

OMTA MUSIC NEWS

Opus 80, No. 1 · September 2025

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sonatina Festival

October 11, 2025
Frohnmayr Music Building, University of Oregon,
Eugene, OR

District Presidents Round Table

October 11, 2025 at 10:00-11:00 am
Oregon City, OR

2025 Fall Board Meeting

October 11, 2025 at 11:00 am-3:00 pm
Oregon City, OR

State Ensemble Honors Festival

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



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PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Heidi Evans, NCTM
OMTA President

Fall is the best season, full of exciting new possibilities and relationships! I'm looking forward to connecting with national and other state leaders at the MTNA Leadership Summit at the beginning of the month, followed by kick-off meetings for local Oregon districts. So many great opportunities to connect, to share ideas, and to support each other in the wonderful world of music making.

Here's what's new in OMTA this fall!

Virtual District has formed and its new president is Madeleine Gendron. You can add Virtual District to your OMTA membership at the MTNA membership portal. I'm looking forward to this new resource and adding a third district to my current membership. Should I go for a fourth district?

The new Classical Piano Syllabus manual. Be sure to read Barbara Roberts' article and to download the latest version for use in your studio. The manual can be found under the OMTA login.

Speaking of the OMTA login, **the new registration system, named Regista**, is online and awaiting you to enter your students and register for fall events. We will hold a few training sessions for chairs in September. Payments for festivals and Syllabus will be made online through the OMTA marketplace. Notable features include a mobile-friendly website for entering students' information, and registering and paying for events.



OREGON
MUSIC TEACHERS
ASSOCIATION

Hillsboro Area District is inviting the state to attend their September 10 meeting, which will feature the launch of the new registration system. This will be available both in person and virtually; check out their article in this *Music News* for more information. In addition, Susan Todd, NCTM and Cherise da Cunha, NCTM will be giving a demonstration to the Syllabus Chairs on September 13.

Finally, a friendly reminder that questions are best addressed locally first, and then on up the chain of communication if your local resources (chairs, officers) aren't sure how best to help. With the new registration system, we anticipate a lot of questions this fall, and will do our best to answer all of them swiftly.

Happy Teaching!



*Heidi Evans, NCTM
OMTA President*

Gender Identity Training (Free to All Members)

Amie Belisle, OMTA President-Elect

There is an upcoming training hosted by Bridge 13 that you may be interested in. This is an invaluable resource and opportunity for OMTA members to better serve our students and their families. I hope you will join me in early October for this training.

Creating LGBTQIA2S+ Equitable Spaces with Bridge 13

Saturday, October 4 from 12:00–1:00 PM
Oregon City Community Meeting Room
695 Warner Parrott Road, Oregon City, Oregon 97045
<https://newavenues.org/bridge-13/>

Participants will learn the basics of LGBTQIA2S+ identity and how everyone is affected by the gender binary, as well as best practices for respecting names and pronouns. This training will be specifically designed to address the ways gender identity shows up in our private music teaching settings, and will be led by one of the metro area's leading expert organizations on gender and youth.



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

OMTA Board of Directors

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SYLLABUS

Barbara Roberts, NCTM



OMTA STATE CONFERENCE

August 6-7, 2026 · Mt. Hood Resort · Welches, OR



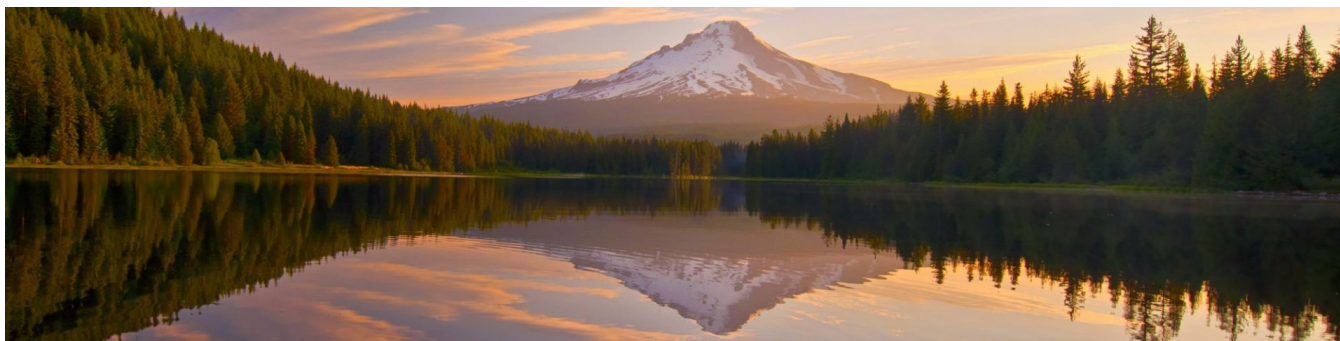
Amie Belisle, NCTM
Conference Chair

Conference Update

Thank you to the members that came to the conference and participated so fully in the new activities! We've received a lot of positive feedback, as well as some excellent suggestions for improvement. It's not too late to share your ideas through the survey here:

<https://forms.gle/S37xDm6UNPV4oU3R8>

Mark your calendar now for next year's conference: August 6 and 7 at the Mt. Hood Resort, located an hour outside the Portland Metro area in the beautiful Mt. Hood National Forest. More new activities to come!



Mt. Hood National Forest



CERTIFICATION

Newly Certified Teacher Spotlight



Anastasia Kitaev, NCTM
Certification Co-Chair



Sarah Barker Ball, NCTM
Certification Co-Chair



We are delighted to announce that our newest NCTM is **Brian Hsu**, who is an Associate Professor of Piano at the University of Oregon. Brian says: **"I am excited to join the community as a certified teacher and look forward to working with fellow educators and students. It's an honor to contribute to a shared commitment to musical growth, creativity, and excellence."** An accomplished piano pedagogue and performing artist, Brian attained his national certification via the Administrative Verification route. We congratulate him and look forward to following his teaching and performing career in our midst! You can check out his website at <https://www.brian-hsu.com>.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind all full- and part-time college faculty that Administrative Verification is a quick and effortless way to become certified. With just a simple written verification from your music executive or supervisor, you can earn your NCTM and all the benefits that come with it without any hassle.

For members interested in learning more about becoming nationally certified, either through the projects or administrative verification, please contact us: certification@oregonmta.org. Additional details are available here: <https://certification.mtna.org>.



Brian Hsu, NCTM



COMPOSITION

Composition Competition and Composition Festival



Dianne Davies, NCTM
MTNA Composition Competition
Chair



Robin Ziari
OMTA Composition
Festival Chair

In this issue, we have an upcoming deadline announcement, along with a message from our new State Composition Festival chair, Robin Ziari of East Portland District.

For students interested in entering our MTNA State Composition Competition, please note that the registration deadline is quickly approaching! **All entries must be received by Wednesday, September 10, 2025 by 3:00 PM Eastern.** This is a valuable opportunity for students to receive feedback on their scores from multiple professional composers, with a chance for selected composers to represent our state in the regional and national competitions. There's real prize money at stake for the national winners!

A quick point of clarification—we have two excellent pathways open to student composers, and we encourage teachers to be aware of and to take advantage of both options:

1. The **MTNA State Composition Competition**, mentioned above, is a formal competition with available prize money, and winners are recognized nationally by MTNA. Students of OMTA teachers may enter this competition without going through any other steps for eligibility. The registration deadline on

September 10 is coming up soon. Any questions should be directed to Dianne Davies at diannedavies00@gmail.com.

2. Our **State Composition Festival**, in contrast, requires students to qualify by entering a district-level festival and then being selected as an Honored Composer. Students who are a part of Fear No Music's Young Composers Project (YCP) also automatically qualify for entry. While this festival is considered non-competitive, a portion of all district-level entries are selected as Honored Composers and are featured in a virtual recital on the OMTA website. The deadline for entry is in May, and you can email inquiries to Robin Ziari at zremusicpdx@gmail.com.

MTNA State Composition Competition Entry Details:

The registration deadline is **Wednesday, September 10, 2025, 3:00 PM Eastern. There will be no exceptions.** Registration is online.

The guidelines and instructions on how to proceed are at this link:

https://www.mtna.org/MTNA/Engage/Competitions/Composition_Guidelines.aspx



The competition categories and entry fees are as follows:

Elementary:

- Age: 5–10 on January 1, 2026
- Entry Fee: \$50

Junior:

- Age: 11–14 on January 1, 2026
- Entry Fee: \$70

Senior:

- Age: 15–18 on January 1, 2026
- Entry Fee: \$100

Young Artist:

- Age: 19–29 on January 1, 2026
- Entry fee: \$100

A message from the new State Composition Festival Chair, Robin Ziari:

Greetings, OMTA colleagues! If you don't know me yet, I hope to introduce myself to you over the coming months in these pages, as well as in person. I've been chair of the East Portland District Composition Festival for the last three years, while working closely with Dianne Davies, NCTM, who is now moving on from this role to become President of her district. I was deeply honored to be asked by Dianne to take over the role as State Composition Festival chair. A little background: decades ago, as a student in Eastern Oregon studying with the wonderful Phyllis Peterson (hi, Phyllis!), I took part in this same festival as a student composer, and it was an invaluable experience for me as a young person. This is truly a full-circle moment, and I hope to make the most of it! Over the next couple of years in this role, I would love to offer myself as a resource to all of our state's districts, to see if we can continue to see growth in offering student composition programs statewide. For any teachers or district chairs interested in either starting or growing a district Composition Festival, please don't hesitate to contact me at zremusicpdx@gmail.com. I would love to hear from you!



EDUCATION AND FESTIVALS

Education and Festival Updates

Dr. Janet Pollack, Education and State Festivals Chair

The biennial Sonatina Festival is taking place this year. So please ready your students and make sure you are aware of the opening and closing dates, which appear below. In other news, there will now be a non-competitive **adult category** added to both the **Ensemble** and **Composition** festivals, beginning this season. 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.

Sonatina Festival

The OMTA fall **2025 Sonatina Festival** will be held **Saturday, October 11, 2025** in the Frohnmyer Music Building, University of Oregon in Eugene. The festival **opens** for registration on Monday, **August 25** and **closes** Friday, **September 19**. Marla Hansen, Sandy Hull, NCTM and Dr. Janet Pollack are co-chairing the event. The required repertoire is posted on the OMTA website at:

https://oregonmta.org/wp-content/uploads/Sonatina_Festival_Repertoire_List.pdf.

Please note that we will be using OMTA's new registration system located on the OMTA website for this and other festivals. For any questions concerning the registration process, please contact Marla Hansen (4marlarae@gmail.com). For any additional questions or concerns reach out to Janet Pollack (janetkippollack@comcast.net).

Ensemble Festival Honors Concert

The **2025 festival** is confirmed for Saturday, December 6, 2025 in the Frohnmyer Music Building, University of Oregon in Eugene, and will be 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 be through OMTA's new registration system located on the OMTA website. Please note that there is now a non-competitive adult category for this festival! For any questions concerning the new registration process, please contact Marla Hansen at

(4marlarae@gmail.com). For any additional questions or concerns, reach out to Janet Pollack (janetkippollack@comcast.net).

Baroque Festival Honors Recital

The OMTA 2026 state event is confirmed for **Saturday, March 14, 2026** at 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.

Also, be reminded that the changes to the rules for the State Baroque Festival Honors Recital, as set forth by the Education Committee for 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.

ESMAR

ESMAR took place June 7, 2025 in the Department of Music on the campus of Willamette University, Salem. **Lorraine Alner** is our new chair and can be reached at lyant@samford.edu for additional information about this and future ESMAR events.



EDUCATION GRANTS

It's Time! OMTA Grants for Opportunity and Enrichment!



Laura Davis
OMTA Education
Grant Chair

Your OMTA membership opens the door to scholarships and grants for individual teachers, their deserving students, and OMTA districts. Requirements and applications are easily accessible on the OMTA website: www.oregonmta.org

Applications due by September 30

Amounts available to be awarded each year are limited, so it is advisable to

apply well before the annual deadline of September 30. No late applications can be considered. Scholarship and grant checks will be awarded in mid-October.

Grants for Students

Student grants are on the "Programs for Students" page. Click the links on the OMTA website:

- Competitive Scholarships for Piano, Instrumental and Vocal students, by audition
- Three non-audition, need-based grants for students
- New: Frances (Ragozzino) Geer Memorial Piano Scholarship
- Composition: Daniel Brugh Composition Scholarship

Grants for Teachers

Ways these valuable grants can help you along your professional path:

- Costs of attending a professional conference
- MTNA teacher certification fees
- Continuing study grants for teachers
- Study grant for teachers incorporating composition in their studio

Scroll down to Need Based Grants:

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

This link lists all the OMTA resources for teachers and districts.

Other grants from MTNA are also found at the following link (scroll down for MTNA grants):

<https://oregonmta.org/teachers/grants>

Grants for Districts: Attention District Presidents!

There are two different Nellie Tholen grants for districts, handled by two different volunteers. Please carefully read all the information, which is explained on the website and its links. www.oregonmta.org

1. **OMTA/OCF Nellie Tholen District Enrichment Grant**, administered by Karen Huntsberger. Karen provides Presidents of eligible districts with a roster of presenters offering a variety of programs. Email Karen to plan a special district presentation for this season: huntsbergerpianostudio@gmail.com
2. **Nellie Tholen Endowment Fund Grants**, administered by Laura Davis. All district presidents may apply for funds to assist in payment for presenters subject to approval by the OMTA Education Grants committee. For this grant, email or mail applications to:

Laura Davis, OMTA Education Grant Chair
12877 SE Braemark Pl., Clackamas, OR 97015
(503) 312-1162
lauradavis47@gmail.com
3. **Further Technology Grants for Districts**
Districts that have exhausted the one-time \$1,200 District Technology Support Grant may apply for additional funds to support the technological needs of their district.



GRANT PROGRAMS

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



Karen Huntsberger, NCTM
Nellie Tholen Grant Coordinator

We're starting off the school year with wonderful programs where everyone is welcome! The new Virtual District's first presentation of the year will be on Zoom, making it easy for all members to attend!

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

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



Central Oregon District

Friday, September 12, 2025, 10:45 AM–12:15 PM

For location: Email district president Melissa Barker at missy@greengrassmusic.net

Emily Ross

Teaching the Special Learner

We know that studying music is good for everyone. Some children come to us, however, without the attention span or executive functioning skills to excel in private music lessons without some special considerations. Music therapist Emily Ross, MA, MT-BC, will review the characteristics of autism, ADHD, intellectual disabilities, and emotional disturbance, and will outline both specific strategies and general ideas for approaching students who present with these characteristics.



Virtual District

Monday, October 6, 2025, 11:00 AM–12:30 PM

For Zoom link, email district president Madeleine Gendron at madeleinegendron@yahoo.com

Dr. Lisa Neher

Adapting to a Changing Online Landscape

If you've become accustomed to using social media and online tools to build your music studio, your online world might be getting a bit rocky at the moment. With people moving away from Facebook, the implosion of Twitter, the explosion of TikTok, and the popularity of short-form video filtering into all platforms, it's time for music teachers to rethink and rework their use of the internet. We'll discuss the state of the internet and social media, and options for using your online presence to connect with students who are a good fit, with a Q&A afterwards.





Rogue Valley District

Saturday, October 18, 2025, 10:00 AM–12:00 PM

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

Dr. Lark Powers, NCTM

Revisiting Roots: Reviving Folk Songs

Folk songs have much to offer the developing student: accessible and pleasing melodies, limited harmony, balanced phrases, and great variety in character, as well as offering an opportunity to connect with past generations and to explore a student's cultural background. However, a common lament is that many children no longer know many folk songs. This presentation will explore strategies in which teachers can bring folk songs into their student's lives, including ideas to use them as a vehicle to develop music theory, harmonization ability, singing and playing, and other musicianship skills. In addition, resources will be shared for finding folk songs which show multicultural awareness and which can be chosen to support the cultural identity of one's students. Discussion will be included about equity of representation and avoiding a lack of contextualization, as well as more information about evaluating the historical context of problematic folk songs.



Eugene District

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

Location: TBA

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

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.



OMTA HONORS COMMITTEE CORNER

2026 Oregon MTNA Foundation Fellow

Susan Todd, NCTM, Honors Committee Chair

Thanks to the generosity of OMTA members and friends, Kathy Gault, NCTM's nomination to be Oregon's 2026 MTNA Foundation Fellow has surpassed the \$1,500 funding goal! Thanks to everyone who donated, Kathy will be honored at the March 2026 MTNA Conference Gala in Chicago. If you missed it, please refer to the May issue for Kathy's bio. Come to Chicago in March, celebrate MTNA's 150th anniversary, enjoy a marvelous conference, and join us in celebrating Kathy!

Those who gave generously at the OMTA Conference Silent Auction and Raffle helped fund Kathy's nomination as well as adding over \$800 to the OMTA Foundation Fund, which helps send Oregon students to the MTNA Competition, as well as adding to the funds available for teacher study, need-based student grants, and assistance-providing programs for our wonderful local districts. Brava e bravo!



Kathy Gault, NCTM



MEMBERSHIP



Andrew D'Antonio, NCTM
Membership Chair

Over the summer I've been sending out reminders to renew membership. With the flurry of activities that happen in late spring and summer—studio recitals, festivals, vacations—it can be easy to lose track of a membership renewal! Keeping your membership up to date is important for many

reasons: it's how you access members-only areas on our websites, keep your listing in the membership directory, and register students in festivals and events. Beyond OMTA, your membership gives access to the wealth of resources available through MTNA.

As we operate in our individual districts, I would encourage you to carefully consider which events are open to the public and which are for members only. Open events are great for community connection and recruiting. Events just for members help strengthen our core, unify the mission, and help with logistics around budgeting and planning. As a membership organization, I would encourage that most events we do be specifically for our members, but to still have an event or two each year that welcomes in individuals who may not be members.

Encouraging membership can happen structurally too! Here are a couple of creative examples of encouraging membership I've seen:

1. MTACC (in Washington) offers monthly 1-hour workshops for free for their members, and for \$20 for non-members; this makes meetings accessible to the general public, but also encourages membership.
2. Several Oregon districts are now requiring local membership to participate in their festivals rather than allowing non-members to pay an extra fee to participate. With how easy it is to add a joint membership through MTNA, requiring membership rather than a fee streamlines registration processes and helps with the budget of the district organizing the festival.

Our members are what make OMTA so great. I hope you'll join me in encouraging your colleagues to become a part of our wonderful organization if they aren't already.

New Members! We have many new members who have joined since April. Please welcome the following:

Central Oregon

Rick Buckley, active member
Dr. Stephen Marshall, active member

East Portland

Amanda Davis, active member
Hui Juan Ma, active member
Lance Shipley, active member
Sarah Rogers, active member
Susan McDaniel, active member

Eugene

Brittney Crawford, active member

Hillsboro Area

Kara Jossi, active member

Linn-Benton

Abigail Barnhart, active member
Annalisa Hamilton, active member

Rogue Valley

Conlin Braley, active member
Daphne Blanchard, active member
River McNabb, active member
Victoria Sutton, collegiate member (also member of SOU)

Salem

Dr. Myrna Keough, active member
Ruby Holman, high school member

Tualatin Valley

Maile Frazier, active member

West Portland

Haruka Sakiyama, high school member
Hyun-jin Kim, active member
Wan Lin Lai, active member

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



MUSICLINK

New Oregon MusicLink Website

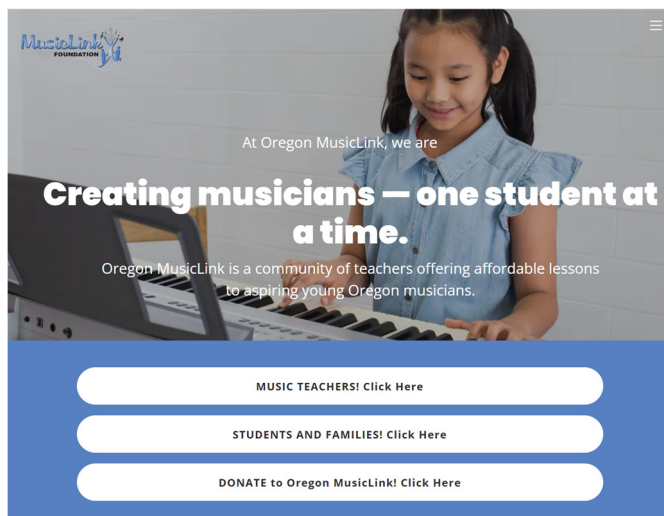
Annette Demsey, NCTM, Oregon Coordinator for the MusicLink Foundation

MusicLink is a community of teachers offering affordable lessons to aspiring young musicians. If this sounds like you, please check out our new Oregon MusicLink website at OregonMusicLink.org for all the details.

If you are interested, please contact me at:

503-313-0793

OregonMusicLink@gmail.com



Music Just in Time for Christmas

Carols for a Family Christmas

Four illustrated collections of traditional Christmas Carols spanning the first few years of piano study in one volume.

Key Features:

- Beautiful full-color illustrations throughout
- Perfect gift for students, friends & family
- Every carol includes chord symbols & lyrics



New beginners will quickly learn the first one-note-at-a-time PRIMER arrangements. Progress to different carols each year, as you make progress in your piano skills through Level Three or Four. *No need to buy a new book every year.*

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



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.

Carols for a Family Christmas

An assortment of well-known popular carols



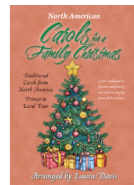
Traditional British Carols for a Family Christmas

Beloved carols originating in the British Isles



North American Carols for a Family Christmas

Favorite carols from the US and Canada



European Carols for a Family Christmas

Beautiful carols from 11 European countries



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OMTA SCHOLARSHIP WINNER LIST 2025

Irene Huang, NCTM, OMTA Scholarship Committee Co-Chair

The 2025 Scholarship Auditions were held Saturday and Sunday, May 31 and June 1 at Portland Piano Company. Our wonderful judges were Dr. Kay Zavislak and Dr. Jensina Oliver. We had 74 student entries.

Here are the results. Congratulations to all who participated!

Jeannette Scott Briggs (Elementary School):

1st Place: Theo Chun, Student of Hae-Jin Kim
2nd Place: Caleb Gu, Student of Hae-Jin Kim
3rd Place: Krista Yena Lee, Student of Hae-Jin Kim

Jeannette Scott Briggs (Middle School):

1st Place: Sophia Chung, Student of Hae-Jin Kim
2nd Place: Maxwell Gong, Student of Hae-Jin Kim
3rd Place: Claire Oh, Student of Hae-Jin Kim
HM: Aaron Ho, Student of Hae-Jin Kim

Jeannette Scott Briggs (High School):

1st Place: Emily Rhew, Student of Hae-Jin Kim
2nd Place: Anna Han, Student of Hae-Jin Kim

Orchestra Instrumental:

1st Place: Emily Seo, Student of Dr. Hamilton Cheifetz
1st Place: Jacob Peizner, Student of Estelle Herman
2nd Place: Abigail Lee, Student of Hae-Jin Kim
HM: Anushka Nishar, Student of Kevin A. Lefohn

Donna and David Eason:

1st Place: Maggie Ma, Student of Leslie Chen
HM: Han Wei Zhang, Student of Hui Juan Ma

D. Suzanne Raines:

1st Place: Qingshan Li, Student of Dr. Renato Fabbro
2nd Place: Elizabeth Shen, Student of Dr. Renato Fabbro
3rd Place: Jeongwon Huh, Student of Shinmyung Rho
HM: Jay Yoshimori, Student of Mimi Hui Shen, NCTM

Gladys Strong OMTA Pianos:

1st Place: Nikita Istratov, Student of Dr. Alexandre Dossin
2nd Place: Rachel Zike, Student of Shirley Brendlinger, NCTM

Edith Strange:

1st Place: Yooeun Kang, Student of Dr. Julia Lee
2nd Place: Michael Hsu, Student of Dr. Thomas Otten
HM: Daniel James: Student of William Chou

Portland District Instrumental:

1st Place: Luna Woo, Student of Hae-Jin Kim
2nd Place: Ashley Ma, Student of Leslie Chen
3rd Place (shared): Alex Tran, Student of Dr. Renato Fabbro
3rd Place (shared): Sandy Tang, Student of Dr. Renato Fabbro

Cris Tapang Memorial:

1st Place (shared): Emily Liu, Student of Dr. Thomas Otten, NCTM
1st Place (shared): Chloe Luo, Student of Dr. Renato Fabbro
1st Place (shared): Francis Ross, Student of Dr. Renato Fabbro
HM: Lana Minami: Student of Momoko Muramatsu, NCTM

Eleanor East and Edward G. Michaels:

1st Place: Charriess Pun, Student of Anastasia Kitaev, NCTM
3rd Place: Lisa Xun, Student of Irene Huang, NCTM

Maude Sardam Collaborative:

1st Place: Yoojin Kang / Kaylee Nah / Hailey Youn / Andy Shin
Students of Hae-Jin Kim & Maria Shim
2nd Place: Katie Chow / Anderson Skarstad / Haruka Sakiyama
Students of Paula Watt & Clarris Archerson

Frances Ragozzino Geer:

1st Place: Ethan Lu, Student of Barbara Chapman, NCTM



Francis Virginia Melton:

2nd Place: Maria Dreher, Student of Kellene Goff
3rd Place: Evangelyn Wendell, Student of Kellene Goff

Jean Williams:

1st Place: Alexis Zou, Student of Dr. Renato Fabbro
2nd Place: James Lee, Student of Dr. Julia Lee
3rd Place: Sophia Hong, Student of Dr. Renato Fabbro
HM: Albert Leong, Student of Aaron Petit
HM: Sophia Thai, Student of Shirley Brendlinger, NCTM

Tom O'Brien Junior:

1st Place (shared): Zachary Cheng, Student of Dr. Renato Fabbro
1st Place (shared): Daniel Liu, Student of Dr. Thomas Otten, NCTM
1st Place (shared): Klaire Liu, Student of Dr. Rachelle McCabe
HM: J.T. Hollevoet, Student of Kelli Stephens
HM: Jane Kang, Student of Momoko Muramatsu, NCTM

Tom O'Brien Senior:

1st Place: Zoe Kramer, Student of Dr. Brian Hsu, NCTM
HM: Ray Yoshimori, Student of Mimi Hui Shen, NCTM
HM: David Kohanets, Student of Anastasia Kitaev, NCTM

Lillian Pettibone:

2nd Place: Byron Lau, Student of Dr. Lilin Chen

Dorothy Pederson Fahlman:

2nd Place: Eric Tee, Student of Jan Mittelstaedt, NCTM / Dr. Renato Fabbro

Daniel Brugh Composition Scholarship

(administered separately):

Winner: Matthew Vallero, student of Bernadette Mondok Keller



SYLLABUS



Dr. Barbara Roberts, NCTM
OMTA Syllabus Chair

I hope you have all had a fun and restful summer, and are re-energized for teaching this fall!

Below is a list of main things to know about Syllabus this fall:

- Syllabus exams will be happening as usual this fall. You must use the new online registration system to register for Syllabus. The new online registration system is about to go live as I write, and should be up and running by the time you read this. Please be patient and helpful as we begin this new phase. We are very excited about this new change, and we believe it will be better in the long run for all OMTA members.
- Make sure you have all your registrations ready **before** you click the “pay” button. **Once you pay, you cannot go back and change or add to your registrations.** Double-check all your information: students’ names, exam types and levels, pieces and composers, times, etc. You can enter it all early, but don’t push the “pay” button until you are certain that everything is complete and correct. If you decide to enter information early, set reminders for yourself, so that you won’t forget to pay and finish your registration before the deadline! **Late entries will not be accepted.**
- Watch for emails about Zoom meetings regarding the new registration system. It will be very helpful to attend these if you can.
- The 2025 Classical Piano Manual is now finished and online. There will not be any more changes to the manual this year. After this 2025-2026 Syllabus year is finished, we will review it and make any changes needed. This would happen after Spring Syllabus 2026 and before the 2026 Conference.

All the best for a successful Syllabus year!



CENTRAL OREGON DISTRICT

Grace King, Central Oregon District President Elect

Happy September from the Central Oregon District! We have been busy this summer getting a new district website up and running, planning this year's series of programs, and preparing for a great fall season of teaching. Our members have been working on various personal projects as well. Two examples are: Melissa Barker, NCTM preparing to open Green Grass Music School, her new school of music in Prineville; and Kathy Gault, NCTM receiving hundreds of visitors to her garden during the High Desert Garden Tour (see photo).

We'll be kicking things off September 12 in Prineville with a business meeting at our district president Melissa Barker's school of music, and a program by Emily Ross on teaching and supporting students dealing with anxiety. Fall Syllabus will follow in October, then our Ensemble Festival in November.

Please check out our new district website! You can find it at: <https://omta-centraloregon.org>.



HILLSBORO AREA DISTRICT



Sarah Ball, NCTM
Hillsboro Area District President

We anticipate another fruitful and enjoyable year of music-making in the Hillsboro Area District, with a variety of events to encourage growth and conviviality among our students and teachers.

We invite all members of OMTA, statewide, to join us on Zoom for our first presentation *Using the New OMTA Registration System*, by Susan Todd, NCTM and Cherise da Cunha, NCTM on Wednesday, September 10. The Hillsboro District meeting and conversation will be at 10:00 am, and **the**

presentation will begin at 10:30 am, as noted on our website: <https://www.oma-hillsboro.org/calendar/district-meeting-and-program-8pdx5-a787m-j9xj8-mlgjb-wf6el-pkpal>

To request a Zoom invitation, please email us here: hillsboro@oregonmta.org.

Watch for smiles and waves from the live audience—members of Hillsboro Area OMTA!



ROGUE VALLEY DISTRICT

Terri Horn, Rogue Valley District President

We have enjoyed a two-month break from meetings and events, and September is around the corner, when our activities will resume. We look forward to welcoming a new member, River McNabb, who transferred her membership from the Puyallup Valley chapter MTNA.

We have scheduled two presentations for October and November:

- *Revisiting Roots: Reviving Folk Songs*, by Dr. Lark Powers
- *Artistic Pedaling*, by Deborah Cleaver

The community enjoyed the wonderful performance by our beloved member and friend Dr. Alexander Tutunov, on Tuesday, August 19 at the Medford Collier Center. Dr. Tutunov opened a grand event entitled "Pianopalooza", celebrating the acquisition by the Rogue Valley Symphony of a 9-foot Hamburg Steinway. This is a big deal in our area, and we were so fortunate to have Dr. Tutunov here to open the festivities! He is an inspiration for all of us.

We wish you all a pleasant and *cool*/fall season!

VIRTUAL DISTRICT

Madeline Gendron, Virtual District President

Welcome to your newly-born Virtual District! Join us Monday, September 8 at 10:30 AM (PST) as the Virtual District discusses and shares visions and interests.

Also mark your calendar for the meeting on Monday, October 6, as Dr. Lisa Neher will present *Adapting to a Changing Online Landscape*. Welcome to all.

For more info, email me at:
madeleinegendron@yahoo.com.

Zoom link for the October presentation:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81640489726>

Meeting ID: 816 4048 9726



TUALATIN VALLEY DISTRICT



Mahroo Hamedani
Tualatin Valley
Co-President



Dianne Davies
Tualatin Valley
Co-President

As we prepare for another exciting academic year, the Tualatin Valley District is looking forward to a full calendar of enriching events and opportunities for both teachers and students.

We are pleased to announce two festivals scheduled for the 2025–2026 season. Our Festival of Ribbons will take place November 8, 2025, and the Baroque Festival is set for February 21, 2026. These annual events offer valuable performance and adjudication experiences for students at all levels. Many thanks in advance to our dedicated chairs and volunteers for making them possible.

In addition to our festivals, we will feature five engaging presentations at our district meetings throughout the year. These topics are designed to inspire and support our teaching community:

- *The Mighty Wrist*
- *Artistic Pedaling*
- *Learning Styles for Musicians*
- *Turning Performance Anxiety into a Super Power*
- *Teaching Techniques that Make Composition Possible for Every Student*

We look forward to seeing everyone at our first meeting of the year, and to another season filled with collaboration, creativity, and musical growth. For a full list of our meetings, festivals, programs, and deadlines, please visit our website at <https://tvomta.org>. The calendar will continue to be updated throughout the year.



WEST PORTLAND DISTRICT

Anna Cosma, West Portland District President

In the West Portland District, we are excited to start organizing social events for our members. Our Programs Chair, Dr. Debra Sostrin, has been putting together all that it takes to get this up and running. Our first get-together is being held Sunday, September 21. Members will have the opportunity to connect with colleagues and share music in this "open mic" evening, which also includes a potluck. We will be putting together other various social activities that interest our members throughout the year. Among them are the following highlights:

September 24: Meeting

We are thrilled to host Susan Todd, NCTM, Liz Willis, NCTM, and Heidi Evans, NCTM, who will have a panel discussion and Q&A to answer your questions on everything related to Syllabus, including changes to the program, the new manual, and the new registration platform.

October 18: Festival

Our first festival of the season will be the District Ensemble Festival being held at Portland Piano Company.

October 22: Meeting

During our last meeting of 2025, Dr. Stephen Lewis, NCTM will present *The Mighty Wrist*.

November 15, 16, 22 and 23: Festival

For the annual Baroque/Classical Festival, we are looking at two weekends with great music being held at Portland Piano Company.

We look forward to a great and exciting year ahead of us within all our OMTA and district events, making a joyful noise in our studios, and speaking from our hearts to one another through music.



ABOUT *MUSIC NEWS*

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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
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- 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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Please send print-ready ads in TIFF, EPS, JPEG or PDF format to Caris Power: office@oregonmta.org. Ads must meet specifications listed below.

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Submission Deadlines

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

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



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