

OMTA MUSIC NEWS

Opus 78, No. 3 · January 2024

UPCOMING EVENTS

District Presidents Round Table
January 27, 2024 at 9:00-10:00 AM
Virtual/Online

State Board Meeting
January 27, 2024 at 10:00-11:30 AM
Virtual/Online

2024 State Baroque Festival
March 16, 2024 at 9:30 AM-7:30 PM
Saint Mark Lutheran Church, 790 Marion St. NE, Salem, OR

2024 OMTA State Conference
July 12-13, 2024
Portland Community College—Sylvania Campus, Portland, OR



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PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Liz Willis, NCTM
OMTA President

Dear Colleagues,

Happy New Year! The return to reality after the holidays can include a mix of emotions. Hopefully, the winter break has provided all of us with a helpful "re-charge" to more eagerly anticipate upcoming events in the spring.

Baroque Competitive Festivals are happening around the state this winter in anticipation of the State Festival in mid-March. Spring Syllabus will begin March 1 and will run through mid-May. The MTNA National Conference will take place March 16–20 in Atlanta. ESMAR adjudications and the Competitive OMTA Scholarships will occur in June, and our State Conference will be held July 12–13 in Portland. Sprinkled in are all of the special district events and meetings reflecting the regional traditions of our membership and the students they serve. There is so much available to participate in!

The variety and depth of programming OMTA offers is substantial compared to many other states. When so many events run so smoothly, it is tempting to take them for granted. But without our dedicated volunteers, both experienced and new, this wealth of opportunities for our students would not be possible.

Please, as you enter your students in Syllabus, competitions, festivals, master classes, or other events, remember that an offer to help with any task needed is appreciated. If there is no backlog of tasks, we can get ahead of the deadlines for registration and payment dates for our students' events. Receiving thanks for the time and effort of chairing means a great deal to everyone.



The programming and execution of our many events is similar to a very well-rehearsed ensemble performance. Join the “volunteer ensemble”—it can be both rewarding and fun to “play” with others!



*Liz Willis, NCTM
OMTA President*

CERTIFICATION



Anastasia Kitaev, NCTM,
Certification Co-Chair



Sarah Barker Ball, NCTM,
Certification Co-Chair

As you set your New Year’s Resolutions, why not initiate the process to become a Nationally Certified Teacher of Music (NCTM)?

What’s involved? Five projects are required, to be completed in your own studio, at your own pace. Each project is carefully designed as a professional growth opportunity that is fully integrated with your teaching. There is an expectation of rigor along with up-to-date resources that can support your work. Explore the program at: <https://certification.mtna.org>.

OMTA is eager to support you. Email us at certification@oregonmta.org. Please feel free to contact us with your certification questions or ask for a Zoom link to join our monthly “Certification Coffee” on the first Thursday of each month at 9:00 AM.

Here’s to new growth and professional challenges!



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

OMTA Board of Directors

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Oregon MusicLink Benefit Recital and Master Class

featuring
Ines Irawati, pianist



Saturday, January 27, 2024
2pm recital, 3:45pm master class

Classic Pianos Recital Hall
3003 SE Milwaukie Ave, Portland

RECITAL PROGRAM

Beethoven: Sonata in C major, "Waldstein"

Debussy: L'isle joyeuse

Ravel: La Valse

Respighi: Notturmo

Recital tickets available at the door

\$20 suggested donation (\$30 per family)

No one turned away for lack of funds. Free for MusicLink students, families, and teachers.

Master class is free and open to the public.

Oregon MusicLink matches children from low-income families with professional music teachers who are willing and able to offer a significant discount on their lesson fees. MusicLink also supports the student with free sheet music, summer music camp scholarships, and more. We depend on donations to continue this work and appreciate your help!

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 OMTA State Conference will be held Friday–Saturday, July 12–13 at PCC-Sylvania Campus, in the Performing Arts Center. Watch your inboxes for a “save-the-date” email.

OMTA is partnering with Portland Piano International to bring concert artist Janina Fialkowska for our Saturday

evening concert. She is a master of interpretation in the Romantic style with direct connections to Arthur Rubinstein, and is the author of *A Note in Time*, her recently published memoir, which will be available for sale at the conference. She will also be presenting an advanced masterclass as well as a Q & A session with Bill Crane about her musical journey. We’re excited to once again work with PPI to bring the world’s best to Oregon! Read more about her at her website, www.fialkowska.com.

You won’t want to miss Connor Chee’s compositions, or his workshop on removing expectations from Indigenous music, which I found fascinating and inspiring at the MTNA 2023 Conference in Reno. His website is www.connorchee.com.

OMTA is also inviting Kate Boyd, a frequent presenter at MTNA’s National Conference. She will be conducting a masterclass for Upper Intermediate students and two workshops, including a newly-updated version of *Seven Foundations of Piano Technique*. Dr. Boyd has a wonderful YouTube channel

that you may have already discovered, and a connected website: www.thepianoprof.com.

I can’t wait to see so many of my friends and colleagues again this summer! We’ve reserved a block of rooms in nearby Lake Oswego, and many local colleagues will be happy to host a guest for this conference. For now, banish those winter blues by watching videos of our visiting artists!



Connor Chee



Janina Fialkowska



Kate Boyd



MEMBERSHIP



Andrew D'Antonio, NCTM
Membership Chair

What are we doing to recruit and welcome new members? I posed this question to the district presidents and membership chairs back in October. The ideas of these local leaders were creative and insightful. A notable trend is that concerns and strategies are different between urban and rural districts. After the meeting, we compiled a list and sent it out to all the participants. We are planning on meeting again in the spring to discuss how things have gone.

Speaking of welcoming new members, have you welcomed a new member lately to your district? One of the comments we got is that a member's first impression of a district can shape their relationship with OMTA and MTNA. It's so important that members feel valued and connected. Below are our new members—be sure you give the ones in your district a nice warm welcome:

- **Lorraine Alner** is a new active member of Tualatin Valley District
- **Melissa Farley** is a new active member of Central Oregon District
- **Tereza Golombkova** is a new collegiate member of Rogue Valley (Southern Oregon University)
- **Tetyana Gouge** is a new active member of Mid-Columbia District
- **Kristina Jones** is a new active member of Eugene District
- **Siera Kaup** is a new active member of Eugene District
- **Charles Martin** is a new active member of East Portland District
- **MinQi Shi** is a new collegiate member of Eugene District (University of Oregon)

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



FESTIVALS

Dr. Janet Pollack, Chair of Education

The **2023 State Ensemble Honors Recital** took place on Saturday, December 9 in the Frohnmayr Music Building, University of Oregon (Eugene). Like last year's event, it was immensely entertaining, and I would go so far as to say awe-inspiring. Even more relevant, it was the students' ability to musically respond to one another that was enthralling. The ability to focus on one's own playing and simultaneously hear and respond to others is at the very heart of music-making. It is for this reason that I find the Ensemble Festival of such importance and absolutely delightful. There were 37 students participating in 17 ensembles, and 16 teachers were represented. To accommodate all, two recitals were held. A wide array of instrumentation made up the ensembles, including nine piano duets, one two-piano duo, three cello and piano duos, two violin and piano duos, and two string quartets. The repertoire performed was equally varied.

There were too many outstanding performances to mention all, but it is worth highlighting a few. The excellent performance of Mozart's Sonata in G Major (K. 301) by violinist Bethany Christensen and pianist Richard Chen demonstrated that one sticky page turn could not mar an outstanding performance. Maggie and Ashly Ma enhanced their charming piano duet of Adam Khachaturian's *Masquerade* by wearing not only matching dresses, but also matching masks. Arianna Hanson both accompanied violinist Keshav Bhanoo, and performed a piano duet with Joey Kuang with confidence and poise far beyond her years, whereas Emily Song and Michelle Milman delivered a robust and exciting two-piano performance of Malaguena. Concluding the early recital was the stunning performance of Dmitri Shostakovich's String Quartet No. 8 in C minor, Op. 116 (Largo, Allegro Molto) by ensemble members Morgan Osburn, Summer Yin, Sabine Voelker, and Pearl Carter. This performance left an indelible impression on the audience as it capped off an enjoyable recital. These performances and others embodied the very meaning and purpose of the festival—to share musical moments in a cooperative performance while striving for musical excellence. I would like to thank those who made the festival a success: my co-chair Dr. Genevieve Mason for all her

work and her always-cheerful attitude; Thor Mikesell, UO Producing Technical Director, for always ensuring we have all that we need; and Mike Reiter, UO piano technician, for his excellent preparation of the grand pianos. I would also like to thank the community members who volunteered to guide students to the practice rooms and serve refreshments to the participants. If you have any questions or concerns about past or future ensemble festivals, please feel free to contact either Dr. Genevieve Mason (gdupassieux@gmail.com) or Dr. Janet Pollack (janetkipollack@comcast.net).

The popular **OMTA 2024 State Baroque Honors Festival** is scheduled for Saturday, March 16, 2024 in Salem at the Saint Mark Lutheran Church. Please note this is a venue change from what was previously printed. Please check the state OMTA website for complete updates. If you have any further questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to Chair Gayle Bland: glbpiano2@live.com.

The complete results of the **2023 State Sonatina Festival** that took place on Saturday, October 14, including the list of the names and placements of trophy recipients are now available and listed below. If you have any questions concerning this year's or future Sonatina Festivals, please reach out to the co-chairs Marla Hansen (4marlarae@gmail.com) or Dr. Janet Pollack (janetkipollack@comcast.net).



Dr. Hung-Yun Chu, Festival Adjudicator



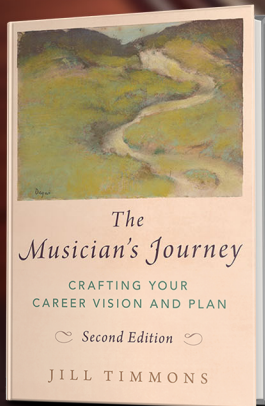


Jill Timmons

PIANIST EDUCATOR AUTHOR
www.artsmmentor.com

Decorated pianist, recording artist, and pedagogue, Timmons is a leading consultant in arts management. Recipient of the Wilk International Literary Prize, she assists individuals and non-profits alike. She is the Artist/Teacher Affiliate for Classic Pianos in Portland, OR, and throughout their locations across the U.S.

ANNOUNCING A NEW PUBLICATION!



Newly revised and greatly expanded, *The Musician's Journey: Crafting Your Career Vision and Plan, Second Edition*. Dr. Jill Timmons (Oxford University Press, 2023). Now available through OUP, Amazon, and local bookstores.

Timmons guides us through the aspirational, the theoretical, and the practical in a way that speaks not only to the concert musicians she intended, but, indeed, to any inspired artist who is called to develop and share their gifts. If we have the skills and passion, this book shows us the method... So, buckle up, roll down your windows, and drive this car with its top off. You will love every vista you encounter."

—Martin D. Jean, Director, Institute of Sacred Music, Yale University



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2023 OMTA SONATINA FESTIVAL RESULTS

Dr. Janet Pollack and Marla Hansen, Sonatina Festival Co-Chairs

Level 1: Lynn Freeman Olson, "Sonatina No. 2 in F Major, I. The Sunrise Run"

1st Place - Patrick Tang
Teacher: Fen-Fang Tsao (Beaverton)

2nd Place - Sofia Henriquez
Teacher: Sandy Hull, NCTM (Eugene)

Honorable Mention - Yuchen Zhou
Teacher: Marla Hansen (Beaverton)

Level 2: Keith Snell, "Sonatina in F Major, I. Allegro"

1st Place - Iris Song
Teacher: Anastasia Kitaev, NCTM (Lake Oswego)

2nd Place - Niyati Raman
Teacher: Marla Hansen (Beaverton)

Honorable Mention - Boyu Han
Teacher: Fen-Fang Tsao (Beaverton)

Honorable Mention - Jacalyn Chen
Teacher: Yena Lee Halsel (Portland)

Level 3: Thomas Attwood, "Sonatina No. 3 in F Major, I. Allegretto & II. Andante"

1st Place - Shuchen Zhou
Teacher: Marla Hansen (Beaverton)

2nd Place - Maya Silva
Teacher: Dr. Olga Aynvarg (Eugene)

Honorable Mention - Tessa Dochez
Teacher: Anastasia Kitaev, NCTM (Lake Oswego)

Honorable Mention - Bryan Yan
Teacher: Shawn Tang (Tualatin)

Honorable Mention - Ireh Seo
Teacher: Dr. Eunhye Choi (Eugene)

Level 4: Albert Biehl, "Sonatina in A minor, Op. 94, No. 4, I. Allegro moderato"

1st Place - Victoria Chernyaeva
Teacher: Lena Nikulin (Vancouver)

2nd Place - Lucas Wang
Teacher: Dr. Olga Aynvarg (Eugene)

Honorable Mention - Roy Kim
Teacher: Fen-Fang Tsao (Beaverton)

Honorable Mention - Xinying Cheng
Teacher: Anastasia Kitaev, NCTM (Lake Oswego)

Honorable Mention - Angelina Kitaev
Teacher: Anastasia Kitaev, NCTM (Lake Oswego)

Level 5: Friedrich Kuhlau, "Sonatina in C Major, Op. 20, No. 1, I. Allegro"

1st Place - Cecilia Zixi Liu
Teacher: Dr. Olga Aynvarg (Eugene)

2nd Place - Raymond Cui
Teacher: Leslie Chen (Portland)

Honorable Mention - Celine Merritt
Teacher: Anastasia Kitaev, NCTM (Lake Oswego)

Honorable Mention - Mia Song
Teacher: Anastasia Kitaev, NCTM (Lake Oswego)

Honorable Mention - Elena Bublik
Teacher: Lena Nikulin (Vancouver)

Level 6: Franz Joseph Haydn, "Sonata in G Major, Hob. XVI:G1, I. Allegro"

1st Place - Yanfei Olivia Wan
Teacher: Leslie Chen (Portland)

2nd Place - Charriess Pun
Teacher: Anastasia Kitaev, NCTM (Lake Oswego)

Honorable Mention - Ricky Lee
Teacher: Dr. Kaori Noland, NCTM (Lake Oswego)



(Level 6 Results Continued)

Honorable Mention - Emily Elise Cho
Teacher: Dr. Eunhye Choi (Eugene)

Honorable Mention - Bruce Dudley
Teacher: Fen-Fang Tsao (Beaverton)

Level 7: Marianna Martines, "Sonata in E Major, I. Allegro & II. Andante"

1st Place - Klaire Liu
Teacher: Dr. Rachelle McCabe (Corvallis)

2nd Place - Jude Lockwood
Teacher: Kristy Moore (Happy Valley)

Honorable Mention - Samuel Eli Cho
Teacher: Dr. Eunhye Choi (Eugene)

Honorable Mention - Erin Qiu
Teacher: Ching-Ching Chou (Portland)

Honorable Mention - Malia Calunod
Teacher: Natalya Klimov (Portland)

Level 8: George Frideric Handel, "Sonata in A minor, HWV 584, I. Allegretto"

1st Place - Katherine Liu
Teacher: Dr. Rachelle McCabe (Corvallis)

2nd Place - Margaret Popova
Teacher: Lena Nikulin (Vancouver)

Honorable Mention - Maggie Ma
Teacher: Leslie Chen (Portland)

Honorable Mention - Grace Kim
Teacher: Dr. Eunhye Choi (Eugene)

Honorable Mention - Julia Ma
Teacher: Ching-Ching Chou (Portland)

Level 9: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, "Sonata in F Major, K. 332, I. Allegro"

1st Place - Alissa King
Teacher: Dr. Grace Ho (Eugene)

2nd Place - Lana Minami
Teacher: Momoko Muramatsu, NCTM (Portland)

Honorable Mention - Maxwell Gong
Teacher: Momoko Muramatsu, NCTM (Portland)

Honorable Mention - Ashley Ma
Teacher: Leslie Chen (Portland)

Level 10: Johann Christian Bach, "Sonata in A Major, Op. 17, No. 5, I. Allegro"

1st Place - Ishika Chakraborty
Teacher: Dr. Grace Ho (Eugene)

2nd Place - Rosalyn Ellie Cho
Teacher: Dr. Eunhye Choi (Eugene)

Honorable Mention - Ethan Chang
Teacher: Fen-Fang Tsao (Beaverton)

Honorable Mention - Sophia Ma
Teacher: Leslie Chen (Portland)

Festival Adjudicators:

Dr. Brian Hsu, Dr. Renato Fabbro, Dr. Hung-Yun Chu, Winifred Kerner, NCTM



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.

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>



Linn-Benton District

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

Location: Studio of Ginny Redfield; contact Mary Ann Guenther, NCTM
(mguenther@comcast.net) for directions.

Dr. Lisa Neher

Incorporating Composing into Your Studio Teaching

In this workshop, learn methods for incorporating composing in your studio lessons. We will discuss existing resources for teachers and ways to create your own composition assignments and prompts, as well as how to break down the process of composing a piece into small pieces that can be achieved using just a few minutes of lesson time each week.



Umatilla-Morrow District

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

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

Dianne Davies, NCTM

Composition: Stealing from the Masters

This workshop is about encouraging teachers to present repertoire to students as a guide for their own creativity. Dianne's *Rainforest Animals* pieces were inspired by two Debussy preludes.





Rogue Valley District (in person)

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

Dr. Alexander Tutunov

Master Class

The master pianist and teacher will work with piano students in a master class setting while the audience is invited to learn by observing.



Salem District

Friday, February 2, 2024, 10:00 AM–12:00 PM

Location: Broadway Coffeehouse, 1300 Broadway St NE, Salem, OR

Dr. Lark Powers

Playing with Blocks

When students build a repertory of chord progressions, learning pieces becomes a process of assembling familiar blocks of harmony. This session will explore a series of keyboard harmony exercises from simple to complex, focusing on patterns most often found in student repertoire, and will examine passages where these progressions are found in the repertoire. Through these exercises, students can apply harmony in a hands-on way towards learning pieces, memorizing, and developing logical musical expression.



Umpqua Valley—South Coast District

Saturday, February 3, 2024, 2:00–4:00 PM

Location: Douglas County Library Ford Room, 1409 NE Diamond Lake Blvd, Roseburg, OR

Dr. Michelle Huang

Master Class

The master class teacher will work with piano students in a master class setting while the audience is invited to learn by observing.



Blue Mountain District

Saturday, February 10, 2024, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Location: Groth Recital Hall, Eastern Oregon University, One University Boulevard, La Grande, OR 97850

Heidi Evans, NCTM

Off the Beaten Path

Heidi will present a list of inspired pieces by lesser-known composers, with a focus on works by women and BIPOC artists. These pieces will be presented according to level: elementary and early through late intermediate. Most of the repertoire will be from the Romantic and 20th-century eras, with a few gems from earlier eras, and references to some living composers as well. All pieces are suitable for the OMTA Syllabus program. Come explore some new music!



CENTRAL OREGON DISTRICT

Grace King, Central Oregon District Secretary

The Central Oregon District celebrated the holiday season with a potluck, hosted by Margaret Littlehales, NCTM, following our regular meeting on Friday, December 8. Our program included a presentation by our host on Syllabus theory and how to apply it to Christmas carols in an improvisatory style. Members brought carols and duets to play with and for each other—including a little on-the-spot sight-reading.

On Thursday, September 14, Hunter Noack gave a recital at Margaret Littlehales’s home in honor of Patti Petersen, which was attended by Patti and friends and former students. Hunter is a former student of Jodie Bischof, Patti Petersen and the late

Dorothy Fahlman, NCTM, among others. His program ranged from beautiful modern works like Fazil Say’s *Black Earth (Kara Toprak)* op. 8, to favorites such as Liszt’s étude S. 141, no. 3 (“La Campanella”).

In early November, twenty-nine students representing five studios participated in a Fall Students’ Choice Festival.

We’ll convene again online in February to hear from Christopher Oill on creative music theory. Happy Holidays to all from the members of the Central Oregon District!

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EAST PORTLAND DISTRICT



Andrew D'Antonio, NCTM
East Portland District President

East Portland wrapped up the calendar with a holiday party at the home of president Andrew D'Antonio, NCTM. It was festive and packed! Christmas sweaters (both classy and cheesy) were in abundant display, duets were played, and an incredible spread of food was consumed. There was much to celebrate: in addition to our usual Syllabus program and district presentations, we had our first honors recital at Classic Pianos, with 34 students participating.

In January, our district meeting will be online, and in February we will have our first Competitive Baroque Festival. Attendance at district meetings has been consistently growing through the fall, and members have mentioned that they love the opportunities for socializing.



EUGENE DISTRICT

Dr. Janet Pollack, Eugene District Corresponding Secretary

During the past few months the Eugene District has been very active, offering fall Syllabus, a competitive District Ensemble Festival, the Festival of Popular Music, a Holiday Recital, and educational programs for members, along with hosting both the State Sonatina and State Ensemble Festivals.

Our Fall Syllabus was held October 28–29 with Sandy Hull presiding as adjudicator. Concurrently, the Festival of Popular Music, co-chaired by Alexis Gibbons and Ellen McQuilkin, was held October 29. Both recitals ran smoothly. The Holiday Recital took place December 3 at the United Lutheran Church, with 13 students participating. Although a success, we are hoping to increase participation in this event in future years.

The District Ensemble Festival held at the University of Oregon was co-chaired by Dr. Genevieve Mason and Dr. Janet Pollack, and adjudicated by Dr. Hung-Yun Chu. The festival offered a delightful mix of instruments ranging from piano duets to a cello/piano duo and a string quartet. There were 14 student participants in seven ensembles. Two of the 14 ensembles were chosen to go to the State Honors Recital. The variety of composers ran the gamut from Anton Diabelli to Dmitri Shostakovich. All in attendance agreed it was lovely to hear, not only compositions that span a number of musical periods, but the varied instrumental combinations in the

tiered, acoustically-resonant hall in the University's School of Music. From the smiling faces of Dr. Mason and Dr. Chu, one could see the joy the event elicited.

Monthly enrichment programs for members included *The Story Behind the Notes* by Cyrus von Hochstetter on November 13 in Berwick Hall at the University of Oregon. Mr. Hochstetter, a Manhattan School of Music graduate, describes himself as straddling both the classical and jazz musical worlds as a pianist, composer, educator, and public speaker. He offered members an imaginative, engaging talk with allusions to the "factual-like structure" of a musical work and an explanation for how harmony can evoke emotion.

Upcoming in 2024 is *Keys to Inclusion* presented by Dr. Brian Hsu. Dr. Hsu, the new Associate Professor of piano at the University of Oregon, holds both Bachelor's and Master's degrees from the Juilliard School, an Artist Diploma from Yale University, and a Doctoral of Musical Arts degree from the University of Michigan. The program will take place at the First Congregational Church in Eugene. On February 12, 2024, Pedagogy Research will be presented by Michelle Sulaiman, Changqing Shi, and Dasol Um. If you would like further information about the programs, please contact Dr. Grace Ho at gho@gmail.com.



LINCOLN COUNTY DISTRICT



Jessie Treon
Lincoln County District
Co-President



Mary Morganti
Lincoln County District
Co-President

Lincoln County District is happy to report on three items since our last article. The first is that two of our members, Cathy Champion-Predmore, NCTM, and Jessica Treon were asked to attend a piano seminar in Scotland hosted by OMTA member Dr. Diane Baxter, NCTM. They traveled to Scotland in October and spent five days at Tigh Na Breac in the Scottish Highlands near Oban.

There were seven participants from England, Scotland, Canada and the United States. The seminar opened with a recital by Dr. Baxter and Juliet Bruce of Workingham, Berkshire. Juliet was a long-time performer with her sister in the Bruce Duo, and has a large teaching studio as well.

While there, each participant had individual lessons with Dr. Baxter and Ms. Bruce. There were group classes, master classes, and time for practicing. One evening there was a piano concert by Jack Tait Westwell who was originally from Orkney Islands and now lives in Glasgow. He performed works by Bach, Ravel, and Chopin.

On the last night of the seminar, each participant performed in a third recital, which reflected their improvement after the input from the masters. One of the highlights of the week was a lecture from Dr. Baxter on performance anxiety, one of her specialties. After the seminar, she traveled to Oxford University to give a talk on performance excellence



Lincoln County Ensemble Festival



for the music faculty. Cathy and Jessie headed to London for sightseeing and more music, including a chamber music concert featuring Sir Andras Schiff, and a viewing of Amadeus with the music performed live by the St. Martin of the Fields Orchestra and the London Philharmonic Choir.



Cathy Champion-Predmore, Diane Baxter, and Jessie Treon at Tigh Na Breac

Our second item is the success of our Ensemble Festival which was held in Newport on November 12. This is only our second Ensemble Festival since COVID-19, and we were delighted with the results. We had fourteen teams who played duets and trios on piano, banjo, and guitar with great family support.

Our last item involves a grant we received many years ago to start a guitar program in the schools. It was a great success for a few years and then folded due to numerous reasons. The excess funds had been held until we could come up with an appropriate means of using or donating them. We finally decided to split the money between the Newport Youth Orchestra and a program in Depoe Bay called Neighbors for Kids. Both organizations have a history of bringing music to the youth of the communities here on the coast. We are proud to contribute to both groups, as well as to clear these monies from our books. Each group received over \$700.



Toby Winn, Director of Friends for Kids; Cathy Champion-Predmore, Lincoln County District Member; and Kayli Jones, Youth Coordinator for Newport Youth Symphony



ROGUE VALLEY DISTRICT

Thor Polson, Rogue Valley District Reports Chair

On Saturday, October 28, OMTA President Liz Willis, NCTM presented a lecture and a master class on Chopin's preludes and waltzes. The event was held at Grace Lutheran Church in Ashland. President Willis's lecture included interesting information about the life of Chopin, his place among his contemporaries and successors, and his unique approach to performance. She also distributed a list of important publications and recommended editions of Chopin's music. This was followed by a master class, the participants of which included local piano students Teagan Calkins, Jillian Barr, and Tereza Golombkova (pictured from left to right below). We are deeply indebted to President Willis for having shared her passion for Chopin with us and for having provided us with useful insights into his music and its performance.



OMTA President Liz Willis with Master Class Participants

On Saturday, November 18, Dr. Barbara Baird, a member of the music faculty at the University of Oregon, joined us at Grace Lutheran Church to deliver a presentation combining two closely related topics: *Performance Practice and Guidelines for Articulation in Baroque Keyboard Music*. Regarding performance practice, Dr. Baird made convincing arguments in favor of treating Baroque music in a decidedly cantabile style, and this was demonstrated on the basis of specific examples drawn from Bach's sinfonias, inventions, and a toccata during the second half of her presentation, which dealt

specifically with Bach's treatment of time signature, key signature, ornamentation, melody, rhythm, and harmony. For years, I have maintained that Bach said most of what could be said in Western music and that we have been living on the morsels from his table ever since. Dr. Baird's presentation only confirmed that, and we thank her for a careful examination of his music.



Dr. Barbara Baird

On Monday, December 4, we met at the home of member Rebekah Harnois to celebrate the season and discuss upcoming events and our efforts to increase membership. There is much for which we can be grateful, of course, and we look forward to the arrival of a new year of making and sharing music. We wish all of you happy holidays!



Rogue Valley District Holiday Get-Together



TUALATIN VALLEY DISTRICT



Auksuole Jackunaite
Tualatin Valley
Co-President



Karen Huntsberger, NCTM
Tualatin Valley
Co-President

Another successful Festival of Ribbons took place on November 4. Fourteen teachers entered a total of 75 students. Thank-you to Patti Widener and Audrey Horowitz for chairing this wonderful event. Adjudicators this year were Joseph Hoffman and Marcia Stratman, NCTM.

Tualatin Valley District is growing! We have welcomed five new members since September. We are grateful to member Laura Davis for providing her beautifully-decorated home for our annual holiday brunch on December 8. We enjoyed a wonderful social time and hosted OMTA President, Liz Willis, NCTM. Members received answers to their questions during our "Ask Liz" time.

We look forward to our grant-funded presentation on January 12. Dr. Michelle Huang, from Seattle, will present *Playing What's NOT on the Page*. Our

Baroque Festival soon follows on Saturday, January 27, at Rise Church in Tigard. Thank you to Myrna Setiawan and Mahroo Hamedani for chairing this event. Young composers wishing to enter our annual Composition Celebration, chaired by Chikako Doane, need to submit entries by February 9.

Our playing class—*Play, Listen, Teach, Learn*—is 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. Our next class will be February 23, 2024. 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

Happy New Year to everyone! We have a variety of activities planned for teachers and students this winter and spring to keep everyone engaged in their music-making.

Our next district meeting will be Tuesday, January 23 on Zoom. Greg Presley will present *Collaboration: Tips, Tricks, and Traps*. What better way to kindle a love for music than to collaborate with other musicians! In this lecture, Mr. Presley will discuss how to develop the skills of deep listening, reading body language, and sensitizing one's self to breathing, as well as how to develop a normal progression of collaboration, from duets to choral accompaniment to collaboration with instrumentalists and vocalists.

For our students, we have a number of festivals coming up. A reminder that the festival dates and structure have changed somewhat this year. The Competitive Baroque Festival will take place January

27–28. The non-competitive Romantic Contemporary Festival will be held February 10–11 and 17–18 at Portland Piano Company. Registration will close Friday, January 12.

Our spring festivals include the Composition Celebration, chaired by Joseph Hoffman, and the new Ribbon festival in April. The Ribbon Festival is a non-competitive, adjudicated festival (master class format) in which music from all periods is welcome. Students of all ages and abilities are invited, and memorization is optional.

In order to keep these wonderful festivals running, we need the support of our amazing teachers. We are currently looking for teachers to co-chair events and join our festival committee. Please contact Marla Hansen at 4marlarae@gmail.com if you are available. Training will be provided, and it's a rewarding experience!



IN MEMORIAM: JESS SMITH

Sarah Ball, OMTA Immediate Past President



With sadness we regret to share the news that Jess Smith, a highly esteemed teacher in Lincoln County District, passed away October 7, 2023 at the age of 99.

Jess arrived on the coast in 1988 upon his retirement from the Brooklyn Conservatory in New York City, where he

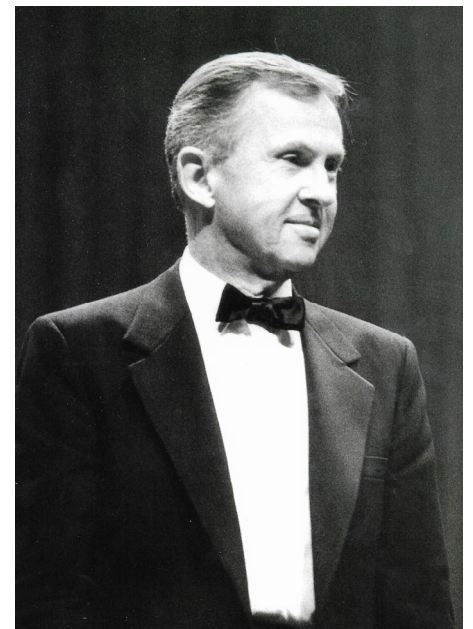
had taught and eventually had worked his way up to serving as the Executive Director.

His education included earning the first-ever Bachelor of Music Degree granted at the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma. Afterward he studied with Rosina Lhevinne in her summer masterclasses and enrolled at the Juilliard School. He shifted his path and earned a Master's Degree in Music from the Teacher's College of Columbia University, where he was mentored by Robert Pace among others.

When he started making connections in the Newport area, he reached out to local musicians and immediately became active in the Lincoln County District of OMTA. With his gracious and generous nature, over the years he served as District President, presented workshops, chaired the Baroque Festival, performed onstage with colleagues, and shared his expertise during lessons with advanced piano students.

From 1998 to 2008 he led music tours of New York City, and spearheaded a Steinway concert grand fundraising project. He was quite proud of going in person to the Steinway Company to select the new instrument for the Performing Arts Center in Newport.

Jess Smith's legacy as a consummate pianist and open-hearted community member provide an inspiration to the members of OMTA who were fortunate to have known him.



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March	February 15
May	April 15
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November	October 15



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