

OMTA MUSIC NEWS

Opus 79, No. 2 · November 2024

IN THIS ISSUE

State News

President's Corner	1
OMTA State Conference	3
Certification	5
Composition	6
Grant Programs	7
Marketing	11
Membership	12
State Festivals	13
Frances Geer Memorial Piano Scholarship	14
MusicLink Foundation	15
Syllabus	16

District News

Central Oregon District	17
East Portland District	18
Eugene District	19
Lincoln County District	20
Rogue Valley District	21
Tualatin Valley District	22
West Portland District	23

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UPCOMING EVENTS

2024 State Ensemble Honors Festival

December 7-8, 2024
Frohnmayr Music Building, University of Oregon,
Eugene, OR

District Presidents Round Table

January 11, 2025 (Virtual/Online)

OMTA Winter Board Meeting

January 11, 2025 (Virtual/Online)

2025 MTNA National Conference

March 15-19, 2025
Minneapolis, MN



PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Heidi Evans, NCTM
OMTA President

Fall is in full swing, with festivals and Syllabus taking place all over the state. I encourage everyone to take a minute to check in with our social media sites. Dr. Harriet Wong, our Marketing Chair, is working hard to boost our social media presence—take a minute to look for her article in this issue and see how you can be engaged with all levels of the OMTA and MTNA communities.

Also, don't miss the news from Syllabus, with Dr. Barbara Roberts announcing some big changes, including changes to the Level VI Awards—I'm really excited for the newest additions in the awards category!

Do you have questions? OMTA is a big organization with a lot of arms, all aimed towards our goal of "Musical Growth for All". We have a convenient Chain of Communication meant to help you find the answers you're looking for. Have a question about a festival or registration? Ask the local chair. If they don't know the answer, they can usually connect you to the right person. District questions go to district officers and chairs. Need an email or a phone number? Did you know you can find all OMTA member emails on the OMTA website, under your member login? Use your email address and create a password. Write the password down somewhere convenient (or save it to your computer or device), and perform a quick search. However there is a caveat—don't use or share emails



OREGON
MUSIC TEACHERS
ASSOCIATION

except for OMTA business, a professional courtesy I'm sure we can all appreciate.

Wishing you all a festive season of performances, and a light email inbox!



*Heidi Evans, NCTM
OMTA President*



The poster is a 2x2 grid. Top-left: 'MTNA National Conference' in white on a dark blue background. Top-right: 'SAVE' in large, bold, dark blue letters on a light blue background. Bottom-left: 'the' in a script font, 'MARCH 15-19', '2025', and 'Minneapolis, Minnesota' in white on a dark blue background. Bottom-right: 'DATE' in large, bold, dark blue letters on a light blue background. A central image shows a city skyline at night with a bridge and musical notes.



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

Barbara Roberts, NCTM



OMTA STATE CONFERENCE

Mark Your Calendars! June 27-28, 2025 in Florence, OR



Amy Belisle, NCTM
Conference Chair

Mark your calendars! Our next OMTA State Conference will be June 27–28 at the Florence Event Center. Group lodging rates will be available at Best Western Pier Point Inn and Driftwood Shores. This Central Coast area of Oregon has many incredible attractions to offer—check them out on the Florence Chamber of Commerce website:

<https://florencechamber.com>.

Two of our presenters will be **Dr. Leah Claiborne** and **Dr. Theresa Bogard**.

Dr. Leah Claiborne is an Assistant Professor of Music in the Division of Arts and Humanities in the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of the District of Columbia. Pianist, scholar, and educator, Dr. Claiborne promotes diversity in the arts by championing piano music by Black composers in her performances, research, and teaching. In 2017, Dr. Claiborne was the first pianist to be awarded the Rackham Predoc Fellowship at the University of Michigan, which allowed her to further her research in compiling, editing, and recording piano music by Black composers.

Dr. Theresa Bogard is renowned for her expertise in technique and engaging presentation style. Her early career focused on performances of music by women composers, and she continues to include works by other lesser-known composers in her varied programs. Internationally known as a pedagogue, she has been honored with numerous teaching

awards. She attracts students from around the world as professor of piano at the University of Wyoming, where she also served as chair of the music department from 2010 to 2016. In 2008, she was chosen as the Wyoming Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation.

More details on our June conference to come in future issues and on the OMTA website.

We hope you can join us, as you, the members near and far across this beautiful state, are the heart of this incredible organization!



Willamette University
Grace Goudy Distinguished Artists Series 2024-25 Season presents

Angélica Negrón, composer and multi-instrumentalist
Wednesday, November 6thth, 7:30 p.m.
Hudson Concert Hall, Mary Stuart Rogers Music Center

“mesmerizing and affecting” (Feast of Music)



Angélica Negrón is a Puerto-Rican composer and multi-instrumentalist recognized for composing music for accordions, robotic instruments, toys, and electronics, as well as for chamber ensembles, orchestras, choirs, and films.

Her music has been described as “wistfully idiosyncratic and contemplative” (WQXR/Q2) while The New York Times noted her “capacity to surprise.” Negrón has been commissioned by the

Bang on a Can All-Stars, Kronos Quartet, loadbang, MATA Festival, Brooklyn Youth Chorus, Sō Percussion, the American Composers Orchestra, and the New York Botanical Garden, among others. She has composed numerous film scores, including Landfall (2020) and Memories of a Penitent Heart (2016), in collaboration with filmmaker Cecilia Aldarondo. She was the recipient of the [2022 Hermitage Greenfield Prize](#). Upcoming premieres include works for the Seattle Symphony, LA Philharmonic, NY Philharmonic Project 19 initiative and multiple performances at [Big Ears Festival 2022](#). Negrón continues to perform and compose for film.

[Angelica Negrón](#)

Angélica will give a lecture/question-answer presentation to the Willamette community on Tuesday, November 5th, 11:30 a.m. in the Rogers Music Center. All are invited to attend and observe. Admission is free.

The series continues with the second concert of the season on
Wednesday, February 19th at 7:30 p.m. with [Cantores in Ecclesia Vocal Ensemble](#)

Cantores in Ecclesia is dedicated to the preservation and promotion of Gregorian chant and sacred polyphony in liturgical context within the Latin Mass of the Catholic Church. Their concert will present an evening dedicated entirely to the diverse and extraordinary music of composer Josquin de Prez.

CONCERT TICKETS — general admission seating.

Individual and Season Pass

Purchase tickets at [DAS Box Office](#)

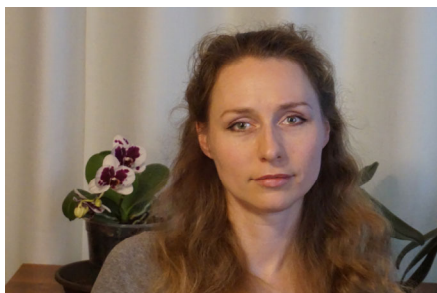
[Grace Goudy Distinguished Artists Series Website](#)

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



CERTIFICATION

Monthly Zoom Conversations — Join Us!



Anastasia Kitaev, NCTM,
Certification Co-Chair



Sarah Barker Ball, NCTM,
Certification Co-Chair

The OMTA Certification Committee continues to support members on their journey toward becoming a Nationally Certified Teacher of Music. Our monthly Zoom conversations provide an enjoyable and useful opportunity to discuss details of the five Teacher Profile Projects. The material is comprehensive yet doable, practical, and rewarding.

You can also learn more about the certification process on the OMTA website at <https://oregonmta.org/teachers/certification> or the MTNA website at <https://certification.mtna.org>.

To join our Zoom conversations, simply email us at certification@oregonmta.org, and we will send you a Zoom link. We meet on the first Thursday of each month at 9:00 AM.

We hope to see you!



COMPOSITION

MTNA State Composition Competition Results



Dianne Davies, NCTM

OMTA State Composition Festival Chair
MTNA State Composition Chair

There were 11 entries from the state of Oregon this year. Our judges were: Dr. Stephen Lewis, NCTM, Dr. Lisa Neher, and Drew Swatosh. Here are the Representatives, Winners, and Honorable Mentions for the 2024-25 Contest Year.

Elementary

Representative: Lindsey Osburn
Student of Alexis Gibbons, NCTM

Junior

Winner: Skye Neal
Student of Grace Waites, NCTM

Honorable Mention: Charlie Doogan
Student of Robin Ziari

Honorable Mention: Adeline Friberg
Student of Tanya Stojanovic

Senior

Winner: James Lee
Student of Jennifer Wright

Honorable Mention: Lex Kornelis
Student of Nancy Stone

Honorable Mention: Elaina Stuppler
Student of Daniel Hartley

Congratulations Young Composers! Thank you to their teachers for guiding their creativity, and to their families for supporting their talents.

Happy music-making!



GRANT PROGRAMS

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



Karen Huntsberger, NCTM
Nellie Tholen Grant Coordinator

There are many opportunities to attend a free grant program in January and February. Make a plan to attend one or more to hear outstanding presenters and topics of interest for all teachers.

Visit the Teacher Enrichment page for the latest workshop updates:

<https://oregonmta.org/teachers/enrichment-workshops>

Questions? Email me at grant.coordinator@oregonmta.org



Rogue Valley District

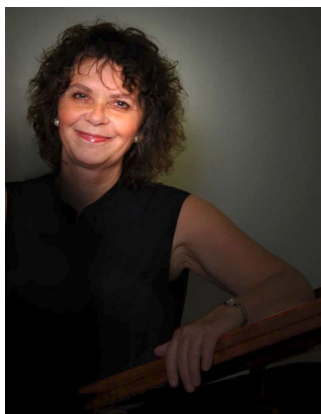
Saturday, January 11, 2025, 10:00 AM–12:00 PM

Location: Check with district president for location

Dr. Stephen Lewis, NCTM

The Mighty Wrist and the Piano: Mastering the Motions of the Wrist for Optimal Piano Technique

This talk is an in-depth look at the wrist motions involved in piano playing (lateral, up-down, elliptical, rotational, drawer, and stationary) and how they help various techniques and textures we often teach or play. Dr. Lewis will explore how and why these motions are so crucial to piano playing, and provide knowledge and flexibility to the teachers present in how to make your own determinations regarding teaching using the wrists.



Eugene District

Saturday, January 25, 2025, 9:00–11:00 AM

Location: First Congregational Church, 1050 E 23rd Ave, Eugene, Oregon

Dr. Diane Baxter, NCTM

Masterclass in Performance Coping Skills

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 7, 2025, 10:00 AM–12:00 PM

Location: Salem Public Library, Loucks Auditorium, 585 Liberty St. SE, Salem, Oregon (3 hours of parking is free in the Library Parkade)

Dr. Ricardo de la Torre and Dr. Lark Powers

Piano Methods from Around the World

Much has been written about the value, advantages, and disadvantages of piano method books for beginning students. However, few comparative studies on the methodology of different international approaches exist. The objective of this joint session is to present, discuss, and contrast piano methods at the beginning level from different pedagogical traditions by authors from France, Germany, Hungary, Cuba, and Japan. Elements discussed will include the approach to introducing note-reading, how technique is built, the structure of rhythmic exercises, and the introduction of general musicianship, as well as the use of fanciful elements that engage children. We will compare and contrast these approaches to ones used in English-speaking countries, particularly American piano methods. Teachers may find inspiration for teaching specific skills through the analysis of these method books, as well as gaining increased awareness of what texts are used worldwide, while enjoying a lively discussion of pedagogical merits and cultural values.



Rogue Valley District

Saturday, February 8, 2025, 10:00 AM–12:00 PM and 1:00–3:00 PM

Location: Check with district president for location

Dr. Michelle Huang

Creating Beautiful Tone in Piano Playing and The Art of Memorization

Morning Session: It is a lifelong challenge for pianists to make a beautiful cantabile sound on the piano, but it is possible through a general understanding of the mechanism of the instrument as well as the proper technique to make a warm, singing tone in piano playing. In this presentation, we will survey different ways to approach the piano keys through two-note and three-note slurs, staccatos, tenutos, accents, octaves, chords, voicing, and phrase shaping. Through specific musical examples, we will learn that different composers and styles might require different techniques to bring out certain sounds. By exploring an array of key speeds and attacks, we can bring out exciting possibilities in how we vary our sound and musical ideas.

Afternoon Session: "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.





Linn-Benton District

Tuesday, February 11, 2025, 10:45 AM–12:15 PM
Location: Check with district president for location

Dr. Brian Hsu

Liszt's Hungarian Rhapsodies

Liszt's Hungarian Rhapsodies have been popular with students and performers over the last few decades. In this presentation, Dr. Hsu will briefly survey the origins of these Rhapsodies and how the music of the Roma People inspired Liszt to write this beloved collection.

PORTLAND PIANO INTERNATIONAL

MAIN RECITAL SERIES

2024 / 2025 SEASON

Guest Artistic Curator **ANGELA HEWITT**

SEPTEMBER

TETIANA SHAFRAN

SUN / SEPT 15, 2024
TUES / SEPT 17, 2024



OCTOBER

DUO AMAL

SUN / OCT 20, 2024
TUES / OCT 22, 2024



NOVEMBER

CLAYTON STEPHENSON

SUN / NOV 3, 2024
TUES / NOV 5, 2024



JANUARY

DÉNES VÁRJON



MARCH

ILYA YAKUSHEV

SUNDAY ONLY
MAR 23, 2025



APRIL

ANGELA HEWITT

SUNDAY ONLY
APR 20, 2025



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Blue Mountain District

Saturday, February 22, 2025, 10:00 AM–12:00 PM

Location: Eastern Oregon University, Groth Recital Hall, La Grande, Oregon

Dr. Barbara Baird

Finding Musical Expression in the Music We Play

How do we play Baroque music expressively, in a way that shows stylistic awareness, and yet in a way that accommodates the instrument being used? CPE Bach wrote, in his treatise on keyboard playing: “play from the Soul, not like a trained bird. Endeavor to avoid everything mechanical and slavish.” We all know that a musical performance is much more than just realizing the notes on the page. But how do we find the meaning of what is being expressed in the notation of a musical composition, and bring that to life in our playing? Looking at keyboard repertoire from the Baroque, learn the basics of how to read beyond the notes in the score to better understand and present the character and personality of the music.

A Romantic Christmas Suite



Frédéric Chopin
the Inspiration



Dianne Davies
the Arranger

Concert pianist and composer Dianne Davies has written a “Romantic Christmas Suite” for piano published by Fred Bock/Hal Leonard. Original and lyrical, this suite is an arrangement of Six Chopin Nocturnes fused with Traditional Christmas Carols — suitable for worship, recitals, and intimate holiday gatherings.

Order at www.halleonard.com



MARKETING



Dr. Harriet Wong
Marketing Chair

This year we are hoping to increase our reach and impact on social media, in order to raise the visibility of OMTA in the community, which in turn we hope will encourage teachers to join and students to study with OMTA teachers and participate in events. However, we can't do this without your help! Here are some suggestions for how you can easily help increase our impact on social media:

Boost Our Social Media Presence

If you are on Facebook, please take a moment to "like" or "love" the posts on our Oregon Music Teachers Association Facebook page. This small gesture will help increase the page's visibility. If possible, please also spread the word at your district meetings. Your support is greatly appreciated! The same tips apply to Instagram, if you are active there.

District Presidents: Share Your Updates!

To all district presidents: if you have any updates or announcements from your district that you would like to share on social media in the coming year, please feel free to email them to social@oregonmta.org or send them to me via the Messenger chat on our Oregon Music Teachers Association Facebook page.

These small efforts, when done by many members over time, have the potential to have a great impact on the visibility of our posts on social media. Thank you for your help!



MEMBERSHIP



Andrew D'Antonio, NCTM
Membership Chair

Hopefully you have already heard some buzz about a new virtual district in the works.

What is Virtual District? Does it make sense for you to join? The origins of a virtual district come from North Carolina, the first state to spearhead this new format of MTNA local district. In their case, they created a virtual district to service a part of the state that was

rural and had no local districts. The district became so popular that they opened it up to anyone across the state.

In Oregon, the majority of our population lives in the Willamette Valley, specifically between Eugene and the Portland Metro area. We have many wonderful teachers who live outside this area, but are generally more spread out and often are located in rural communities. Like North Carolina, a virtual district in Oregon could be a way to unite members who might live far away from many other teachers, especially if a district is worried about the longevity of their local group.

Of course, a virtual district does not need to be limited to members in rural areas. Some teachers are unable to make the schedule of their local district work with their lives. Some teachers have students who are virtual and spread out, and they would like more virtual events for the students to participate in. And some teachers simply prefer a virtual format for themselves.

There are many reasons why a virtual district would be a great idea for Oregon. At this point, the structure of the district is very open-ended: ideas that have been suggested include virtual festivals, local in-person meetings, and virtual presentations, recruiting the best pedagogues from around the country. Ultimately, how a virtual district is operated will be decided by those who lead the district. And as a reminder, members are always allowed to join

multiple local districts. So if you wanted to remain in your current district, but also join the virtual district, that would be a great option.

In order for a virtual district to be successful, we need leaders. We have a volunteer for a secretary, but at the time of this writing we still need a treasurer, and a president or co-presidents. Does this idea interest you? No experience is necessary—just a willingness to learn and a passion for helping make our state a better place for music teachers. You will get lots of support from our other leaders! Please reach out to me or State President Heidi Evans, NCTM soon if you are interested in this—we would love to try to make this happen by the summer of 2025, which means we need to start getting everything in order now.

Speaking of local districts, we have many new members! Please look for members in your district below and be sure to extend them a warm welcome.

- **Linda Butler, NCTM** is a new senior member of Tualatin Valley
- **Pei Chen** is a new active member of West Portland
- **Lana Emerson** is a new collegiate member of Blue Mountain
- **Joshua Hegg** is a new active member of East Portland
- **Emily Jennings** is a new active member of East Portland
- **Colleen Johnson** is a new active member of West Portland
- **Helen Nebeker** is a new collegiate member of Eugene
- **Mary Reilly** is a new active member of East Portland
- **Jeremy Reinhold** is a new active member of West Portland
- **Hanna Shumate Knopp** is a new active member of Eugene
- **Veronica Vasiliu** is a new high school member of West Portland

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



FESTIVALS

2024-2025 Festival Updates

Dr. Janet Pollack, Education and State Festivals Chair

The **2024 State Ensemble Honors Festival** will take place on Saturday, December 7 in the Frohnmyer Music Building, University of Oregon (Eugene). It is co-chaired by Dr. Genevieve Mason and Dr. Janet Pollack. Since this is one of our favorite OMTA events, we hope you and your students will join us. All documents pertaining to rules, requirements, repertoire and entry are available online at <https://oregonmta.org/programs/festivals/ensemble-festival>.

Please remember that for this festival, varied instrumentation is encouraged. Last year, ensembles ranged from piano duets to string quartets. Why not consider a piano trio or quartet? At least two pianos will be available. Kindly note, however, that *all ensembles must consist only of students*. The deadline for the State Ensemble Honors Festival is Friday, November 22, 2024. The dates of district competitive festivals will vary; please contact your district chair for information on them.

If you have any questions or concerns about the Ensemble Festival, please feel free to contact either Dr. Genevieve Mason (gdupassieux@gmail.com) or myself (janetkippollack@comcast.net).

The **2025 State Baroque Honors Festival** remains tentatively planned for March 2025 in Salem at the Saint Mark Lutheran Church. Natalya Klimov has kindly volunteered to co-chair the festival. However, we remain in urgent need of another co-chair to work alongside Natalya for the 2025 festival, as such a large festival really requires two chairs. Additional volunteers are also needed to work as a team to accomplish many of the festival tasks. Please consider volunteering! Check the OMTA website for updates soon to come.

If you have any questions about what is involved in co-chairing or wish to volunteer, do please email me, Janet Pollack, at (janetkippollack@comcast.net), or Natalya Klimov at romanatalya@gmail.com.



FRANCES (RAGOZZINO) GEER MEMORIAL PIANO SCHOLARSHIP

Available to Outstanding Seniors Bound for Music Study

Susan Todd, NCTM, Restricted Funds Treasurer

From the estate of Frances (Ragozzino) Geer (1931-2021), OMTA has received a generous gift of \$15,000. Her children, (Kate Schafroth, Laurabeth Ragozzino, Matt Ragozzino, and Julie Ragozzino) provided the following biography:

Frances began studying piano in her early years under Mrs. Donna Eason of Salem, Oregon, and went on to complete her Bachelor's Degree in Music Performance at University of Oregon, where she served as President of Mu Phi Epsilon music fraternity. Her love of piano and teaching remained a central interest for her entire life. She taught piano for more than 20 years in Eugene, Oregon, and frequently served as an OMTA Syllabus adjudicator during that time. In the 1970s, Frances performed duo-piano concerts throughout the West Coast with her dear friend Patricia (Gabriel Nash) McAlister (1939-2018) from their two-piano repertoire. Frances' longtime membership with OMTA was an association she was very proud of.

Frances moved to the Tigard/Tualatin area in 1979, and was then active in Tualatin Valley District. She

was active in her local chapter up until the end of her life, and beautifully combined her love of piano and hospitality by hosting many OMTA events and concerts in her lovely Sherwood home. It was a great joy for her to witness several of her grandchildren pursue music in their own lives. Above all, she had a deep passion for helping promising young musicians have every opportunity to study, develop, and share their gifts.



The OMTA Scholarship Commission has approved establishing the Frances Ragozzino Geer Memorial Piano Scholarship, which will be available beginning in May 2025. The scholarship is open to high school seniors who plan to pursue music in college and have received a "Successful Evaluation" in either 2 lower-division and 3 upper-division Syllabus examinations, or all 4 upper-division Syllabus examinations. Level X must be completed "With Distinction." Details and the application form will be posted on the OMTA website on the Scholarships and Grants page (<https://oregonmta.org/programs/scholarships>) under Competitive Scholarships in early February.



Frances Ragozzino and Patricia McAlister



MUSICLINK FOUNDATION

Annette Demsey, NCTM, Oregon MusicLink Foundation Coordinator

Our Oregon MusicLink community is thriving! Since July, thanks to our generous and community-minded OMTA teachers and support from the national MusicLink Foundation, we have provided access to music lessons for five more students from low-income families who would not be able to afford lessons otherwise. Two more students are hoping to be matched with a teacher soon. In addition, thanks to our partnership with Play It Forward, we were able to provide a beautiful piano, free of charge, to two of our MusicLink students in Portland.

Do you want to get involved? Do you already offer a substantial discount to a student? Or would you be open to doing so? Consider registering with MusicLink to provide students from low-income families with additional support:

- **Free sheet music**
- **Reimbursement for Syllabus and Federation entry fees**
- **Scholarships to summer music camps**

You can also help us spread the word about MusicLink to families and teachers.

For more information, please reach out:

Annette Demsey, NCTM
annettedemsey.mac@mac.com
503-313-0793
www.musiclinkfoundation.org



**CHECK OUT THIS
THREE-MINUTE
VIDEO
ABOUT MUSICLINK
AND SHARE WITH
FRIENDS!**



SYLLABUS



Dr. Barbara Roberts, NCTM
OMTA Syllabus Chair

I would like to draw your attention to some important updates to our Syllabus program.

Level VI Awards and Recital

We will be offering a special honor to Syllabus students who have completed Level VI starting in Fall 2024. These students will be eligible to receive a medal and to play in the Level VI/X Recital in the spring. We are excited about this program! We hope it will give a boost to those Lower Division students who have worked so hard, and encourage them to continue on to Upper Division. This will apply to those students completing Level VI this fall (2024) and going forward—it is not retroactive. Students must have participated in a minimum of 4 Lower Division exams with any combination of Evaluation, Demonstration, or Audition. Effective immediately, fees will cover both shipping and part of the cost of the awards, so expect the amount to increase over last year. For the detailed requirements and further information, please consult the website for the Level VI Awards Form (<https://oregonmta.org/wp-content/uploads/Level-6-Awards-Form.pdf>). The Level X Awards Form (<https://oregonmta.org/wp-content/uploads/Level-10-Awards-Form.pdf>) has also been updated.

Classical Piano Syllabus Manual

We will be updating the Syllabus Manual sometime this year, with the hopes of using the new one starting in the fall of 2025. However, this year (Fall

2024–Spring 2025) we are still using the Classical Piano Syllabus Manual dated 2016. This current Manual is kept up-to-date on the Syllabus Page of the website under “Syllabus Manuals and Rep Lists” (members must sign in to access this page). Check that you are using the correct version, including the Introduction, which has so much valuable information and can answer a lot of your questions!

Repertoire Changes

The Syllabus Repertoire committee is recommending that OMTA drop the word “idiom” from the requirement for Contemporary Era music. Instead, the word “contrasting” will be used to describe the recommended repertoire for all levels of Syllabus. This will allow a broader selection of late 20th century and living composers in Syllabus exams. This change will take effect in Fall 2025, when the next edition of the OMTA Classical Piano Syllabus Manual replaces our current edition. Current requirements for eras will remain the same in both Lower Division and Upper Division.

Thank you for your participation and for making Syllabus such a great program!



CENTRAL OREGON DISTRICT

Grace King, Central Oregon District Secretary

Happy November from the Central Oregon District!

We gathered on September 13 for social, planning, and musical purposes—including sight-reading through piano duets and pieces for 8 hands to play at our December potluck. Member Melissa Farley hosted the meeting.

On October 11 we held our regular business meeting at member Judy Kamperman's home, with a presentation on Baroque Dances given by Dr. Barbara Baird. Adult piano students attended the presentation as well as teachers, and left inspired by Dr. Baird's enthusiasm for and knowledge of her subject.

We'll be holding Fall Syllabus on October 26 with Jill



Hickenlooper, NCTM as adjudicator. On November 23, students will gather for a Student's Choice Festival at Community Bible Church in Sunriver.

Christmas is coming soon — Order now!

Lyrics are included so family and friends can gather around to sing.

North American Carols for a Family Christmas

With beautiful, full-color illustrations on every page, "Carols Christmas" makes a perfect gift for students, friends and family.

A collection of 15 traditional North American Christmas Carols spanning the first few years of piano study in one volume. New beginners will quickly learn the first "one-finger" arrangements. Enjoy different carols each year, as you make progress in your piano skills. No need to buy a new book every year!

Every Carol Includes:

- Chord Symbols
- Piano Fingering Numbers
- Lyrics

This collection of 15 favorite carols will enrich your personal and family time during the Christmas Holidays. More advanced pianists can improvise with the chord symbols provided, while family guitarists strum along and others join in to sing.

Laura Davis has taught private piano for over 30 years. She holds a B. A. from the University of Redlands, where she studied vocal music and piano. Other instruments she has enjoyed playing include organ, violin, French horn and tympani. As a member of the William Hall Chorale in Los Angeles she sang in the LA Music Center and Hollywood Bowl.

Equally adept working with children and adults, she produced, directed and accompanied Christmas musicals for churches and Christian schools. Her background in community theater, music ministry and choir directing enriches all her current endeavors.

She and her husband Jim reside near Portland, Oregon. She can be reached through her website at www.friendofmusic.com.

ORDER HERE: FriendofMusic.com/Carols-Family-Christmas

EAST PORTLAND DISTRICT



Andrew D'Antonio, NCTM
East Portland District President

Greetings from East Portland District!

Our fall session kicked off with a September presentation on Syllabus by State President Heidi Evans, NCTM, in the beautiful showroom of Steinway & Sons Portland in downtown Lake Oswego. Our October meeting was at ZRE Music Studio in the Lloyd Center, with Robin Ziari and Diane Davies, NCTM giving a presentation on the Composition Festival. It was fun to see Robin's amazing space, and walk past people ice skating on the way there! Our non-adjudicated Honors Recital is coming up in November at Classic Pianos in SE Portland, and Fall Syllabus is already underway.

This year, we have added a social half-hour before our meetings. We are finding that it's a nice way for teachers to catch up over coffee and snacks, and it has also helped us keep our meetings on schedule! Our performance & repertoire share group meets monthly at teachers' homes, and we continue to have our monthly neighborhood walking group. These have been excellent opportunities for members to connect with each other.

Best wishes for fall!

East Portland District Spring Social



EUGENE DISTRICT

Dr. Janet Pollack, Eugene District Corresponding Secretary

Our new president, Alexis Gibbons, NCTM, started the fall season by inviting members to her home studio on October 4, where they were invited to perform or just listen. It was a relaxed, friendly gathering and a lovely way to begin the season. October 27 marked the beginning of the Eugene District's student festivals, opening with the very popular Festival of Popular Music that day at United Lutheran Church. Following close behind will be the district's Ensemble Festival on November 16 at the School of Music, University of Oregon. We are also gearing up for Syllabus, scheduled for November 16 as well. In addition to student events, the district held a very successful Teacher Showcase for the public on October 13 at Unity of the Valley Church. This event displayed the extensive breadth and creativity of our members with repertoire that included traditional solo piano compositions, a violin and piano duo, vocal ensembles, and jazz.

Our district has been experiencing low attendance at scheduled meetings and educational programs. To address that challenge, our president has decided to convene formal meetings twice per year rather than monthly, and they will be offered both in person and via Zoom to encourage wider participation. Our first official business meeting was held on September 23, followed by an excellent and informative presentation by State President Heidi Evans, NCTM. Our next formal business meeting and educational program is scheduled for November 18. Presenters will be Dr. Lark Powers and Dr. Ricardo de la Torre, who will discuss and demonstrate *Piano Methods From Around the World* in the piano lab at the University of Oregon. This special program is presented by the OMTA-Eugene District in partnership with the Oregon Community Foundation and the

Nellie Tholen Fund, and is free and open to the public. If you would like additional information, please contact Dr. Brian Hsu at brianhsu@uoregon.edu.

In other news, our district plans to apply for a MTNA grant to install a Little Free Library in front of our president's home, where free music and books can be placed. Hopefully, this will be installed by Spring 2025. Our district's membership continues to grow, and we warmly welcome our newest member, Shinah Riley. However, participation in several traditionally-offered district events has been declining. Therefore, our district is discontinuing our Holiday Recital and Contemporary Festival. In addition, several members recognize a need to offer more activities for an increasing number of adult students. Several members met October 11 to share ideas about repertoire and to discuss the possibility of offering an informal adult festival under the auspices of OMTA.

Our district wishes all members a productive and edifying season!



LINCOLN COUNTY DISTRICT



Jessie Treon

Lincoln County District President

On September 15, we hosted our *Spotlight on the Teachers Concert: Classics You Love* at the Newport Performing Arts Center on September 15, 2024. This is our 25th anniversary year for both the concert series and the Suzanne Brown Scholarship Fund, which is supported by the concerts. The Scholarship 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.

These concerts reflect the community support of the Oregon Music Teachers Association and the connections that have developed through the

concerts over the years. The three members who performed on this concert span the coast, and happened to be the current officers of the Lincoln County District: Jessie Treon, President, Rita Warton, Treasurer, and Christine McKenney, Secretary. Although our membership numbers have declined over the years, we still have tremendous community support for our concerts, and we were joined onstage by musicians who live as far north as Lincoln City and as far south as Florence. We had singers, instrumentalists on cello and harp, a string quartet, and alumni of our own district. Two members and two guests made up a piano quartet (pictured), which performed an arrangement of "Sabre Danse" by

Aram Khatchaturian. Other composers on the program included Benjamin Britten, Erik Satie, Pyotr Tchaikovsky, and Antonio Lotti.

Due to our lower membership numbers, the Lincoln County District will only host one *Spotlight on the Teachers* concert next year. Performers for February of 2025 are already on track, and our new annual concert will be called *Spotlight on the Teachers: The Joy of Music*. We are a small district, but still enthusiastic about performing with and in our coastal community.



Lincoln County Spotlight on Teachers Concert



ROGUE VALLEY DISTRICT

Terri Horn, Rogue Valley District President

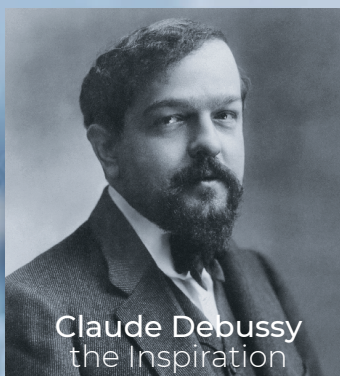
Members of the Rogue Valley District are proud to have achieved a long term goal: our new website is now live! Thanks to the dedication of Anna Streletz and Dea Kiss, our website and yearbook coordinators, along with Nic Temple, our website designer, we can access this much improved site and refer students to it. The OMTA Foundation One-Time District Technology Support Grant allowed us to make this happen. Thank you to OMTA and Education Grant Chair Laura Davis!

Our first workshop is scheduled for November 9, when we will host Andy D'Antonio, NCTM. Andy will share his expertise on teaching adult students. Nellie Tholen Grants Coordinator Karen Huntsberger, NCTM has helped us by scheduling programs covering diverse topics, which we prioritized for the upcoming year. Thank you Karen!

Our membership is stable, and new officers remain committed to making things happen with OMTA. However, it remains an ongoing challenge to encourage less-active members to attend meetings and events. We are also sad to say goodbye to Thor Polson, who has relocated to Kansas City to focus on the jazz scene and finish writing his current book. Our hope is for him to return, as he is well-known and loved in the Rogue Valley.

We enjoy reading news from other districts and look forward to the year ahead. Membership in OMTA provides so many opportunities for us to bond with other musicians. We are grateful!

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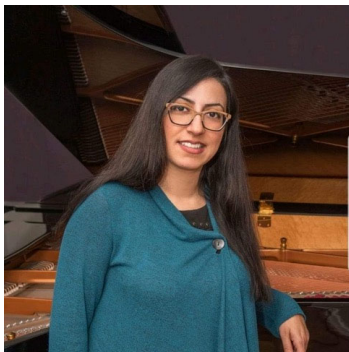
Editors Choice!

TUALATIN VALLEY DISTRICT



Karen Huntsberger, NCTM

Tualatin Valley
Co-President



Mahroo Hamedani

Tualatin Valley
Co-President

We're off to a great start! Our two meetings this fall have started with a 30-minute social time that's been well-attended. We heard a wonderful presentation in September given by member Dianne Davies, NCTM, called *Making Syllabus Relevant: Using Syllabus Skills to Play Music*. At our October meeting, Heidi Evans, NCTM enthusiastically presented *Off the Beaten Path: Inspired Pieces by Less-Well-Known Composers*. Attendees came away with lots of new repertoire choices graded by Syllabus level.

Our playing class, PLTL, is going strong with monthly

get-togethers and a performance planned at the Old Church in March. You do not have to play to attend.

Upcoming events include our annual Holiday Brunch in December, and the Baroque Festival in late January.

For a complete list of our meetings, festivals, programs and deadlines, please visit our website at <https://tvomta.org>. Our calendar will continue to be updated as we make adjustments throughout the year.



WEST PORTLAND DISTRICT



Marla Hansen
West Portland District President

Our fall activities are in full swing! It was great to see colleagues at our September meeting when we hosted State President Heidi Evans, NCTM for a short talk and discussion about teaching tips. Students have been busy practicing for Syllabus and our festivals. At the end of October, our District Ensemble Festival had 46 students from 12 teachers participating, and our Baroque/Classical Festival that takes place in November will have 154 students from 33 teachers.

We'd like to remind our members that the festival schedule is a little different this year. Our competitive

Baroque Festival will now take place February 15 and 16, which is later than usual. The Ribbon Festival is scheduled for the weekend of February 22 and 23. The Romantic/Contemporary Festival will take place in late April.

We have some great programs scheduled for the winter months; please check out the West Portland District website (<https://www.omta-portland.org/>) for all of the dates and details.

Happy holidays!



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May	April 15
September	August 15
November	October 15



Music News Acknowledgements

EDITED BY
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musicnews@oregonmta.org

PUBLISHED BY
Oregon Music Teachers Association

AFFILIATED WITH
Music Teachers National Association

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