

OMTA MUSIC NEWS

Opus 78, No. 1 · September 2023

UPCOMING EVENTS

District Presidents Round Table

September 16, 2023 at 12:00-1:00 PM
Zoom

State Board Meeting

September 16, 2023 at 1:00-2:30 PM
Zoom

Sonatina Festival

October 14, 2023
Frohnmayr Music Building, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR

Oregon MTNA Competitions

November 4, 2023
Frohnmayr Music Building, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR



IN THIS ISSUE

State News

President's Corner	1
Conference	3
Membership	5
Certification	7
Composition	8
Education Grants	9
Festivals	10
Grant Programs	11
Honors Committee	13
Syllabus	14
Scholarship Award Winners	15
In Memoriam: Harold Gray	22

District News

East Portland District	16
Central Oregon District	17
Hillsboro District	18
Rogue Valley District	19
Tualatin Valley District	20
West Portland District	21

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Liz Willis, NCTM
OMTA President

Welcome back to a new teaching year! After the relaxed days of summer, I look forward to reconnecting with my students who have been away to camps, family reunions, exciting vacation trips, or "staycations". Hearing of their experiences and seeing some of the amazing physical changes that can happen in even a few weeks with growing kids is always a treat. I believe we all feel the same about our colleagues and friends in OMTA—that first district meeting in September is special.

Oregon is very fortunate to have a long history of promoting music study. OMTA's regional and state-wide financial resources, in terms of grants, bequests and scholarships for students and members, are exceptional. As you are planning out your year, check out the following opportunities, especially in light of possible help to attend the MTNA Conference in Atlanta, which will take place March 17-20, 2024.

The *Roberta Davie Composition Study Grant*, up to a maximum of \$500, is available to OMTA private teachers integrating composition into their studios.

The *Frances & Constance Bittner Memorial Grant* is available to help offset the cost of attending a pedagogical conference. It cannot exceed 50% of the actual cost of the conference.

The *Albert Nakata Grant* is to be used to assist in continuing education for OMTA members who are 18 or older.

The application deadline for each of these grants is October 15.
The amounts disbursed will be dependent upon available funds and



OREGON
MUSIC TEACHERS
ASSOCIATION

the number of successful applicants. Applications are available on our website under Teacher Resources / Grants for Teachers and Districts.

I hope to visit every district in the coming months to hear local news and answer questions and concerns that may come up. I'm looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible very soon!



*Liz Willis, NCTM
OMTA President*

For Sale: 1937 Steinway Grand Piano Model L

Ebony. 5'10". Original ivory keys. This model is renowned for its exceptional sound quality, with a rich warm tone unmatched by other pianos. This was selected for us by Patricia Scordato, a respected classical piano teacher and member of OMTA for several decades in Oregon. This beautiful instrument began its life as a studio piano for a radio station in Chicago, when live music was the norm. We purchased it from the Chicago owner, who retired to Portland, in 2005. Our daughters played on this piano for many years, completing all 10 syllabus levels and winning several classical competitions. Lake Oswego. \$25,000. Contact Gordon Howard at emilyfighton@gmail.com.



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



2024 OMTA STATE CONFERENCE

July 12-13, 2024 · Portland Community College · Portland, OR



Heidi Evans, NCTM
2024 State Conference
Chair

Thank you to everyone who attended the 2023 Ashland Conference, I hope a good time was had by all! Thank you also to each colleague who filled out the post-conference survey—your feedback and candor are deeply appreciated, and I paid attention to suggestions for next year.

I'm so excited to announce a joint conference for 2024 between OMTA and Portland Piano International (PPI). This event will be held Friday-Saturday, July 12-13 at Portland Community College Sylvania Campus, at their lovely Performing Arts Center, near the intersection of I-5 and Barbur Boulevard.

PPI has booked a return for Canadian pianist Janina Fialkowska, who dazzled us with her musicianship back in early 2022. She will perform the Artist Recital on Saturday evening, and give a masterclass. Her performance of Chopin's Scherzo in C-sharp minor is seared into my memory for its fiery cadenza and impossibly melting arpeggios. You can learn more about her at <https://www.fialkowska.com>.

OMTA is inviting Connor Chee, a composer of works for piano and chamber music inspired by the chants and songs of his Navajo heritage. A graduate of Eastman School of Music and the University of Cincinnati's College-Conservatory of Music, Connor is also a prize-winning performer with four studio albums: <https://www.connorchee.com>.

We are looking to include some of his works for piano in the next Syllabus Repertoire update. I heard him present at the MTNA Convention in March 2023 on navigating the intricacies of our times, and moving past stereotypes and misrepresentation. He speaks with warmth and lots of good humor.

Tune in again next time for additional presenters and events! There's a lot more to come.



PORTLAND PIANO

INTERNATIONAL

NEW AND IMPROVED!

THE 2023-24 SEASON MOVES OUT IN ALL SORTS OF FUN WAYS!

SUNDAY AFTERNOONS

4PM LINCOLN PERFORMANCE HALL

TUESDAY NIGHTS

7:30PM AT THE RESER IN
BEAVERTON (EXCEPT OCTOBER 17)



**A Special Treat for
Sunday and Tuesday
Subscribers!**

Tuesday, October 17

**MARC-ANDRÉ
ANNOTATED!**

Watch for further
details on our website



MAIN RECITAL SERIES

2023 / 2024 SEASON

Guest Artistic Curator
BORIS GILTBURG

**SPECIAL DISCOUNT TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE FOR MUSIC
TEACHERS, THEIR STUDENTS, AND THEIR STUDENTS' FAMILIES.**

Please email Robin Power (robin@portlandpiano.org) for details.

PORTLANDPIANO.ORG

503.228.1388



**MISHKA
RUSHDIE MOMEN**

BRITISH

**SUN
SEPT 24, 2023**

**TUES
SEPT 26, 2023**

mishkarushdiemomen.com



**MARC-ANDRÉ
HAMELIN**

CANADIAN

**SUN
OCT 15, 2023**

marcandrehamelin.com



**BORIS
GILTBURG**

ISRAELI

**SUN
DEC 3, 2023**

**TUES
DEC 5, 2023**

borisgilburg.com



FILIPPO GORINI

ITALIAN

**SUN
JAN 7, 2024**

**TUES
JAN 9, 2024**

filippogorini.it



**MICHELLE
CANN**

AMERICAN

**SUN
FEB 4, 2024**

**TUES
FEB 6, 2024**

michellecann.com



ERIC LU

AMERICAN

**SUN
MAY 5, 2024**

**TUES
MAY 7, 2024**

ericlupianist.com

MEMBERSHIP



Andrew D'Antonio, NCTM
Membership Chair

It was wonderful to see so many of you at the OMTA State Conference in Ashland! From chatting with everyone after the General Membership Meeting, it became clear to me that so many of you are passionate about OMTA's membership. Last year we conducted a survey that gave us a good picture of our current membership. With this information, we've been able to encourage and support many members as they pursue NCTM Certification, explore and participate in unfamiliar areas of OMTA, and even take on new roles within our organization.

For the upcoming academic year, I would like membership to make a concerted effort towards recruitment. In August I met with other state membership chairs around the Northwest to hear what they are doing, and later this fall, I will be organizing a virtual meeting for our district membership chairs and presidents. We will share information about what each district is doing to welcome new members, and how we are reaching out to potential members.

Speaking of new members, several have joined us since our last article! Please look for new members in your district, and make sure they receive a warm welcome:

- **Lindsay Edmonds** is a new active member of East Portland District
- **John Haynes** is a new active member of Eugene District
- **Din Huerta** is a new active member of East Portland District
- **Zita Jefferson** is a new active member of both East & West Portland Districts
- **Grace King** is a new active member of Central Oregon District
- **Sharon Kirkwood** is a new active member of East Portland District
- **Iryna Kudielina** is a new collegiate member of Rogue Valley/SOU Districts
- **Jessica Lambert** is a new active member of Linn-Benton District
- **Dunja Marcum** is a new active member of West Portland District
- **Bernadette Mondok Keller** is a new active member of Rogue Valley District
- **Dmitry Nazarenko** is a new active member of West Portland District
- **Lila Riley** is a new active member of Hillsboro Area District
- **Pamela Sohriakoff** is a new active member of East Portland District
- **Christina Streletz** is a new active member of Rogue Valley District
- **Grace Taylor** is a new active member of Salem District
- **Gaye Thomas** is a new active member of East Portland District
- **Katherine Turner** is a new active member of Umatilla-Morrow District
- **Veronica Vasiliu** is a new high school member of West Portland District

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



Willamette University
Grace Goudy Distinguished Artists Series 2023-24 Season presents

Amaryn Olmeda, violin
with Jean-David Coen, pianist
Wednesday, October 25th, 7:30 p.m.



Hudson Concert Hall, Mary Stuart Rogers Music Center

"[...] her commanding stage presence, infallible technique, and interpretive ability already rival that of international concert stage veterans." – Violinist.com



Winner of first prize and the audience choice award at the 24th Annual Sphinx Competition, violinist **Amaryn Olmeda** is a rising star sought after for her bold and expressive performances as a soloist and collaborator.

Olmeda made her Carnegie Hall solo debut on the Sphinx Virtuosi tour at the age of 14, garnering rave reviews. At 13, Olmeda was named the initial member of the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and Opus 3 Artist's Artist Apprentice Program.

Highlights of previous seasons include debuts as soloist with the Philadelphia Orchestra, Seattle Symphony, Buffalo Philharmonic, Richmond Symphony, Stockton Symphony, Oakland Symphony, Classical Tahoe Orchestra, and with the San Francisco Chamber Orchestra at their New Year's Concert Series, which earned her a nomination for the *San Francisco Classical Voice* Audience Choice Awards. Olmeda was also a recitalist at the Bouchaine Young Artist Series at Festival Napa Valley as well as at the National Arts Club in New York City.

In 2023, Olmeda made her recording debut as the featured soloist of Carlos Simon's "Between Worlds" on the Sphinx Virtuosi's inaugural recording with Deutsche Grammophon.

Born in Melbourne, Australia, Olmeda currently studies at the New England Conservatory of Music with Miriam Fried. She previously studied with Ian Swensen at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. Amaryn Olmeda performs on a violin made by J. B. Vuillaume in 1864.

<https://www.amarynolmeda.com>

The series continues with the second concert of the season on Saturday, March 9th, 2024 at 7:30 p.m. with Jeffrey Kahane, pianist and Gabriel Kahane, composer/singer-songwriter.



CONCERT TICKETS — general admission seating.
Individual and Season Pass
Purchase tickets at [WU-DAS.com](https://www.wu-das.com)

For questions contact music-info@willamette.edu or the Box Office at 503-370-6221.

CERTIFICATION

Anastasia Kitaev, NCTM and Sarah Barker Ball, NCTM, Certification Co-Chairs

OMTA is pleased that NCTM Certification is becoming more and more popular. We want to congratulate and express our pride in **Abigail Sauble** and **Anna Danese**, who became Nationally Certified Teachers of Music this summer. We asked them to share their experiences in the short interviews which follow.

If their success inspires you and you want to learn more about becoming certified, we encourage you to join us for a virtual coffee meeting every first Thursday of the month. All you have to do is send a note to us at certification@oregonmta.org.

Abigail Sauble, NCTM



What inspired you to become a Nationally Certified Teacher of Music?

My desire was for my students to receive the best guidance that I could offer. I want them to love the music that they make and have a desire to continue making music for the rest of their lives.

Drawing creativity and musical tendencies out of younger generations is not something I take lightly. Going through the certification process urged me forward into a wider realm of knowledge of history and pedagogy, and thus helped create a more refined experience for my students. I feel more confident now in offering them my mind and heart.

Which project did you enjoy most, and why?

The music literature essay project was my favorite because it was an excuse to read more about composers and their professional as well as personal lives. Expressing myself through writing is another joy to me and I relished the opportunity to expose some of the zest of the literature on classical music.

Anna Danese, NCTM



What inspired you to become a Nationally Certified Teacher of Music?

I am cutting back from being a classroom teacher in order to focus on my piano studio, which is currently 35 students, and to me, part of pursuing excellence as a piano teacher is being as highly-skilled and as well-

rounded as possible. The process of earning NCTM Certification represented an achievement in many ways, and it helped me take my skills to a higher level. It has also opened the door to further opportunities in the music-teaching community, such as adjudication.

Which project did you enjoy most, and why?

That's hard — the analysis of music took me back many years to being a piano-performance major in college, and it was very academically invigorating to do the research and dig deep into these pieces. Not only from the viewpoint of musical analysis, but also as related to teaching the pieces: practice strategies, technique, etc. However, I also really enjoyed critiquing my own studio and my own practices, to make things more professional and intentional. It was fun overall!



COMPOSITION



Dianne Davies

State Composition Chair

State Composition Competition

Oregon's MTNA State Composition Competition registrations are due September 13. Kevin Olson is our adjudicator. The names of the state winners who will be advancing to the Division competition round will be announced by November 1. For any questions about the state competition, please see the MTNA site here: https://www.mtna.org/MTNA/engage/competitions/Composition_Guidelines.aspx.

State Composition Festival 2023

The State Composition Festival is a virtual recital that consists of "Honored Composers" from each of our Oregon districts. The 2023 virtual recital is still up on the home page of our state website under the title "Latest News". If you haven't watched it yet, it's not too late! We had a fabulous State Festival with an increase in participation this year, growing to 21 participating students from seven districts. Both East and West Portland gained a new district chair. Thank you to Robin Ziari of East Portland and Joseph Hoffman of West Portland. We had 16 participating teachers. A big shout-out to: Amie Belisle, Jessica Carnevale, Heidi Evans, Dianne Davies, Michael Allen Harrison, Sarah Milburn, Kristy Moore, Gary Noland, Phyllis Peterson, Charlotte Pierce, Sandra Reitmeier-Coolen, Ruth Sadilek, Rosanne Smith, Tanya Stojamarie, Nancy Stone, and Jennifer Wright.

Another component that grew this program this year was the inclusion of any OMTA teachers that had students participating in the Young Composers

Project (YCP). Shout out to Dianne Davies, Kristy Moore, Ruth Sadilek, and Nancy Stone for entering students in the YCP.

State Composition Festival 2024

May 1: District Chairs turn in the following forms to State Chair Dianne Davies:

- District Composition Festival Report: <https://oregonmta.org/wp-content/uploads/Composition-Festival-District-Report.pdf>
- District Honored Composers List: <https://oregonmta.org/wp-content/uploads/Composition-Festival-Honored-Composers-List.pdf>

May 5: Student participants submit the following:

- Unlisted YouTube link "not made for kids," maximum 7 minutes to OMTA office: office@oregonmta.org
- State Application and \$15 entry fee to Dianne Davies: <https://oregonmta.org/wp-content/uploads/Composition-Festival-State-Student-Application.pdf>
- PDF of student score to: diannedavies00@gmail.com

Mail State Application and entry fees to: Dianne Davies 6995 SW Larkspur Place, Beaverton OR 97008



EDUCATION GRANTS Grants Galore Available Now!



Laura Davis
OMTA Grants Education Chair

As the new school season starts, remember to take a look at all the amazing grants that are available to OMTA districts, teachers and students. Some grants are for teachers' advanced studies, and some are for helping students in need with their lesson fees. All the different kinds of available grants are explained here: <https://oregonmta.org/teachers/grants>.

This month, I want to especially mention the Nellie Tholen Endowment Fund Grant, which is available to every OMTA district! You may apply for a grant to bring in a specialist for a presentation, clinic or master class. The deadline to apply is October 15.

All the information and the application form are on the website, as is my mailing address.

<https://oregonmta.org/wp-content/uploads/Nellie-Tholen-Endowment-Fund-Grants-Information.pdf>

Questions? Call me at 503-312-1162 or email: Lauradavis47@gmail.com

Mail application forms to Laura Davis before October 15 for consideration.

These are valuable resources, created especially for you. Take a look and be inspired to grow!



FESTIVALS

Dr. Janet Pollack, Chair of Education

I am pleased to say there is good news to report. Registration for OMTA's 2023 **Sonatina Festival** opened on August 7 on Leggiero. The OMTA Sonatina Festival is a statewide competitive biennial event that takes place in two rounds on the same day. Students first perform before an adjudicator in a private audition, where they receive a written evaluation of their performance. The top two performers in each level will then perform their pieces again in a competitive Honors Recital that is open to the public. This year's festival will take place **Saturday, October 14** at the University of Oregon, Eugene. **Registration closes Monday, September 11.** All information and necessary documents can be found on the State website, under Programs for Students/Festivals/Sonatina Festival. If you have any further concerns, please reach out to co-chairs Marla Hansen (4marlarae@gmail.com) or Dr. Janet Pollack (janetkippollack@comcast.net).

The 2023 **State Ensemble Honors Festival** is currently finalizing details. It is scheduled for Saturday, December 9 in the Music Building, room 163, University of Oregon, Eugene. The deadline for districts to register their selected student ensembles is November 12. Since last year's event was so successful — and so much fun — Dr. Genevieve Mason and Dr. Janet Pollack decided to co-chair the event again this year. All necessary documents

pertaining to the festival are currently being updated and will soon be on the OMTA state website under Programs for Students/Festivals/Ensemble Festival. Please feel free to contact either Genevieve Mason (gdupassieux@gmail.com) or Janet Pollack (janetkippollack@comcast.net) if you have any questions.

Unfortunately OMTA remains in dire need of new **2024 Baroque Honors Festival** co-chairs. Craig Hansen, who has chaired the event in past years, needs to step down for personal reasons. After thorough research, the weekend of March 16-17 was found to be workable during spring Syllabus and was therefore reserved for the 2024 festival. As the State Baroque Honors Festival is one of OMTA's more popular events, I know that we all want to see it happen again this year. Please help me to ensure it goes forward. Know that chairing one of these festivals provides a heap of rewards for both you and the students. It offers an opportunity for personal growth as a teacher and an organizer, and the joy you experience when viewing all the beaming student and parent faces is worth the time and effort. If you are interested in chairing or know of anyone who may be interested, please contact me at janetkippollack@comcast.net.



GRANT PROGRAMS

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



Karen Huntsberger, NCTM
Nellie Tholen Grant
Coordinator

OMTA has provided conference support since 2015 thanks to an extremely generous grant from the Oregon Community Foundation Nellie Tholen Fund. That financial support has allowed OMTA to bring in top-notch presenters and disburse housing rebates. During the school year, the same grant provides programs for individual districts outside the Portland metro area. These continuing education opportunities provide teachers with new ideas and inspiration.

Mark your calendar and plan to attend a grant program in person or via Zoom this fall. Check with the District President a few days in advance of any program to get the Zoom link: <https://oregonmta.org/about/leadership/district-presidents>

Locations for in-person programs are listed with the event information. You're always welcome to email me at grant.coordinator@oregonmta.org with any questions.

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

Videos of previous presentations and conference programs are available on the OMTA website. Just log in to the OMTA website with your personal login and password to view past workshop videos and programs from the 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 OMTA State Conferences: <https://oregonmta.org/teachers/conferences>

Hillsboro District via Zoom

Wednesday, September 13, 2023, 10:30 AM-12:00 PM



Dr. Michelle Huang, NCTM
The Art of Memorization

"I played through it without the music just fine before!" We have all been there. What are the elements of reliable memorization? In this talk, we will look at the four different types of memory: visual, tactile, aural, and analytical, and how to best use them to commit our pieces to memory for performance. We will learn that there is a direct correlation between excellent practice habits and memory, and how the act of storytelling can help to secure it.

Blue Mountain District

Saturday, September 30, 2023, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM
United Methodist Church, 1612 4th St., La Grande, OR

Dr. Michelle Huang, NCTM
Creating Beautiful Tone in Piano Playing

It is a lifelong challenge for pianists to make a beautiful cantabile sound on the piano, but it is possible via an



understanding of the instrument's mechanism as well as the proper techniques for creating a warm, singing tone. In this presentation, we will survey different ways to approach the keys through two-note and three-note slurs, staccatos, tenutos, accents, octaves, chords, voicing, and phrase shaping. Through specific musical examples, we will learn that different composers and styles may require different techniques to bring out certain effects. By exploring an array of key speeds and attacks, we can discover exciting possibilities in how we can vary our sound and musical ideas.

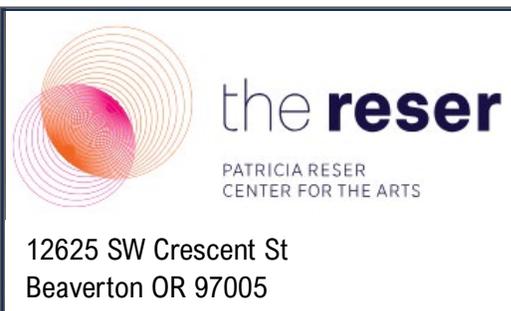
Blue Mountain District

Saturday, September 30, 2023, 1:30 PM-3:30 PM
United Methodist Church, 1612 4th St., La Grande, OR

Dr. Michelle Huang, NCTM

Playing What's NOT on the Page: Cultivating Creativity

We all know it's important to play what is on the page, but it is also essential to look beyond the written notes and rhythms to seek a deeper meaning. In this workshop, we will become more creative as performers by: discovering ways to shape phrases; investigating possibilities of variation in repeated passages using an assortment of articulations, dynamics, and rubato; interpreting sections and phrases by attaching personalities, images, and colors to make music come alive; and understanding diverse musical styles and languages in order to create different tools to play what's *not* on the page.



BEAVERTON'S OWN CONCERT PIANIST IN CONCERT: PHILIP MANDEL

Date
September 28, 2023
7:00pm

Pricing
\$24 - \$34

Special Benefit Concert for Portland Piano International

Proud member of OMTA and
American Federation of Musicians, Local 99

For tickets and information, scan QR code or visit www.mandelpiano.com



Join Philip for his 70th Birthday celebration at The Reser. Enjoy music by Grieg (his wonderful Holberg Suite), Schubert's heavenly Impromptu in G-flat, Beethoven's best known piano piece (Moonlight Sonata), two works by Chopin (Nocturne in C-minor and Revolutionary Etude), and more! Come for the concert, stay for the hosted reception in The Reser's lobby area after the concert.

HONORS COMMITTEE

Rebecca Gooch, Fern McArthur, NCTM, and Susan Todd, NCTM, OMTA Honors Committee

As promised in the May Issue, we are pleased to announce the 2023 OMTA Honorary Life Members: **Carolee Harbour, NCTM**, and **Karen Huntsberger, NCTM**. The Oregon Music Teachers Association State Honorary Life Member Award brings recognition to individuals who have given extraordinary service to OMTA at both the district and state levels and who have been members of OMTA for at least 25 years.



Carolee Harbour, NCTM

Carolee Harbour, NCTM (Umpqua Valley / South Coast District)

Carolee Harbour has taught piano for over 50 years. Although her formal education and primary career was in nursing, she has pursued independent music study in parallel, from the many educational programs offered by OMTA, to NCTM Certification. She has sung and traveled with the Roseburg Vintage Singers and has sung in the Oregon Bach Festival. She has accompanied middle-school choirs as well as individual students in their competitions. Most recently, she has studied piano with Tatiana Ioudenitch through the Nellie Tholen Fellowship. Carolee is her district's Treasurer as well as being the long-term Syllabus chair, and has been district President for two 6-year terms. At the state level, she has served as Treasurer and Education chair, and is a Syllabus adjudicator.



Karen Huntsberger, NCTM

Karen Huntsberger, NCTM (Tualatin Valley District)

Karen Huntsberger, NCTM, holds a Bachelor's degree from The Evergreen State College and maintains an independent studio in McMinnville. She began teaching piano in 1981 in Olympia, where she was a member of WSMTA and Treasurer of the local chapter. Her service to OMTA has included terms as Eugene District Treasurer and State Composition Celebration Chair. She currently is the Syllabus Bookkeeper, Syllabus Adjudicator Confirmation Chair, a Syllabus adjudicator, the Nellie Tholen District Enrichment Grant Coordinator, and webmaster for the Tualatin Valley District. Karen will serve as co-president of the Tualatin Valley District during 2024-2026. Karen has extensive experience as an accompanist and church organist, and worked as a ballet accompanist for twenty-one years. She is grateful that her roles in OMTA have put her in contact with so many teachers throughout the state. In addition to teaching, she is the author of two nonfiction books and a soon-to-be-published historical novel.



SYLLABUS



Barbara Roberts, NCTM
Syllabus Chair

I hope you have all had a wonderful summer, and feel refreshed, rested, and ready to tackle a new year of teaching! Below are a few reminders about Syllabus registration for the fall:

- Please carefully check the repertoire your students will play for their Syllabus exam. As a reminder, only one piece may be one level lower than the student's registration level.
- Repertoire lists are available online to all members. In addition, you may email the repertoire committee at any time if you have a question about a specific piece. The links are all on the OMTA website:
<https://oregonmta.org/programs/syllabus/syllabus-manuals/>
- A student must be at least in 10th grade in order to register for a Level X Syllabus exam. If you have any questions or concerns about this, feel free to contact me.
- Teacher conferences are required for all Syllabus exams.
- Reminder for Portland teachers: you can only register students in the district(s) where you have paid your dues.
- If you have a change of address, please notify the OMTA office and also change it separately on Leggiero as well — the two are not automatically linked!

Thank you so much for participating in the Syllabus program!



OMTA SCHOLARSHIP AWARD WINNERS 2023

Kelli Stephens and Paula Watt, NCTM, Scholarship Award Chairs

The 2023 OMTA Scholarship Awards (Competitive) were held on Saturday and Sunday, May 20-21 at Portland Piano Company. There were 53 student entries representing 23 teachers. Our wonderful adjudicators were Dr. Kookhee Hong and Dr. Minji Noh. Congratulations to all who participated! Here are the results:

Tom O'Brien Senior

1st place tie: Theo Miranda-Zellnik, student of Oliver Poida

1st place tie: Kristy Tong, student of Dr. Jill Timmons, NCTM

HM: Ray Yoshimori, student of Hui Mimi Shen, NCTM

Gladys Strong

1st place: Evelina Khoreshko, student of Dr. Claire Wachter

2nd place: Taylor Jennings, student of Dr. Claire Wachter

Donna and David Eason

1st place tie: Rachel Zike, student of Shirley Brendlinger, NCTM

1st place tie: Richard Chen, student of Dr. Rachelle McCabe

2nd place: Tai Wong, student of Kelli Stephens

Lillian Pettibone

1st place: Michael Hsu, student of Dr. Thomas Otten, NCTM

2nd place: Leo Trajano, student of Maria Garcia

Tom O'Brien Junior

1st place tie: Lana Minami, student of Momoko Muramatsu, NCTM

1st place tie: Sara Huh, student of Dr. Julia Lee

D. Suzanne Raines

1st place: Alex Tran, student of Dr. Renato Fabbro

2nd place: Daniel Sutanto, student of Paula Watt, NCTM

3rd place: Qingshan Li, student of Dr. Renato Fabbro

HM: Charis Lee, student of Dr. Julia Lee

Cris Tapang Memorial

1st place: Alexis Zou, student of Dr. Renato Fabbro

2nd place: Elizabeth Shen, student of Leslie Chen

3rd place: Avery Ji, student of Kelli Stephens

HM: Chloe Luo, student of Dr. Renato Fabbro

HM: Jay Yoshimori, student of Hui Mimi Shen, NCTM

HM: Ishika Chakraborty, student of Lucy Clevenger, NCTM

Portland District Instrumental

1st place: Derek Choi, student of Hae-Jin Kim

2nd place tie: Matthew Inscore, student of Paula Watt, NCTM

2nd place tie: Katie Chow, student of Paula Watt, NCTM

Jeannette Scott Briggs High School

1st place: Claire Youn, student of Hae-Jin Kim

Jeannette Scott Briggs Middle School

1st place: Yoojin Kang, student of Hae-Jin Kim

2nd place: Abigail Lee, student of Hae-Jin Kim

3rd place: Emily Rhew, student of Hae-Jin Kim

HM: Elizabeth Shen, student of Hae-Jin Kim

Jeannette Scott Briggs Elementary

1st place: Sophia Chung, student of Hae-Jin Kim

2nd place: Leah Kim, student of Hae-Jin Kim

Dorothy Pederson Fahlman

1st place tie: Kaden Nguyen, student of Barbara Chapman, NCTM

1st place tie: Ansel Harris Crowne, student of Carol Kilmer, NCTM

Eleanore East and Edward G. Michaels

1st place: Ashley Ma, student of Leslie Chen

2nd place tie: Lucy Joo, student of Dr. Julia Lee

2nd place tie: Aiden Kim, student of Dr. Renato Fabbro

Jean Williams

1st place: Nolan Tu, student of Dr. Renato Fabbro

2nd place: Agnes Nguyen, student of Anne Denis

3rd place tie: Shulammit Leu, student of Debbie Lee

3rd place tie: Ellie Cho, student of Lucy Clevenger, NCTM

HM: Albert Leong, student of Carol Kilmer, NCTM



EAST PORTLAND DISTRICT



Andrew D'Antonio, NCTM
Membership Chair

East Portland is getting ready for a busy and exciting year! The biggest change from past years is that we have officially separated our period festivals from West Portland. Dividing and rethinking all our combined programs had been the intention since East and West Portland separated in 2019; however, the pandemic put this task on hold, and period festivals were able to continue jointly through the hard work and creativity of many volunteers. As we are now in a more stable period, the time has come to navigate this split.

East Portland currently has four festivals planned: Competitive Baroque, Composition, Non-Competitive General Festival, and Honors Recital. An email was sent out to our entire membership inviting anyone to propose additional festival ideas; however, proposals will only be accepted from members who are volunteering to run the festival themselves, simply because we don't want to run into a shortage of necessary leadership! Current festival chairs have generously offered to support and train anyone

interested in becoming a new festival chair. We are very excited about the new opportunities these festivals will offer East Portland students.

While East and West Portland have become more distinct through these splits, we continue to have a strong collaborative relationship. Many members have joint membership and are welcome to participate in either district's festivals, provided they have paid the respective dues. (N.B. Students participating in Competitive Baroque and Composition festivals may not enter in more than one district.) Also, last May we presented an enormously successful joint masterclass with West Portland featuring MTNA President, Dr. Peter Mack, NCTM. We are looking forward to another collaboration with our friends on the other side of the river come Spring 2024, details TBA.

We have also welcomed several new officers over the summer, and are excited for a very full year!



CENTRAL OREGON DISTRICT



Helen Jones, NCTM
Central Oregon District
Secretary

Upcoming Events for Central Oregon District Members:

Central Oregon District Meeting

On Friday, September 8 at 9:30 AM there will be a business meeting, followed by a presentation at 10:45 by Dr. Thomas Otten. It will be hosted by District President Melissa Barker, NCTM, in Prineville.

Young Professionals Meeting

Melissa Barker, NCTM (our District President) will also have an informal gathering planned at the beginning

of September for our “Young Professionals” to gather and discuss how our district can support and encourage one another as music teachers.

Fall Syllabus Exams

Online registration opened August 21 and will close September 22. Exams will be held October 20-22.



Dr. Thomas Otten



HILLSBORO DISTRICT

Holly Counts, Hillsboro District President

Our summer started with seven Hillsboro District members attending the OMTA State Conference in Ashland. We enjoyed seeing *Twelfth Night* at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, connecting with fellow teachers over meals, and absorbing all the wonderful ideas from the sessions!

In August, we held a small Westside Recital, a board meeting, and a coffee meet-up with members. We're looking forward to kicking off the school year in September with a presentation by Dr. Michelle Huang on *The Art of Memorization* at our fall meeting.



Hillsboro District Members enjoying *Twelfth Night* at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival



ROGUE VALLEY DISTRICT

Thor Polson, Rogue Valley District Reports Chair, and **Terri Horn**, Rogue Valley District President

On May 13, our chapter met at Grace Lutheran Church in Ashland to participate in a presentation offered by Emily Ross (MA, MT-BC) entitled "Teaching the Special Learner: Wisdom and Strategies for the Independent Music Teacher". Emily has an extensive educational background in, and experience working with, children with special learning challenges, and as anticipated, the presentation was excellent. She reviewed with us the characteristics of autism, ADHD, intellectual disabilities, and emotional disturbances, and she outlined both specific strategies and general ideas for approaching students who present these characteristics. Emily is a warm and welcoming person who encourages questions and conversation about specific students and situations. Our discussion ended with a definition of "executive functioning" and with a conversation about how those who are able to develop personal goals will become independent, disciplined, and responsible young adults. We are very grateful for Emily's efforts in her field and for all of the information conveyed at the presentation.

On June 12, we met at member Cathy Gerking's house to choose new officers and to talk about the

year ahead. Next year's officers are as follows: Terri Horn (President), Michele Alspach (Vice-President), Marsha Hall (Secretary), and Anna Christina Stretz (Treasurer). Joyce Stevens Scholarships were awarded to Dr. Alexander Tutunov's students Chuan Choy and Iryna Kudielina.

On June 23 and 24, we were delighted to be able to welcome our OMTA colleagues from all over Oregon at the state conference held at Southern Oregon University in Ashland. We were pleased to see our local students participate in the master classes offered by Giorgi and Anna Latso: Teagan Caulkins (from Michele Alspach's studio), Jasper Warren (Thor Polson), and Chuan Choy (Alexander Tutunov) as well as Tiana and Joseph Wong (Alexander Tutunov) for the duets master class. Having the opportunity to spend time with all of you in such a collegial atmosphere was a great pleasure for all of us music teachers here in the Rogue Valley, and we thank all of you very much.

On August 14, we met at Colver Park in Talent to discuss the upcoming year's programs and other matters. We look forward to another productive year!



Emily Ross



TUALATIN VALLEY DISTRICT



Auksuole Jackunaite
Tualatin Valley
Co-President



Karen Huntsberger, NCTM
Tualatin Valley
Co-President

Hello from the Tualatin Valley District! We are excited about the upcoming school year and are looking forward to meetings, speakers and festivals that will give our members and students opportunities to learn, grow and perform. Our active district volunteers dedicate their time and talents to chairing festivals, organizing Syllabus, and coming up with topics for our "Play, Listen, Teach, Learn" teacher-development class.

After three-plus years, we're finally going to meet in person again! Our Welcome Back meeting will be held at Rise Church in Tigard on September 8, 2023 from 9:00 to 11:00 AM. We'll start with a catered

breakfast, have a short business meeting with an overview of the events for the school year and an update from committee chairs, then hear Dr. Lisa Neher's presentation "The Sustainable Studio." We hope to see you there!

For a complete list of our meetings, festivals, programs and deadlines, please visit our website at <https://tvomta.org>. Our calendar will be updated as we make adjustments throughout the year.



WEST PORTLAND DISTRICT



Marla Hansen
West Portland District President

Greetings from the West Portland District! This year is set to be filled with enriching activities for both students and teachers.

Our last meeting in May was an engaging and informative Intermediate Masterclass by MTNA President Dr. Peter Mack, NCTM, in a joint event with East Portland District. The students responded well to the instruction and there were many wonderful ideas for teachers to take home to their own studios. The program was well-attended and it was great to see our colleagues from the East side!

Our first program of the year will be a visit from OMTA President Liz Willis, NCTM, who will conduct a live Syllabus exam, taking place 10 AM Wednesday, September 27 at the Christ United Methodist Church (CUMC) in Cedar Mill. Please bring your questions about the Syllabus program, join our discussion, and greet new members!

On Wednesday, October 25, Dr. Lark Powers will be presenting *Practice Harder, Not Longer* at 10:00 AM, also at CUMC. Join us to learn about strategies for

more beneficial, rewarding practice—something sure to have a positive impact on all students and teachers.

West Portland has made a few adjustments to our festivals to meet the needs of our diverse and large district. As noted earlier in this issue, festivals will no longer be held jointly with the East Portland District. Our first festival will be the 2023 Ensemble Festival, chaired by Fen-Fang Tsao, taking place Saturday, October 28 at Portland Piano Company. Registration will close September 22. The West Portland non-competitive Period Festivals have been reconfigured as the Baroque/Classical Festival, held November 11-12 and 18-19, and the Romantic/Contemporary Festival, held February 10-11 and 17-18.

Please be sure to check your email for regular updates on programs, festivals, and other community events. Dates and descriptions of events can be found on the calendar of the West Portland District website.

Best wishes for a fulfilling, inspiring year!



IN MEMORIAM: HAROLD GRAY

Lisa Marsh, OMTA Member

Once in a great while, someone appears who alters the course of your life. Harold Gray was that person for many of us, and for our community. His influence was far-reaching as an educator, a pianist, and a visionary.

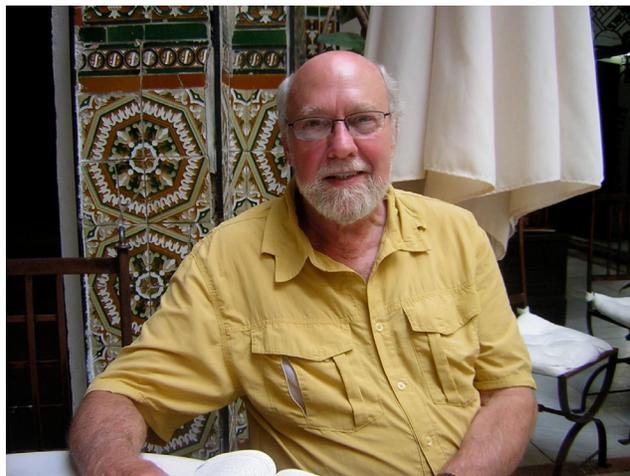
Harold Gray the educator spent many years as Professor of Piano, and later Chairman, of the School of Music at Portland State University. His remarkable teaching is described best by Barbara Alex, one of his first students at PSU: "I had never worked with a teacher who exhibited such exceptional talent both as a pianist and a teacher. He had the personality to match — kind, reserved, refined, elegant. He accepted flaws without judgement. Harold was a remarkable human being whose ego never tainted his fundamental purpose, which was dedicated to the music."

Harold Gray the pianist joined forces with violinist Carol Sindell and cellist Hamilton Cheifetz to form the Florestan Trio. For decades they thrilled audiences in sold-out concert venues. Harold's flawless playing can be experienced in their recording of Mendelssohn's Piano Trio, No. 2. This group was on fire! To watch Harold play was to witness effortless artistry.

Fueled by a desire to expand the concert offerings in the greater Portland area, Harold founded the Piano Recital Series. He brought the finest internationally-known pianists to our town. We witnessed unforgettable performances of known and unknown masterpieces. Our students often had the opportunity to study with these great artists in master classes, and our teaching was profoundly impacted by these experiences.

In 1999, the annual Piano Festival was augmented to present even more recitals, along with a diverse array of master classes, lectures, and films. The festival became the "go to" event of the summer season, and we gathered for the knowledge and camaraderie. I have a distinct memory of watching Harold weave through a packed lunchroom at the World Forestry Center, stopping to greet teachers by name, inquire after their students, and ask how they were enjoying the event. Heidi Evans remembers the festival with these words: "This event shaped generations of teachers across the northwest and even further afield. We still talk about 'the good old days' when we meet fellow attendees."

Harold Gray the visionary was an extension of Harold Gray the person. He was deeply devoted to his



daughter Alice, to his grandchildren, and to his long-time partner Mary Kogen. With his students and friends he exhibited a quiet, consistent grace. His study of Buddhism and his meditation practice supported his skill of deep listening. Many of us sought his advice for life's challenges — both professional and personal. Pianist Julia Lee describes Harold's influence in this way: "Harold served as a starting point, helping countless pianists find their careers." She adds that with his passing, "we have lost the father of piano."

After my study with Harold as an undergraduate and graduate student, we designed a plan to help musicians avoid and recover from injury. Under his leadership, the Coordinate Movement Program was established at Portland State University. This unique program remains one of the few in the country that offers classes in health and well-being for music students. I owe this important part of my life's journey to Harold Gray.

He was the most profound force in my musical and professional life, as well as being a dear friend. His influence spanned from advising me on a preschool for my children, to encouragement to learn the Carl Vine Piano Sonata. When I premiered the first act of my opera, Harold was by my side conducting the small chamber ensemble. At every phase of my adult life, Harold was there guiding, encouraging, and supporting me. I know many of you have had similar experiences.

Harold Gray's influence on our lives will not wane with his passing, as he was known and loved by many. His memory inspires us to achieve excellence in our teaching and at the piano. We will remember him as we come together to celebrate the joy of music in the community that he helped us create.



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March	February 15
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September	August 15
November	October 15



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