

# OMTA MUSIC NEWS

Opus 80, No. 2 · November 2025

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### State Ensemble Honors Festival

December 6, 2025  
Frohnmayr Music Building, University of Oregon,  
Eugene, OR

### State Board Meeting and Presidents Round Table

January 31, 2026 at 9:00-11:00 am  
Virtual/Online

### 2026 MTNA National Conference

March 21-25, 2026  
Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile, Chicago, IL

### 2026 OMTA State Conference

August 7-8, 2026  
Mt. Hood Oregon Resort, Welches, OR



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## CONTACT & CONNECT

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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER



**Heidi Evans, NCTM**  
OMTA President

Fall season is in full swing and everyone is so busy right now—students, teachers, family members... hang in there, everyone! We have Syllabus, festivals, recitals, and holidays all roaring up on us in the calendars. Deep breaths—there are lots of wonderful performances and festivities in our future!

A quick note about entering students into Regista: **How you type the title is how it will appear on the program and schedule.** If you have typos, or forgot to capitalize the title, the Syllabus/Festival event chairs will end up laboriously going through the registration to fix every single typo (or have an unprofessional-looking recital program), and this takes a lot of time. A few extra seconds of typing on your part and comparing the title to how it appears in the music will save chairs this step. They will be so grateful to not need to spend the time editing the titles, along with all the other duties they're performing, to ensure festivals run seamlessly for everyone.

When we're busy and stressed, one thing that really helps is to "practice" gratitude. It's a good thing we're all champion practicers! So thank a chair, thank an officer in your district, thank a stranger who holds the door open for you—these little gestures, accompanied by a smile, can shift the course of someone's day. You'll probably never know just how much it meant in that moment.



As always, if you're having trouble with something, keep it local first, ask a colleague, the event chair or your president, and if they can't help you, forward it on up the chain of communication!



*Heidi Evans, NCTM  
OMTA President*

## Gender Identity Training Resources

**Amie Belisle**, OMTA President-Elect

Bridge 13 presented a gender identity training in early October for adjudicators and members. To access materials, see the Latest News on our OMTA website: <https://oregonmta.org>.



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

### OMTA Board of Directors

#### **PRESIDENT**

Heidi Evans, NCTM

#### **PRESIDENT-ELECT**

Amie Belisle, NCTM

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Cindy Peterson-Peart, NCTM

#### **RESTRICTED FUNDS TREASURER**

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Dr. Janet Pollack

#### **FINANCE**

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#### **PERSONNEL & CONTRACTED SERVICES**

Heidi Evans, NCTM

#### **PUBLIC RELATIONS**

Vacant

#### **PUBLICATIONS**

Jeremy Hatch

#### **SYLLABUS**

Barbara Roberts, NCTM



# FROM YOUR PRESIDENT-ELECT

## MTNA 150th Anniversary Grant Opportunities



**Amie Belisle, NCTM**  
OMTA President-Elect

I was fortunate to attend the Summit for MTNA Leadership in early September with OMTA President Heidi Evans, NCTM, in Cincinnati. That weekend opened my eyes to the support that MTNA offers us, as well as the possibilities that exist to engage current and potential new members. Leadership strongly encouraged us to open our doors to non-members in an effort to serve our greater mission and community, as well as connect with new instructors and musicians who could benefit from the programs we provide. While we don't want to offer non-members regular benefits without contributing via annual membership dues, there are many events that would be appropriate to invite community and provide an introduction to the many programs that OMTA and local districts manage across the state.

One example of this could be an event in celebration of MTNA's anniversary. MTNA has incredible grant opportunities, one being the anniversary grant detailed below. This is a great opportunity for community building, creativity and student engagement. Two examples of these shared at Summit were: 1) a performance of 150 animal songs enjoyed by youth, and 2) a research project devoted to presenting MTNA's history to the community.

- In honor of MTNA's 150th anniversary in 2026, we have been allocated \$15,000 to support celebration activities at the state and local levels. Grants of up to \$1,000 are available to help fund your anniversary events.

- General Affiliate Grants provide financial assistance, of up to \$750, for MTNA state and local affiliate projects for the purpose of professional development, continuing education or member involvement.
- Virtual Affiliate Grants support MTNA affiliates in the digital space! New and existing virtual associations can receive up to \$750 to fund activities and initiatives.

Talk with your colleagues and friends and see what creative ways you can brainstorm to celebrate and enjoy this incredible organization's big 150th anniversary next year, or how the other grant opportunities could serve your district even more effectively. You can find all the information about how to apply for these grants at the following link:

<https://www.mtnafoundation.org/mtna-grants/affiliate-enrichment-grants/>



**Willamette University**  
**Grace Goudy Distinguished Artists Series 2025-26 Season presents**

**JON KIMURA PARKER, PIANO**

**Tuesday, November 4th<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 p.m.**  
**Hudson Concert Hall, Mary Stuart Rogers Music Center**



Pianist Jon Kimura Parker is the Creative Partner of the Minnesota Orchestra, Artistic Director of the Honens International Piano Competition and Artistic Advisor of the Orcas Island Chamber Music Festival. This season he performs in New York at Lincoln Center, Toronto with the Galilee Chamber Orchestra, Chicago with the Montrose Trio, as well as in Boston, Phoenix, Kansas City, Dallas, Quebec, Portland, and Minneapolis.

He has collaborated with legendary rock drummer Stewart Copeland in *Off the Score*, tango pianist Pablo Ziegler, singer Bobby McFerrin, violinist Cho-Liang Lin, and mezzo-soprano Susan Graham. A committed educator, he is Professor of Piano at the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University. His *Whole Notes* series is available on Amazon Prime, and he is a featured *Tonebase* artist.

Winner of the Gold Medal at the 1984 Leeds International Piano Competition, Parker is an Officer of The Order of Canada and has received Honorary Doctorates from the University of British Columbia and the Royal Conservatory of Music, Toronto.

Jon Kimura Parker studied with Edward Parker and Keiko Parker, Lee Kum-Sing at the Vancouver Academy of Music and the University of British Columbia, Marek Jablonski at the Banff Centre, and Adele Marcus at The Juilliard School.

Known to friends – new and old – as “Jackie,” Parker is married to violinist/violist Aloysia Friedmann, and their daughter Sophie graduated from Rice University in 2021.

For further information, please visit [jonkimuraparker.com](http://jonkimuraparker.com)

His public Master Class for WU students will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 5th, 9:10am, Hudson Hall. All are invited to attend and observe. Admission is free.

The series continues **Wednesday, April 8th at 7:30 p.m. with Mahsa and Marjan Vahdat**, internationally acclaimed singers and musicians from Iran. Willamette pianist James Miley, along with several guest artists, will also participate in the performance.



**CONCERT TICKETS — general admission seating.**

Season Pass (2 concerts): General Admission \$42.50; Seniors \$8.50

Single Concert: General admission: \$25; Seniors \$5. Students and children: Free

Purchase tickets at [DAS Box Office](#)

[Grace Goudy Distinguished Artists Series Website](#)

For questions contact the Music Office: [music-info@willamette.edu](mailto:music-info@willamette.edu), 503-370-6255.

# CERTIFICATION

## Newly Certified Teacher Spotlight



**Anastasia Kitaev, NCTM**  
Certification Co-Chair



**Sarah Barker Ball, NCTM**  
Certification Co-Chair



Do you wonder what is expected of a Nationally Certified Teacher of Music? The NCTM will demonstrate competence in five standards: 1) Professional Preparation, 2) Professional Teaching Practice, 3) Professional Business Management, 4) Professionalism and Partnerships, and 5) Professional and Personal Renewal. You can check out the definitions here: [https://certification.mtna.org/Certification/Explore\\_Certification/Standards/Certification/Explore/Standards.aspx](https://certification.mtna.org/Certification/Explore_Certification/Standards/Certification/Explore/Standards.aspx)

Those lofty goals might sound intimidating, but there is a workbook to follow with all the details. The projects are practical, doable, relevant to your studio, and are designed to highlight your personal strengths as a music teacher. Those who put in the effort have experienced growth and deep satisfaction as they “up their game.”

Applicants can start early on four of the projects, even before they register. Once registered, they have one year to complete everything and upload their work. That time frame can be extended and is free the first time. Afterward, there is a reasonable fee to renew again if needed.

So jump in! The water’s fine! We are available to guide and encourage you at our monthly Certification Coffees, on Zoom the first Thursday of every month at 9:00 AM. Let us make the journey with you—just reach out to us at [certification@oregonmta.org](mailto:certification@oregonmta.org).



# COMPOSITION

## State and District Composition Festivals



**Robin Ziari**  
OMTA Composition  
Festival Chair

We have a few small announcements and points of clarification for this spring's Composition Festivals. These are made in an effort to align our state and district festivals, and to simplify things as we start our transition into online payments, Regista, and Teacher Dashboards.

- For district chairs, please note that we should refer to this event as the **Composition Festival**. It is no longer the Composition Celebration—a lovely name!—but as an official state festival, districts should try to reflect that in their event naming.
- In last month's *Music News*, we referred to the Composition Festival as a "non-competitive" festival. After internal discussion and reflection, we are going to make a change and say that it is in fact a **competitive festival**. Documents on the state website are to be updated shortly, and I ask that district chairs start to use that language in their own communications.
- Let's draw some attention to the fact that this festival is open to **adult students**, which is a rarity for OMTA adjudicated / competitive festivals. It's a great opportunity for those of us who teach adults, so please inform and encourage your (non-published) adult students to enter!

While it will be a seamless transition from the perspective of our student composers, online registration will be a major change to how we have run our Composition Festivals. Please let me help you with any needs along the way. We switched to online registration in my district of East Portland over the last couple of years, and I can verify that it makes running a festival *much* simpler overall. I've always been comfortable with technology, and have years of experience with WordPress (what the new system is built with), so I look forward to making this as easy as possible for those who may need assistance. If you're a district chair and plan to run a district composition event, please reach out to me at [zremusicpdx@gmail.com](mailto:zremusicpdx@gmail.com) if you haven't already done so. I'd love to hear from you!

*Note: The long-time voice behind this segment of Music News, Dianne Davies, has suffered a loss. Her wonderful husband, Mike, who many of us have met, sadly passed away in early September. On behalf of myself and all of the student composers who have benefited from Dianne's leadership at OMTA, I'd like to send love, sympathy, and prayers to Dianne and her family at this time.*



# MTNA COMPOSITION COMPETITION

## Oregon State Results for the MTNA Composition Competition



**Cindy Peterson-Peart, NCTM**  
Oregon Composition  
Coordinator

**Dianne Davies, NCTM**  
Oregon Composition  
Coordinator

The Oregon State portion of the MTNA Composition Competition was held in September. Ten Senior (high school) students from across the state submitted compositions for consideration and received comments from our three judges. The winner, Adeline Friberg, will go on to compete in the Northwest Division competition against the winners from Washington, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, and Alaska. The results of that competition will be announced in mid-December. The winner of the Division competition will then advance to the National competition. The winner of that competition will have the opportunity to have their work played at the MTNA National Conference in Chicago.

In addition, there was one Young Artist (collegiate) submission, who will automatically advance to the Division competition. There were no submissions in the Elementary or Junior categories this year. Here are the results:

### Senior Composition

#### Winner

Adeline Friberg, Student of Tanya Stojanovic

#### Honorable Mentions

Carlo Geniblazo, Student of Jeremy Reinhold

Noah Lowen, Student of Paul Safar

Yifan Qiu, Student of Liang Liang

### Young Artist Composition

#### Representative

Megann Cox, Student of Jill Gambill

This year, the Oregon judges were:

Lynda Lybeck-Robinson

Andrew Poole Todd

Nicholas Yandell

Congratulations to all of the participants and their teachers, and we hope some of you will consider entering your students in next year's state competition.



# EDUCATION AND FESTIVALS

## Education Reminders and Updates

Dr. Janet Pollack, Education and State Festivals Chair

Beginning this season there is now a non-competitive **adult category** added to both the **Ensemble** and **Composition** festivals. This is a welcome addition to our festivals, for it allows participation in OMTA events by an important demographic. For those members who teach adults, please inform them of this opportunity and encourage them to share their music. Also note that the Ensemble Festival **will NOT** be using OMTA'S new registration system this fall. This event will continue to use the same process as previous years of mail-in or scan/email all entries.

### Sonatina Festival

The biennial OMTA fall 2025 Sonatina Festival was held on Saturday, October 11 in the Frohnmayr Music Building, University of Oregon in Eugene, and it was a success on many levels. There were sixty-three students who participated, and twenty-one teachers from six districts (Eugene, Salem, Linn-Benton, East and West Portland, and Tualatin Valley). The level of playing was extremely high. **The full Sonatina Festival results are listed at the end of this article.**

My extremely competent, pleasant and devoted co-chairs—Marla Hansen and Sandy Hull, NCTM—made the months of work and planning not only fun, but rewarding, and resulted in a smoothly-run event. I cannot thank them enough for their careful attention to details, and their devotion to making this the best festival possible. The three outstanding and congenial adjudicators—Dr. Alexander Schwarzkopf, Dr. Stephen Lewis, NCTM, and Dr. Juan Avendaño —worked efficiently while offering constructive and encouraging comments to students. In a few words: they were terrific. To them I offer my most sincere thank you. And to all the incredible members of the Eugene District and their students who spent long hours monitoring rooms and delivering results, please know your efforts were deeply appreciated. Without your support and good nature, OMTA could

not have such complicated and time-intensive events as the Sonatina Festival.

This year's festival was also a success on the financial level. This historically money-losing event was turned into a nearly self-supporting festival. My team and I reconsidered the choice of rooms and pianos used, renegotiated the contract and reduced the number of adjudicators from four to three. This last adjustment allowed us to pay the adjudicators more for their efforts, yet only have them work an additional fifteen minutes. And even though we added snacks—which proved extremely popular—and lunch for the adjudicators, we nearly broke even. We could not have done this without the support and good nature of the university's piano technician, Michael Reiter, who has offered his services to OMTA year after year in ways not required of his position at the university. To him I offer my heartfelt thank you.

For any questions concerning this event please contact Marla Hansen ([4marlarae@gmail.com](mailto:4marlarae@gmail.com)) or Janet Pollack ([janetkippollack@comcast.net](mailto:janetkippollack@comcast.net)).

### Ensemble Festival Honors Concert

The 2025 festival takes place **Saturday, December 6, 2025** in the Frohnmayr Music Building, University of Oregon (Eugene) and is co-chaired by Dr. Janet Pollack and Marla Hansen. **The deadline for entries is Friday, November 21.** Registration for both the district and state events **will NOT** be through OMTA's new registration system. Rather, entries will need to be mailed or sent via email as before. Please note that there is now a non-competitive **adult category** for this festival! All documents and entry forms have been updated and placed on OMTA's website. For any questions concerning registration contact Marla Hansen at ([4marlarae@gmail.com](mailto:4marlarae@gmail.com)). For any additional questions or concerns reach out to Janet Pollack ([janetkippollack@comcast.net](mailto:janetkippollack@comcast.net)).



### Baroque Festival Honors Recital

This event will take place **Saturday, March 14, 2026** at the Saint Mark's Lutheran Church in NE Salem. Natalya Klimov will be co-chairing the event. Registration **will** be through OMTA's new registration system located on the OMTA website. For any and all questions concerning the 2026 Baroque Festival Honors Recital, please contact Natalya Klimov at [romanatalya@gmail.com](mailto:romanatalya@gmail.com).

Also, be reminded that the changes to the rules for the State Baroque Festival Honors Recital as set forth by the Education Committee in Fall 2025 will remain in place for the 2026 event. They are as follows:

1. The 3x winners' program is eliminated;
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); and
5. The state entry fee will be raised to \$35 to bring it in line with other state festivals.

### Composition Festival

The 2026 State Composition Festival is now chaired by Robin Ziari. Adults are welcome to participate in this festival! For any information concerning the upcoming 2026 festival, please reach out to Robin Ziari at [zremusicpdx@gmail.com](mailto:zremusicpdx@gmail.com).

### ESMAR

ESMAR 2026 takes place in the Department of Music on the campus of Willamette University, Salem. Lorraine Alner is our chair and can be reached at [esmar@oregonmta.org](mailto:esmar@oregonmta.org) for additional information about ESMAR events.

### Oregon Music Teachers Association

## 2025 SONATINA FESTIVAL OFFICIAL RESULTS

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

**Adjudicators:** Dr. Alexander Schwarzkopf, Dr. Stephen Lewis, NCTM, and Dr. Juan Avendaño

### Level 1: Jane Smisor Bastien "Showtime Sonatina in C Major, III. Act Two – Vivace"

1st Place – Anne Guo  
Teacher: Dr. Olga Aynvarg (Eugene)

2nd Place – Olivia Flyte  
Teacher: Dr. Kaori Noland, NCTM (West Portland, Tualatin Valley)

Honorable Mention – Jane Gress  
Teacher: Sandra Hull, NCTM (Eugene)

### Level 2: Lynn Freeman Olson "Sonatina No. 5 in D Major, III. Molto allegro"

1st Place – Lindsey Osburn  
Teacher: Alexis Gibbons, NCTM (Eugene)

2nd Place – Arya Fernandez  
Teacher: Natalya Klimov (East Portland)

Honorable Mention – Anna Gress  
Teacher: Sandra Hull, NCTM (Eugene)

Honorable Mention – Mari Morgan  
Teacher: Dr. Kaori Noland, NCTM (West Portland, Tualatin Valley)

Honorable Mention – Sofia Henriquez  
Teacher: Sandra Hull, NCTM (Eugene)



**Level 3: Johann Anton André "Sonatina in C Major, Op. 34, No. 1, II. Rondo - Allegretto"**

1st Place – Nora Song

Teacher: Dr. Olga Aynvarg (Eugene)

2nd Place – Allison Min

Teacher: Dr. Olga Aynvarg (Eugene)

Honorable Mention – Sofia Martinez

Teacher: Debbie Lee (West Portland, East Portland)

Honorable Mention – Anant Agarwal

Teacher: Fen-Fang Tsao (West Portland)

Honorable Mention – Victoria Pham

Teacher: Debbie Lee (West Portland, East Portland)

**Level 4: Cornelius Gurlitt "Sonatina in A minor, Op. 76, No. 5, III. Allegro non troppo"**

1st Place – Andy Junshen Wang

Teacher: Leslie Chen (West Portland)

2nd Place – Boyu Han

Teacher: Fen-Fang Tsao (West Portland)

Honorable Mention – Luke Mathiesen

Teacher: Nobuko LeBeau (Eugene)

Honorable Mention – Jeremy Kang

Teacher: Momoko Muramatsu, NCTM (West Portland)

Honorable Mention – Sarah Nguyen

Teacher: Alexis Gibbons, NCTM (Eugene)

**Level 5: Franz Joseph Haydn "Sonata in G Major, Hob. XVI:8, I. Allegro"**

1st Place – Claire Wang

Teacher: Leslie Chen (West Portland)

2nd Place – Angelina Kitaev

Teacher: Anastasia Kitaev, NCTM (West Portland)

Honorable Mention – Hansol Lee

Teacher: Dr. Seoung Nahm (West Portland)

Honorable Mention – Shuchen Zhou

Teacher: Marla Hansen (West Portland)

Honorable Mention – Claire Song

Teacher: Debbie Lee (West Portland, East Portland)

**Level 6: Fritz Spindler "Sonatina in E minor, Op. 157, No. 8, I. Allegretto con espressione"**

1st Place – Aiden Junchi Wang

Teacher: Leslie Chen (West Portland)

2nd Place – Cecilia Zixi Liu

Teacher: Dr. Olga Aynvarg (Eugene)

Honorable Mention – Lucas Wang

Teacher: Dr. Olga Aynvarg (Eugene)

Honorable Mention – Roy Kim

Teacher: Fen-Fang Tsao (West Portland)

Honorable Mention – Lilianna Tan

Teacher: Dr. Olga Aynvarg (Eugene)

**Level 7: Dmitri Kabalevsky "Sonatina in C Major, Op. 13, No. 1, I. Allegro assai e lusingando"**

1st Place – Boshen Han

Teacher: Fen-Fang Tsao (West Portland)

2nd Place – Bruce Dudley

Teacher: Fen-Fang Tsao (West Portland)

Honorable Mention – Malillany Perez

Teacher: Natalya Klimov (East Portland)

**Level 8: Béla Bartók "Sonatina in D Major, III. Finale – Allegro vivace"**

1st Place – Jason Kang

Teacher: Momoko Muramatsu, NCTM (West Portland)

2nd Place – Alesandra Montgomery

Teacher: Natalya Klimov (East Portland)

Honorable Mention – Maya Holly

Teacher: Alexis Gibbons, NCTM (Eugene)

Honorable Mention – Kevin Yang

Teacher: Dr. Kaori Noland, NCTM (West Portland, Tualatin Valley)

Honorable Mention – Emily Cho

Teacher: Dr. Eunhye Choi (Eugene)



**Level 9: Ludwig van Beethoven "Sonata in G Major, Op. 79, I. Presto alla tedesca"**

1st Place – Sarah Lee  
Teacher: Dr. Olga Aynvarg (Eugene)

Honorable Mention – Aderyn Marker  
Teacher: Dr. Asya Gulua (Salem)

**Level 10: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart "Sonata in C minor, K. 457, I. Molto allegro"**

1st Place – Klaire Liu  
Teacher: Dr. Rachele McCabe (Linn-Benton)

2nd Place – Gabriel Wang  
Teacher: Dr. Kaori Noland, NCTM (West Portland, Tualatin Valley)

Honorable Mention – Jude Lockwood  
Teacher: Kristy Moore (East Portland)



The Sonatina Festival's three judges. L to R: Dr. Alexander Scharzkopf, Dr. Stephen Lewis, NCTM, and Dr. Juan Avendaño.



Sonatina Festival 2025 trophy recipients



## GRANT PROGRAMS

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



**Karen Huntsberger, NCTM**  
Nellie Tholen Grant Coordinator

Make a plan to attend one or more to hear outstanding presenters and topics of interest for all teachers.

Visit the Teacher Enrichment page for the latest program updates:  
<https://oregonmta.org/teachers/enrichment-workshops>

Questions? Email me at [grant.coordinator@oregonmta.org](mailto:grant.coordinator@oregonmta.org).



#### Eugene District

Saturday, November 8, 2025, 10:00 AM–12:00 PM

Location: First Church of Christ, Scientist, 1390 Pearl St, Eugene, OR 97401

#### Dr. Stephen Lewis, NCTM

*The Four Senses of Piano Playing*

We will look in depth at the four senses that aid us in learning and performing music: hearing, sight, touch, and proprioception. Dr. Lewis will talk about current scientific understandings of how our brains and bodies process these senses and how we can teach, practice, and perform better if we engage with all of these senses in a conscious manner.



#### Central Oregon District

Friday, November 14, 2025, 10:00 AM–12:00 PM

Location: Check with District President for Location ([missy@greengrassmusic.net](mailto:missy@greengrassmusic.net))

#### Dr. Ricardo de la Torre, NCTM

*Getting to Know Our Neighbor*

Mexican composers have produced a wealth of piano music of pedagogical value. This lecture will offer a panorama of elementary to late intermediate teaching repertoire by Mexican composers from the 19th to the 21st centuries, discuss its main characteristics and performance tradition, and provide information about its availability in the United States.





**Rogue Valley District**

Saturday, November 15, 2025, 10:00 AM–12:00 PM

Location: Jacksonville Public Library, 340 West C St, Jacksonville, OR 97530

**Deborah Cleaver**

*Artistic Pedaling*

This presentation will discuss diverse types of pedaling to increase artistic expression, achieve clean, clear sound, and to facilitate fluid movement. In addition, we will discuss the importance of posture, bench height, and correct movement.

 **CORVALLIS-OSU  
PIANO INTERNATIONAL**  
*presents*

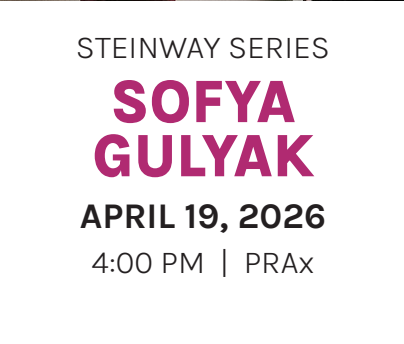
**DYNAMIC PERFORMANCES.**  
World-Class Pianists



STEINWAY SERIES  
**NATASHA  
PAREMSKI**  
NOVEMBER 9, 2025  
4:00 PM | PRAX



STEINWAY SERIES  
**JAEDEN  
IZIK-DZURKO**  
FEBRUARY 22, 2026  
4:00 PM | PRAX



STEINWAY SERIES  
**SOFYA  
GULYAK**  
APRIL 19, 2026  
4:00 PM | PRAX



SPECIAL EVENT  
**CLAYTON  
STEPHENSON**  
MAY 2, 2026  
7:30 PM  
LASELLS STEWART CENTER



THE 2025-2026 SEASON

Learn more and to buy tickets  
**corvallispiano.org**



OREGON  
MUSIC TEACHERS  
ASSOCIATION

# MEMBERSHIP



**Andrew D'Antonio, NCTM**  
Membership Chair

As we all transition to the new online registration system, a few people have noticed something: if you are not up-to-date on your membership, you won't be able to log in. The best way to avoid this is to renew your membership in a timely manner, ideally in the spring when the reminders go out. Please let new and prospective members know this as well. Often individuals want to join so they can participate in a festival or Syllabus, but they might wait until the last second before a big registration deadline. Don't wait! I would recommend making sure membership is up-to-date at least two weeks before planning on using the registration system, just to make sure there is a chance on our end to get everything set up for them. Waiting to renew until the night before a Syllabus deadline might result in a very stressful, but avoidable, situation.

## **New Members!**

Please welcome the following new members to your district. A warm welcome from someone local goes a long way in helping people feel connected and a part of our wonderful community.

### *East Portland*

Jean Dettweiler, active member

### *Eugene*

Kaitlyn Clawson-Cannestra, collegiate member  
Dr. Idit Shner, active member  
Violet Williams, collegiate member

### *Hillsboro Area*

Dr. Vincent Jones-Centeno, active member

### *Rogue Valley*

Olivia Wang Tang, high school member

### *Salem*

Ling Hang, active member  
Krista Gilson, active member

### *Tualatin Valley*

Glenn Naydan, active member

### *Umatilla-Morrow*

Claire Harrison, high school member

### *West Portland*

Dr. Jeongmi Yoon, active member

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



# SYLLABUS



**Dr. Barbara Roberts, NCTM**  
OMTA Syllabus Chair

Now that you must use the new registration system, Regista, to sign up for Syllabus, there are many resources on our website to help you. I have listed some of the links below. I've also included a link to the new 2025 Classical Piano Manual for Syllabus (which you must now use!) and the very helpful list of changes between the 2016 manual and the current one.

<https://oregonmta.org/programs/syllabus/>

Besides being the main Syllabus page listing the Syllabus Schedule and other forms, this area has four new links to help you with the new online registration system. Two are PDFs and two are videos.

<https://oregonmta.org/group-events-dashboard/>

This is where you will register students for Syllabus and festivals.

For this area, you will need to be logged in to OMTA:  
<https://oregonmta.org/programs/syllabus/syllabus-manuals/>

- Classical Piano Syllabus Manual Levels I-X 2025 Edition
- 2016 to 2025 Classical Piano Syllabus Manual Changes
- Lists of Piano Repertoire to use in Syllabus

We have a great website. Take some time to explore it for other helpful articles and links—it's likely you'll find answers to any questions you may have without needing to call someone for help.

All the best!



# CENTRAL OREGON DISTRICT

**Grace King**, Central Oregon District President Elect

The Central Oregon district has had an eventful year already! We kicked off our new, updated district website and had a wonderful and helpful presentation by Emily Ross entitled *Teaching the Special Learner*. Our first business meeting was hosted by Melissa Barker at the new Green Grass School of Music in Prineville. We also have an (almost) entirely new board, most of whom have never served before. Exciting!

Our first festival of the year will be an Ensemble Festival in November, held at Central Oregon Community College.



# EUGENE DISTRICT

Dr. Janet Pollack, Eugene District Corresponding Secretary

I generally begin my article for *Music News* with, “The Eugene District has been very busy the past months,” and it holds true once again. The fall began with a business meeting on Monday, September 22. This event was quickly followed by the State Sonatina Festival held in Eugene at the University of Oregon, where district members—Dr. Olga Aynvarg, Sandy Hull, NCTM, Nobuko LeBeau, Alexis Gibbons, NCTM, and Soria Philips-Meadow—kindly volunteered to help ensure that the festival ran smoothly. Without colleagues who willingly step forward to help run such large-scale festivals as the Sonatina, these events could not happen. Several of our members also entered students who received Honorable Mention medals and trophies at the competitive Sonatina Honors Recital. I am pleased to announce that out of the forty-one total awards given, fourteen were awarded to the students of Eugene District teachers: three first-place trophies went to students of Dr. Olga Aynvarg and one to the student of Alexis Gibbons; two second-place trophies went to students of Dr. Aynvarg; three honorable mentions went to students of Sandy Hull, one to Nobuko LeBeau, and two to Alexis Gibbons. We not only applaud the achievements of these students and colleagues, but also thank them for their support of the festival.

On October 25 the Eugene District held two festivals: our first **Silent Film Festival** and the **Popular Music Festival**. The Silent Film Festival is an opportunity for young pianists and adult students to play in a fun, non-competitive event with other pianists. Furthermore, it is a chance to make music without being the center of attention. Silent film background music will be provided by approximately 22 pianists. Each pianist plays for one or two scenes (30 - 90 seconds) from *The Blacksmith*, a 1920s silent film starring Buster Keaton. Two keyboards are used so performers can alternate easily. Immediately following the film festival, the district’s **Festival of Popular Music** will take place. This exciting event

celebrates musical arrangements of popular music, themes from TV, movies, video games, original works in popular styles, new age, jazz, ragtime, blues, improvisations, and Halloween music. Duets and other ensembles are always welcome. Both events take place at the Unity of the Valley, 3912 Dillard Road, Eugene. Our district’s Fall Syllabus quickly followed these events, running from Friday, October 31 through Sunday, November 2.

On Saturday, November 8, from 9:00 AM–12:00 PM, our district will hold its first professional development workshop of the season. Dr. Stephen Lewis will speak on *The Four Senses of Piano Playing*, an in-depth look at how our four senses—hearing, sight, touch, and proprioception—can aid in learning and performing music. Current scientific understandings of the interconnectedness of brains and bodies, and how this connection can aid teaching, practicing, and performing, is discussed. All are welcome to join us on Saturday, November 8, 9:00 am–12:00 pm, First Church of Christ, Scientist, 1390 Pearl Street, Eugene, OR, 97401.

Poet Ingrid Wendt and Eugene district pianist/composer Paul Safar join forces for an evening of poetry and music on the first Thursday of November (November 6) at 6:30 PM at Tsunami Books in Eugene. Paul’s 2025 Tsunami Books concert series will come to a close with an evening of Nocturnes on December 4th. At this concluding concert, Eugene pianists Sandy Holder and Josh Ebling will join Paul in a piano-only evening of night music to usher in the winter season. You are invited to get comfy and cozy with music by Field, Chopin, Respighi, Joel, Price and more.

Our district’s fall events culminate with an all members gathering on Monday, December 15 at the Palace Bakery, Eugene, for a holiday celebration. We wish everyone joyous, happy holidays.



## HILLSBORO AREA DISTRICT



**Sarah Ball, NCTM**

Hillsboro Area District President

The members of Hillsboro Area OMTA have launched into a busy fall season. In September, we enjoyed a presentation from Susan Todd, NCTM and Cherise da Cunha, NCTM, about Regista, the new OMTA events registration system. In October, we sponsored back-to-back events for students: the formal, adjudicated Repertoire Festival, and the Halloween-themed Westside Recital.

In November, we will offer Fall Syllabus evaluations and a special presentation from Dr. Barbara Baird, who will share her expertise in *Performance Practice in Baroque Keyboard Music*. That event will be Thursday morning, November 6, 10:00 AM–12:00 PM at Calvary Lutheran Church, 937 Northeast Jackson School Road, Hillsboro, OR, 97124. We will begin with a brief meeting, followed by the presentation. You are welcome to join us!



# SALEM DISTRICT

**Melissa Terrall**, Salem District President

Our district has gone through a number of changes in the last several months. We said goodbye to several long-time members who moved out of state; we wish Trinity and Kellene Goff much success as they embark on new adventures! In September, we enjoyed our annual beginning-of-school-year picnic at Salem’s waterfront park. Along with welcoming new members and going over our schedule for the 2025-26 school year, we also voted in our new president, Melissa Terrall.

Salem OMTA is enjoying the start of a productive autumn season. Melissa Terrall presented a talk on cultivating pedagogy skills in pre-college pianists earlier this month. On Halloween weekend, we held our fall Syllabus evaluations. We are looking forward to a holiday luncheon in December to wrap up the semester!

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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.

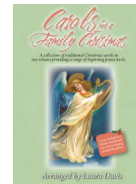
As a member of the William Hall Chorale in Los Angeles she sang in the LA Music Center and Hollywood Bowl.

Her experiences in community theater, Christian schools, music ministry and choir directing enrich all her current endeavors.

She and her husband Jim reside near Portland, Oregon. She can be reached through her website at [www.friendofmusic.com](http://www.friendofmusic.com).

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## TUALATIN VALLEY DISTRICT



**Mahroo Hamedani**

Tualatin Valley  
Co-President

We kicked off our year with our first in-person district meeting on Friday, September 12, held at Rise Church in Tigard. It was wonderful to gather together again and reconnect. Our presenter, Jennifer Wright, gave a fantastic talk entitled *Muse Whispering: Teaching Techniques that Make Composition Possible for Every Student*. Her creative student-centered approach sparked great conversation and gave us all some fresh tools for encouraging composition in our studios.

Our next district meeting took place Friday, October 10, also at Rise Church. Dr. Stephen Lewis presented *The Mighty Wrist: Mastering the Motions of the Wrist for Optimal Piano Technique*, focusing on how wrist movement can improve tone, technique, and help prevent injury.

Our PLTL (Play, Listen, Teach, Learn) meeting took place Friday, October 24. These sessions are a great opportunity for all teachers to come together, share what they've been working on, and play pieces—whether they're complete or still in progress. It's a supportive space where we can learn from one another, exchange ideas, and grow as educators and musicians. We always look forward to hearing what everyone brings!



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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:

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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.

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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.

<b>September <i>Music News</i></b>	August 15
<b>November <i>Music News</i></b>	October 15
<b>January <i>Music News</i></b>	December 15
<b>March <i>Music News</i></b>	February 15
<b>May <i>Music News</i></b>	April 15



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