

OMTA MUSIC NEWS

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UPCOMING EVENTS

2025 State Baroque Honors Recital

March 15, 2025
Saint Mark Lutheran Church, Salem, OR

2025 MTNA National Conference

March 15-19, 2025
Minneapolis, MN

2025 ESMAR Examinations

June 7, 2025
Willamette University, Dept. of Music, Salem, OR

2025 OMTA State Conference

June 27-28, 2025
Florence Events Center, Florence, OR



PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Heidi Evans, NCTM
OMTA President

I often reflect on how fortunate I am to be a musician, to be a part of a field where we have every option available for listening, no matter what mood we're in. Feeling jubilant? There's a playlist for that. Feeling low—what do you sit down to play? No matter the listening source, we now have the opportunity to connect with others through the playlists they've created that also can capture our own feelings in all their depth and complexity.

So many of the great composers through the centuries have been able to tap into our deepest feelings. I think of Beethoven, from his impassioned drama, to his unutterable tenderness, to his moments of wit and humor in the Bagatelles, to his self-actualizing determination to continue writing music no matter his circumstances, and how, as a result, his styles span the gamut of feelings, of styles, of forms. Indeed, there is a Beethoven playlist for every feeling, too! Much the same could be said of other beloved composers. A great question to ask another musician is "What do you listen to...?" Or even better, "What do you play when...?" Or best yet, "Why don't we make music together!"

As we find ourselves in the busy season of spring, with all its festivals, Syllabus, recitals, competitions, and awards, what do you listen to when you feel stressed or overwhelmed? What



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do you play when your feelings are joyful? What do you put on the speakers at full volume to celebrate? What performance moved you to tears this week?

Recently you received an email with important information about the upcoming changes to the Syllabus program, which will take effect Fall 2025 (and which is described in greater detail later in this issue). All changes to OMTA programs are announced by email, so be sure to check your spam folder and adjust the settings so that emails from OMTA are added to your “safe senders” list. We don’t want you to miss important announcements!

As I was writing this article, my keyboard stopped working. Sounds like a moment for “The Goblin and the Mosquito” by Florence Price. When I see you next, tell me what you’re listening to—or better yet, playing!



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

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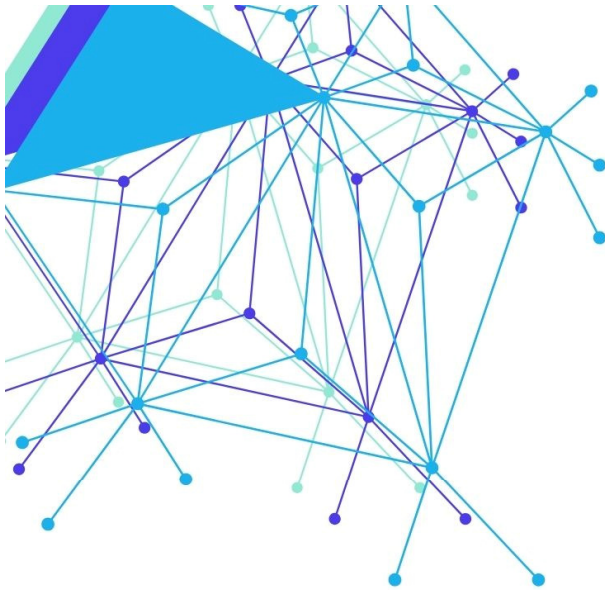
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SYLLABUS

Barbara Roberts, NCTM

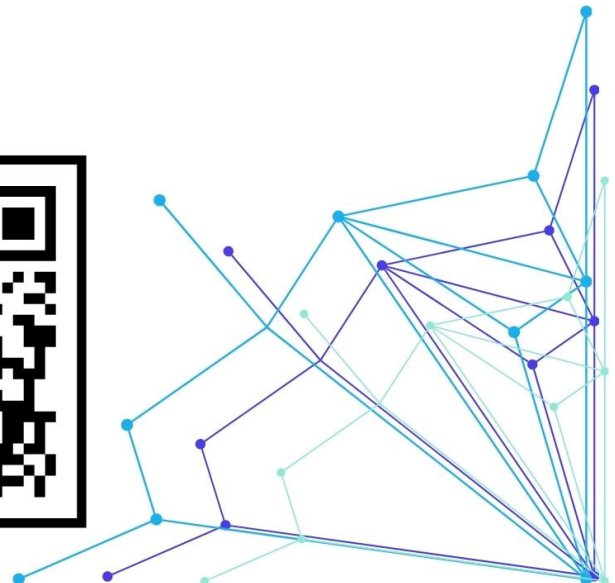
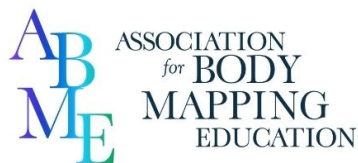




ABME Biennial Conference at
Portland State University

**“What Every Musician Needs to Know
About the Body”**

The Six-Hour Foundational Body Mapping Course
Wednesday, June 18th
4 Instrument-Specific Tracks



OMTA STATE CONFERENCE

June 27-28, 2025 · Florence Events Center · Florence, OR



Amie Belisle, NCTM
Conference Chair

It's time to start planning your trip to Florence this June 27–28! You won't want to miss this opportunity to visit Oregon's Central Coast, which is one of my favorite coastlines anywhere.

Not only will you have time to unwind from the busy school year strolling on the beach, but there will be opportunities to connect with colleagues and gain new skills from presentations and discussions throughout the two day conference. These include Dr. Leah Claiborne's *Pedagogical Works of Black Composers*; Dr. Theresa Bogard's expertise on technique, memorization and performance anxiety; and local experts Emily Ross on adaptive techniques, and Lisa Neher on cultivating happiness.

Fortunately, this year's OMTA conference is supported by \$22,000 from Nellie Tholen District Enrichment Project funds, which keeps our conference registration fees affordable.

Early-bird pricing will be available through May 15, so start imagining the scent of that fresh salty air and cool breeze on your skin to get you through these very busy spring months!

Registration opens in April.



Oregon Coast at Florence



COMPOSITION

2025 State Composition Festival

**Dianne Davies, NCTM**

OMTA State Composition Festival Chair

MTNA State Composition Chair

NEW THIS YEAR for the 2025 State Composition Festival:

1. **Registration is online and available on the OMTA state website.**
 - Click on Programs for Students
 - Go to 4th drop down - FESTIVALS
 - Go to 4th drop down - COMPOSITION
 - You can click directly here: <https://oregonmta.org/student-composition-festival-application-state-level>
2. **Entry fee has increased to \$35.** One copy of the Honored Composers Booklet will be included in this fee.
3. **All deadlines will be May 10.** The portal will close at 11:59 PM on May 10. No late entries will be accepted.
4. Extra copies of the Honored Composers Book are not included and will be an extra fee of \$20.

How to Qualify for the State Composition Festival:

Be adjudicated and given the title of "Honored Composer" at your district level event.

Participate in the Young Composers Project (YCP). Here is the link to check out YCP:
<http://www.ycp.fearnomusic.org>

If your district does not have a Composition Festival, contact Dianne Davies: diannedavies00@gmail.com.

PDF Score Formatting Requirements:

The composer's score must be formatted with the criteria below in order for it to print correctly in the Honored Composer's Book.

1. Margins must be one inch all around the document: top, bottom, left, right.
2. Center title and use 24 point Times New Roman font.
3. Teacher's name in upper left corner under title, in 10 point Times New Roman font.
4. Student's name and age in upper right corner under title, also in 10 point Times New Roman.
5. Put a copyright symbol, the year, and student's name at the bottom of each page of their score, in 10 point Times New Roman. **Example:**
©JohnSchmitt2025
6. No page numbers on the score—please remove them.
7. No scans will be accepted.
8. See this example for correct formatting. <https://oregonmta.org/wp-content/uploads/Composition-Festival-State-Score-Example.pdf>
9. Scores that do not follow this format will be returned for corrections.

YouTube Video Requirements:

1. Must be set to "unlisted" or "public".
2. Do NOT mark "made for kids"
3. No YouTube Shorts will be accepted.

For more information, consult the OMTA website:
<https://oregonmta.org/programs/festivals/composition-festival/>



GRANT PROGRAMS

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



Karen Huntsberger, NCTM
Nellie Tholen Grant Coordinator

With many opportunities to attend a free grant program in April, 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



Salem District

Friday, April 4, 2025, 10:00 AM–12:00 PM

Location: Check with district president for location

Deborah Cleaver

Taubman Approach

This presentation will focus on the practical aspects of the Taubman approach that can be incorporated without a lot of training. Teachers will learn the most advantageous physical relation to the keyboard, how to successfully perform leaps, polyrhythms, chords and octaves, and improved tone production.



Central Oregon District

Friday, April 11, 2025, 10:45 AM–12:15 PM

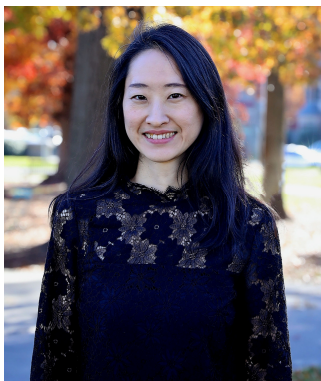
Location: Check with district president for location

Melissa Terrall

Turning Performance Anxiety into a Super Power

How can music teachers help students face the daunting challenge of performance anxiety? In this practical workshop, we will discuss practical strategies to prepare students for successful performances. Attendees will receive a packet of materials and activities for a fun and insightful studio group class on performance preparation!





Umatilla-Morrow District

Saturday, April 12, 2025, 10:00 AM–12:00 PM and 1:30–3:30 PM

Location: LDS Church, 850 SW 11th St., Hermiston, OR 97838

Dr. Michelle Huang

The Art of Memorization, and Master Class

"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.

In the afternoon, Dr. Huang will work with piano students in a master class setting while the audience is invited to learn by observing.



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!

PAID FOR BY FRIENDS OF CINDY PETERSON-PEART



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Mid-Columbia District

Sunday, April 27, 2025, 1:30-3:00 PM and 3:15-4:45 PM

Location: Check with district president for location

Dr. Alex Tutunov, NCTM

Master Classes

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

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TUES / NOV 5, 2024



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EDUCATION AND FESTIVALS

2025 State Festivals

Dr. Janet Pollack, Education and State Festivals Chair

I am pleased to report that all state festivals are moving forward with excellent teams at their helms. In brief, the **State Baroque Honors Recital** will soon take place in Salem, and the State Composition Festival follows in the spring. Planning for the popular fall biennial **Sonatina Festival** is underway, and has already posted the 2025 Required Repertoire List on the OMTA website. The final **ESMAR** event of 2025 is on the calendar for June 7, and the planning is in good hands with Lorraine Alner, Chair. However, the **State Ensemble Honors Recital** is in *need of a co-chair* for 2025. Please consider volunteering. More detailed information about these events follows below.

Planning for the **OMTA Fall 2025 Sonatina Festival** is now underway as co-chairs Marla Hansen, Sandy Hull, NCTM, and Dr. Janet Pollack set their sights on an October 2025 date for the event at the University of Oregon. It is too early for the university to confirm a date, but as soon as they do, all documents will be updated with the information. Until that happens, teachers can begin preparing their students by consulting the **2025 Required Repertoire List**, which is now available on the OMTA website and can easily be accessed by clicking on the following link: https://oregonmta.org/wp-content/uploads/Sonatina_Festival_Repertoire_List.pdf. A sincere thank you is extended to the repertoire committee—Sandy Hull, NCTM, Ellen McQuilkin, NCTM, and Dr. Grace Ho—for their speedy and efficient work on readying this list, and to Caris Power in the OMTA office for getting it online so quickly. More information on the registration process will follow. For any other questions or concerns, please reach out to either Marla Hansen (4marlarae@gmail.com) or Dr. Janet Pollack (janetkippollack@comcast.net).

The OMTA **2025 State Baroque Honors Festival** is set to take place on 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: the co-chairs, each assuming responsibility for a specific task, are Natalya Klimov (Leggiero entries

and programs), Gayle Bland, NCTM (day-of hosting and questions) and Kellene Goff (day-of hosting and awards). Note that the registration **deadline** for the recital is **March 1, 2025**.

There are several changes to the Baroque Festival rules this year, determined by the newly-formed Education Committee. These changes, along with a brief explanation as to why the rule has been altered, are as follows:

1. The 3x winners' program was eliminated for the 2025 Festival because it was not uniformly enforced by all districts. Judges also explained that it was difficult to keep track of those who were 3x winners, and requested that this program be removed. Having three winners from each district along with the 3x winners also contributed to overly-large recitals.
2. Last year's percentage of 30% selected winners in each division was reduced to 25% per division. The decision was made to reduce the number of students in recitals, as the events would otherwise be too long and too much work for the volunteers to manage.
3. There will no longer be alternates selected. This decision was again based on the large number of students selected. We do wish to encourage all students, but it was necessary to limit the number of participants somewhat.
4. No videoing will be permitted during adjudication (i.e., when an adjudicator is in the room). This is a clarification of the videoing rule and is an attempt to remove any bias—conscious or not—by a judge, and to prevent a performer from being distracted.
5. The state entry fee was raised to \$35 to bring the Baroque Festival in line with other state festivals. The Education Committee is striving for uniformity among the festivals wherever possible. To be more consistent, the committee viewed the festival program as a whole and decided that if all festivals charged the same amount, the



festivals that typically make money could offset the festivals that typically lose money. This fee increase would then sustain the festival program and give the program a sense of uniformity.

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 state OMTA website for updated documents and further information at <https://oregonmta.org/programs/festivals/baroque-festival/>.

The **2025 State Composition Festival**, chaired by Dianne Davies, NCTM, is a non-competitive event that provides emerging composers the opportunity to share their creative accomplishments. There is no age limit for participants and this is an excellent

opportunity for the very young and older adult student. This festival is open to any student composer studying with a teacher who is an active member in good standing with OMTA or a non-member who has paid the non-member fee for the event. For more information, consult the relevant article elsewhere in this issue, which includes a link to the festival page on the OMTA website.

ESMAR 2025 is “an educational program that offers a challenging performance goal for advanced teenage and adult students who wish to continue their music education beyond the requirements of the OMTA Level X Syllabus.” The 2025 ESMAR Examinations will be adjudicated by Dr. Crystal Zimmerman, NCTM, at Willamette University in Salem. The deadline for student registration is April 15, 2025. The final event is scheduled for June 7, 2025. Contact Lorraine Alner, Chair, at esmar@oregonmta.org for any additional questions or concerns.



MEMBERSHIP



Andrew D'Antonio, NCTM
Membership Chair

First, a huge thank-you to all of you who participated in the membership survey! The information you provided helps your district and state leaders make decisions that will be more relevant to you. It takes a little bit of time to process all this information, but the results will be shared soon.

OMTA is proud to welcome new members! Please see below to look for members in your district:

- **Theresa Koon** is a new active member of East Portland
- **Andrew Cannestra** is a new collegiate member of UO and Eugene
- **Leah Amarosa** is a new collegiate member of UO and Eugene
- **Bülent Güneralp** is a new active member of Eugene

- **Emma Werner** is a new active member of Rogue Valley
- **Jesse Neufeld** is a new active member of Tualatin Valley
- **Susan Wolin** is a new senior member of East & West Portland
- **Daniel Hartley** is a new active member of Tualatin Valley
- **Narae Hanney** is a new active member of West Portland

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



SYLLABUS



Dr. Barbara Roberts, NCTM
OMTA Syllabus Chair

The new Classical Piano Syllabus Manual 2025 has been finished and is now available to all members on our OMTA website! It will be used exclusively starting Fall 2025. I encourage you to login to the OMTA site, navigate to the Syllabus page, scroll down to Manuals, and take a look. You can view it at any time and print it directly from the website for yourself and your students.

There are minor changes in the requirements which include:

- Level I: 5-finger patterns, chords, and arpeggios.
- Levels III-VI: A broadening of the repertoire requirements.
- Upper Division chord skills are now hands together.
- Level X arpeggios: tonic inversions are required as a set in two keys of choice. Also, cadences are to start on the tonic chord.
- The formatting has been updated and streamlined.

Please take a careful look at the introductory pages. We have tried to be very specific in describing all the various details and requirements for the Syllabus program. The introduction should have answers to most of the questions you may have about participating in Syllabus. Read and re-read it many times before you pick up the phone or email someone with a question, as your answer can probably be found in those first pages!

The 2016 Syllabus Manual will be used for the last time this Spring 2025. After that, please recycle any 2016 copies you may have so you don't inadvertently use the wrong edition.

Many thanks to the Syllabus Manual Committee, which includes Barbara Chapman, Heidi Evans, Karen Huntsberger, Susan Todd, and Liz Willis. Many thanks to the OMTA Adjudicators for their suggestions in content and editing. And many thanks to Caris and Robin Power in the OMTA Office for their invaluable help and expertise in making this happen. It has been quite a process, and we are proud of the result. We hope you like it too!



EAST PORTLAND DISTRICT



Andrew D'Antonio, NCTM
East Portland District President

Continuing our effort to highlight our own members as presenters, we have had two East Portland District members present so far this year. In January, Dr. Stephen Lewis, NCTM, presented *The Mighty Wrist and the Piano: Mastering the Motions of the Wrist for Optimal Piano Technique* at his home studio, and in February, Andy D'Antonio, NCTM presented *Teaching Adult Piano Students at Mt. Hood Community College*.

The Performance Repertoire & Share group in December had twelve participants (possibly a record), with January and February also being well-attended. Finally, our Baroque Competition enjoyed a wonderful turnout, with high-level playing from students of a variety of ages, and excellent feedback from our adjudicator, Dr. Renato Fabbro. By the time this is published, Spring Lower Division Syllabus will be well underway.



EUGENE DISTRICT

Dr. Janet Pollack, Eugene District Corresponding Secretary

The past year was both successful and invigorating for members of the Eugene District, and concluded in November with twenty-one students from seven teachers participating in Syllabus. Since no formal meetings or programs were planned during the busy holiday season, our president Alexis Gibbons, NCTM, invited members to join her for an informal gathering at the Palace Bakery on December 9. This was a lovely gesture, and those in attendance enjoyed the event.

We started the year with a bang on January 25, with a business meeting and an excellent master class offered for our district's piano students by the ever-popular pianist and clinician Dr. Alexander Tutunov, NCTM. Upcoming events include student festivals, recitals, member business meetings, and a masterclass expressly for teachers. On February 22, we held our District Baroque Festival, and on March 9 we will have our popular non-adjudicated district recital. For the district recital, students not only perform solo repertoire but are encouraged to perform in ensembles. Continuing our effort to engage as many members as possible in the workings of the district, varied options for attending business meetings are being explored. For instance, rather than holding meetings exclusively in-person, our March 10 business meeting will be via Zoom. On April 4, our District OMTA Composition Celebration will take place, followed on April 12 by the much-anticipated master class with Dr. Peter Mack, NCTM. Dr. Mack's master class is geared toward nurturing the performance skills of OMTA teachers. This master class will be preceded by an in-person business meeting. All OMTA members and interested public are welcome to the master class. If you wish to join us or need additional information about any of these OMTA programs, please contact our vice president Dr. Brian Hsu at brianhsu@uoregon.edu.

In addition to our district membership gathering for meetings, social events and workshops, a small group has set up monthly meetings to discuss ways to accommodate the growing number of serious adult learners, a demographic currently underserved by OMTA, yet of immense importance for the sustainability of piano instruction and music education in general. Together we are sharing pedagogical teaching materials and investigating possible performance venues for our adult learners. Like all serious students, these adults wish to share their accomplishments and to meet other piano enthusiasts. Bookstores, eateries, and piano showcases are being considered as possible venues, and there is an interest in perhaps establishing an OMTA-sanctioned Piano Festival explicitly for adult students of OMTA teachers. One event thus far has taken place at Tsunami Books in Eugene and was a success. Also being considered is a Monster Piano Event where adult students can perform in a multi-piano ensemble alongside their peers.

Worth noting are the ways our individual members are active in the Eugene community performing and promoting music and OMTA in general. We are proud that Eugene's pianist and composer Paul Safar recently had his orchestral work *Refugium Snapshots of Denali* performed by the Brazosport Symphony Orchestra in Clute, Texas. Paul also established a vibrant First Thursday Concert series at Tsunami Books. The next concert of the Tsunami Book series will take place March 6. On March 2, pianist Sandy Holder, another active and outstanding OMTA member, will join Paul at Jazz Station in Eugene for a concert featuring original music and standard classics. All are welcome to attend any of these concerts.



HILLSBORO AREA DISTRICT



Sarah Ball, NCTM

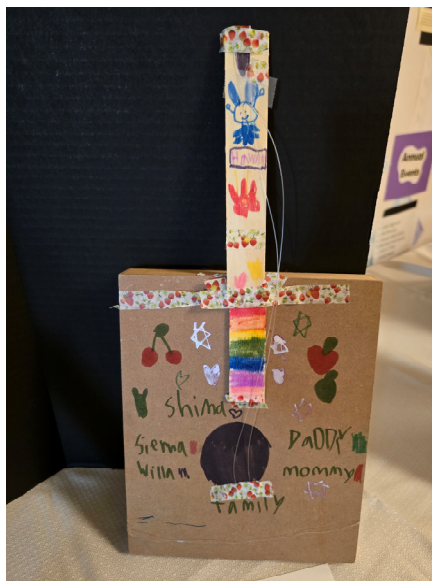
Hillsboro Area District President

In early February, the 2025 Westside Ribbon Festival featured a wide variety of enjoyable student performances and two tables full of musical artwork. Students received a colorful ribbon for performing a solo or ensemble piece, and for entering a piece of original art. Helium balloons and festive decorations

provided a relaxed atmosphere for students to gain experience performing without the added pressure of an adjudicator. Participants included seventy students, ten teachers and warm, smiling family members in the audience.



Ribbon Festival Art



ROGUE VALLEY DISTRICT

Terri Horn, Rogue Valley District President

Our first meeting of this year was a huge success! We hosted Dr. Stephen Lewis, NCTM, who presented *The Mighty Wrist and the Piano: Mastering the Motions of the Wrist for Optimal Piano Technique*. His topic was well-researched and presented in a way that encouraged members to become interested and engaged. Including guests of members, our attendance exceeded that of previous programs, numbering eighteen people total. We hope that some of these guests will eventually be inspired to join OMTA, as we need more active members.

February has been a quiet month. Due to inclement weather (lots and lots of snow!), we were forced to reschedule a much-anticipated presenter, Dr. Michelle Huang. She will visit our district on March 22.

As I submit this report, preparations are coming together for our annual Joyce Stevens Scholar Recital on February 22. This event is always a highlight of our year!



Dr. Stephen Lewis, NCTM presenting *The Mighty Wrist and the Piano*



TUALATIN VALLEY DISTRICT



Karen Huntsberger, NCTM
Tualatin Valley
Co-President



Mahroo Hamedani
Tualatin Valley
Co-President

Inspired by MTNA CEO Brian Shepard's email about ways to help the victims of the Los Angeles area fires, our district donated \$500 to MusiCares (musicares.org). We hope other districts in Oregon will be inspired to contribute to our colleagues who have lost everything.

On January 10, Dr. Ricardo de la Torre gave a terrific presentation on Enrique Granados' life and pedagogical collections. Our Baroque Festival, adjudicated by Dr. Susan Chan, was held on January 25 at Rise Church. Fifteen teachers entered a total of seventy-six students. Fifteen winners were selected to go on to the state Baroque Festival. Many thanks to Myrna Setiawan and Mahroo Hamedani for continuing to chair this important festival. Their amazing organizational skills and many hours of work are much appreciated!

We had twelve young composers enter our annual Composition Festival, chaired by Abby Gerhardt, NCTM. The compositions will be adjudicated by Dr. Lisa Neher.

On Friday, February 7, we had a last minute substitute presentation. Andy D'Antonio, NCTM

graciously agreed to present with only twenty-four hours' notice. His presentation was inspirational as we all learned from his years of research and experience with best practices for teaching adult students.

Our Playing Class, PLTL, will present our Annual Teachers Recital at the next monthly meeting, March 14 at 10:30 AM at Rise Church in Tigard. Members of other districts are heartily welcomed to attend. The recital will be held again at the Old Church (tocportland.org), 1422 SW 11th Avenue in Portland, on March 19 from 12:00–1:00 PM. All are welcome to attend this free event.

We're looking forward to our Scholarship Audition on April 6, our monthly meeting on April 11 with presenter Dr. Susan Chan, our Festival of Ribbons on April 12, and our end of the year brunch on May 9.

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.



ABOUT *MUSIC NEWS*

Submit Articles for *Music News*

Please send articles and accompanying graphics in PNG, JPEG, or PDF format to Jeremy Hatch via email: musicnews@oregonmta.org. MS Word and Google Doc files preferred.

Related imagery is encouraged to be submitted along with your article. Images must be a minimum size of 500 x 500 pixels and fall into one of these categories:

- Your own work—i.e. you took the photograph
- Freely Licensed or Purchased Licensed
- Public Domain
- Fair Use

Attach images to the same email as your article submission. Include a short (one sentence/phrase) caption of each image. Images must be in PNG or JPEG format.

If a photo includes a student that is a minor, please send a completed photo release form. Here is the link:

www.oregonmta.org/wp-content/uploads/OMTA_PhotoVideo_Release_Form.pdf

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Half Page	\$70	8.5" W x 5.5" H	300 ppi (no bleed)
Full Page	\$140	8.5" W x 11" H	300 ppi (no bleed)

Visit www.oregonmta.org/publications to order ad space.

Publication dates and deadlines are listed below. Submitting material before deadlines is always helpful and appreciated.

Submission Deadlines

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



Music News Acknowledgements

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