website to Squarespace. At the same meeting, Dr. Genevieve Mason welcomed two new members, Ayden Katteman and Siera Kaup, and Dr. Grace Ho arranged for us to use UO's keyboard lab for a hands-on workshop focused on improvisation.

The first of the monthly programs, *Play the Right Notes*—its title possibly a satirical play on the famous quote by jazz musician Thelonious Monk to the effect that there are no "wrong" notes—was presented by Nick Rieser and Paul Safar. The objective was to free teachers from the tyranny of the written note and to increase confidence in their ability to improvise. Specific tools and methods were demonstrated to enable teachers to encourage their own students to try their hands at improvisation. In addition to this excellent workshop, Dr. Grace Ho has put together a slate of exciting programs for the coming year. November 13 brings *The Story Behind the Notes* by

pianist, composer, and educator Cyrus von Hochstetter, who promises to reveal the underlying fabric that is music in entertaining and revelatory ways. On January 22, we will have *Bringing Opera to Life Through Transcription* by the University of Oregon's new Associate Professor, Dr. Brian Hsu. This program is certain to dazzle and entertain with the remarkable Mozart/Liszt transcription *Reminiscences de Don Juan*. February's program will focus on pedagogical research, and in March there will be a workshop and master class by Deborah Rambo Sinn. If you would like further information about these programs, please contact Dr. Grace Ho: gho@gmail.com

Our district has also been busy organizing concerts and informal member gatherings. On October 6, Alexis Gibbons invited members to her home for an informal evening of music-making. October 29 saw our **Festival of Popular Music**, chaired by Ellen McQuilkin, NCTM. This event offered a fun afternoon where students were able to play their favorite popular piece in a relaxed and informal setting. Many different genres were encouraged, including jazz, blues, ragtime, gospel, seasonal or Halloween-themed pieces, and more. As to future events, the **District Ensemble Festival** will take place November 19, and Eugene will host the **State Ensemble Festival** at the University of Oregon on December 9.



# HILLSBORO AREA DISTRICT

**Holly Counts**, Hillsboro Area District President

We kicked off the fall in Hillsboro with a wonderful presentation given by Dr. Michelle Huang, *The Art of Memorization*. We had good in-person attendance, including some new members, as well as a few joining us online. October included a coffee meet-up and our popular close-to-Halloween Westside Recital.

We'll come together again in November to share favorite duets, and talk about teaching duets and ensembles in preparation for this year's Ribbon Festival.

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# LINCOLN COUNTY DISTRICT



**Jessie Treon**  
Lincoln County District  
Co-President



**Mary Morganti**  
Lincoln County District  
Co-President

*Spotlight on the Teachers Benefit Concert: Classics You Love* was presented by the Lincoln County District at the Newport Performing Arts Center on Sunday, September 17. Our first Spotlight Concert was held in 1999. We started out with just four pianists playing solos, duets, and piano quartets. Dr. Mary Lee Scoville, Suzanne Brown, Marcia Wilcox and Jessie Treon were the first performers. Later we started having recitals twice a year, including both group members and guests.

These concerts benefit the local district's scholarship fund, which was later named for Suzanne Brown. It is used to provide tuition for lessons, books, or festival fees for those students whose families cannot afford the full cost of music education. The family contributes what they can, teachers discount their fees, and the fund makes up the difference. The expenses involved in giving these concerts has

increased over the years, and were it not for community support of these concerts, many students would not be able to continue in lessons. Performers in this program included OMTA members Cathy Champion-Predmore, NCTM, Ramona Goddard, Brandon Lucas, Christine McKenney, Jessie Treon, and Rita Warton. Guest performers include Charmaine Leclair, Gidget Manucci, and Carol Wolfe.

The fall version of the Spotlight Concerts Series was focused on the Classics. The piano quartet, composed of Treon, Champion-Predmore, Warton, and Wolfe, opened the concert with an arrangement of the *Sicilienne* from a Bach Sonata for Flute and Piano, a rich example of melody only Bach could achieve. The quartet closed the concert with *Brasileira*, an upbeat Latin dance from *Scaramouche*, composed by Darius Milhaud and arranged by Walden Hughes.



Ramona Goddard and Charmaine LeClaire



Christine McKenney and Gidget Manucci





In between these bookends were works by Brahms, Schubert, and Tchaikovsky on piano. In addition, there were multiple vocal numbers. McKenney and Manucci performed *Sound the Trumpet* by Henry Purcell, accompanied by Treon. This is a classic example of Baroque music with counterpoint in the voices and piano. We welcomed back cellist Charmaine Leclair to our concert series, who performed, with Goddard on piano, two movements from the *Sonata in D Minor for Cello and Piano* by 20th-century composer Dmitri Shostakovich. Brandon Lucas sang and played two numbers from the Great American Songbook, *Cabaret* and *What the World Needs Now* by Bacharach and David. In addition, Lucas also played his own arrangement of *Autumn Leaves* and *It Don't Mean a Thing if It Ain't Got That Swing*.



Brandon Lucas

"We are always amazed at the variety of these concerts," said Rita Warton. "This year's mix of piano, vocals, and string ensembles was no exception."



Jessica Treon, Cathy Champion-Predmore, Rita Warton, and Carol Wolfe



# ROGUE VALLEY DISTRICT

**Thor Polson**, Rogue Valley District Reports Chair

This will necessarily be a short report, but there is much more to come!

On September 11, our chapter met at the First United Methodist Church in Medford for our first meeting of the new academic year, and the new officers in attendance were Terri Horn (President), Michele Alspach (Vice-President), Marsha Hall (Secretary), and Anna Christina Streletz (Treasurer). Among other business conducted, Michele agreed to focus on the upcoming programs, which will be presented on our online calendar to be designed by Anna Christina. The official meeting was followed by an informal discussion of issues and problems involved in being a successful piano teacher, including approaches that we have developed for working with different student personalities. It was a very fruitful exchange.

The organizational work continued at our second meeting held at the church on October 9. Among other things, calendars prepared by Secretary Marsha Hall were distributed, and the technology funding offered by OMTA was discussed. After the meeting, we were treated to a performance of various pieces by Anna Christina in preparation for her upcoming recital on November 11 (also at the First United Methodist Church in Medford). *Brava!*

On October 28, OMTA President Liz Willis, NCTM, presented a lecture and a master class on Chopin's preludes and waltzes at Grace Lutheran Church in Ashland.



The Siskiyou Mountains





# TUALATIN VALLEY DISTRICT



**Auksuole Jackunaite**  
Tualatin Valley  
Co-President



**Karen Huntsberger, NCTM**  
Tualatin Valley  
Co-President

Tualatin Valley District is off to a great start! It is nice to have our meetings and presentations back in person again.

In September we had our Welcome Back meeting and enjoyed Dr. Lisa Neher's presentation *The Sustainable Studio*. In October we had a fantastic presentation given by Dr. Barbara Baird, *Dance Music in Bach's Keyboard Works*. Both presentations were outstanding, and we highly recommend them.

In November we are looking forward to having our signature student event, the Festival of Ribbons. It will take place at Rise Church in Tigard on November 4. The Festival of Ribbons is a non-competitive event that encourages student performance at all levels. Each student will receive a comment sheet, certificate, and ribbon for participation. The ribbon color is different each year so that students might

collect a rainbow of ribbons through their years of participation. A special thank-you to Patti Widener and Audrey Horowitz, who are doing a wonderful job chairing this event.

This year we are also continuing our monthly *Play, Listen, Teach, Learn* teacher-development class, hosted by Dianne Davies, NCTM. In a PLTL class, music is played by attendees who wish to perform. The idea is that all of us will learn something from the pieces shared and the exchange of ideas, and we all expand the range of our teaching. The next class is going to be on October 27. All are welcome, whether you plan to play or not.

For a complete list of our meetings, festivals, programs and deadlines, please visit our website at <https://tvomta.org>.



## WEST PORTLAND DISTRICT



**Marla Hansen**

West Portland District President

The year is off to a great start in West Portland. In September we held our first meeting and program of the year. OMTA President Liz Willis, NCTM, adjudicated a live Syllabus Level 5 Exam, and we had a good discussion about the Syllabus program. Several new members were at the meeting, and it was great to see everyone in person.

At the October 25 meeting, Dr. Lark Powers presented *Practice Smarter, Not Longer*.

The Ensemble Festival took place October 28 at Portland Piano Company (PPC). Winners from the competitive divisions will be performing at the State Ensemble Festival in Eugene on December 9. Registration went well for the Baroque/Classical

Festival: 153 students from 35 teachers will be participating in the festival, taking place November 11–12 and 18–19 at PPC. Thank you to all the teachers who entered students in these events!

Syllabus season is in full swing! We send a special thank-you to our Syllabus chairs—Leslie Chen (Bethany East and West), Irene Huang, NCTM (NW/West Hills), and Fen-Fang Tsao (Beaverton North and South).

Coming up soon, registration for the Competitive Baroque Festival will open in early November. The festival will be held January 27–28 at PPC. Up to 30% of students will advance to the State Final Recital.



# IN MEMORIAM: DOROTHY FAHLMAN

Liz Willis, NCTM, OMTA President

About 20 years ago, I was considering going back to school to earn a graduate degree, as I do not have one, and Dorothy was the first person I called for advice. "Liz," she said, "I never went for a graduate degree. I just attended every master class I could, and learned from all of those pianists." Needless to say, I did not feel I needed to ask anyone else for advice.

Dorothy Fahlman, NCTM, was a member of MTNA and OMTA for 60 years. At one point, she estimated that she had taught over 1,200 students individually. Many of her students went on to conservatories, studying with well-known pianists such as Leon Fleisher, Jon Kimura Parker, and Andre Watts. Her students participated in competitions often, and won state, national and international awards.

Dorothy's leadership roles within OMTA were many, including serving as state Syllabus chair, and as president for both the Portland District and the state. Dorothy was a sought-after adjudicator, speaker, and clinician for most states in the country. She was awarded the OMTA Nellie Tholen Excellence in Teaching Award in 2018. She also created and chaired a music exchange program of teachers, artists, and students between Khabarovsk, Russia and Portland, Oregon that lasted for years.

Dorothy was not only very generous to her OMTA colleagues with her time and expertise, she and her husband Clyde funded a scholarship to recognize the students who had worked diligently through the OMTA syllabus program—a program very close to Dorothy's heart.

In addition to her career as a piano teacher, she was a script writer, director and puppeteer. In association with Puppeteers of America and the Junior League of Portland, she was the co-creator of the children's musical "Wee Sing Together" and co-author of three children's musical story books. Dorothy also served many years on the board of Portland Piano International.



A recital of music and memories of Dorothy's students will take place Friday, November 3, 7:00 PM at Multnomah Presbyterian Church, 7555 SW 45th Ave, Portland.

Her memorial service will take place Saturday, November 4, 10:00 AM at St. John the Baptist Episcopal Parish, 6300 SW Nicol Road, Portland.

Dorothy's obituary is available at the following link: <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/oregon/name/dorothy-fahlman-obituary?id=53307098>

Cards may be sent to Clyde Fahlman at 3900 SW Kruse Way Place #507, Lake Oswego, OR 97035.



# IN MEMORIAM: ROSANNE SMITH

Liz Willis, NCTM, OMTA President

Rosanne Christensen Smith, fondly called Miss Rosanne by her many students, enjoyed a 52-year music career. She taught violin, viola, cello, and piano in St. Louis, Missouri and Anaheim, California before moving to Corvallis, Oregon.

A seasoned performer, Rosanne played in chamber orchestras in Austria, Germany, Italy, and Switzerland. For 37 years, she was a member of the Disneyland Candlelight Orchestra and also performed with the Pacific Symphony, Rio Hondo Symphony, and Fullerton Civic Light Opera.

Rosanne offered summer music camps, which featured music theory, master classes, solo recitals, and instruction about operas and ballets with original -artwork coloring books. Her students were regularly spotlighted at conventions and honors recitals. Rosanne was a pillar of the OMTA Linn-Benton district, serving as their president for seven years and contributing greatly to the overall vitality of the musical community of Corvallis.

Those who had the fortune to have Rosanne as a teacher or colleague consistently mentioned her love of life, sense of humor, and vibrant, fun personality.

To quote a tribute paid to her: "You have to admire someone who is chipper and raring to go at 7:30 AM while teaching Elementary Strings in Corvallis and then teaching string classes for Albany Youth Orchestra. She had enthusiasm and a good sense of humor. She brought discipline and ample verbal rewards to spark the kids. She will be missed by many."

Rosanne's family welcomes your thoughts, photos and videos on the Tribute Wall for Rosanne's obituary at: <https://www.premierfuneral.com/obituaries/Rosanne-Smith-2/#!/TributeWall>





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

<b>January</b>	December 15
<b>March</b>	February 15
<b>May</b>	April 15
<b>September</b>	August 15
<b>November</b>	October 15



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