

OMTA Music News

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Nellie Tholen Grant Workshops

Nellie Tholen taught in the Portland area for 62 years and was on the piano faculty at Lewis and Clark College. She was a fine teacher, "a legend," a "teacher of teachers," always sitting up front, taking notes at workshops. She initially started the Teacher Improvement Fund (anonymously) to give teachers in the outlying areas of our state the same opportunities to grow and learn as members in the metropolitan areas enjoy.

—Patti Petersen, NCTM

LINCOLN COUNTY INVITES YOU
Lincoln County District will present Anita King in a workshop called "Understanding Music's Multiple Layers: Creating the Foundation for Interpretation and Movement" on Saturday, October 17, at 10:00 a.m. in the Studio Theater of the Newport Performing Arts Center, West Olive Street, Newport. This has been partially funded by the Nellie Tholen Endowment Fund, and all districts are invited to join us. There is no admission charge, but there is an optional donation of \$10 to assist with the costs.

—Jess Smith

Lincoln County District President

LINN-BENTON HOSTS
KABALEVSKY WORKSHOP
The Linn-Benton District invites you to join us for a workshop given by Dr. Alexandre Dossin on Kabalevsky. It will be held on Saturday, October 31 from 10:00

a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the First Congregational United Church of Christ, 4515 SW West Hills Road, Corvallis. Thanks to the Nellie Tholen Endowment Fund, this class is free to all non-district teachers and students; however, there is an optional donation of \$10.

—Joy Byers

Linn-Benton District President

MID-COLUMBIA HOSTS

BAROQUE WORKSHOP

The Mid-Columbia District enjoyed a workshop by Barbara Baird, NCTM entitled "Performance Practice in Baroque Keyboard Music." It was held on Saturday, September 19, from noon until 3:00 p.m. at Columbia Gorge Community College in The Dalles. We are grateful to the Nellie Tholen Endowment Fund for partially funding the workshop.

—E.J. Howe

Mid-Columbia District President

SALEM HOSTS ENSEMBLE

MUSIC MASTER CLASS

Salem District would like to invite all OMTA members to an Ensemble Music Master class, given by Dr. Jill Timmons (date and place to be announced). Dr. Jill Timmons will be coaching 6 teams of students during this two-hour class. If you have a team of students that would like to participate, please contact me as soon as possible.

—Denise Steinbach

Salem District President

President's Corner

Photographer Kelly Piete



Susan Todd, NCTM
OMTA President

Dear Colleagues,

Oh, how lovely is our state of Oregon. We are so lucky/blessed/wise to live here. I have had the great pleasure of visiting some of the farther-flung districts this fall, and look forward to greeting board members, syllabus adjudicators and OMTA/MTNA student performance competition participants in LaGrande in late October. I think with gratitude of our event chairs, syllabus adjudicators and participating families who travel across our state to make sure OMTA events come off without a hitch. Thank you, all.

Whether you travel a short distance to your local association meeting, many miles to a distant concert or event, or several hundred miles to Albuquerque for our National Conference this coming March, I wish you ...

Happy Trails,
Susan M. Todd, NCTM
President, OMTA

Important Changes in Privacy Policy

In response to a changing world and increasing threats to individuals in our organization, we have made changes to our privacy policy. Beginning with the current issue, we will no longer publish anyone's contact information—phone number, home address or e-mail address—unless that person gives consent to do so.

For contact information, you will need to refer to your OMTA Directory/Handbook or the OMTA E-mail List. (You must subscribe to the e-mail list; contact Adam Smith at Office@OregonMTA.org.)

You also can use the Directory page of the OMTA Web site to send messages to the state or district presidents.

We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this policy may cause.

Bonnie Esbensen
Publications Chair

State News *Board of Directors*

Lucy Watts
OMTA State Secretary



At the OMTA State Board meeting, held in Eugene, Oregon on July 31, 2009, it was moved, seconded and passed that:

- Dan Brugh be named the 2010 OMTA Composer of the Year, contingent upon his providing a more detailed description of the piece to be commissioned. This description should include information such as approximate length and/or number of movements. This description must be provided to the COY Chair by October 1, 2009 in order to allow time for completion of the MTNA Composer Commissioning Contract. (Motion submitted by Dr. Matt Cooper, NCTM, Composer Commissioning Chair)
- Article II, Section 9 of the OMTA Bylaws be changed to read: “The application for Active, Provisional, or Associate Members shall be accompanied by payment of one year’s dues.” (Explanation: This action eliminates the initiation fee which has not been in use for many years.)
- Article IV of the OMTA Constitution be amended to read: “The officers of this organization shall be a President, a President-Elect, as many Vice Presidents as there shall be state Districts formed and who shall be duly elected presidents of such Districts, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and an Assistant Treasurer. The authority and duties of each officer are defined in the Bylaws of the Association.” (Explanation: The change is that an Assistant Treasure has been added.)
- The following section be added to Article III—DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS of the OMTA Bylaws: “Section 6. The ASSISTANT TREASURER shall be responsible for all monies which are restricted to specified use, including but not limited to named scholarships and awards. This officer shall report to the Executive Board at each official meeting.”
- “Student Composition” be removed from the list of Standing Committees under Article V of the OMTA Constitution.
- Section 12 be eliminated from Article IV of the OMTA Bylaws.
- Section 13 of Article IV of the OMTA Bylaws be changed to read: “Section 12: Student Performance Competitions.”
- Section 14 of Article IV of the OMTA Bylaws be changed to read: “Section 13: Syllabus.”
- The Student Composition chair and Committee be placed under the auspices of the OMTA Education Chair and Committee. (Motions submitted by Geneva Wright, Legislative Chair)

State News *Certification*

Patti Widener, NCTM
State Certification Chair



Greetings colleagues!

If you have been thinking about National Certification, now is the time to check it out. Why? Right now you can choose between two programs. National is putting a new program in place beginning January 1, 2010. All who apply on or after that day will certify with the new program. However, if you apply under the present program, before December 31, 2009, you have two years to complete the program. You can find information about both the current and the new program at the mtna.org Web site; you will find Certification on the top menu. Be sure to thoroughly explore the Certification section.

There is also some information about the new program in the current *American Music Teacher* magazine on pages 45–46. As you have probably heard, all testing goes away with the new program, replaced by Five Teacher Projects. We already have several enthusiastic teachers preparing for the new program.

How do I decide? I am happy to answer your questions and send information that can help you decide. Time is of the essence if you want to apply for the current program. Our next testing date is Saturday, November 14 at noon in the reading room of the Beaverton Public Library. There will be a spring test, date TBA. Testing will also be offered at the National Conference in Albuquerque in March and the Oregon State Conference in August.

Congratulations to our newest certified members: Sandra Hull, NCTM of Eugene and Ron Fabbro, NCTM of Portland.

Yours for Certification,
 Patti Widener NCTM
Happykeys88@hotmail.com
 503-246-8183

PYP PORTLAND YOUTH PHILHARMONIC
 Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall, 7:30 p.m.
 David Hattner, Conductor and Music Director



11.14.09
 Kai Talim, PYP 2009-2010
 Piano Concerto Competition Winner
 BEETHOVEN Piano Concerto No. 4



12.26.09
 Richard Zeller, Baritone
 BIZET Carmen
 RODGERS/HAMMERSTEIN
 Soliloquy from Carousel





3.13.10
 SHOSTAKOVICH Symphony No. 5

5.01.10
 Pacific Youth Choir
 POULENC Gloria



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portlandyouthphil.org | America's first youth orchestra.








State News *2010 OMTA Conference*

Fern McArthur, NCTM
OMTA Conference Chair



AUGUST 2–5, 2010
THE DALLES, OR

Update ...

Planning for our 2010 Conference is ongoing. I thank our 2009 attendees for their thoughtful evaluations and the responses from members who could not attend. Your Conference committee has gleaned a variety of ideas from the many suggestions we've received from our members.

Topping that list has been workshops and/or panel discussions on basic pedagogy topics such as technique, tone production, phrasing, performance preparation and sight reading. Also requested was information regarding the use of technology for teaching and business organization. Ensemble and collaborative music is a popular topic as well as more information about Syllabus repertoire.

Your Conference committee is exploring all of these valuable topics on your "wish list," and we will do our best to present programs that meet your needs. A complete outline of the Conference schedule and presenters will be published in the January/February *Music News*.

In the last issue of *Music News*, OMTA President Susan Todd, NCTM, offered valuable suggestions for the upcoming Conference. Grant writer Carol White, NCTM, is once again preparing our request for funds from the Nellie Tholen Fund of the Oregon Conference Foundation to help our members with housing costs and to keep our registration fees as low as possible.

Our summer months most certainly are busy with travel, family and various events, but I hope you can plan to join us for the August Conference which is uniquely "our own."

Best wishes to all for an enjoyable and productive fall term and wonderful holidays.

WILLAMETTE UNIVERSITY
Department of Music



**Become
the Music**

DEGREE PROGRAMS	MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP AUDITION DATES
BA in Music	November 7, 2009
BM in Composition	January 23, 2010
BM in Performance	February 15, 2010
BM in Music Education	
Minor in Music	Schedule an audition: 503-370-6687
Minor in Arts & Technology	

*A faculty dedicated to educating the complete musician,
artist and person*

Office of Admission • Willamette University
900 State Street, Salem, OR 97301
503-370-6303 or 1-877-LIBARTS
willamette.edu/cla/music

State News *Junior Bach Festival*

Gayle Bland
Jr. Bach Festival Chair



It's great to be teaching again. The fall brings a wave of students back into our lives. With them comes the joy of being a teacher. We daily encourage the students in our studios. We give them assignments and praise to help them in their weekly goals. We remind our selves to keep on task to meet the needs of each student.

Already we are preparing for the Junior Bach Festival that feels only weeks away. Please read the forms and updated rules. Carefully select the proper category for each student entered. Be prepared to volunteer at your festivals.

For teachers who have not participated in the past, this is the time to start. Select a few students who would enjoy the experience. Then enter them in the Junior Bach Festival in your district. The chairman of your district can answer questions. The guidelines online at oregonmta.org will walk you through the process.

This ongoing event will keep the music of the Baroque era alive. The festival is a tribute to the many composers of the time. Have a great musical year.

State News *Ensemble Festival*

Joan B. Gathercoal, NCTM
Arthur G. Baines
State Ensemble Co-Chairs



REMINDER OF THE NEW DATES FOR 2009:
Saturday, December 5 and
Sunday, December 6

Deadline for district entries to State:
Sunday, November 22

Two recitals each day:
2:00 pm and 3:30 p.m.
a reception following each recital.

The Russell Tripp Performance Center in Tadena Hall, LBCC Albany Campus is again the site for the 2009 OMTA State Ensemble Festival. Linn Benton Community College has agreed to host the event.

Students will have the privilege of performing on LBCC's 9-foot Steinway—an artist model, and a Yamaha CFIIIS 9-foot concert grand, which is being provided for the occasion courtesy of Lawson's Keyboard in Eugene.

The teacher guidelines, adjudicator guidelines, district chair guidelines, the new dual entry form and the district student evaluation sheet are all on the Web site.

All teachers as well as students who are not performing are invited to attend. It will be a great opportunity for your students to learn about and experience ensemble music. We look forward to seeing all of you at the Festival.



State News *2010 NW Division Competition*

Susan Todd, NTCM
President OMTA



Outstanding young musicians from six states will be traveling to Oregon in January to compete for the honor of representing the Northwest Division in the MTNA Student Performance Competitions. Students who won at their state level competition this fall will perform twenty-five to thirty-five minute programs for adjudication. The competition performances are open to the public. Junior Performance students are ages 11–14, Seniors are ages 15–18 and Young Artists are ages 19–26. States in the Northwest Division are Oregon, Washington, Alaska, Idaho, Montana and Wyoming. The division competition rotates between the states, with Oregon last hosting in 2006.

Lewis and Clark College in Portland has generously made available its music

facilities for the competition, which includes piano, voice, string, woodwind, brass and chamber music categories. Students chosen as winners in their age bracket will go on to the national competition at the MTNA Conference in Albuquerque, March 20–24.

OMTA members are encouraged to mark their calendars for January 15–17, 2010, and to inform their students of this fine opportunity to hear high-level student performances. Volunteers are needed to assist with monitoring and other duties to help make these students welcome to our fine state. Won't you make a call today? Our Oregon coordinator, Carol Kilmer, can find just the right job for you. It is wonderful to hear such fine musicians from our part of the country.

State News *Composition Celebration*

Nicola Curry
State Comp. Chair



Oregon Music Teachers Association, Inc.
State Composition Celebration Honors Recital



SATURDAY, MAY 22, 2010, 2:00 P.M.

SHERMAN CLAY PIANOS
RECITAL HALL B

131 NW 13TH AVE. (NW DAVIS & 13TH AVE.)
PORTLAND, OR 97029

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT
NICOLA CURRY, OMTA COMPOSITION CHAIR
NICOLA'S STUDIO (503) 692-0656; KNCMUS@COMCAST.NET
ON DAY OF PERFORMANCE CALL SHERMAN CLAY, (503) 775-2427



State News *Composer of the Year*

Matt Cooper
Composer of the Year Chair



The OMTA Executive Board has voted to award Dan Brugh the OMTA Composer of the Year award for 2010. Dan, a composition graduate of the University of Oregon School of Music, has proposed to write a three-movement piece tentatively titled "Music for Piano and Electro-Acoustic Ensemble." The first movement will use pitch class sets and minimalist techniques; the second will be a slow lyrical movement that explores new textures between the piano and the electro-acoustic ensemble; and the third

will explore different tuning systems, including a 19-tone scale. The electro-acoustic ensemble will include computer and synthesized instruments, performing both in real and sequenced time, with the grand piano. It will also utilize surround-sound, putting the audience in the middle of the sound. Dan's piece will be performed at the 2010 OMTA Conference, to be hosted by the Mid-Columbia District. Dan was chosen by a committee including former Composer of the Year, Dr. John McKinnon.

State News *MusicLink*

Susan Franzen
MusicLink Media Coordinator



As you plan for the coming year, please remember that the MusicLink Program is available for students with serious interest in lessons who lack the means to pay for them. The program connects students to MusicLink's list of teachers, and reimburses the costs of music and OMTA sponsored Syllabus and Festivals. The MusicLink Program can also help piano students acquire an instrument loaned through the Piano Santa Foundation. If you would like a packet of information from Music Link, including registration forms, please contact Mary Hulme at 503-244-8777.

Do your students and families give you gifts at you studio recitals? If so, consider having them give their gift in the form of a donation to MusicLink. No matter the amount, checks made out to Music Link can help cover the costs of music, Syllabus, Festival and competition entrance fees, and other costs covered by MusicLink for students in the program.

Thank you,

Susan Franzen
MusicLink Media Coordinator

Oregon Musician

Copies of the latest (Fall 2008) *Oregon Musician* are still available for those members who didn't pick up their copy at meetings last fall. If you would like to have one sent to you, please send a check made out to Lisette Sage for \$2 to cover mailing costs to:

Lisette Sage
15240 SW Obsidian St.
Beaverton, OR 97007



Robyn Pfeifer, NCTM
Foundation Chair



***Musical Evening at the historic
William J. Autzen House, featuring the
Ringing-Wheeler Piano Duo,
with Wine & Appetizers***



Sunday October 25th, 6-9pm

Tickets \$30 each
(open to members, family, and friends)

Contact email: robyn@musicwerksstudio.com
503-287-5028

You are invited to enjoy an intimate evening of piano, wine and appetizers at the historic Thomas J. Autzen house, so named for the 1920's lumber baron who commissioned its construction. Built in 1927 this gorgeous Tudor Revival is over 10,000 square feet in the Alameda Neighborhood and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The evening will feature the music of The Ringering-Wheeler Piano Duo. The Duo, which will be hot off their CD release event at Sherman Clay on October 23rd, have been appearing together since 2003. They specialize in music that embraces the classical, jazz, and dance forms. We are thrilled they have agreed to donate their time to perform for us.

Come join us for this musical evening at the William J. Autzen House, 2425 NE Alameda Street, Portland, OR.

Proceeds from the evening go to Oregon Music Teachers Association in support of its many events and scholarship programs for music students and teachers throughout the state.

If you would like to attend please contact OMTA Foundation Chair, Robyn Pfeifer at robyn@musicwerksstudio.com and put "Autzen House OMTA Fundraiser" in the subject line.

Kindly reply by Monday, October 19, 2009.

State News *Syllabus Recital*

Claudia Hegberg
Level X Recital Chair



LEVEL X STATE RECITALS

These recitals will always be once a year, the first Sunday in June. The next one will be June 6, 2010 (1:00, 2:30 p.m., and 4:00) at Sherman Clay, Moe's Pianos in Downtown Portland. You and your student may choose the piece to be performed (from the Level

X repertoire and no longer than 7 minutes). To participate, please mail details to Claudia Hegberg by May 22.

Claudia Hegberg
16920 NW Elkton
Beaverton, OR 97006



Harpsichord Experience for Students

Schedule a one-time session to see, hear, and play Baroque music on a French double manual harpsichord. This fine instrument was built by Byron John Will in 2002. The lid painting was done by Paul Missal of Wilsonville.

After a brief demonstration of how the instrument is constructed, students will hear several pieces played and will then have the opportunity to play their own pieces.

Session length will depend on number of participants:

One student:	\$50 one hour
Each additional student:	\$25 adds on 15 min. to session time per student

Groups will be limited to a maximum of 6.

For further information and scheduling call

Lisette Sage at 503-590-9742

e-mail: ikbenhier@comcast.net



Lynne Hall
IMTF Chair



8 RECESSION-PROOF BUSINESS STRATEGIES

This article came to me from MTNA and I thought it was interesting and timely in its content.

Afraid the recession is here to stay for awhile? If so, you're not alone. Here are several strategies that companies use to maintain and increase business during tough economic times. With a creative twist, these same ideas could be applied to the music studio.

1. Reactivate dormant accounts and old leads. Contact people who have approached you in the last year or two for music lessons, and ask them if they are still interested. Let them know that you are available to help them with their musical needs, and follow up with contact information about you and your studio program.
2. Help existing clients create new assignments for you. Be open to new services that you can offer people: transcribing music, transposing, composing music, performing, or tutoring students for school music auditions and high school or collegiate music theory classes. Also, do your current students and parents have friends or family they could recommend to you as future prospective students?
3. Use low-cost add-ons to generate additional revenue. One way to generate some extra profitable business is to encourage clients to add on to or expand existing services. Perhaps they would be interested in upgrading to longer music lessons or paying a small lab fee to access music games and on-line learning in your music studio.
4. Postpone any planned fee increases. A business downturn or soft economy is not the time to increase your fees even if you feel you deserve it and that a raise is long overdue. During such a period, defer any planned fee increase announcements until later; keep your fees at their current levels.
5. Downgrade slightly your acceptable customer profile. You probably have guidelines to determine which students are most desirable and which are not. During a downturn, you may want to be more flexible in this area. This doesn't mean you abandon your standards and take anyone who calls you. Simply readjust your acceptable criteria during this lull to accommodate a wider range of prospects.
6. Repackage your services to accommodate limited budgets. Manufacturers offer economy sizes, no frills versions, special discounts, and payment plans. So why can't a music teacher? Work with students and their parents to come up with alternatives to discontinuing music lessons, especially if the student is a good one. Would they be interested in bartering for services or taking shorter lessons at a reduced rate? You might want to check into the Music Link program to qualify for free music, or give a reduced or waived lesson fee for thorough and dedicated practicing.
7. Provide Value and Measurable Results. Besides repackaging your services to make them more available to small budget customers, you still want to emphasize value and provide measurable results. Remember that people are looking to save money and unnecessary spending.
8. Keep marketing yourself and what you can offer in your music studio. Increase time spent on marketing and prospecting for new students, even if you haven't done so before. Consider expanding your studio to include adults, and other recreational music makers. Also, consider teaming up with another music teacher to split some of your basic business costs and cross-promote each other in your community.



State News *Membership*

Dr. Julia Hwakyu Lee
OMTA State Membership Chair



OMTA Records

Let Us Know

If you have moved or changed your e-mail address or phone number.

Get on Our E-Mail List

Receive periodic OMTA news and a listing of OMTA members' e-mail addresses.

Contact Adam Smith,
Administrative Assistant at:
Office@OregonMTA.org
or
541-255-2526

Welcome New Members

Blue Mountain District

Mio Aoike

Eugene District

Olga Aynvarg
Amy Goesser Kolb
David Servias
Christina Yue

Portland District

Nan Anderson
Annisa Djoewari
Buddeke Jack
Sarah Jarvinen
Angela Neiderloh
Lena Nikulina
Jennifer Wright
Mighten Yip

Rogue Valley District

Jacquie Cornwell

Salem District

Nicolas Cardona
Michele Walberg
Jenet Wanting

Changes & Updates

The following have a new address or phone. Please contact the OMTA Central Office (541-255-2526, office@oregonmta.org) or the District President for the information.

Portland District

Aaron Bloom
Cheryl L. Drewes
Natasha Flynn
Suzanne P. Hamlin
Kimberly Harris
Cinda Redman

Eugene District

Melissa Thieme

McMinnville District

Karen Huntsberger

Roseburg District

Ida Jo Gates

Salem District

Sharon Forry-Tyle



District News *Central Oregon*

Kathy Gault
Music News Correspondent



Central Oregon District began the teaching year with a clarion call by visiting OMTA State President Susan Todd, urging each of us to create a strong, professional studio policy. She listed basic elements of a good studio policy, with lots of quotable examples from her nationally-known studio policy Web site collection. Backbones were straighter and professional confidence and resolve were stronger following this very inspiring and practical presentation.

At our October meeting we will welcome Carol White, who will give a workshop entitled “I Couldn’t Practice Because ...” and November brings several events, including Fall Syllabus, our District

Ensemble Festival, and a program on the Haydn Sonatinas to be presented by Margaret Littlehales—with a little help from her friends. December promises a musical preview of our 2010 Piano Monster Concert, as well as the ever-popular potluck lunch and annual DIY holiday ensemble-music-playing bash.

District Certification Chair Patti Petersen is mentoring several of our members as they work towards becoming NCTM. Gold stars have been found to be a powerful incentive for stimulating the checking off of tasks from the many pages of requirements. 



NCTM candidates Mariann Slavkovsky and Kathy Gault attending study group at the studio of Patti Petersen.

District News *Linn-Benton*

Joy Byers
District President



The Linn-Benton District began the 2009/2010 teaching year with a wonderful presentation by our own Dr. Bonnie Esbensen on How Students Learn. We are having our district Ensemble Festival on November 21, and on November 24 we are looking forward to Susan Todd filling us in on Studio Policies and OMTA information. Then on December 5 and 6, we are hosting

the State Ensemble Festival at Linn-Benton Community College.

On Saturday, April 24, 2010, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Geisa Dutra of Seattle will be presenting a master class on the Chopin Preludes. There will be a \$10 fee for all non-district teachers and students.

Please phone me for additional information: (541) 791-1156. 

District News *McMinnville*

Jane Smith
District Vice President



The McMinnville District opened the fall season with a teachers' recital of piano, organ, and clarinet music, followed by a Margaret Littlehales workshop partially funded by the Nellie Tholen Teacher Education Grant.

Margaret, ever the master teacher, used best practices to share tips she's used successfully for planning her year, which she consid-

ers to run from April to April. She brought visual aids, shared favorite tips from the participants, and presented with enthusiasm and passion. The teachers went away challenged and renewed, grateful to Nellie Tholen for her vision, and to Margaret Littlehales for her generosity of spirit and time on a beautiful, sunny Sunday in September. 



District News *Portland*

Joy Novak
District President



OMTA Portland kicked off the new 2009–2010 school year with a well-attended Q&A session with master teachers Linda Barker, Dorothy Fahlman, Barbara Parker, Dr. Carol Rich, and Kelli Stephens. Each instructor spent 10 minutes sharing the philosophies and skills that contribute to their teaching success, then answered teaching-related questions from the audience. Preparations for the OMTA Classical Festival are also underway. The popular event will be held November 6-8, 2009,

at Michelle's Pianos and Sherman Clay Pianos—both located in Portland's famous Pearl District. Katherine Wilkinson of NE Portland is chairing the festival. A first-time chairperson, Katherine is being aided by veteran festival assistant Ramona Goddard. Ramona recently developed an innovative new .pdf registration form that can be submitted with the touch of a button. A similar form will be used for the Baroque and Romantic Festivals this year. Veteran Baroque festival chair Deborah Cleaver is also coaching Katherine through the festival-chairing process.

Portland District is proud to announce that member Dan Brugh was recently named the 2010 OMTA Composer of the Year. (See page 8). The decision was voted upon by the OMTA State Board during the recent Conference in Eugene. As Composer of the Year, Dan will premiere an exciting and original composition during next summer's OMTA State Conference in The Dalles. A native of Portland, Oregon, Dan's first teacher was OMTA member Ruth Roper. He attended the Interlochen Arts Academy and the University of Oregon. He studied composition with Derek Healey and Dr. Walter Saul. He maintains a private studio in Beaverton, Oregon and is also chairing the 2010 Composition Celebration. The Composition Celebration will be held February 27, 2010 at a to-be-determined location. 

THE PIANO CONNECTION

*A Music Teacher Founded Service
Assisting Buyers and Sellers of Pianos*

Dear Colleagues,

I'd like to introduce my service called The Piano Connection. Founded in 2001 in response to limitations of the retail market, this service assists piano buyers and sellers predominantly on the private market. As an independent consultant, I am also able to help students competitively navigate retail sales if desired. *I offer a no-fee search service for buyers* and individualized consignment plans for sellers. I've been fortunate to assist some of the Northwest's top instructors find instruments. When instructors lack time to shop with students, I help students identify instruments that meet the teachers' criteria. *Appreciation for teacher referrals is generously acknowledged with a finder's reward check!*

If you know someone buying/selling a piano, please ask them to contact me. My service now covers both Washington and Oregon, the latter a rich source of instruments that continues to attract Washington music teachers.

I invite you to explore the range of services detailed on my website www.thepianoconnection.com. You may enjoy reading the Success Stories and Teachers' pages.

I look forward to hearing from you!

Esther Warkov, Ph.D
206.659.0038
esther_warkov@comcast.net
www.thepianoconnection.com



Denise Steinbach
District President



Salem District began the school year with a September meeting at the home of President Elect, Lynne Hall. We distributed our new directories (produced by Lynne Hall), discussed upcoming events, and then shared a lovely potluck lunch together. Our first event of the school year was to be an ensemble music master class on October 5 to be given by Dr. Jill Timmons. This will be postponed to a later date, but we look forward to listening to the music that our students have prepared and to expanding our own teaching skills as we watch Jill coach our students.

November promises to be a very busy month. The 7th of November will bring

the Ensemble Festival, coordinated by Kitty MacKinnon, at Weathers Music in the Bach Room. On The 14th of November, we will be holding our Contemporary Festival, coordinated by Denise Steinbach, also at Weathers Music in the Bach Room. Our adjudicators for this event will be Geneva Wright and Brad Johnson. Each student will receive a certificate of participation and written comments from the adjudicators. Up to 25 percent of students will be chosen by the adjudicators to receive a trophy honoring their outstanding performance at this event.

The weekend of the 20th of November will be our Fall Syllabus exams, coordinated by Linda Greer. Students and teachers are working hard to prepare for all of these fall performance opportunities.

December promises to be a more festive month as we celebrate the holiday season with a joint luncheon with Salem Federated Music Club at McGrath's Fish House in downtown Salem on December 7th. Sally Crawford will be coordinating this joint luncheon and OMTA State President Susan Todd will be our guest. There will also be several opportunities for students to perform holiday music at the Oregon State Capitol Building and one of the local shopping malls. Lora Halferty and Deborah Butler will be scheduling these performances. In addition, many of us will also be preparing our students for our own studio recitals in the month of December. It will be a time of celebration for families, students and teachers alike as we enjoy the progress that our students are making in their study of music during this fall and winter season. 



*Musique
à Beaumont*
Val De Loire, France

June 26 - July 7, 2010

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La Vie Romantique – Chopin & Liszt

Master classes, concerts and workshops
for 2-piano and 4-hand duos.
Auditors welcome.

Visits to historic sites of the Loire Valley (Nohant, Château de Talcy, Paris)

Jill Timmons, Artistic Director

**For information regarding registration,
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District News *Tualatin Valley*

Nancy Brown
District Recording Secretary



Tualatin Valley District teachers are having another exciting year. We are focusing on publicizing our organization more so that we get students, and keeping our teaching exciting so that we retain them. Our Publicity/Community Committee is looking into creating a Web site and a brochure for our district. Our programs for the year reflect our interest in student motivation and retention.

Our September program by Pauline Eidemiller featured motivating Christmas music for our students. Our October workshop, "Keeping Piano Instruction Relevant and Interesting" by Sally Harmon, included ways to use technology to keep students interested.

Our Festival of Ribbons and Ensemble Festival will be on November 7. The judges will be Velma Schludermann and Jill Hickenlooper. Our Fall Syllabus will

be November 20, 21 & 22. In December we will have our Holiday Brunch before our business meeting and our Fall Honors Recital afterwards, at 11:00. The Honors Recital will be in the sanctuary at Tigard Christian Church.

Our January program will be an exciting one. Eileen Knox will give a presentation on how to use Super Scales Syllabus effectively. Heidi Evans will discuss the characteristics of contemporary music and will explain what adjudicators consider to be appropriate student literature. Members of the playing class will perform contemporary literature at different grade levels with an emphasis on music that is accessible and interesting for students. This workshop will be after our 9:45 business meeting on Friday, January 8, at Tigard Christian Church. 

Walter Saul, Composer

Visit Dr. Walter Saul at:
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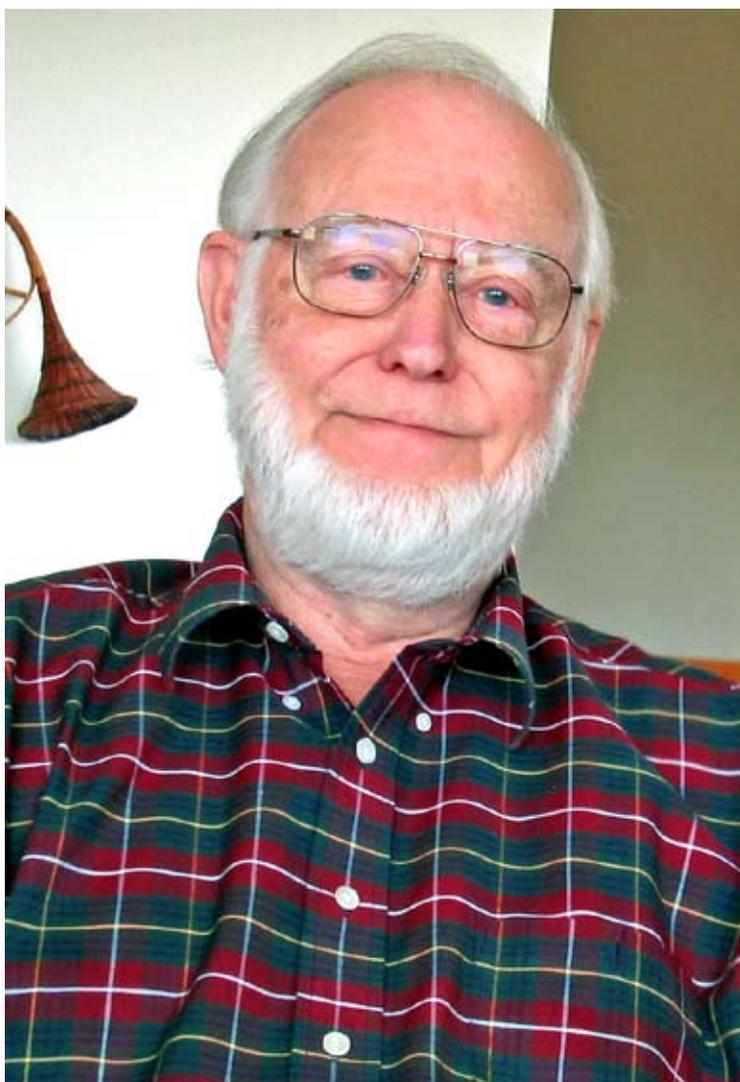


Our Tribute and Thanks to Ed Davie

Ed Davie is retiring after serving as OMTA Support Secretary for over ten years. Many of our members wrote to express their appreciation for his work.

Ed was always a joy to work with. He responded almost instantaneously to any request, always had the answer and was unfailingly pleasant, agreeable and efficient. He made my term as President easier in many ways.

—Gloria Dakin, NCTM
OMTA President, 2006–08



I can vouch for his dedication to the job and to OMTA, and his ability to respond quickly to any and all requests for assistance and information.

—Geneva Wright, NCTM
OMTA President, 2002–04

Ed Davie—what a godsend you’ve been to me during my 6 years as OMTA Treasurer and 1 year as Conference Chair. You are always there to send out e-mails to the members and have all records at the ready. I’ve enjoyed our e-mail conversations and humorous quips. It is such a pleasure to work with you.

—Fern McArthur
OMTA, President-Elect

I worked with Ed on *Music News* as editor just after Margaret Littlehales had the position. He was so patient and always so helpful. Couldn’t have done it without him, as he was the one who formatted the news. I was the one who compiled all the news, and he was very skilled on the computer and did a wonderful job doing the newsletter. Shelley took over as editor after me, and has done an amazing job. I appreciate having access online, but do miss the “old way” of getting it in the mail.

—Alice Lyle
Portland District Corresponding Secretary

When I took over the job of *Music News* Editor, after Alice, Ed kept me afloat. We spent many hours on each issue, going over formatting and details and verification of facts. I never had to wait more than minutes for him to return my call or e-mail and he always had the information we needed. We shared a lot of laughs in the meantime. When I needed a syllabus history record for my own studio, I asked him how I’d go about finding that information. He e-mailed it to me before I could wonder any

further. His dedication to OMTA has been sincere and unfailing. So many of us will miss his diligent and heartfelt service.

—Shelley Blumberg
Music News Editor

Ed Davie has a perfect record, in my book. Whenever I asked any information of Ed, he always answered with dispatch, from his vast knowledge of OMTA. In his good humor, he made me feel that I had made his day by asking for help. For all of this, I remain very grateful.

—Mary Ann Guenther, NCTM
OMTA President, 2004–06

Thanks for your commitment and service to OMTA and thanks for all the e-mails!

—Jill Khovy
Portland District

Dear Ed,

I am extremely grateful to have had the opportunity to work with someone who was as organized, responsive, and detail-oriented as yourself. I was always very impressed with how well you cared for our organization's records — everything from sensitive personal information to the hundreds (maybe even thousands?) of forms that have surely crossed your desk and your inbox over the years. If I lost it, I knew you'd have it. I may not have told you enough, but you always managed to "save the day." You will definitely be a tough act to follow. Thank you for your many years of service. OMTA will surely miss you.

—Joy Novak
President, OMTA Portland District

Dear Ed,

I knew you were the person to fill the job for all of OMTA's computer work when I first talked with you ten years ago. It has been amazing what you have done over the last ten years. Thank you for all of your dedication on behalf of OMTA. We couldn't have done it without you!

—Pauline Eidemiller
OMTA President, 1996–98

Dear Ed,

You have done so much to help OMTA move into the 21st century, from setting up our very first web presence and computerizing our membership data to helping move the *Music News* to an online format. You have also had a keen eye and ear for those of our membership who need help with that transition—from offering a large-print copy of the directory to taking time to print and mail the *Music News* to our members who are not comfortable with the World-Wide Web. Thank you for all you have done for OMTA. It has been great working closely with you these past few years as Portland and State President.

Happy Trails,
—Susan Todd
OMTA President



Dennis Burbank

Adult Playing Class Chair



OMTA ADULT PLAYING CLASS

Please note a schedule change in the 2009–2010 OMTA adult playing class series. On Saturday, December 5, 2009, the class will be held at 3 p.m. at Classic Pianos rather than at the usual 10:30 a.m. As usual, the class, for students and teachers, is non-instructed and is open to adult pianists, all other instrumentalists, and singers, of all levels, and has no repertoire

or memorization requirements. The two-hour time window is our only limit. This is a rare opportunity created especially for adult students who want to share music. Bring snacks as desired—decaf and regular coffee will be provided. If you've thought of coming and never have, come! We aim to provide a warm, supportive environment.

Do join us. 

Nurture Every Voice!

Composition, Tamara Turner

tamara@tamaraturner.com

Composition lessons for all ages and levels. From piano students to string players to those with no classical background, students will explore fun and creative techniques to uncover and develop their own unique voice. Students will have the opportunity to write for a variety of instruments and, where applicable, be instructed in music theory, arranging and orchestration.

Tamara has a degree in composition from the University of Oregon, a certificate from the Pacific Northwest Film Scoring Program, and 15 years teaching experience. She has worked as a composer, music editor and part-time ethnomusicologist.





Ringering/Wheeler Piano Duo Releases New CD

The Ringering/Wheeler Piano Duo will celebrate the release of their first CD, *2 to Tango*, at a one-night only performance and CD signing on Friday, October 23, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at Sherman Clay Pianos, 131 NW 13th Avenue, Portland, Oregon. Admission is free and open to the public. (They will also be performing at the Autzen House OMTA Fundraiser Oct. 25. See page 9 for details.)

Featuring tangos by Astor Piazzolla, Samuel Barber's Souvenirs, and John Corigliano's Gazebo Dances, *2 to Tango* is a collection of dance pieces for piano duet. Dance forms include the tango, waltz, pas de deux, schottisch, two-step, and more.

The Ringering/Wheeler Duo performs 4-hand and two-piano works, specializing in music that embraces both the classical, jazz, and dance forms. Most recently, they have appeared at the Piano Series at the Newport Performing Arts Center in Newport, Oregon. They first appeared together at The Ernest Bloch Festival Two-Piano Institute in June 2003 and since then have appeared at the Aladdin Theatre, The Old Church, Linfield College, Pacific University, Skamania Performing Arts Series, Newport Performing Arts Series, Bloedel Concert Series, Water Music Festival and numerous other venues, including a live broadcast performance on KQAC (formerly KBPS) 89.9 in October, 2005.

OMTA member Molly Wheeler, NCTM, is a specialist in piano duet literature and has collaborated with several fine pianists, most notably with Molly Nichols in the duo *The Mollys*. *The Mollys* appeared in many venues throughout the Northwest, including a performance with the Yaquina Orchestra in Newport, Oregon. She has spent two summers in Provence, France at the Music Academié Franco-Américaine, where she studied and performed chamber music and piano duets. She received her Master of Music in Piano Performance and Pedagogy from the University of Oklahoma and her undergraduate degree in Piano Performance from Linfield College. Prior to her graduate studies, Molly taught piano at the Southwest Music School in Beaverton and was the keyboardist for Southminster Presbyterian Church. She currently teaches piano in her home studio in Southwest Portland.

OMTA member Rhonda Ringering, NCTM, has crafted a career as a pianist, a writer and an instructor. She has released three CDs: (1) *Oregon Impressions: the Original Piano Music of Dave Deason*, (2) *Made in America*, a collection of American music, and (3) *A Lullaby for Innocence* featuring the music of composer Dana Carlile. She is an active chamber music and solo performer for venues as diverse as Multnomah County Library, Central Oregon Symphony, The Old Church, Linfield College, Broderick Gallery Series, the Brookings-Harbor Friend of Music series, the Ernest Bloch Music Festival, and has appeared several times with Oregon Chamber Players. She is adjunct professor of piano at Pacific University and piano instructor for Young Musician's and Artist's Camp. She holds a Master of Music degree from Boston University.



OMTA Members Molly Wheeler, NCTM and Rhonda Ringering, NCTM

Rhonda and Molly will also be playing for the OMTA fundraiser the night after their CD release party.



Grace Goudy Distinguished Artists Series Presents Classical Guitarist Xuefei Yang

Photographer Neil Muir



The Grace Goudy Distinguished Artists Series presents classical guitarist Xuefei Yang on Sunday, November 15, at 3 p.m. in Hudson Hall in the Rogers Music Center at Willamette University. The concert will feature a lute suite by Johann Sebastian Bach, works by Spanish composers Isaac Albéniz and Francisco Tárrega, and *The Chinese Garden*, written for Yang by Stephen Goss.

Yang is the first classical guitarist to emerge from China. Born in Beijing, she gave her first public performance at age 10 with the First China International Guitar Festival, and was the first guitarist to graduate from Beijing's Central Conservatory of Music. She attended the Royal Academy of Music in London as the first Chinese classical guitarist to study and launch a professional career in the West.

Now based in London, Yang performs solo concerts and concertos with leading orchestras throughout Great Britain, Europe, Asia and North America. She has appeared on numerous radio and television programs, including the BBC documentary "The Story of Guitar" and a biographical documentary about Yang on China Central Television. Her 2006 debut CD, *Romance de Amor*, reached gold disc status in Hong Kong, and her second CD, *40 Degrees North*, was named Editor's Choice in *Gramophone Magazine* and Best Instrumental CD of 2008 by Canton Radio station in China.

Classical guitarist Xuefei Yang appears in November

"Xuefei Yang is proving to be one of the great classical guitarists of the day," wrote *Classical Guitar Magazine*, and *Gramophone* wrote, "The guitar world has a new star." "Rarely will you come across a guitarist who can stroke the strings with such gracefulness ... she has a gossamer stroke," wrote *Audiophile Audition*. Spain's *El Periodico* wrote, "Yang has a clean, round sound and always aims to carefully color each phrase, paying attention to every detail."

The series will continue on April 11 with the Brentano String Quartet.

Tickets are
\$10, \$15 or \$20 for adults
\$5 for students
\$10 for education employees with ID

and are available at Travel Salem, at 181 High Street NE in downtown Salem, (503) 581-4325 or online at www.absolutelytix.com. Seats are reserved. For more information call the Willamette Music Department at (503) 370-6255 or visit www.willamette.edu/arts/goudyartistseries.



Oregon Music Teachers Association

*Fostering Excellence
in Music Education*



Order OMTA Brochures

The brochure explains in clear, concise language the advantages of studying with and OMTA teacher as well as the benefits of becoming a member of OMTA, thus making it an ideal vehicle for recruiting students and new members or for publicizing the organization.

Brochures are 4 for \$1 plus shipping.

Contact Adam Smith at 541-255-2526 or Office@OregonMTA.org for shipping costs for your order. Brochures are free to districts for official OMTA business, but shipping costs may still apply.

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Large Print Directory

Some of us have less than perfect eyes. I can supply a copy of the directory in larger print format, approximately 125% of normal size for \$20. These are offered at cost.

Please make your check out to Ed Davie.

Ed Davie, Support Secretary
255 Jessica Drive
Forest Grove, OR 97116-1295
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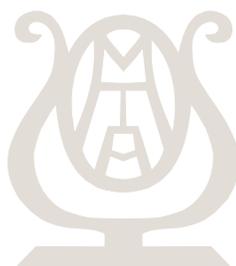
Syllabus manuals for piano, strings, woodwinds, Celtic harp, guitar, and jazz piano are available for purchase. Also available are the current repertoire lists. Prices and shipping costs are as follows:

	Members	Non-members
Piano Syllabus	\$10.00	\$15.00
Jazz Piano Syllabus	\$5.00	\$10.00
String	\$5.00	\$10.00
Woodwinds	\$5.00	\$10.00
Celtic Harp	\$5.00	\$10.00
Guitar	\$5.00	\$10.00
Repertoire lists:		
Lower Division (New! 2007)	\$10.00	\$15.00
Upper Division	\$4.00	\$8.00

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- Orders totaling \$5.00, add \$1.25
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Submitting Articles and Ads

Please send articles, ads and accompanying graphics (in TIFF, EPS, JPEG or PDF format) to me via e-mail at shelley.bl@verizon.net. MS Word attachments are best.

1/4 column ads (and articles about events which require an admission fee or tuition):

\$10.00 for members
\$25.00 for non-members

Larger ads at a proportional cost.
(Contact me for amounts.)

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

Thank you.
Shelley Blumberg, *Music News* Editor

Issues Deadlines

Sept/Oct	Aug. 1	Mar/Apr	Feb. 1
Nov/Dec	Oct. 1	May/June	Apr. 1
Jan/Feb	Dec. 1		

The Oregon Music Teachers Association, Inc.

PIANO SYLLABUS with Virginia Hawley Buhn *A Professional Course of Study on DVD*

The OMTA Piano Syllabus is an outline of study designed to provide students with a thorough background in keyboard skills, musical understanding and performance ability. The DVDs offer ideas and methods for implementing the syllabus as a basis for learning and performance.

The original VCRs were developed by Virginia Buhn in 1996 and have sold more than 1200 copies. The new DVDs follow the course outline of the OMTA Syllabus Book and are designed to help piano teachers prepare students for a successful evaluation.

JAZZ PIANO SYLLABUS with Gary Ruppert *A Professional Course of Study on DVD*

The OMTA Jazz Piano Syllabus was developed by Gary Ruppert in the mid 1980s. A revision, done in the summer of 2003, was based on feedback received from teachers, students, and adjudicators who used the first version. Their comments and encouragement have been of inestimable value.

This DVD is meant to help teachers and their students navigate the various levels of the Jazz Syllabus and discover the joys of studying jazz piano.

(See order from below.)

Make checks or money orders payable to:

OMTA, Joan B. Gathercoal, NCTM
3328 SW Chintimini Avenue, Corvallis, OR 97333-1529
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Syllabus Video Order Form

Item	OMTA Member Price Each	Non-OMTA Member Price Each	Quantity	Subtotal
Piano Syllabus DVDs (set of 2)	\$20.00	\$25.00		
Jazz Piano Syllabus	\$15.00	\$20.00		
Postage	\$3.00	\$3.00		
<i>All proceeds go to the Jean Baines Proctor Memorial Fund.</i>				Total:





OMTA MERIT CERTIFICATES

OMTA merit certificates are available to OMTA instructors and are earned by students who have completed a minimum of 30 lessons during the current teaching year.

These attractive, parchment-like half-sheet certificates are stamped with the OMTA embossed seal. Levels 2 through 14 are further enhanced by gold seals and colored ribbons. (A level represents a year of study and is not related to Syllabus levels.) The determination of the level of each student's award and all record keeping are the teacher's responsibilities. The student's name and level, and the teaching season (2007-2008) will be printed on the certificate. Certificates are stamped with the signature of OMTA President, Susan Todd, and there is a space for the teacher to sign. They are usually given in May or June and should be ordered three weeks in advance of the time the teacher wants to give them to students. You may pre-order via e-mail.

Guidelines for Ordering:

1. List the quantity of certificates desired for each level with each student's name typed or clearly printed.
2. Indicate the date you need the certificates (remember to allow 3 weeks).
3. Include a check or money order payable to OMTA (50 cents per certificate).
4. Include a copy of your current membership card.
5. All orders must be received by Fen-Fang Tsao, Merit Certificate Chair, by May 1, 2010.

For more information, contact Fen-Fang:
fragrance888@hotmail.com



Additional Study Guides



The following materials are privately produced by some of our members for your benefit.

SYLLABUS STUDY SHEETS

Revised: 2006 version now available
from Ed Davie.
Phone: 503-357-3185
E-mail: edavie@oregonmta.org

The price for one set of Levels I–X (10 sheets)
is \$12.00 + \$5.00 p & h.

The purchase price includes copy
rights for your own studio.

All proceeds are donated to the Roberta Davie Memorial
Composition Scholarship.

For more information,
contact Ed Davie and ask for an explanation sheet.

PIANO SYLLABUS AIDS (2006–2008)

Copies of the most recent (2006–2008) rhythm-reading and sight-reading examples used during exams for Levels 1–10 are now available for reference in preparing students for their exams. **These are not the examples currently being used during exams.** If you would like to have a set, send a \$3.00 check (to cover Xerox and mailing costs) made out to Lisette Sage and mailed to her at 15240 SW Obsidian St., Beaverton, OR 97007-8949. (Earlier copies from 2001–2003 as well as 2004–2006 are also still available for \$3.00 each.) Please be sure to specify which set(s) you would like to have.





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