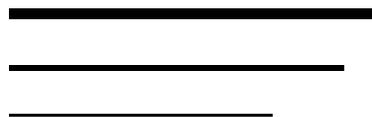


CON BRIO



Oregon Music Teachers' Association, Inc. Eugene District

Affiliated with the Music Teachers' National Association, Inc.



Opus 189

February 2008

page 1

Barnes & Noble Fundraiser

The Eugene District fundraiser at Barnes & Noble, held on Sunday, December 2, 2007, was very successful in terms of teacher and student participation and money raised. Feedback from those participating was positive.

Eighteen Eugene District teachers presented students playing a variety of music including solo and ensemble literature. Beginning at 11:00 AM and concluding at 6:15 PM, every teacher's program began and ended on time. Students and families enjoyed the event.

The fundraiser netted \$917.60. Barnes & Noble donated a \$25 gift card and the OMTA Eugene District purchased the other gift card. The drawing winners for Barnes & Noble \$25 gift cards were **Austin Smith** (Sandy Hull), student who gave out a voucher for the fundraiser; **Eric Hendricks** (Mary Ellen Yost), person who bought an item. Eric was also a participating student.

I wish to thank Andrew Kim at Barnes & Noble, David Lawson of Lawson's Keyboard Center, and the Register Guard for their support.

I appreciate the wonderful cooperation of the participating teachers. A special thanks goes to Fern McArthur, Janie Kaminski, Virginia Buhn, and Carolyn McHan for their assistance with this project.

Mary Ellen Yost

Chair, Barnes & Noble Fundraiser

Hult Center Festival

"Around the World with Music" Festival is just around the corner. The festival to be held at the Hult Center Studio will be on Sunday, April 13, 2008. Repertoire from composers of Northern Europe to South America, Greenland to China and Japan, the Caribbean and South Seas will take us on a world tour. Titles such as "Hungarian Rhapsody," "Evening in Granada," "In the Jungle," "Island Breezes," "Sidewalks of Paris," "Moonscapes"...what an imaginative and exciting day of recitals! Let's fill The Studio with wonderful music showcasing our talented and hardworking students. Please remember the entry deadline of Saturday, March 29, 2008.

Carol White

Hult Center Festival Chair



District Recitals

What a wonderful holiday recital we had at this end of season! The Wildish Theater of Springfield provided a warm and professional environment for our students to perform. We had 30 teachers enter their students and a total 150 students participated. And most of all we finished on time. The recital started at 12 noon and lasted till 7:30 PM. After the event I received many good comments from both parents and teachers about how much they enjoyed this particular recital. It is good to hear the feedback, cheers for all the teachers and students!

However, without many people's help this event would not have been successful. I would like to thank Nobuko Lebeau for checking all of the details for the preparation of this recital; Janie Kaminski and her family members for helping set up the beautiful Christmas trees; Sandy Hull and Neil Patton devoted their time to help type the recital programs. Also many teachers helped during their student's performance to give out the programs and watch the settings. It is wonderful to have such a supportive, warm music community.

I wish everybody a wonderful new year!

Siqin Taoli

District Recitals Chair.



Treasurer's Report

Checking Account balance on 01/01/2008: \$1,981.70

EXPENSES

January 1, 2008 - February 1, 2008

DATE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
01/09/2008	January 2007 Con Brio & Directory	56.47
01/09/2008	stamps for treasury	13.53
01/09/2008	PEAK Internet	19.90
01/09/2008	Qwest	49.03
	TOTAL	\$ 138.93

Checking Account balance on 02/01/2008: \$ 1,842.77

Savings Account balance: \$ 3,232.29

Certificate of Deposit: \$ 2,128.41

Correction to January, 2008 Con Brio Treasurer's Report: the Income Total should read \$ 2,139.00 (the result of a computer error, of course).

Respectfully submitted,

Wyatt L. Burger

Eugene District Treasurer



Spring Syllabus

The deadline for the Spring Syllabus time requests is Monday, February 11, 2008. If you are unable to mail these forms on time, please feel free to e-mail or call me and send the forms later. Also, there are new students Evaluation Forms for the Spring Syllabus that are posted on State and Portland websites under "forms-syllabus."

The Deadline for all forms & fees is March 21, 2008.

Lucy Clevenger

District Syllabus Chair.



Con Brio

February 2008

Con Brio is the newsletter of the Eugene Chapter of OMTA, published and distributed monthly, except July and August.

President: Carolyn McHan Corresponding Sec: Virginia Buhn
Vice-President: Marti Csonka Recording Sec: Ellen McQuilkin
Treasurer: Wyatt Burger Past President: Claire Wachter

All materials for publication are due on the Saturday preceding the first Monday of each month.

Con Brio is mailed to all members on the Wednesday prior to the monthly meeting.

Wyatt L. Burger, editor
e-mail: westlanepiano@hotmail.com

Baby Announcement! *SiQin Taoli and Steve Thompson announce the birth of their daughter Anna Wulinar Thompson on January 22, 2008. Anna weighed 5 lb 2 oz. Both mother and baby are doing great. SiQin and Steve also have a son, three year old Evan Agarra Thompson. Both children have Mongolian middle names, in honor of SiQin's home country.*

Composition Celebration

The deadline for entries in the **OMTA Eugene District Composition Celebration** is Friday, February 22, 2008.

Please include the following for each student:

- 1 copy of the composition
- completed entry form
- entry fee
- recording of the composition

Each composition should be submitted on white, 8 1/2 X 11" paper. Measure numbers should appear at the beginning of each staff or system. The student's name should **not** appear on the score. Recordings may be CD or cassette tape.

Send entries to:

Wyatt L. Burger
P. O. Box 307
Cheshire, OR 97419-0307

Let me know if you have any questions about this event.

Wyatt Burger

District Composition Chair

Recording Secretary's Report

Minutes of the January 14, 2008 District Meeting

OMTA Minutes —January 14, 2008—Cascade Manor Auditorium

President Carolyn called the meeting to order at 9:20 AM. She recalled that last December Claire gave a wonderful musical program at the annual Holiday Potluck, and that it was great fun hearing about her trip to Korea.

Communications

Lucy Watts of Corvallis sent an e-mail invitation to our Eugene group for a workshop on Baroque style with Barbara Baird. It will be held on Jan. 19 from 10-1 in Corvallis at the First Congregational United Church of Christ. An e-mail will circulate with the repertoire to be covered in the workshop/master class.

Mary Kogan, who is giving a presentation at the MTNA conference in Denver in March invites us to Portland to attend run-throughs of the session. Her topic is "Ta Ke Ti Na Rhythm for Evolution."

Business

Treasurer's report. The accuracy of the income report printed in the January issue of the Con Brio was questioned. Carolyn will speak with Wyatt and make sure it is correct. (It was suggested that perhaps Wyatt was testing us to see if we actually read his report.)

Barnes & Noble Fundraiser

Mary Ellen enjoyed it so much she's volunteered to be chair again next year. This announcement got a round of applause! Mary Ellen had suggested to Carolyn that we hold this fundraiser in the fall next year. The group discussed when the best time to have it (fall/or winter). Consensus was to continue to do it in December. Mary Ellen extends special thanks to Fern, Virginia, and Janie for their help. The idea that we move the Popular Music Festival until later in the year was put forth and discussed. Options will be discussed further at the May meeting.

Junior Bach Festival - Sunday, February 3 at Cascade Manor

A show of hands indicated that we have a very few entries to the Junior Bach Festival this year. (The chair, Christy Matheson, was not in attendance). The deadline is unclear with members. Most members felt that in per Christy's e-mail it is to be this Friday. Linda plant will be doing the typing of programs so last minute changes can be directed to her.

Composition Festival

Wyatt has contracted Dr. Gary Noland to be our adjudicator this year.

Spring Theme Festival - "Music Around the World," Sunday, April 13 at the Hult Center

Carolyn gave a reminder to teachers that the entry deadline is Saturday, March 29 and read a description from Carol White. Repertoire from Northern Europe to South America, Greenland to China & Japan, The Caribbean to the South Seas will take us on a world tour. Titles such as "Hungarian Rhapsody," "Evening in Granada," "In the Jungle," "Island Breezes," "Sidewalks of Paris," "Moonscapes," will offer us an imaginative and exciting program. Local composers and contemporary compositions are most welcome. An announcement of this festival is to appear in the Hult Center *Ovation*.

Wildish Holiday Recital

Nabuko reports 150 students/30 teachers entered for 7 recitals. Income was \$987.97 although total proceeds are not clear because Wildish has not sent the bill for rental yet.

Spring District Recital

It was noted that the Spring District Recital has been cancelled for this year only because we wanted to see how the Wildish festival went. There was discussion about whether we might go ahead with a spring recital. (Between October and December (3 months) we had 5 local events. Now between January and May (5 months) there will be only 4 local events.) The consensus was to not bring back the Spring District recital this year because Syllabus comes May 15-18.

Minutes continue on page 4...

Con Brio *Newsletter of the*

OREGON MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION - Eugene District

Wyatt L. Burger, Editor

P. O. Box 307

Cheshire, OR 97419-0307

PLACE
STAMP
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District Telephone Number

for teacher referrals: **242-1024**

Visit the OMTA website at

www.oregonmta.org

where you will find

Music News online

Forms for OMTA Syllabus and festivals

Directory of Oregon districts

Calendar of events

**The deadline for submitting
materials for the March 2008
issue of *Con Brio* is
Saturday, March 1, 2008.**

Visit our website at www.oma-eugene.org

March Meeting & Program

Monday, March 10, 2008, 9:00 AM

Fern McArthur residence

2128 Elysium Ave, Eugene

Dr. Hui-Ying Lui-Tawaststjerna

***Rachmaninoff Interprets Rachmaninoff's
C# Minor Prelude***



Music Teachers National Association

122nd Annual CONFERENCE

DENVER, CO

March 29-April 2, 2008

Website

Chairs and officers are asked to please check information on website for accuracy. Send any changes or additions to Ellen McQuilkin.

New Business

Carolyn is in the process of appointing a nominating committee. In April we will vote on the proposal. At this time according to our by-laws "additional nominations may be made by members present." Their term begins in June of 2008.

Please see the *Con Brio* schedule of events at UO. Carolyn encourages all teachers to take advantage of these presentations and support them.

Next Meeting

"Style and Interpretation for the Young Pianist" will be given by Virginia Buhn in her home at 9:00 AM.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 for a viewing of the film "Memories of John Browning: The Lhevinne Legacy Continues." (Excellent!)

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen McQuilkin

Recording Secretary



President's Message

Dear Members,

The last of my Christmas decorations are put away...some of my students are finding excitement breaking off a piece of ice from our pond as they leave their lesson...and my husband returned on the hockey bus from a glorious day of skiing yesterday. (I had twinges of regret that my teaching kept me from joining him until I heard of the wind chill factor!) Indeed we are in the middle of winter.

That means the Junior Bach Festival is just around the corner. Thanks to all you teachers who submitted the forms early this year to accommodate Christy who is visiting Europe. She is graciously fine tuning any of our minor changes from her computer...Ah, the joys of this technological age! And Linda will be typing up the programs shortly. Our district continues to enjoy a variety of performance events for our students because of the very hard work of the Event chairs and their committees. you are greatly appreciated.

Our own Virginia Buhn will share her expertise and wisdom at our February meeting. I hope many of you can attend. From past experience I can assure you the program will be excellent.

We had a good group for our January meeting where we not only enjoyed a time for visiting but an excellent program. I know we all need more hours in our days and it takes a special dedication to our district to find the time to come to meetings. I just want to thank you who make time to come because your presence helps to keep our district vibrant!!! You are an awesome group.

Remember, our big push now will be the Hult Center Spring Festival, "Around the World with Music." With this marvelous world theme we can choose from many kinds and styles of music. What a wonderful opportunity this is for our students to play at Eugene's prestigious Hult Center.

Yours for the excitement in music,

Carolyn

Tickling the Ivories

by Eularee Smith

They say that a picture is worth a thousand words. In May 2007 I confronted the challenge of that cliché.

One cold February morning, Barbara Minkler walked into my office at Upstart Crow Studios and told me about the Lane County Regional Program for the Visually Impaired at the 4J School District in Eugene where she teaches visually impaired children to cope in their school environment. She felt a drama class might increase the children's communication skills, but explained there was no money in the budget for classes.

Together we organized a workshop and on subsequent Saturdays parents brought their children from as far away as 30 to 40 miles. I wrote a musical theatre production entitled "*Hard Knock Life*," a script about our unique differences and similarities. We charged a nominal admission price for the show with the ticket sales benefiting the program.

It was truly the blind leading the blind at our first meeting. We addressed the concerns about the safety of moving on stage by placing bubble wrap around the edge of the stage. The popping sound would alert the cast they were close to the edge. Interestingly enough it was I who inadvertently stepped on the bubble wrap, sending up howls of laughter from the students.

The students ranged in age from 5 to 20 years. Some had been blind since birth; others could only see very large print, up close. Barbara had the script transcribed into Braille or large print.

Five-year old Branden also had a tracheotomy making speech difficult for him. His mother would record his line into a voice box, and at the appropriate time, Branden stepped up and pressed a button on the box to deliver his line. He never missed a cue.

To demonstrate upper body movement and flamboyant gestures, we did several theatre games. I quickly found saying "watch me" or "like this" brought little response from this group. One student finally said "Eularee, we can't see," which brought giggles from them and a blush from me.

Eleven-year old Avery had to deliver a line about being struck by a bolt of lightning. He clearly had trouble delivering the line with the appropriate sense of fear. Avery had been blind since birth and therefore had no idea what a bolt of lightning looked like or how he should react.

So many times, my piano students ask me to play their music for them. But I wonder if they are learning by imitating me or if they have truly connected with the music. I have my students close their eyes and listen as I play. Then I ask them to describe certain melodic or harmonic phrases with their words. We ask them to describe certain melodic or harmonic phrases with their words. We discuss the mood and the texture rather than mechanics. I learned from watching those who could not see that sometimes we must be blind to see. We have to truly listen to understand.

At the end of every theatre production we have a cast party to celebrate the joy of teamwork and the success that work brings to life. I asked this particular cast what they would like to do next, they unanimously cried out "more dancing and walking on and off stage." I will have to learn a few thousand more words for that picture.

PIANO DOCTOR



Clunks, Squeaks, Buzzes, and Rattles

Q: Occasionally a student will tell me that their piano makes a "funny sound" when they strike certain keys, or they hear noises coming from the piano when they practice. I have also noticed the damper pedal on my own piano has started to squeak. What causes a piano to develop these annoying sounds?

A non-musical sound coming from a musical instrument can be very distracting. The piano action is a complex mechanism of over 900 moving parts. It is amazing the action works as quietly as it does. Common causes of a noisy action are worn or missing felt, incorrect regulation, loose hammer heads, or a foreign object, such as a pencil or scrap of paper, inside the action.

Worn or hardened dampers can buzz when they come in contact with vibrating strings. Keys can make a clicking sound if worn felts allow them to come in contact with one another. Pedals often develop a squeak (especially the damper pedal), when linkage and brackets are loose or bushings are worn. Unfortunately, many new pianos come from the factory with pedal noise.

Foreign objects in the piano are a common cause of noise. A single paper clip resting on the soundboard, or a pencil that has dropped behind the fallboard can cause a loud buzz or rattle.

Parts of the piano cabinet can vibrate as the piano is being played. Loose hinges, locks, or fallboard brackets are often guilty of making buzzing sounds. Objects sitting on top of or near the piano can vibrate "sympathetically" to certain pitches. Even items on the far side of the room can respond to musical pitches. Crystal chandeliers and expensive glassware are often guilty of "singing" along with the piano.

You can sometimes track down a piano noise with the help of a second person, who strikes the offending key repeatedly, while you try to zero in on the source. Try moving items on or around the piano. Make sure hinges and other hardware items are tight and secure. If the sound is coming from inside the piano or from the pedal lyre, it is best to contact your piano technician who is experienced in tracking down and eliminating unwelcome sounds.

The Piano Doctor answers your questions about pianos. Please submit question to *Con Brio*.