



HANDBOOK

September 2016



OREGON
MUSIC TEACHERS
ASSOCIATION, INC.

Affiliated with Music Teachers National Association, Inc.



www.oregonmta.org

For password-protected
pages: see annual printed
membership directory

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Oregon Music Teachers Association, Inc.

Handbook

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OMTA Website

A great deal of information about OMTA programs and events is available on our website.

Go to: www.oregonmta.org

Calendar Page

A listing of state events—such as festivals, competitions, and conferences—as well as links to more detailed information can be found on our website on the Calendar page.

Go to: www.oregonmta.org/teachers/calendar

Bulletin Board

Our website offers an online community bulletin board for members and the public to post ads and notices of events, job openings, and other music related information.

To add a post, contact the Bulletin Board Coordinator by clicking the appropriate link on the bulletin board.

Go to: www.oregonmta.org/programs/bulletin-board

Online Membership Directories & Syllabus Materials

These documents are restricted to members only. To access these documents, click on the appropriate link on the OMTA website, then type the username included in your most recent printed membership directory or handbook.

Note: Passwords are case sensitive. Every member uses the same username and password.

Baroque Festival

Founded in 1985, the Baroque Festival is open to instrumentalists through age 19 and singers through age 24. Recitals are held at the district level with each participant receiving a certificate and adjudicator's comments. Learning to play music in the style of the period is an important component of our students' education.

No more than thirty-five percent of district participants are invited to perform at the State Baroque Festival. This Festival provides a valuable impetus in the study of Baroque material. Note: Forms and applications are available from the OMTA website at <https://oregonmta.org/programs/festivals/baroque-festival/>.

Certification

Certification is a process that validates an individual's qualifications for a specific field of professional practice. It demonstrates to employers, clients, and peers that which the individual knows and is able to do. It signifies commitment to continued excellence in professional practice. In addition, it increases visibility, builds credibility, provides a goal for personal professional achievement, and validates expertise for the individual and to those outside the field.

The MTNA Professional Certification program exists for teachers who teach music to students of any age level in private or group settings. The program is based on a set of five standards.

- Standard I: Professional Preparation
- Standard II: Professional Teaching Practices
- Standard III: Professional Business Management
- Standard IV: Professionalism and Partnerships
- Standard V: Professional and Personal Renewal

The certification process requires the completion of five projects. Upon completion and approval of these projects, applicants are granted the MTNA Professional Certification credential with the designation, Nationally Certified Teacher of Music (NCTM). The credential and designation are granted without bias, discrimination, or favoritism between MTNA members and/or non-members or any other arbitrary differentiation. In order to maintain the MTNA Professional Certification credential and designation, the NCTM must continue fulfilling the program's standards through the renewal process.



The MTNA Professional Certification program is objectively administered in a uniform manner to ensure fairness, accuracy, validity, and integrity. Due process for reconsideration and reinstatement is included in the program for certification candidates, renewal candidates, and for those who already hold the MTNA Professional Certification credential.

The website for MTNA certification is www.mtnacertification.org. A downloadable handbook detailing the process is available at www.mtnacertification.org/certification-handbook. You may also request a copy by mail, either on the website or by phoning the MTNA office at 1-888-512-5278.

Composition Celebration

The goal of the OMTA Composition Celebration is to inspire young composers by providing a forum for creativity and self-expression. The Composition Celebration is a non-competitive music festival open to students from beginner through post-college adult levels on all instruments. Compositions of any and all musical styles and instrumentation are welcome.

Students submit their compositions for written critique by an adjudicator at the district level. Some districts may also have a Composition Celebration recital where students perform their pieces. Adjudicators may choose to recognize up to 35% of district participants with the most outstanding compositions as Honored Composers. These students are invited to advance to the OMTA State Composition Celebration to share their works and hear the compositions of other student composers from all over Oregon.

At the OMTA State Composition Celebration recital, students are required to perform their own work or arrange to have someone else perform it for them. There is no adjudicator at the state recital. Certificates and trophies will be awarded to all Honored Composers. A booklet of all compositions going to State will be available at the State Recital for an additional fee.

More information can be found at <https://oregonmta.org/programs/festivals/composition-celebration/>.

Education

OMTA is committed to providing educational opportunities to its members and their students. The Education Committee oversees student activities and continuing teacher education, including those listed below. More detailed information on each of these programs can be found elsewhere in the Handbook and on the OMTA website.

- Composition Celebration
- Ensemble Festival
- ESMAR — Extended Study of Musicianship & Repertoire
- Merit Certificates
- Nellie Tholen Grants — District Programs
- Baroque Festival
- Participation Trophies
- Sonata & Sonatina Festival
- Roster of Programs, Workshops & Recitals
- Student Scholarships
- Study Grants

Ensemble Festival

The Ensemble Festival provides an opportunity for young musicians to join with others in making music in ensembles of two or more. These include, but are not limited to, duos on one piano, quartets on two pianos, trios on three different instruments, etc. These ensembles perform in adjudicated recitals at the district level.

Students selected from the district recitals will then have the opportunity to perform in a State Recital. No more than 35% of district participants are invited to perform at the State Ensemble Festival. More information on this festival can be found at: <https://oregonmta.org/programs/festivals/ensemble-festival/>

ESMAR: Extended Study of Musicianship & Repertoire

ESMAR is an educational program that gives advanced high school and adult students a challenging goal and culminates in a non-graded 90 minute individual assessment/master class, with a master teacher who has a doctorate in music. Students also plan a group recital. The curriculum requirements include a major scale routine, minor scales, an arpeggio routine, a chord progression which modulates via a German Sixth chord, sight reading, beginning transposition, beginning harmonization from a lead line, beginning work in playing a few songs by ear, tapping counterpoint, some basic music history (verbal), a community service project, and the performance of five compositions from at least four periods of music history.

ESMAR participants do not have to be former syllabus students, but if they have completed level X, they may not play the same repertoire in the ESMAR assessment. Forms and additional information may be found at oregonmta.org.

Ethics

The OMTA Ethics Committee provides information and resources to the OMTA membership about ethical practices, in accordance with the Code of Ethics of Music Teachers National Association.

MTNA Vision and Values

The mission of MTNA is to advance the value of music study and music making in society and to support the professionalism of music teachers.

The mission is accomplished by members who teach with competence, act with integrity, volunteer services to MTNA programs, provide professional support for colleagues and communities, and comply with all laws and regulations that impact the music teaching profession.

MTNA Code of Ethics

The principles and aspirations found in the Code of Ethics are not conditions of membership, but are goals and ideals that each MTNA member should strive to make an essential part of his or her professional commitment to students, to colleagues and to society.

MTNA Code of Ethics Cont.

Commitment to Students

The teacher shall conduct the relationship with students and families in a professional manner.

- The teacher shall respect the personal integrity and privacy of students unless the law requires disclosure.
- The teacher shall clearly communicate the expectations of the studio.
- The teacher shall encourage, guide and develop the musical potential of each student.
- The teacher shall treat each student with dignity and respect, without discrimination of any kind.
- The teacher shall respect the student's right to obtain instruction from the teacher of his or her choice.

Commitment to Colleagues

The teacher shall maintain a professional attitude and shall act with integrity with regard to colleagues in the profession.

- The teacher shall respect the reputation of colleagues and shall refrain from making false or malicious statements about colleagues.
- The teacher shall refrain from disclosing sensitive information about colleagues obtained in the course of professional service unless disclosure serves a compelling professional purpose or is required by law.
- The teacher shall participate in the student's change of teachers with as much communication as possible between parties, while being sensitive to the privacy rights of the student and families.

Commitment to Society

The teacher shall maintain the highest standard of professional conduct and personal integrity.

- The teacher shall accurately represent his/her professional qualifications.
- The teacher shall strive for continued growth in professional competencies.
- The teacher is encouraged to be a resource in the community.



Ethics Cont.

The OMTA Ethics Committee shall be composed of the Ethics Chair plus other members from around the state as deemed necessary by the chair and president. The Ethics Committee is available to answer questions of conduct and to receive and mediate complaints. If a member feels there has been a breach in ethics by another member, he or she may submit a complaint to the OMTA Ethics Committee for review.

Procedure for submission and review of complaints:

1. Complaints must be made to the Ethics Chair in writing and sent by postal mail. E-mail is not suitable for sensitive subjects.
2. Complaints will be accepted for review only from those directly affected by possible unethical behavior.
3. Complaints will be accepted for review only if they relate directly to possible violations of the MTNA Code.
4. Complaints involving criminal acts will not be accepted. Complainants in such instances will be told to contact the proper law enforcement authorities immediately.
5. Complaints in which one member is initiating legal action against another member will not be accepted until all legal issues are resolved.

Antitrust Compliance

OMTA abides by the MTNA/FCC agreement regarding non-competition. To review the antitrust compliance guide visit <https://oregonmta.org/about/legal-documents-2/>.

Finance

The Finance Committee shall consist of the Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer and Immediate Past President. The Treasurer is responsible for oversight of the unrestricted funds for the organization. The Assistant Treasurer is responsible for oversight of all restricted funds. Comprehensive reports are given at each meeting of the Board of Directors.



Independent Music Teachers Forum

The Independent Music Teachers Forum provides a medium for open discussion and collaboration of ideas relevant to the independent music teacher. An independent music teacher is usually identified as one who provides the facilities for the teaching of music and is responsible for establishing curriculum, policies and tuition.

Goals of the Forum:

- To recognize the vital role private music teachers play in education
- To make communities more aware of that role
- To work toward raising standards of teaching
- To help the independent music teachers grow through sharing experiences with one another
- To make independent teaching a viable profession

Members are apprised of various IMTF opportunities and ideas through bi-monthly articles in the MTNA publication, *American Music Teacher*, and through statewide communications from the OMTA IMTF Chair.

Membership

Benefits of MTNA membership:

- *American Music Teacher* Magazine Subscription
- Group Insurance Plans
- National Certification Plan
- Annual Conference
- Competitions for Students
- Independent Music Teachers Forum
- Business Discounts

Membership Cont.

Benefits of OMTA membership:

- OMTA *Music News* E-Newsletter
- Syllabus Evaluation Program
- Directory of State Members
- Competitions & Festivals for Students
- Scholarships
- Annual Conference
- District Meetings and Workshops
- *Oregon Musician* Journal E-Subscription

OMTA Membership

OMTA membership privileges and dues are prescribed by the Bylaws of the Association. OMTA membership classifications are: Active, Associate, Honorary Life, High School Student, and Collegiate Student. (Please see the OMTA Bylaws, Article I, for definitions of these membership types.) Regardless of residence, a teacher may become a member and assume all privileges and responsibilities of one or more districts by paying local membership dues to each district. Membership in the Association may be terminated by the member or revoked by the Association as prescribed in the Bylaws (Article I, Section 8).

All membership dues, except Collegiate Student member dues, are due on July 1. Collegiate Student dues are due on October 1. After these dates, members are not in good standing. High School Student OMTA members become local district members. See the “OMTA High School Membership Application” on the OMTA website for current local dues information for High School Student and their individual districts.

OMTA adheres to national policy regarding dues refunds, which does not allow for refunds except in extenuating circumstances.

OMTA members (except High School Student members) must belong to MTNA and vice versa, and must join through the MTNA website. High School Student members join OMTA and their local district by filling out the “OMTA High School Membership Application” on the OMTA website and sending their application to the state office for processing.

Membership Cont.

Membership Classifications

Active Membership in the Association may be granted to all individuals who are professionally engaged in any field of music activity in the State of Oregon, upon application and payment of requisite fees.

Associate Membership is available for persons interested in music but not engaged in teaching music. They do not have the right to vote or hold office.

Honorary Life Membership may be conferred by vote of the State Executive Board to a member who has rendered long and distinguished service to OMTA.

High School Student Membership shall be open to all students from grade nine (9) through grade twelve (12) who are currently involved in regular music study. High School Student members are required to be studying with an OMTA teacher. High School Student members may enter their own students in OMTA syllabus, OMTA festivals and other OMTA sponsored events upon payment of registration fees. High School Student members may attend conferences and other programs of the Association upon payment of registration fees. However, High School Student members may not enter students in MTNA competitions, shall not have the right to vote, apply for National certification or hold office. In any district, High School Student members may form their own student chapter. Any student chapter must have an advisor who is an active member of OMTA.

Collegiate Membership shall be open to all collegiate students to the age of twenty-six who are currently involved in regular music study, or full-time college students currently involved in music study. Collegiate Student members need not be studying with a member of OMTA. Collegiate members may enter their own students in OMTA syllabus, OMTA festivals and other OMTA sponsored events upon payment of registration fees. Collegiate members may attend conferences and other programs of the Association upon payment of registration fees. However, Collegiate members may not enter students in MTNA competitions, shall not have the right to vote, or hold office. In any district, Collegiate members may form their own student chapter. Any student chapter must have an advisor who is an active member of OMTA.

Membership Cont.

Dues

Membership in OMTA and MTNA runs July 1 to June 30, except for Collegiate members. Renewal forms, which are mailed to each member in the spring, are generated by (MTNA) National Headquarters (except renewal forms for High School Student members which are generated at the same time by the State Membership Chair). Dues are payable directly to MTNA immediately upon receipt (except for High School Student members). Collegiate members should be aware that their membership year is different from other members. It extends from October 1 through September 30. Their renewal mailing will arrive at the same time as the rest of the membership to simplify National's efforts. OMTA adheres to the national policy regarding dues refunds, which does not allow for refunds except in extenuating circumstances. High School Student members will receive an email reminder in the spring from the State Membership Chair that their dues are up for renewal. They will be instructed to go to the OMTA state website to fill out their form for OMTA state and local dues to be mailed to the state office for processing. The amount of the dues will be listed on that site for both state dues and each local dues, which vary among the districts. The High School Student membership year will be July 1 through June 30th.

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 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 specific teaching year are printed on the certificate. Certificates are printed with the signature of the OMTA President and there is a space for the teacher to sign.

Order forms are available from the OMTA website. Go to Teacher Resources/Teaching Aids.

The certificates are usually awarded in May or June and should be ordered three weeks in advance of the time the teacher wants to present them to students. Current prices are reflected on the order form available online. Order forms and checks (made payable to OMTA) are sent to the OMTA State Office, PO Box 5335, Portland, OR 97228.

MTNA Composition Competition

The purpose of the Music Teachers National Association composition competition is to encourage creativity and self-expression in student musicians through the art of composing and to recognize their achievements, as well as the significant work of their teachers.

Guidelines and entry information can be found on the MTNA website: www.mtna.org/programs/competitions/.

MTNA Foundation

When you make a contribution to the MTNA Foundation Fund, you are helping us work for a more musical tomorrow through programs that nurture the creation, performance, study and teaching of music. Young students are recognized for their pursuit of excellence in performance and composition through the MTNA Student Competitions. MTNA supports the creation of new music through its Composer Commissioning Program. MTNA state-affiliated associations commission a work that is entered into the Distinguished Composer of the Year Competition. The winning composition is premiered at the MTNA National Conference.

The MTNA Fellow program offers a meaningful method for honoring extraordinary leaders at the state level, while supporting the efforts of the MTNA Foundation Fund through a donation to the Foundation Fund in an individual's name. Contributions to fund each Foundation Fellow support the many scholarship and grant programs funded by the MTNA Foundation. Foundation Fellows are honored at the MTNA National Conference. Nominations for Oregon Foundation Fellows may be submitted to the honors committee. Further information can be found at <https://oregonmta.org/teachers/honors-and-awards>.

Individuals who have made significant contributions to the art of music and the profession of music teaching are recognized through the MTNA Achievement Award, the Distinguished Service Award, the Frances Clark Keyboard Pedagogy Award and the MTNA Teacher of the Year Award. Authors are rewarded for their literary contributions with the American Music Teacher Article of the Year Award.

The Teacher Enrichment Grant program enables teachers to apply for grants to fund further musical study and educational or research projects. The Studio Teacher Fellowship is given to an independent music teacher to assist in developing and enhancing a newly established studio. The Collegiate Chapter of the Year Award recognizes an outstanding collegiate chapter, its advisor and members, for showing an exceptional level and depth of activities. MTNA local-affiliated associations may apply for grants for projects that benefit teachers, their students and their communities.



MTNA Performance Competitions

The purposes of the Music Teachers National Association Performance Competitions are to provide educational experiences for students and teachers and to recognize exceptionally talented young artists and their teachers in their pursuit of musical excellence. The state competitions are considered the primary educational level with the division and national levels showcasing outstanding performance and honoring significant pedagogical achievement.

Guidelines and entry information can be found on the MTNA website: <http://www.mtna.org/programs/competitions>.

MusicLink

MusicLink is a national non-profit foundation, with an affiliate in Oregon, that provides support to music teachers who offer scholarships to students in financial need.

If you are already teaching a student at half or less of your normal fee, you may register yourself and your student for MusicLink and begin to take advantage of the many benefits offered, including:

- Reimbursement of education-related expenses (scores, strings, metronome, etc.)
- Reimbursement of Syllabus, Festival, competition fees
- Discounts or free music and materials from major publishers and local music stores
- Free or discounted concert tickets
- Free piano tunings (in some areas of Oregon)
- Scholarship opportunities for summer camps and continuing education
- Scholarship awards

For further information, visit the OMTA website MusicLink page listed under Programs for Students.

Music News

The latest information about OMTA events, issues and activities at the district and state levels is published in our newsletter, *Music News*, which is e-mailed to members every month during the school year. You may request a printed version mailed to you for a yearly fee. (Contact the OMTA Administrative Assistant to find out the fee: office@oregonmta.org.) Subscription requests can be mailed, along with a check made payable to OMTA, to the OMTA Office, PO Box 5335, Portland, OR 97228. Current and past issues of *Music News* are available on the OMTA website.

News articles: Please submit to the editor by the 15th of the month for publication the following month. For example, articles must be submitted no later than September 15 for publication in the October issue. Send all articles as a Microsoft Word document, 12-point font, attached to your email. Use only one space between sentences. For accompanying photos, include people's names and other pertinent information. Photos and graphics can be sent in TIFF, EPS, JPEG or PDF format.

Advertising: Current ad rates, specifications and ordering instructions for advertising in *Music News* can be found online at <https://oregonmta.org/publications/>. Orders must be received by the 15th of the month for publication the following month. Ad space may be purchased for non-OMTA sponsored events or merchandise. (Ads for official OMTA events are free.)

Nellie Tholen Grants for Districts

The Nellie Tholen Endowment Fund grants are available to district chapters for education, clinics, and master classes for teachers. The district presidents may apply for funds to assist in payment for presenters in the OMTA Program/Recital/Workshop Roster. Requested funds may not exceed 85 percent of the program costs.

Applications must be mailed and reach the OMTA education grant chair by the July 10 deadline. The district president is asked to send a follow-up report of the workshop to the education chair following the workshop.

OMTA Foundation

The OMTA Foundation supports MusicLink and other worthy projects recommended by the state President and the Foundation Chair. Contributions to this fund are always welcome.

Oregon Musician

The *Oregon Musician* is a bi-annual, professional e-journal written by the members of OMTA for the members of OMTA, featuring teaching tips, musical advice, and lively discussions of the issues facing teachers today. It is emailed to members and available for download on the state website.

Participation Trophies

Trophies are available for students who participate in OMTA and MTNA sponsored events. Students earn one point for each event in which they participate. Each accumulation of 10 points earns a trophy. All OMTA district and state events are eligible, including subsequent performances of the same repertoire such as District and State Baroque and Ensemble Festivals, Composition Celebration District event and State Recital, and MTNA Performance Competitions at State, Division, and National levels. Trophies are available in five different sizes and colors that designate 10, 20, 30, 40, and 50 points earned. Guidelines, procedures, and order forms can be found at <https://oregonmta.org/teachers/teaching-aids/>.

Petri Scholarship Competition

Benton County Foundation in Corvallis awards a scholarship from the Lillian and Paul Petri Music Study Fund every two years to a talented young musician. Applicants must be a resident of Oregon and desire to pursue a musical career in Oregon. The scholarship provides up to \$15,000 toward advanced study within the United States or abroad for the year following the award. The determination of whom shall be granted a scholarship from the Lillian and Paul Petri Music Study Fund is made on the basis of a musical performance competition judged by notable professionals in the field. BCF partners with OMTA to plan and facilitate the Petri Scholarship Competition. More information can be found at www.petrisholarship.org.

Roster of Programs, Workshops & Recitals

This roster is distributed to all OMTA districts. Districts are encouraged to make full use of these qualified lecturers and performers in scheduling programs for their monthly meetings. Members who wish to be included in the roster should contact the chair.

Scholarships

OMTA is pleased to offer approximately 20 different scholarships for students studying piano, strings, and voice. All OMTA scholarships require a student audition. Award amounts vary with cash available in OMTA investment accounts and are subject to change depending on funds available. Detailed information about the requirements and deadlines of these scholarship opportunities can be found at <https://oregonmta.org/programs/scholarships/>.

Sonata & Sonatina Festival

OMTA holds an annual Sonata & Sonatina Festival in October in which piano students of elementary through high school age compete in 1 of 10 levels, each with a specific, required Sonatina or Sonata movement. The repertoire list changes annually and is published in late January in *OMTA Music News* and on the OMTA state website. Students perform in a private audition where a judge provides written evaluations and selects the top two performers in each level to compete for 1st and 2nd place trophies in a public Honors Recital later in the day. All students receive participation ribbons and judges may award up to three Honorable Mention Medals for each level. Guidelines, including Festival dates and registration deadlines, as well as Repertoire Lists for the current year, are available on the state website at <https://oregonmta.org/programs/festivals/sonata-sonatina-festival/>.



Study Grants

For more information about these grants, including fees and deadlines, please refer to the application forms on the OMTA website. The amounts available are dependent upon the funds and the number of successful applicants.

District Grants

MTNA Matching Grant: Districts are encouraged to apply for an MTNA Foundation Fund Local Association Matching Grant. Applications are due in early January for workshops held the following summer. Go to the MTNA website for more information.

Individual Grants

Albert Nakata Memorial Study Grant: This grant is awarded for continuing education. It may be used for college courses or for private lessons. Recipients must be members of OMTA. The minimum age is 25 years.

Frances and Constance Bittner Memorial Grant: This grant is awarded to help offset the expense of attending a pedagogical conference or workshop. The amount requested should not exceed 50 percent of the total cost. Recipients must be members of OMTA. The minimum age is 25 years.

Roberta Davie Composition Study Grant: The purpose of the Roberta Davie Fund is to encourage private teachers to include and integrate the study of composition in their studios. A grant of up to \$300 is available to individuals or a group of individuals for study or for workshops. These funds are not available to colleges, nor may they be used for competitions or prizes.

Syllabus

OMTA Syllabus is a suggested course of study made available to each member to use as a guide in teaching. It covers theory, technique, sight reading, ear training, as well as repertoire. Syllabi have been created for piano, strings, voice, flute, guitar and jazz piano.

Each spring and fall, students of OMTA members may participate in one of three categories: Evaluation, Demonstration, or a creative Audition. A qualified adjudicator evaluates the student's presentation of the requirements and provides written comments. Certificates are awarded to all participants.

Students who have successfully completed the Level X evaluation are honored in a special recital and receive a medal. To qualify for this honor, the students must have received five successful evaluations including three upper division levels, or successfully passed all four upper division levels.

A great sense of achievement for both students and teachers is gained from participation in the syllabus program. This is one of the most popular OMTA programs, with more than 2,500 students entered annually.

Further information and current manuals are available online: <https://oregonmta.org/programs/syllabus/>.

History of OMTA

In 1913, the Superintendent of Oregon Public Education began the process of establishing music in the public schools and the accreditation of teachers for that purpose. It soon became apparent that some organization was needed, so in 1915, with the cooperation of the Musicians Club of Portland, delegates from throughout the state drew up the incorporation papers for the Oregon State Music Teachers Association. John Claire Monteith was elected president at the first annual Conference, November 30, 1916. A year later the name was shortened to the Oregon Music Teachers Association.

In 1927, the University of Oregon was asked to draw up standards for teacher accreditation, and the first Syllabus Bulletins began in 1928. A major revision in 1955 defined Syllabus as "a program of study for teachers of music to be used with pupils studying music outside of school for high school credit." Unfortunately, the Attorney General of Oregon ruled in 1959 that "such certification (of teachers) while it is not illegal was extra legal and outside the law." After this ruling, OMTA continued to expand its Syllabus program and develop its own merit plan of certification. OMTA Certification as we know it today was put into

operation in 1963.

Over time, a Baroque Festival, Ensemble Festival, Student Composition Celebration, Sonata & Sonatina Festival, and Extended Study of Musicianship and Repertoire (ESMAR) have joined the OMTA Syllabus program, giving students added opportunities for performance and evaluation.

Through the years, many other projects have been undertaken by the organization. During the Depression a Sickness and Distress Fund was established to help members. Later, these funds were converted for use in providing student scholarships. Other funds have been contributed, and there are now a great number of scholarships and grants available for students and teachers.

Between 1981 and 1986, Nellie Tholen contributed \$50,000 to OMTA, with interest from the amount to be used for a Teacher Improvement Fund.

Nellie Tholen also made a significant contribution to the Oregon Community Foundation, to further the art of piano teaching in Oregon. Generous grants from this trust have helped to fund our OMTA State Conference for many years, making the conference affordable for all our members through travel grants, free student and new member registrations, and housing rebates. In addition, in 2014 OMTA was awarded a five year grant to provide continuing education programs across the state and to bring more continuing education opportunities to OMTA's rural and under served local districts.

The official publication of OMTA is *Music News* which is published monthly from September through June. Additional information and communication is now offered through the bi-annual *Oregon Musician* journal and the OMTA website. Annual conferences are well attended and provide members an opportunity for networking and continued professional growth. OMTA is divided into 13 districts which hold local meetings, workshops, and recitals to benefit members, their students, and their communities.

In 1950, OMTA affiliated with Music Teachers National Association and has since benefited through participation in its various programs for teachers and students, such as group insurance, national certification, the Independent Music Teachers' Forum, national courses of study, the American Music Teacher publication, student performance and composition competitions, and the Composer of the Year commissioning program.

In 1976, the History Books of OMTA were placed in the Oregon Historical Society building on Park Avenue in Portland. Members may arrange to see them by appointment. Also on file are memory books from some OMTA districts.

History of OMTA Cont.

In 1997, OMTA was classified a non-profit, 501(c)(3), corporation.

In 2016, OMTA was chosen as the MTNA State Affiliate of the Year in recognition of our work towards inclusiveness, support, and continuing education of our member teachers. A suite by Kenji Bunch was commissioned to commemorate the honor and will be available for teachers to use with their students after its premiere at the 2017 OMTA State Conference.

