

OMTA MUSIC NEWS

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UPCOMING EVENTS

District Presidents Round Table

January 11, 2025 (Virtual/Online)

OMTA Winter Board Meeting

January 11, 2025 (Virtual/Online)

2025 State Baroque Honors Recital

March 15, 2025

Saint Mark Lutheran Church, Salem, OR

2025 MTNA National Conference

March 15-19, 2025

Minneapolis, MN



PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Heidi Evans, NCTM
OMTA President

One of my favorite things about each New Year is the look ahead to identify new goals in my life and work. I like to wonder about what experiences I will encounter or what skills I would like to develop.

A recurring goal of mine is to practice gratitude more abundantly. So I'm going to take a moment to share how grateful I am to have the opportunity to work with this statewide network of musicians who share my passion for teaching, for performing, and for the

enrichment that music brings to every community. I appreciate colleagues who attend meetings—seeing you in person always brings the gift of smiles. I deeply appreciate the volunteers—those who step up to help when asked, who bring their gifts of time, organization, attention to detail, and a warm heart for all the students who participate in each event.

I encourage each one of you to thank a volunteer for going above and beyond in lending a helping hand to make our programs possible.

I do have a couple of reminders for all of us busy people. Check out Andrew D'Antonio's Membership article for more information about an upcoming OMTA survey. The information from the last survey was incredibly valuable and has pointed us in new directions to serve your needs better.



OREGON
MUSIC TEACHERS
ASSOCIATION

Next, be sure to vote in the upcoming MTNA elections (it took two minutes for me, last time) where there are two familiar faces on the ballot—Oregon’s Cindy Peterson-Peart has been nominated for MTNA president-elect, and you may recognize Artina McCain from our 2021 OMTA conference in Bend. Additionally, there is an entire slate of wonderful officers to choose from no matter how your vote is cast. Finally, did you know that MTNA is introducing a new Virtual Conference called Tempo, April 26–27? More information can be found here: <https://www.mtna.org/Tempo/About/Tempo/About>.

My second resolution for 2025 is to host monthly Zoom morning coffee/tea chat times, with broad discussion topics, offering an opportunity to become acquainted with more teachers from around the state, to share ideas and forge new friendships. I’ll announce this via email soon, and I hope to see you virtually, as well as at various upcoming in-person OMTA events!

Happy Teaching!



Heidi Evans, NCTM
OMTA President



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

PRESIDENT

Heidi Evans, NCTM

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Amie Belisle, NCTM

SECRETARY

Anna Danese, NCTM

TREASURER

Valerie Ross

RESTRICTED FUNDS TREASURER

Susan Todd, NCTM

PAST PRESIDENT

Liz Willis, NCTM

BUDGET

Liz Willis, NCTM

CERTIFICATION

Anastasia Kitaev, NCTM

COMPETITIONS

Dr. Julia Lee

CONFERENCE

Amie Belisle, NCTM

EDUCATION

Dr. Janet Pollack

FINANCE

Valerie Ross

MARKETING

Dr. Harriet Wong

MEMBERSHIP

Andrew D'Antonio, NCTM

PARLIAMENTARIAN & LEGISLATIVE

Kathy Gault, NCTM

PERSONNEL & CONTRACTED SERVICES

Heidi Evans, NCTM

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Kristy Moore

PUBLICATIONS

Jeremy Hatch

SYLLABUS

Barbara Roberts, NCTM



MAY 10, 2025

UO PIANO FESTIVAL

NEW:
Four Hand
Repertoire!



THEME: CON SPIRITO

Masterclasses with UO Professors &
Chapter Members
Perform in Beall Hall!

visit bio.site/mtnaducks for
more info

OMTA STATE CONFERENCE

June 27-28, 2025 in Florence, OR



Amie Belisle, NCTM
Conference Chair

Get ready teachers, performers, and fun-seekers for our conference kickoff at The Playhouse in Florence! Conference attendees are encouraged to take the stage or sit back in the audience for an evening of drinks and open performances at this original theatre

in the heart of Old Town, Florence. It will be a casual night of fun and frivolity for OMTA members to get better-acquainted, as well as dust off their performing skills and share their hidden talents.



Old Playhouse in Florence, OR



UO School of Music and Dance

Participants Needed

The Piano Pedagogy program at the University of Oregon is currently looking for piano students (K-12) with ASD and/or ADHD who take one-on-one lessons in the state of Oregon.

Purpose of the Study

Our study aims to learn how physical adaptations in piano studios affect the experience and enjoyment of students with ASD and/or ADHD in piano lessons.

Eligibility

- Live in the state of Oregon
- Have documentation via an IEP or 504 plan that they receive services related to ASD and ADHD in school
- Regularly take private piano lessons from an OMTA teacher

In this study, you will:

- Complete an online survey
- Share a video of your piano lesson
- Optional: answer some questions in an interview session (via Zoom)

To participate or to obtain more information, contact:

Dr. Grace Ho & Dr. Michelle Sulaiman
uopianostudy2024@gmail.com



School of Music
and Dance



CERTIFICATION

Monthly Zoom Conversations — Join Us!



Anastasia Kitaev, NCTM,
Certification Co-Chair



Sarah Barker Ball, NCTM,
Certification Co-Chair

How about a New Year's resolution to move forward with National Certification? It is a challenging yet rewarding set of projects that are available for your professional growth. It is designed to stimulate deep reflection and show your music teaching skills in the best light possible. You can find all the details here:

<https://certification.mtna.org>.

In addition, you are welcome to attend one of our upcoming monthly Certification Coffees on Zoom:

- January 2, 2025, 9:00–10:00 AM
- February 6, 2025, 9:00–10:00 AM

To request a Zoom link please email us: certification@oregonmta.org. We will be glad to see you!



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

CANTORES IN ECCLESIA VOCAL ENSEMBLE

Wednesday, February 19th, 7:30 p.m.

Hudson Concert Hall, Mary Stuart Rogers Music Center



Cantores in Ecclesia, directed by Blake Applegate, is a specialized vocal ensemble dedicated to the preservation and promotion of Gregorian chant and sacred polyphony in liturgical context within the Latin Mass of the Catholic Church. The group has been providing music for worship and presenting concerts around Portland and internationally for over forty years. One of the highlights of

the choir's commitment to musical excellence is the annual William Byrd Festival, which brings world renowned guest conductors, lecturers and musicians to Portland for three weeks of concerts and events every August.

On February 19th, Cantores in Ecclesia will present an evening concert dedicated entirely to the diverse and extraordinary music of Josquin de Prez (c. 1450-1521). This innovative, compositional genius wrote not only sacred music, but also secular songs in the major languages of the day—Latin, Italian, and French. His expressive musical style led to the development of the madrigal, a quintessential form of the Renaissance. Highlights of this special program include some of Josquin's most famous works including *El grillo*, *Nymphes des bois*, and the monumental *Missa pange lingua*. The music will be interspersed with insightful commentary by Dr. Kerry McCarthy, one of the preeminent scholars on music of this period.

<https://cantoresinecclesia.org/>

Tickets are available online at the [Box Office](#), at the box office in the lobby on the night of the performance, or call the box office at 503-370-6221.

CONCERT TICKETS — general admission seating.
\$25; Seniors/ICL members \$5; Willamette University faculty and staff \$10. Students are admitted free. 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.

COMPOSITION

MTNA State Composition Competition Results

**Dianne Davies, NCTM**

OMTA State Composition Festival Chair
MTNA State Composition Chair

Exciting news! For the first time in years, Oregon has a winner in the MTNA Composition Competition for the Northwest Division. The winning students' compositions automatically advance to the national competition as national finalists. The results of that competition will be announced by the end of January. This year, the Northwest Division judges were: Dr. George Halsell, Dr. Thom Hasenpflug, and Dr. John Paul. Oregon also has two honorable mentions. Congratulations to the participants listed below and their teachers and parents!

Elementary

Winner: Raymond Zhou, Student of Tatiana Sharapova, WA

Honorable Mention: Lindsey Osburn, Student of Alexis Gibbons, NCTM, OR

Junior

Winner: Zoey Feng, Student of Meng Wang, WA

Honorable Mention: Kaeden Dunn, Student of Jodell Winter, MT

Honorable Mention: Skye Neal, Student of Grace Waites, NCTM, OR

Senior

Winner: James Lee, Student of Jennifer Wright, OR

Honorable Mention: Felixe Becker, Student of Karen Huffman, MT

Honorable Mention: Yixiang Cheng, Student of Yuxin Ouyang, ID

Honorable Mention: Lillian Lafontaine, Student of Kathy Edsill-Charles, WA

Young Artist

Winner: Matthew Knight, Student of Christopher Hahn, MT

Honorable Mention: Gustavo Berho, Student of Cecilia Archuleta, WA

Our Senior Division winner, James Lee, was also featured in an interview on the All Classical program *On Deck With Young Musicians*. Take a listen to the program at <https://www.allclassical.org/programs/on-deck-with-young-musicians/>

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: Jacksonville Library, 340 West C Street, Jacksonville, OR 97530

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 Church of Christ, Scientist, 1390 Pearl Street, Eugene, OR 97401

Dr. Alexander Tutunov, 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

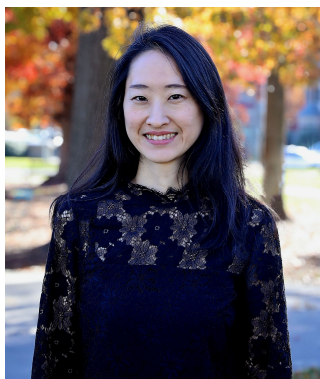
Friday, February 7, 2025, 10:00 AM–12:00 PM

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: Southern Oregon University Recital Hall, 450 Mountain Avenue, Ashland, OR 97520

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.

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.



FESTIVALS

Education and Festival Advisory Committee

Dr. Janet Pollack, Education and State Festivals Chair

In November 2024 an Education and Festival Advisory Committee was created, consisting of both past and present district and state festival chairs, current ESMAR and trophy chairs, and a frequent adjudicator. With this mix of experiences, it is hoped that fair and informed decisions are made, and any changes in rules or procedures will be done in an impartial manner. Furthermore, all decisions on proposed changes will be made by committee vote. At our first meeting, it was unanimously decided that festivals should strive to be more uniform, where possible, concerning the state event fee, rules for videoing performances, and when and where a teacher may accompany their students. Acknowledged is the fact that the objectives of each festival differ.

The **2024 State Ensemble Honors Festival** took place on Saturday, December 7 in the Frohnmyer Music Building, University of Oregon (Eugene) and was co-chaired by Dr. Genevieve Mason and Dr. Janet Pollack. The festival was once again a success on many fronts. Four districts (Eugene, Linn-Benton, Umatilla-Morrow and West Portland) and 12 teachers participated. Two recitals were necessary to accommodate the 31 selected students in 15 varied ensembles. The level of playing this year was extremely high, the performances absolutely a pleasure to hear, and any one of the ensembles could be praised for its excellence. However, the spot-on playing, matching attire (complete with appropriate band hats) and choreography (switching parts midway through) of “The All-American Hometown Band” performed by Andy and Aiden Wang, was a definite highlight for this writer, along with the exquisite Piano Trio in G Major, III by Claude Debussy, sensitively performed by Shane Ong (violin), Jason Han (cello) and Natalie Yong (piano). The entertaining “Tap Extravaganza” played by Henry Goddard (a three-time participant) and Lucy Sawyer must also be spotlighted along with the rousing performance of Schubert’s “Military March” in D Major (op. 51 no. 1) executed with gusto by Kevin Yang and Ethan Barton. This festival remains

one of my favorites, and I hope that more districts and students participate in the future.

I would like to extend a special thank you to my co-chair, Dr. Genevieve Mason, for all her many efforts and attention to details; to the University of Oregon for their continued support and for providing an acoustically pleasant venue; and to Michael Reiter—University piano technician—for his top-notch preparation of the pianos. Please remember that for this festival, varied instrumentation is encouraged. If you have any questions or would like to know more about the Ensemble Festival, please feel free to contact either Dr. Genevieve Mason (gdupassieux@gmail.com) and/or Dr. Janet Pollack (janetkippollack@comcast.net). Further information concerning this festival can be found on the OMTA site at the following address: <https://oregonmta.org/programs/festivals/ensemble-festival>.

The OMTA **2025 State Baroque Honors Festival** is confirmed for Saturday, March 15, 2025 at Saint Mark’s Lutheran Church in NE Salem. I am pleased to report that an excellent team has been assembled, each member assuming responsibility for a specific task: Natalya Klimov (Leggiero entries and programs), Gayle Bland, NCTM (day-of hosting and questions) and Kellene Goff (day-of hosting and awards). The deadline for registration for the State Baroque Honors Recital is March 1, 2025.

Please be aware that there are several changes to the rules this year. They are as follows:

1. The 3x winners’ program is eliminated for the 2025 Festival
2. Last year’s percentage of 30% selected winners in each division is reduced to 25% per division
3. There will no longer be alternates selected
4. No videoing will be permitted during adjudication (i.e., when an adjudicator is in the room)
5. The state entry fee will be raised to \$35 to bring it in line with other state festivals.



If you require further information, please reach out to the appropriate co-chair. For general questions and concerns please email Gayle Bland, NCTM (glbpiano2@live.com); for medals and awards contact Kellene Goff (kellenegoff@gmail.com) and for specific questions about Leggiero, registration, or programs, contact Natalya Klimov at romanatalya@gmail.com. Check the OMTA state website for updated documents and further information at the following address: <https://oregonmta.org/programs/festivals/baroque-festival/>

The OMTA fall **2025 Sonatina Festival** is shaping up with Marla Hansen, Sandy Hull, NCTM, and Dr. Janet Pollack confirmed as co-chairs, and a repertoire committee is preparing to select pieces. It is anticipated that the repertoire will be finalized by the end of January and posted to the OMTA website. For any questions or concerns, please reach out to either Marla Hansen (4marlarae@gmail.com) or Janet Pollack (janetkippollack@comcast.net).

PORTLAND PIANO INTERNATIONAL

MAIN RECITAL SERIES

2024 / 2025 SEASON

Guest Artistic Curator **ANGELA HEWITT**

SEPTEMBER

TETIANA SHAFRANSUN / SEPT 15, 2024
TUES / SEPT 17, 2024

OCTOBER

DUO AMALSUN / OCT 20, 2024
TUES / OCT 22, 2024

NOVEMBER

CLAYTON STEPHENSONSUN / NOV 3, 2024
TUES / NOV 5, 2024

JANUARY

DÉNES VÁRJON

MARCH

ILYA YAKUSHEVSUNDAY ONLY
MAR 23, 2025

APRIL

ANGELA HEWITTSUNDAY ONLY
APR 20, 2025**SUBSCRIPTIONS AND SINGLE TICKETS ON SALE NOW!**

PORTLANDPIANO.ORG 503.228.1388

OREGON
MUSIC TEACHERS
ASSOCIATION

MTNA ELECTION NEWS



Heidi Evans, NCTM
OMTA President

The MTNA election is coming soon, and there are two connections to OMTA! You can learn more about all the candidates at https://www.mtna.org/MTNA/Explore_MTNA/Elections.aspx

Up for MTNA President-Elect is Oregon's own Cindy Peterson-Peart, NCTM, one of our most active volunteers. Cindy is well known for her positive tone, quick and accurate responses, and holds several significant positions within OMTA, including Syllabus Scheduler and Operations Bookkeeper. She also volunteers on several committees including membership, and is a beloved adjudicator in the Syllabus program. As a private music teacher, Cindy's election would highlight the continuing support that MTNA provides for self-employed musicians. In this supporting role, MTNA has set the gold standard for all music associations across the country, and in her many and varied roles both locally and nationally, Cindy has been a tireless advocate for membership

recruitment and support. She regularly gives presentations on the MTNA website resources and is well connected to both past and current leadership across the country. You can read her official bio and about all the other candidates at:



Cindy Peterson-Peart, NCTM

https://www.mtna.org/MTNA/Explore_MTNA/Slate.aspx#Pres

One of the candidates for Vice President of Representation and Advocacy is Dr. Artina McCain, who was one of our clinicians at the 2021 OMTA Conference in Bend. She gave an outstanding master class that teachers are still talking about, a wonderful performance, and dynamic presentations with broad appeal to teachers in all our varied roles.

All of the candidates on the ballot are fully vetted and have proven their commitment to serving MTNA, both the members and the organization. So no matter whom you select, I hope you will take a few minutes to read through the bios and cast your vote when elections open in February. Historically, only a small percentage of MTNA members vote in elections, so your vote truly does count!



Dr. Artina McCain



MTNA PERFORMANCE COMPETITION RESULTS

Oregon State-Level Results

Dr. Julia Lee, Cindy Peterson-Peart, NCTM, Susan Todd, NCTM, and Will Chou, Oregon MTNA Competition Committee

The 2024 Oregon State level of the MTNA Performance Competition was held November 2–3 at Portland State University. The results are listed below. Eighty-seven students competed in piano, string and woodwind categories at three age levels (Junior, Senior and Young Artist). The winners and state representatives competed at the NW Division event in December, and the winners selected there will compete at the MTNA National Conference in Minneapolis this March. (The finalists had not been announced as of press time, and are expected to be posted on the MTNA website in mid-January.) Please congratulate them and their teachers.

Junior Piano

Winner

Zachary Cheng, student of Dr. Renato Fabbro

Alternate

Daniel M Liu, student of Dr. Thomas Otten, NCTM

Honorable Mentions

Francis Ross, student of Dr. Renato Fabbro

Klaire Liu, student of Dr. Rachelle McCabe

Tony Tu, student of Dr. Anne Young

Aiden Kim, student of Dr. Renato Fabbro

Qingshan Li, student of Dr. Renato Fabbro

Junior String

Winner

Sawa Yamaguchi (violin), student of Carol Sindell

Alternate

Alexander Zhonglin Zhu (violin), student of Carol Sindell

Honorable Mentions

Ellie Liu (cello), student of Hyun-Jin Kim

Yuri Yamaguchi (violin), student of Carol Sindell

Yuwei Annabelle Zhang (violin), student of Lillian Manis

Junior Woodwind

Winner

Marilyn Ruthruff (flute), student of Sydney Carlson

Alternate

Alaina Kaylynn Goff (flute), student of Sandy Norman

Honorable Mentions

Yirhe Ha (flute), student of Sydney Carlson

Claire Lin (clarinet), student of Pei Chen

Senior Piano

Winner

Alex Tran, student of Dr. Renato Fabbro

Alternate

Elizabeth Shen, student of Dr. Renato Fabbro

Honorable Mention

Nikita Istratov, student of Elena Istratova and Dr. Alexandre Dossin

Senior Piano Duet

Representative

Sandy Tang and James Tang, students of Shawn Tang

Senior String

Winner

Leonardo Trajano (violin), student of Kevin Lefohn

Alternate

Kaylee Nah (violin), student of Hae-Jin Kim

Honorable Mentions

Andy Shin (cello), student of Maria Shim

Sabine Voelker (violin), student of Lillian Manis

Andrew Lee (violin), student of Carol Sindell

Eden Choi (violin), student of Carol Sindell



Senior Woodwind

Winner

Seojeong Huh (clarinet), student of Hyeyoung Jeong

Alternate

Talia Mesecar (flute), student of Sandy Norman

Honorable Mention

Michael Gong (clarinet), student of Dunja Marcum

Young Artist Piano

Winner

Andrew Cannestra, student of Dr. Alexandre Dossin

Alternate

Helen Nebeker, student of Dr. Brian Hsu

Honorable Mention

Jeffrey Varga, student of Elizabeth Moss, NCTM

Young Artist String

Representative

Josiah Price, student of Carol Sindell



CINDY PETERSON-PEART FOR MTNA PRESIDENT-ELECT

**FEB
2025**



VOTE AT [MTNA.ORG](https://mtna.org) OR AMT BALLOT

Cindy is passionate about the programs that make MTNA exceptional and has provided excellent leadership for OMTA for decades.

Cindy will work to make MTNA even better for all of us.

Let's have a strong Oregon vote to put Cindy in office!

MEMBERSHIP



Andrew D'Antonio, NCTM
Membership Chair

When I started as Membership Chair, I got the opportunity to meet and chat with many teachers and leaders across the state. I found people had lots of opinions and ideas about our members, including why they joined, stayed, or left, and what we needed to be doing to affect this. The ideas shared with me were interesting and broad,

but it occurred to me that they were all just guesses. In reality, we didn't have any hard data about membership as a whole, beyond the most basic information in our directory. So in 2023 we launched our first membership survey, which told us a lot about our members and what they wanted from OMTA.

The information we collected from the 2023 survey was invaluable. Not only did we get a snapshot of who our members were at the time, but we were able to use the data to help better engage our members. Since the survey, there's been a significant increase in members becoming certified, and we've trained many new and needed Syllabus adjudicators. Districts have tried new things, such as carpool groups and casual meet ups, and districts have recruited new leaders with new ideas. And while Oregon has not had significant gains in growing our membership, we are staying more stable than most state MTNA affiliates around the nation, which are losing members at significant rates. While the survey wasn't the only factor for all these improvements at OMTA, it was a crucial reference point. It gives us evidence as to what is working and what isn't.

The survey is important, and it's time we get an updated picture of our membership. Keep an eye out for an email at the beginning of February, and please do your part by participating. We've had a committee to ensure the survey is short, concise, and only includes important information. We will share your individual answers with your local leaders as well as the state. Plus, did I mention prizes? The raffle is coming back, so you'll definitely want to participate.

OMTA is very happy to welcome new members! Look for members in your district below, and be sure to extend them a warm welcome.

- **Desiree Brissac Pereira** is a new collegiate member of Eugene and UO
- **Ruoshui Deng** is a new collegiate member of Eugene and UO
- **Taylor Jennings** is a new collegiate member of Eugene and UO
- **Sandra Hyslop** is a new senior member of West Portland
- **Henry Mauser** is a new collegiate member of Eugene and UO
- **Nikita Istratov** is a new collegiate member of Eugene, West Portland and UO
- **Jennifer Linck** is a new active member of East Portland
- **Adam Eccelston** is a new active member of West Portland
- **Chunghah Hoffman** is a new active member of East Portland
- **Jeffery Savage** is a new collegiate member of Rogue Valley and SOU
- **Taewoo Kim** is a new collegiate member of Eugene and UO

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



SYLLABUS



Dr. Barbara Roberts, NCTM
OMTA Syllabus Chair

Copyright law is a complicated subject. Music teachers know they are supposed to follow copyright rules, but it's often difficult to know exactly what the rules are. I have good news for all of us—MTNA has a wonderful question and answer explanation of copyright law, written by the MTNA General Counsel, on their website: https://www.mtna.org/MTNA/Learn/Copyright_FAQs.aspx.

I strongly encourage all of you to read this. I found it to be very interesting and helpful in understanding what is and what is not legal.

OMTA members are encouraged to follow copyright laws in their teaching. What you do in your private studio is your choice; however, if you participate in an OMTA event such as Syllabus, you must follow these rules. Below are three highlights from the MTNA link:

- Using the original score is always legal and always the best choice.
- Downloaded sheet music is sometimes but not always legal, even on popular websites such as IMSLP.
- Photocopies are almost always illegal.

When entering students in Syllabus, most OMTA teachers carefully follow these laws. However, there are a few who continue to use photocopies or illegal music. It is up to each teacher to follow the laws. Syllabus Adjudicators who find students using questionable music for Syllabus exams will report back to me. I will contact the teacher and try to change this behavior. If a teacher continues using illegal music after having been contacted about it, as Syllabus Chair I have the authority to temporarily or permanently block a teacher from the Syllabus program.

Please read the article! Use legal music! If you have further questions after reading the article, feel free to contact me!

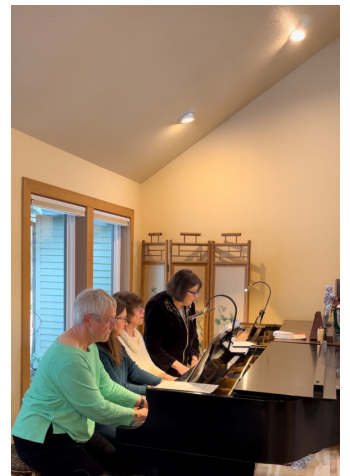


CENTRAL OREGON DISTRICT

Grace King, Central Oregon District Secretary

With snow falling outside, the Central Oregon District gathered on Friday, December 13 at the home of Margaret Littlehales, NCTM for our regular meeting and annual Christmas potluck. For our program, we enjoyed playing solos, duets, a trio, and a quartet of holiday and other festive music we'd prepared for the occasion.

In other news, 34 students representing six studios participated in the Student's Choice Festival on November 23 in Sunriver, and our Fall Syllabus was a success. Merry Christmas and happy holidays from the Central Oregon District!



EAST PORTLAND DISTRICT



Andrew D'Antonio, NCTM
East Portland District President

East Portland District had a successful first festival of the year, our Honors Recital at Classic Pianos in November. In addition to having several kids participate, we added a new component this year of having a special recital just for adult students. Teachers and the adult students were both excited about this new category, and we are looking at doing something similar in our All Periods Festival in May.

In November we had an excellent talk titled *Nove/ Voices in Piano Repertoire* from Dr. Michelle Huang, which took place at Portland Piano Company. This

was followed by our annual Holiday Party in December at my home, with food, music and lots of fun! Our performance & repertoire share group is going strong as ever, hosted at various members' studios. Looking forward to what 2025 is going to bring for our district!



HILLSBORO AREA DISTRICT



Sarah Ball, NCTM

Hillsboro Area District President

We begin this New Year in Hillsboro Area District with a resolution to support our students' performances with a new sense of confidence. On January 8, Melissa Terrall will share her presentation *Turning Performance Anxiety Into a Superpower*. We will be meeting at 10:00 in the Community Room at Brookwood Library.

In the fall, we recharged our batteries with two presentations: *Teaching with the Child's Brain in*

Mind by Joseph Hoffman, and *Teaching Piano to Adult Students* by Andy D'Antonio, NTCM. Both presentations were very well-received.

Along with Fall Syllabus and social get-togethers over coffee, we are moving through the academic year with camaraderie, challenges, and inspiration!

For more information please check out our website: omta-hillsboro.org.



ROGUE VALLEY DISTRICT

Terri Horn, Rogue Valley District President

Holiday Greetings to our OMTA comrades around the state of Oregon!

On December 4, we celebrated the holidays at our traditional gathering in December where we conduct no business, but enjoy sumptuous holiday treats and fun conversation. We invited many piano enthusiasts to join us this year, hoping to increase our membership in 2025. Six members and nine guests enjoyed getting acquainted and hearing each other play.

A promising development in our district is the friendly partnership we are forming with Rogue Valley Music Academy. It is our hope that piano teachers employed by the music school will become OMTA members in January, when dues are prorated. The owners and staff are invited to participate in our workshops and events; our common interest in improving our teaching skills as well as our personal piano playing skills creates optimism that this partnership will thrive.

In November, we hosted our first presenter, Andrew D'Antonio, NCTM, who educated us about teaching adult students. What a thorough and well-researched program he gave! He shared stories from his personal teaching experience and offered many ideas about how to keep adults motivated. It was an excellent presentation, and we highly recommend it for other districts. Andy has such an upbeat attitude; his enthusiasm is contagious!

Our website is functioning well, thanks to the efforts of Nic Temple, Anna Streletz, and Dea Kiss, who all played a huge role in putting it together. We are grateful!

We look forward to hosting two more presenters in 2025, as well as conducting our annual master class with Dr. Alexander Tutunov. What a gem he is! We are all healthy and enjoy the special friendships we share, inspired by our shared love for creating beautiful music now and for future generations through our students.



TUALATIN VALLEY DISTRICT



Karen Huntsberger, NCTM
Tualatin Valley
Co-President



Mahroo Hamedani
Tualatin Valley
Co-President

We enjoyed a wonderful social time together at our annual Holiday Brunch. Twenty-four members attended this event, which was graciously hosted by district treasurer Lorraine Alner, NCTM. Besides eating delicious potluck food, we heard beautiful seasonal music played by our members and had fun playing Holiday Music Jeopardy.

Our Playing Class, PLTL, is going strong, with monthly get-togethers and a performance planned in March at The Old Church in Portland. You do not have to play to attend. Check our website for dates and locations.

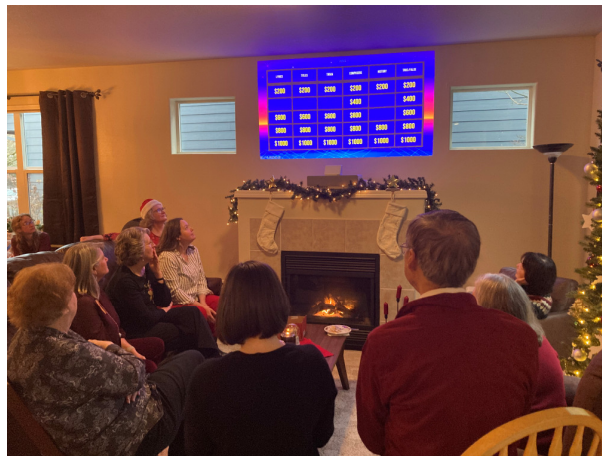
Upcoming events include our district meeting on January 10 on Zoom. Our presenter, Dr. Ricardo de la

Torre, will give us a fresh look at three of Enrique Granados' pedagogical collections, and will present an overview of Granados' educational activities and concerns, as well as the way his tradition lives on today. Our Baroque Festival will be held January 25 at Rise Church. Our annual Composition Festival has a submission deadline of February 7. We always look forward to working with young composers in our studios and helping them get their ideas down on paper.

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.



14 of the 24 Tualatin Valley OMTA members who attended our annual Holiday Brunch.



Members' knowledge was tested with Holiday Music Jeopardy.



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!

Our next district meeting will be Wednesday, January 22. East Portland President Andy D'Antonio, NCTM, will give a presentation on teaching adult piano students. And on February 26, Dr. Lisa Neher will present *The Sustainable Studio*, a business practices presentation.

For our students, we have the District Competitive Baroque Festival February 15 and 16, and the Ribbon Festival February 22 and 23. Registration for both events closes January 17 on Leggiero.

We have one more special opportunity coming up soon, a master class for intermediate and advanced students on March 21. West Portland has invited Ines Irawati to enlighten, inspire, and entertain us with her vibrant teaching style and musical mastery. Master class auditions are due February 10. Please see the festival instructions page on the West Portland District's website for all the details!

We are currently looking for more teachers to serve in leadership roles. Many hands make light work! Please contact Marla Hansen at 4marlarae@gmail.com if you are available.



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

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



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