

OMTA MUSIC NEWS

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CONTACT & CONNECT

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UPCOMING EVENTS

2024 State Baroque Festival

March 16, 2024 at 9:30 AM-7:30 PM
Saint Mark Lutheran Church, Salem, OR

2024 MTNA National Conference

March 16-20, 2024
Atlanta, Georgia

Virtual Syllabus—Spring 2024

May 17-19, 2024
Virtual/Online

2024 OMTA State Conference

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



PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Liz Willis, NCTM
OMTA President

Happy Spring! As I'm writing this, it seems as though winter is here to stay, but the days are getting longer, and new growth is optimistically pushing up from the ground.

A number of our members will be attending the MTNA conference in Atlanta, along with five young Oregon musicians chosen for the competitions! Spring Syllabus has begun, and before we know it, our own conference will be happening!

Check out the latest news in this issue from Conference Chair Heidi Evans, NCTM, and be sure to sign up when registration opens!

OMTA has recently been invited to become a sponsor of *On Deck With Young Musicians*, a weekly program of Portland's All Classical radio station, 89.9 FM. On Deck airs at 5:00 PM PST every Saturday. If you haven't listened to All Classical, you should definitely check it out. They have delightful hosts that give the most interesting tidbits of history about the music and composers you've been listening to. I learn something new every time I tune in. There is no news broadcast on All Classical—it is *a//music*!

Over the years, a number of students of OMTA teachers have been interviewed for *On Deck*. The Executive Board unanimously voted to support All Classical, and a committee was charged with developing our message. Much appreciation to Jeremy Hatch for serving as chair, and Matt Cooper, DMA, Andy D'Antonio, NCTM, and Kristy Moore for their work on this project.

Below are the current terrestrial radio tunings in Oregon. You can also listen via the All Classical app, which is free to download. Their audience is now international.



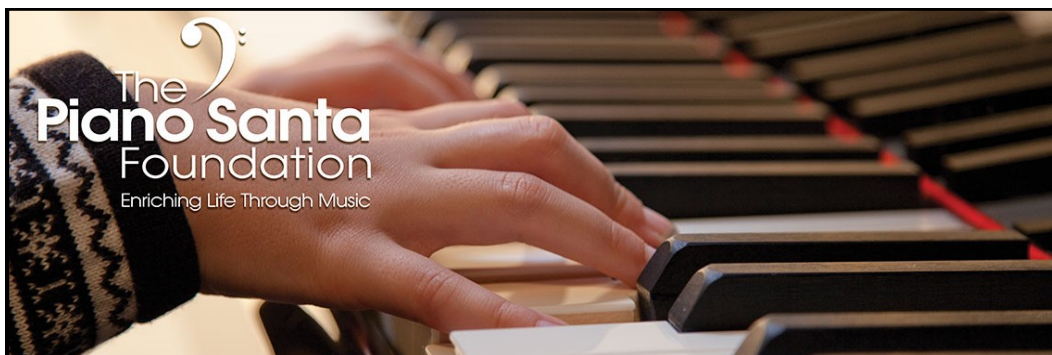
OREGON
MUSIC TEACHERS
ASSOCIATION

- 89.9 FM/HD KQAC, greater Portland metro area, Vancouver, Beaverton, Salem, Wilsonville, Newberg, Gresham, Kalama, Longview/Kelso.
- 88.1 FM/HD KQOC, along the mid-north Oregon Coast, such as Yachats, Waldport, Newport, Depoe Bay, Salishan, Lincoln City, Neotsu.
- 88.1 FM/HD KQHR, in or near the Columbia Gorge area, such as Cascade Locks, Hood River, White Salmon, Trout Lake, Lyle, Mosier, Parkdale.
- 96.3 FM/HD KQHR repeater, in The Dalles, Goldendale, Centerville, Dufur, Wasco.
- 95.7 FM/HD repeater, in Corvallis, Philomath and Albany.
- 90.3 FM KSLC McMinnville and the Yamhill Valley.

OMTA is both delighted to support this program and optimistic that this will raise our profile in Oregon.



Liz Willis, NCTM
OMTA President



Grand Scholarship Competition

Presented by the Piano Santa Foundation

Multiple winners can receive the use of a grand piano in their homes for 2 years, including moving costs, annual tuning, and maintenance. The competition is open to all students (regardless of income level), 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.

Applications Due: May 20, 2024 | Auditions: June 15, 2024



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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SYLLABUS

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Willamette University
Grace Goudy Distinguished Artists Series 2023-24 Season presents
A Family Songbook
Jeffrey Kahane, piano & Gabriel Kahane, piano, guitar, voice

Saturday, March 9, 7:30 p.m.

Hudson Concert Hall, Mary Stuart Rogers Music Center



Jeffrey Kahane

Equally at home at the keyboard or on the podium, Kahane has established an international reputation as a truly versatile artist, recognized by audiences around the world for his mastery of a diverse repertoire ranging from Bach, Mozart and Beethoven to Gershwin, Golijov and John Adams. — USC Thornton School of Music



Artwork by Rūta Kuzmickas



Gabriel Kahane

"So remarkable was his one-man show that those who were there left suspecting they'd had an 'I was there when...' experience."
— The Daily Record (Scotland)

The Grace Goudy Distinguished Artists Series presents pianist Jeffrey Kahane and his son Gabriel Kahane, composer/singer-songwriter and creative director of the Oregon Symphony.

In their first joint recital in a decade, father and son Jeffrey and Gabriel Kahane trace their musical roots through a song-obsessed program spanning five centuries, titled "A Family Songbook". This evening will include solo piano works by J.S. Bach, Liszt, Mendelssohn, Schumann, and Duke Ellington, among others, as well as songs by Joni Mitchell, Paul Simon, Tracy Chapman, Connie Converse, Jerome Kern, and Gabriel Kahane. The performance will culminate in the Oregon premiere of "Final Privacy Song", a sprawling meditation on a climate crisis and surveillance, composed by the younger Kahane on a text by acclaimed poet Matthew Zapruder.

Master classes for Willamette University music students will be held on Friday, March 8th and Saturday, March 9th in the Rogers Music Center. Check the DAS webpage and Facebook page for the specific time, location and additional information. All are invited to attend and observe and admission is free.

[Jeffrey Kahane](#) <https://cmartists.com/artists/jeffrey-kahane.htm>

[Gabriel Kahane](#) <https://gabrielkahane.tumblr.com/>

CONCERT TICKETS — Adults \$25; Seniors \$5. General admission seating,

Purchase tickets at [WU-DAS.com](https://www.wu-das.com)

For questions contact music-info@willamette.edu or the Box Office at 503-370-6221.

2024 OMTA STATE CONFERENCE

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



Heidi Evans, NCTM
2024 State Conference
Chair

Lots of work is going into this summer's conference, to be held at Portland Community College Sylvania Campus, Performing Arts Center, Friday–Saturday, July 12–13. The Conference Committee is hard at work securing locations for the awards banquet on Friday night, and for the pre-conference meetings on Wednesday, July 11. Look for the article from Alexis Gibbons, NCTM in this month's Music News for information about the master classes. We expect to open registration in April.

In the meantime, you can spend time with some of the recent releases and publications of our presenters, listed below. Hope to see you in July, if not sooner!

Dr. Kate Boyd:

On Dr. Boyd's YouTube channel, "The Piano Prof", she recently released a video entitled *Answering Piano Technique Questions: C. P. E. Bach's "Solfeggietto"*, where she breaks down the technique challenges of this popular teaching piece:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BZkO_lbocWk

Connor Chee:

Scenes from the Diné'tah (published January 2024) is now available as a recording and sheet music from his record label Wild Saguaro Records:

<https://www.wildsaguarorecords.com>.

See also his works *Sandpaintings for Piano* and *The Navajo Piano*, along with works for chamber music and other instruments.

Janina Fialkowska:

Ms. Fialkowska's autobiography, *A Note In Time*, is available at Powell's Bookstore, Amazon, and other book sellers. A heartfelt memoir of her remarkable career as one of the foremost interpreters of Romantic music. My copy is in the mail!



2024 OMTA STATE CONFERENCE MASTER CLASS APPLICATIONS

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



Alexis Gibbons
2024 State Conference Master
Class Coordinator

This is an invitation for advanced and intermediate students to participate in one of the master classes during the 2024 OMTA State Conference, which will be held July 12-13 at the PCC—Sylvania Campus in Portland. This is a wonderful opportunity for students to grow and learn from the wisdom of these exceptional professionals.

The advanced master class will be held with Janina Fialkowska on Friday, July 12. The Intermediate/Upper Intermediate master class will be with Kate Boyd on Saturday, July 13. Times for the master classes are not yet set.

As our conference this year is in Portland, it is important for the students submitting applications to be available to play in person for our clinicians.

Please submit your student's name, age, repertoire and composer along with a video (YouTube links are preferred) to Alexis Gibbons, NCTM by Friday, April 12 at ahgibbons@gmail.com.

Feel free to email me with any questions you may have. See you in Portland!



CERTIFICATION



Anastasia Kitaev, NCTM,
Certification Co-Chair



Sarah Barker Ball, NCTM,
Certification Co-Chair



Have you ever considered becoming a Nationally Certified Teacher of Music? We encourage you to check it out! All the details can be found here: <https://certification.mtna.org>.

Congratulations to **Amie Belisle, NCTM**, who recently completed the five projects and can now display this logo on her studio wall and proudly wear her pin!

If you have any questions, please contact us via email: certification@oregonmta.org. We will be happy to support you in this exciting challenge. We meet monthly on Zoom on the first Thursday of the month to discuss topics of mutual interest.

The PSU Steinway Piano Series

with **OXANA YABLONSKAYA**

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CONCERT & MASTER CLASSES

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School of Music & Theater



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power and poetry" - Toronto Star*

*"one of the secretly best concert series
in Portland... an impressive array of
some of the best pianists alive"*
- Oregon ArtsWatch



COMPOSITION



Dianne Davies, NCTM

OMTA State Composition Festival Chair

MTNA State Composition Chair

We are looking forward to experiencing the new music of our state's young composers! Please mark the following dates on your calendars:

May 1:

Completed forms due from each District Composition Chair to diannedavies00@gmail.com:

1. District Festival Report:
<https://oregonmta.org/wp-content/uploads/Composition-Festival-District-Report.pdf>
2. Honored Composers List:
<https://oregonmta.org/wp-content/uploads/Composition-Festival-Honored-Composers-List.pdf>

May 5:

1. Postmarked application form, \$15 entry fee, PDF Scores, and Honored Composers Book orders due to: Dianne Davies, 6995 SW Larkspur Place, Beaverton, OR 97008. Book orders are included on the State Application Form. After the books are printed, the final price will be set and checks are to be sent to Dianne Davies. Estimated cost is \$15-20 each.
2. Performance YouTube links due to Caris Power at office@oregonmta.org and Dianne Davies at diannedavies00@gmail.com. All Young Composer Project (YCP) participants are invited to participate in the State Honors Recital and have their scores included in the State Honored Composer Booklet upon submission. No District Festival is necessary.

Important YouTube Video Requirements:

- Must be set to "unlisted"
- Must NOT be set to "made for kids"
- Do not use YouTube "Shorts"

June 1:

Virtual Recital of recorded performances will be posted on the OMTA state website.

There is also a national student composition competition sponsored by the Music Teachers National Association. Visit www.mtna.org > Engage > Competition Guidelines > Composition Guidelines. The deadlines for this are in September. Students do not have to enter a District Festival or be a State Honored Composer to enter the National Competition.

Questions? Contact Dianne Davies at diannedavies00@gmail.com.



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>



Lincoln County District

Friday, April 5, 2024, 11:00 AM–1:00 PM

Location: Contact Mary Morganti at maryjo3663@msn.com for Zoom link

Central Oregon District

Friday, April 12, 2024, 10:30 AM–12:15 PM

Location: Contact Melissa Barker at missy@greengrassmusic.net for location

Dr. Lark Powers

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.



Eugene District

Monday, April 8, 2024, 10:00–11:30 AM

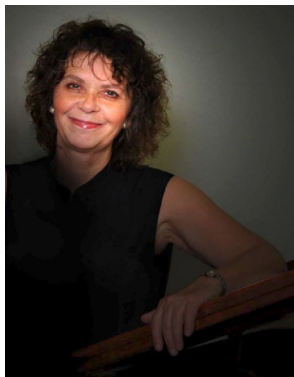
Location: First Congregational Church, Eugene, OR

Dr. Michelle Huang

The Art of Memorization

"I played through it without the music just fine before!" We have all been there. What makes someone a better memorizer than others? In this talk, we will look at the four different types of memory: visual, tactile, aural, and analytical, and how to best use them to securely memorize our pieces for the next performance. We will learn that there is a direct correlation between excellent practice habits and memory, and how the act of storytelling can really help to secure that memory.





Rogue Valley District

Monday, April 8, 2024, 10:00 AM–12:00 PM

Location: First United Methodist Church, Medford

Dr. Diane Baxter, NCTM

Stepping Into the Light: Thoughts on Performance Anxiety

Learn some of the causes of performance anxiety and tips on how to do your best under duress.



Umpqua Valley—South Coast District

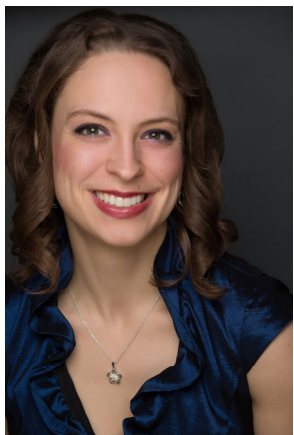
Tuesday, April 9, 2024, 11:00 AM–1:00 PM

Location: Contact Tammy Johnson at tamfinch@hotmail.com for location

Dr. Thomas Otten, NCTM

Tips Toward Terrific Technique!

Technique may seem like rocket science—but it's really not! In today's world—where we're using our hands not only for piano playing but also for texting, typing at a computer, and so on—it's increasingly important to give our students a solid technical foundation to avoid overuse injuries. We'll start with an exploration of fundamentals of good keyboard biomechanics, and then apply these to technical issues such as scales, arpeggios, chords, octaves, and trills. There will also be an opportunity for participants to ask questions about technically challenging passages in repertoire that they're teaching or playing. Note: this presentation can work particularly well online, where participants can each be at their own keyboard.



Hillsboro Area District

Wednesday, April 10, 2024, 10:30 AM–12:00 PM

Location: Contact Holly Counts at hollycounts@gmail.com for location

Dr. Lisa Neher

The Sustainable Studio

Most music teachers experience burnout and overwhelm. How can we create and maintain a studio that is sustainable for our economic needs and our personal and family well-being? This presentation will offer best practices for designing studio policies and practices to ensure stable finances for you and your family, protect your time and energy, and provide clarity and professionalism to your students and studio families. Topics include: tuition models, billing and scheduling software, studio contracts and policies, the ever-present "makeup lesson" question, healthy and joyful boundaries, and more. We will have time to address your questions and share strategies with one another.





Mid-Columbia District

Sunday, April 28, 2024, 2:00–4:00 PM

Location: Contact Rebecca Gooch at rebeccaht@gmail.com for location

Michelle Huang

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.



Lincoln County District

Friday, May 03, 2024 11:00 AM–5:00 PM

Location: Contact Mary Morganti at maryjo3663@msn.com for location

Dr. Alexander Tutunov, NCTM

Master Class With Teachers

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



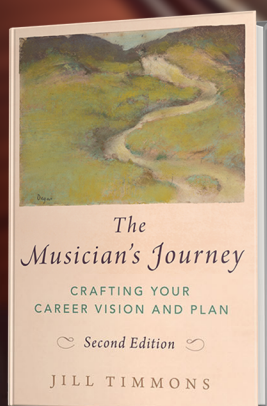
Jill Timmons

PIANIST EDUCATOR AUTHOR

www.artsmentor.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

MEMBERSHIP



Andrew D'Antonio, NCTM
Membership Chair

I recently got to sit in on the Presidents' Round Table for the OMTA board meeting. As each president talked about their district, I felt inspired and hopeful. Not because there has been a sudden explosion of new members (our numbers are pretty typical right now) but because so many districts are trying new things to engage members. I heard stories of new social groups and activities, the reorganization of existing festivals and the creation of new ones, the embrace of new technology, and I saw new and energetic leaders.

Talking to these leaders, I felt proud of the direction OMTA is going: it really feels like districts are evolving to meet their current and future members' needs. Keep up the good work!

We have a number of new members, and as always, please look out for the ones in your district and make sure they feel welcome and supported:

- **Alliana Sauer** is a new high school member of Umatilla-Morrow
- **Stella Hickey** is a new active member of Umatilla-Morrow
- **Geneva Houx** is a new active member of Hillsboro Area
- **Avary McCalla** is a new active member of Rogue Valley
- **Jen Kim** is a new active member of West Portland
- **Stephanie O'Leary** is a new active member of East Portland
- **Joannah Sechrist** is a new active member of Hillsboro Area
- **Maria Yin** is a new collegiate member of Tualatin Valley

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



MUSICLINK

Annette Demsey, NCTM, Oregon MusicLink State Coordinator

On January 27, 2024, Oregon MusicLink hosted guest artist Ines Irawati for a benefit piano recital and master class. Ines delighted the 70-member audience with her exciting and exquisite performances of Beethoven's "Waldstein" Sonata, Ravel's *La Valse*, and Respighi's *Notturmo*, as well as an encore improvisation on Mozart's *Rondo alla Turca*.

After the recital, Ines taught a very engaging master class featuring three aspiring Oregon pianists. Elena (age 16) performed Debussy's Arabesque No. 1, Adrian (age 17) performed the first moment of Mozart's Sonata in F, K 332, and Ava (age 14) performed the first movement of Kuhlau's Sonata in C, Op. 55, No. 6. In addition to his performance, MusicLink student Adrian gave a heartfelt speech before the audience about the many ways he has

benefited from his music lessons. It was an inspiring event for all and raised funds and awareness about MusicLink in Oregon.

MusicLink matches students from low-income families with professional music teachers who are willing and able to offer lessons at a rate the families can afford. MusicLink supports the student by providing funding for sheet music and entry fees to performance events, summer music camp scholarships, help finding an instrument and more.

If you have questions or interest in further information about MusicLink, please contact Oregon MusicLink coordinator Annette Demsey at annettedemsey.mac@mac.com.



(L-R) Elena, Adrian, Ines Irawati, and Ava



SYLLABUS



Dr. Barbara Roberts, NCTM
OMTA Syllabus Chair

Spring Syllabus season is upon us and registrations are in full swing. Some reminders:

- Please double-check the repertoire for your students. Only one piece may be a level below the Syllabus Evaluation Level. If you are unsure about any levels of repertoire, log in to check the Repertoire Lists on the website (<https://oregonmta.org/programs/syllabus/syllabus-manuals/>). If you have further questions, contact any member of the Repertoire Committee, whose links are on the Syllabus Webpage (<https://oregonmta.org/programs/syllabus/>). This is especially important for all Level X students!
- Please send your checks in on time (even better, send them in early)!
- Teachers—if for some reason you are unable to attend your student's Syllabus exam, you must ask someone to monitor in your stead. Please let the host know, and exchange cell phone numbers with the host beforehand. This person will introduce each student to the adjudicator, be there for the entire exam, and help make sure everything goes smoothly.
- Don't forget to include measure numbers in the printed music given to the adjudicator.

Good luck to you and your students. And thanks for participating in our wonderful Syllabus program!



TROPHY PROGRAM



Lorraine Alner, NCTM
OMTA Trophy Chair

In addition to acknowledging and celebrating student achievement, the Trophy Program exists as motivation for student participation in OMTA local and district events such as Syllabus, festivals, and other competitions. Please note the following two changes to ordering participation trophies for your students.

First, teachers ordering trophies for their students should now contact: Lorraine Alner, NCTM, by phone at 503-828-4590 or by email at lyant@samford.edu.

Second, please take a moment to review the changes made to the Procedures & Guidelines. Effective January 2024, students are still required to document ten performance events to earn their first trophy. All

successive trophies, however, now only require five documented events.

Information regarding ordering trophies may be found on the OMTA Website > Teacher Resources > Teaching Aids or by clicking on the following link: <https://oregonmta.org/teachers/teaching-aids/>

If you are interested in utilizing the Trophy Program for your students, a display table will be set up at the OMTA Conference this July. We extend appreciation to our former State Trophy Chair, Dr. Anne Young, for her efforts chairing this program over the past number of years.



MEMORIAL AND CONCERT: HAROLD GRAY



Sunday, April 14, 2024

3:00 PM

Lincoln Recital Hall

1620 SW Park Ave, Room 75 (in the basement)

Come and celebrate the life of this great man who was a friend and mentor to many of us!

Reception to follow.

Event Contact: Lisa Marsh, L88marsh@comcast.net



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MARCH 16, 2024

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BRETT MITCHELL
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"Classical Elements"

AUGUST 10-23, 2024

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OREGON
MUSIC TEACHERS
ASSOCIATION

BLUE MOUNTAIN DISTRICT



Dr. Matt Cooper
Blue Mountain District
President

Blue Mountain District held our Sonata/Sonatina Festival on November 4 at Zion Lutheran Church in La Grande. Nine students participated, representing three teachers. This event is our annual “district choice” festival and is non-adjudicated.

Our district Baroque Festival was held February 10, with Heidi Evans, NCTM as adjudicator. Eleven students were registered (representing the studios of four teachers), and ten performed at the recital. Ms. Evans worked with all ten performers in a mini-master class after finishing her written remarks. Four students from Divisions 2, 3, and 4 were chosen to go on to the State Recital, and two alternates were named.

That same morning, Ms. Evans also presented a two-hour grant-funded workshop, *Off the Beaten Path: Inspired Pieces by Less-Well-Known Composers*. She presented and played excerpts from a great variety of pieces, many from readily available collections, that she had graded into Syllabus levels I through VIII. Five members were able to attend, and we were joined by three non-members. Between the morning workshop and the afternoon Baroque Festival, we enjoyed socializing over lunch at a downtown La Grande restaurant.



CENTRAL OREGON DISTRICT

Grace King, Central Oregon District Secretary

The Central Oregon District enjoyed a beautiful February after slipping and sliding around in stormy January. We gathered online on February 9 for our regular meeting, and stayed afterward for a virtual presentation by Christopher Oill which was an overview of his "Piano Universe" teaching method, and which included great ideas to incorporate into our own lessons.

On January 27, Kathy Gault, NCTM, and District President Melissa Barker, NCTM hosted an informative OMTA Syllabus workshop at Kathy

Gault's home. The workshop included a review of Syllabus and a mock Syllabus exam, and was geared toward new members of OMTA and any members who needed a Syllabus refresher or had not yet guided students through Syllabus.

Finally, we are looking forward to March 16, when we will hear students perform at our 20th Century/Impressionistic Festival in Bend!

CORVALLIS-OSU PIANO INTERNATIONAL

STEINWAY PIANO SERIES

YULIANNNA AVDEEVA

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NOV 5, 2023

JUHO POHJONEN

FROM FINLAND

FEB 11, 2024

SIMON TRPČESKI

FROM MACEDONIA

MAR 17, 2024



YULIANNNA AVDEEVA



JUHO POHJONEN



SIMON TRPČESKI

SPECIAL EVENT

ROBIN & RACHELLE MCCABE

DEC 3, 2023

FAMILY CONCERT

A MUSICAL PICTURE BOOK

FEB 24, 2024

Buy tickets at
corvallispiano.org



OREGON
MUSIC TEACHERS
ASSOCIATION

EAST PORTLAND DISTRICT



Andrew D'Antonio, NCTM
East Portland District President

East Portland started the year with a very well-attended presentation by Dianne Davies, NCTM: *Making Syllabus Relevant*. It was our once-a-year virtual meeting, which is the preferred format of a few of our members and very convenient when there just so happens to be snow and ice!

The first weekend of February had our Competitive Baroque Festival with Dr. Julia Lee as an excellent adjudicator. Winners are looking forward to playing at the State Festival in March.

Our February district meeting featured Robin Ziari, an East Portland Member. He spoke about the District Composition Festival, which he also chairs. This meeting was hosted by Kristy Moore in her Happy Valley home.

Every month Amie Belisle, NCTM organizes our Performance & Repertoire Share Group, where teachers share music in various stages of preparation and generally have a great time hanging out. Our January meeting was postponed by a week due to the ice storm, but we still had a higher-than-usual turnout.

Finally, on January 31, East Portland had its first-ever district bike ride. Charlotte Laughlin led us on a 25-mile loop around Portland and unexpectedly coached others in how to properly change a flat tire. We are looking forward to this happening monthly, and route lengths will vary in difficulty and length based on the members who express interest in joining.



HILLSBORO AREA DISTRICT



Holly Counts

Hillsboro Area District President

Our year started off with a wonderful master class given by State President Liz Willis, NCTM. She gave an insightful presentation about Chopin and then worked with four students, incorporating her knowledge of Chopin's style into her discussion of each piece. We were thankful to have had this presentation before the big January storm!

At the beginning of February, we hosted our Ribbon Festival over two days. Students received different ribbons for solo and ensemble performances, as well

as artwork. Pictured is some of the artwork submitted by students for this event.

Looking ahead, we'll have our second annual Hillsboro Area All-Period Festival in March, as well as our Lower Division Syllabus. In April, we'll be learning about best business practices from Dr. Lisa Neher.



LINCOLN COUNTY DISTRICT



Jessie Treon
Lincoln County District
Co-President

The *Spotlight on the Teachers Benefit Concert: Broadway, Movies and Fun!* was presented by the Lincoln County District on Sunday, February 4, at the Newport Performing Arts Center. 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 group members and guests. This is our 25th anniversary year for both the concert series and the Suzanne Brown Scholarship Fund, which is supported by the concerts. The fund provides money for tuition, books, or festival fees for students with financial needs. The parents pay what they can, teachers discount their fees, and the fund makes up the difference.

We are delighted that Milo Graamans, an OMTA alumnus, was with us for this concert. It has been a while since he had joined us onstage. Graamans played the "Gladiolus Rag" by Scott Joplin, his own arrangement of "Sunrise, Sunset" from *Fiddler on*



Charmaine Leclair and Ramona Goddard

the Roof, and performed the song "Starlight" from his stage play *She Loves Me Not*, with guest vocalist Gidget Manucci. Other performers in this program included OMTA members Cathy Champion-Predmore, NCTM (piano); Ramona Goddard (piano); Christine McKenney (piano, voice); Mary Morganti (piano); and Jessie Treon (piano). Guest performers included Gidget Manucci (voice); Charmaine Leclair (cello); Alesha Orton (voice); and Asia Richardson (voice).

"This concert had some of the most varied music we have ever programmed," remarked Cathy Champion-Predmore, District Treasurer. "There were standbys like Carmichael's "Stardust", a Disney composition, and a selection from *Fiddler on the Roof*, next to works composed by Chick Corea, Pete Townshend, Liz Story, and Guns and Roses. It was great fun! We had a pleasant and unique program of music. We had a great audience and gave a good boost to the Suzanne Brown Scholarship Fund."



Milo Graamans



Christine McKenney and Alesha Orton



Jessie Treon and Cathy Champion-Predmore



ROGUE VALLEY DISTRICT

Thor Polson, Rogue Valley District Reports Chair

On Monday, January 8, member Anna Christina Streletz delivered a presentation entitled *What Does It Take? How to Prepare for a Recital* at the First United Methodist Church in Medford. Anna Christina had just completed a grueling series of solo piano performances which culminated in a concert performed last November, so she was in an excellent position to elaborate on this particular subject. Her audience members were totally engaged as she described her background, her credentials, her reasons for choosing the life of a performing pianist, and her approaches to preparing herself for an upcoming performance.



Anna Christina Streletz

Those approaches included logistical issues and particular considerations on the day of the given concert, among other things. Of particular interest was Anna Christina's long-term preparation timeline, beginning as early as eighteen months in advance of a performance, and her approach to pacing herself during that period. The subject of psychology was raised, and she brought up the following three points with respect to belief, faith, and trust:

1. Don't believe in your professed limits,
2. Don't allow the present circumstances to dictate outcomes; and,
3. Trust in your chosen process.

She concluded with a short discussion of various modes and sources of encouragement (e.g., family, friends, teachers, and mentors), pitfalls, and overall goals. As she put it so well: "in the end, the only failure is inaction."

On Saturday, January 20, Dr. Alexander Tutunov, NCTM, the head of keyboard studies at Southern Oregon University, offered a master class at Grace Lutheran Church in Ashland as part of the Nellie Tholen Grant Program. The following students played the following pieces:

- Alex Marshall: Prelude in E Minor (Chopin)
- Emmett Schweizer: Musette in D Minor (Anon.)
- Anna Christina Streletz: Romance in F-Sharp Minor (Schumann)
- Teagan Calkins: Sonata op. 28 (Beethoven): 3rd & 4th movements
- Freya Claridge-Town: Waltzes Op. 9, Nos. 3 and 6 (Schubert)
- Jasper Warren: "Für Elise" (Beethoven)



Dr. Alexander Tutunov, NCTM with Jasper Warren

The studios represented were those of Michele Alspach, Dea Kiss, and Thor Polson. As always, Dr. Tutunov demonstrated his remarkable ability to put the performers immediately at ease, allowing him to work closely with them, and to draw out the very best of what they had to offer at the given moment. We treasure Dr. Tutunov's presence and widespread influence here in the Rogue Valley, and we are very grateful to the Nellie Tholen Grant Program for having made this event possible. Thank you!



TUALATIN VALLEY DISTRICT



Auksuole Jackunaite
Tualatin Valley
Co-President



Karen Huntsberger, NCTM
Tualatin Valley
Co-President

Our January 12 grant presentation was moved to Zoom due to the ice storm. Dr. Michelle Huang of Seattle presented her amazing talk, *Playing What's NOT on the Page*. We hope to have her back in person next year for one of her other topics.

Our Baroque Festival was held Saturday, January 27. Thank you to Myrna Setiawan and Mahroo Hamedani for chairing this event. Congratulations to the fourteen teachers who successfully prepared a total of 64 students. Our adjudicator was Deborah Cleaver.

We hosted Dr. Jill Timmons, NCTM in person on February 9, and heard her fantastic presentation *Music for the Piano Duo: Two Heads are Better Than One*. Her talk contained a wealth of information, was full of humor, and was very inspirational.

Our teacher-development class, *Play Listen Teach Learn*, meets most months. See our website for class dates: <https://tvomta.org>. All are welcome, whether you plan to play or not. Some teachers are preparing to perform, solo or collaborative, at our annual Teacher's Recital, to be held 9:00 AM on Friday March 15 at Rise Church in Tigard. If you're in the area, please feel free to attend.

We are delighted that our district is continuing to grow. New members are bringing in lots of new energy as they become actively involved. We have welcomed six new members since September.

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

Spring is on its way, and West Portland just wrapped up our winter events! The competitive Baroque Festival went well in January, with 53 students from 17 teachers participating. Fifteen of those students qualified to play in the State Final Recital.

Congratulations to all those students and teachers! Our first Romantic & Contemporary Festival also took place in February. We had two excellent adjudicators: Dr. Isabella Jie from the University of Puget Sound, and Stephanie Ho from New York City.

Our next district meeting will be held at 10:00 AM on Tuesday, April 16, at Christ United Methodist Church in Cedar Mill. Dr. Lisa Neher will present *Incorporating Composing into Your Studio Teaching*. She 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.

Joseph Hoffman is chairing our Composition Celebration. Applications must be postmarked by April 5. Information on the festival and the application can be found under the Events tab on the West Portland website.

Registration is open for our new Ribbon Festival, to be held in April. Registration will close March 22. The Ribbon Festival is a non-competitive, adjudicated festival (master class format), in which music from all periods are welcome. Students of all ages and abilities are invited, and memorization is optional.

We hope to see you there!



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

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March	February 15
May	April 15
September	August 15
November	October 15



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