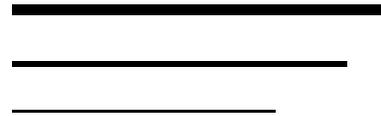


# CON BRIO



## Oregon Music Teachers' Association, Inc. Eugene District

Affiliated with the Music Teachers' National Association, Inc.



Opus 201

April 2009

page 1

**Monday, April 13, 2009**  
**Home of Mary Elma Shotts**  
**2235 Turnberry Court,**  
**Eugene**

**April District Meeting**

majoring in voice and piano. She also has completed her A.R.C.T. Teacher and Performance Diplomas for piano with the Royal Conservatory of Music. Ursula has taught piano and voice privately for fourteen years and is also currently an adjunct instructor at Eugene Bible College. In addition she continues to be active as pianist, accompanist, vocalist, church musician and choral director.

The program planned for April 13 is guaranteed to give information valuable for members and their students. Ursula Damgaard will present *Preventing Injury at the Piano through Efficient Practicing*, based on studies she did for her Master of Music Degree in Piano Pedagogy from the University of Oregon. During her lecture-demonstration she will share with us important research on this timely topic.

Originally from Alberta, Canada, Ursula received her Bachelor of Arts Degree with Distinction from Augustana University College,

The meeting will begin at 9:00 AM with refreshments provided by Lucy Clevenger and Sandy Hull at the home of Mary Elma Shotts. Her lovely new home is easy to find just off Oakway Road at 2235 Turnberry Court, a new street north of Oakway Center. There is limited parking on Turnberry and ample parking on the east side of Oakway Road. We look forward to seeing you there!

### Looking Ahead to May 11...

Once again we have been able to secure the beautiful Rogue Room at Valley River Inn for our traditional May Meeting. We can look forward to a lovely view of the river and to a gourmet brunch prepared by Chef Michael Thieme, husband of our own Melissa. We have been given the special price of \$12.95 including gratuity, so plan to take this as a business expense as we meet for our once-a-year Very Special Event. Please place your reservation early by e-mailing to [virginiabuhn@comcast.net](mailto:virginiabuhn@comcast.net). Payment may be made on the day of the brunch with a check made out to Eugene District, OMTA.

### Scholarships Available for Needy Students

The Jane Thomas Memorial Scholarship is made available to needy, hard-working students with exceptional talent, and is to be used for private study with an OMTA teacher. A description of the scholarship and its parameters is on the OMTA Web site. Young students are happily considered. The application is to be filled out by the student's OMTA teacher. Applications are due by May 31 and should be sent to Jane Smith, Education Chair. For more information, e-mail Jane Smith at [janemendenhallsmith@yahoo](mailto:janemendenhallsmith@yahoo) or call 503 538 8848. Jane Smith  
Education Chair

## OMTA State Conference

July 31 - August 2, 2009

University of Oregon

Conference Artist: **Santiago Rodriguez**

## Spring District Recitals

Sunday, May 3, 2009

Wildish Community Theater, Springfield

**Deadline for entries: Saturday, April 18th!**

Eugene District website: [www.oma-eugene.org](http://www.oma-eugene.org)

## Treasurer's Report

Checking Account balance on 03/01/2009: \$ 980.19

### EXPENSES

March 1, 2009 - April 1, 2009

| DATE     | DESCRIPTION                  | AMOUNT          |
|----------|------------------------------|-----------------|
| 03/06/09 | Qwest telephone              | 37.08           |
| 03/06/09 | PEAK Internet                | 19.90           |
| 03/06/09 | March Con Brio               | 66.12           |
| 03/16/09 | Alma Marianos                | 80.00           |
| 03/18/09 | City of Eugene - Hult Center | 440.54          |
|          | <b>TOTAL</b>                 | <b>\$643.64</b> |

### INCOME

March 1, 2009 - April 1, 2009

| DESCRIPTION              | AMOUNT          |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Dues                     | 17.00           |
| Hult Center student fees | 747.00          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>             | <b>\$764.00</b> |

Checking Account balance on 04/01/2009: \$1,100.55



## Con Brio

April 2009

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

President: Carolyn McHan      Corresponding Sec: Sarah Burch  
 Vice-President: Virginia Buhn      Recording Sec: Neil Patton  
 Treasurer: Wyatt Burger      Past President: Claire Wachter

*Con Brio* founder and first publisher: Lea Mirabella

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, and can also be accessed on the district website.

Wyatt L. Burger, editor  
 e-mail: [westlanepiano@cvcable.com](mailto:westlanepiano@cvcable.com)

Savings Account balance on 04/01/2009: \$3,249.83

6 Month Certificate: \$2,216.34

Respectfully submitted,

*Wyatt L. Burger*

Eugene District Treasurer

For those of you itching for a new book to read, on one of these cool Spring evenings, I have a superb recommendation. Just this week I delivered "All You Have to Do Is Listen—Music From the Inside Out" by Rob Kapilow to the Eugene Public Library.

This book was chosen, in collaboration with Barnes & Noble and Nancy Horner, Adult Services manager of the library and was given by our District in loving memory of Helen Hunter. We have placed a plaque in the book with a fitting tribute to Helen and it is now ready to be checked out.

As Nancy Horner and I spoke last week she expressed her appreciation for the library in receiving such a technologically exciting new book. The author has created a web link so the reader can download musical examples to follow as they read the text of the book. Nancy found the book "full of marvelous ideas, dignified, yet cheerful with a depth that fills a void in musical writing."

Rob Kapilow, creator of What Makes It Great on NPR wrote this book out of his passion to help audiences understand and find deep enjoyment from the music they hear. This passion began as a doctoral student at Yale when he was conducting their symphony orchestra and took on a moonlighting job in NYC directing a Broadway musical. He observed that Broadway musical audiences "got the music" whereas his symphony audiences sometimes didn't. This started him on his NPR series and eventually to the writing of this new book published last Fall.

I'm hoping the link to the web will perk the interest of some of our computer whiz students. Possibly some of us can request these whiz students to share their expertise and help us utilize this new approach.

Yours for enrichment in reading and listening,

Carolyn McHan

## *Minutes of the March 9, 2009 Meeting*

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 AM at the home of Virginia Buhn, with Virginia Buhn, Vice-President presiding. The minutes of the February 9 meeting were approved as printed in the March 2009 Con Brio. Treasurer Wyatt Burger reported no change since the report printed in the March Con Brio.

Committee Chairs reported as follows:

Carol White in absentia: The Spring Theme Festival was held at the Hult Center on Sunday, March 1, with 108 entries representing 24 studios. Because of problems with the piano in The Studio, the house manager said no fee would be charged for use of the Steinway. A full report will be prepared for Con Brio when all information is available.

Sharon Turner: The Original Composition Celebration will be held on April 5 in The Studio beginning at 2 PM. Teachers are urged to encourage students to submit entries by the deadline, March 13.

Lucy Clevenger: An e-mail reminder will be sent for the Spring Syllabus deadline of March 20.

Sarah Burch in absentia: The Eugene District Spring Recitals will be held at the Wildish Theater on May 3; deadline April 18.

Jean Wilson: A reminder that Clavier magazine has merged with keyboard Companion and is available at a group rate.

Delores Tiktin: The Eugene District website is up and running and members are encouraged to utilize it.

Mary Ellen Yost: The suggestion was made that the December 2009 Barnes & Noble Event include performances by students on Saturday as well as Sunday. Discussion will take place at a later date.

There was no unfinished business or new business to come before the group.

Announcements:

Lincoln County District has asked all OMTA members to help publicize the Newport Performing Arts Center's acquisition of equipment for receiving high definition simulcasts of Metropolitan Opera performances.

A flyer was distributed inviting live performances in the Artisans Studio during the Lane County Fair, August 18-23.

Benedetto Lupo will conduct a masterclass in The Studio at the Hult Center on Monday, March 16, at 4 PM.

Nancy Harris and Ellen McQuilkin were thanked for providing refreshments. The next meeting will be held at the home of Mary Elma Shotts. Ursala Damgaard will present a program on *Preventing Injury at the Piano through Efficient Practicing*.

Following the meeting Alm a Marianos of Salem gave an informative lecture-demonstration titled *Robert Muczynski Revisited*, well received by the membership.

### *May District Meeting*

May 11, 2009

Rogue Room, Valley River Inn

email Virginia Buhn at [virginiabuhn@comcast.net](mailto:virginiabuhn@comcast.net)

if you plan to attend!

**The deadline for submitting materials for the  
May 2009 issue of *Con Brio* is  
Saturday, May 2, 2009.  
Send to [westlanepiano@cvcable.com](mailto:westlanepiano@cvcable.com)**

Visit the OMTA website at

[www.oregonmta.org](http://www.oregonmta.org)

where you will find

*Music News* online

Forms for OMTA Syllabus and festivals

OMTA billing form

Directory of Oregon districts

Calendar of events

## *Composition Celebration*

Our Composition Celebration held this last Sunday, April 6 in The Studio of the Hult Center was more than we hoped or dreamed of. We had 11 students ages 7 - 17 who presented their pieces. They are as follows:

Gia Means Barnhart, Maya Ordway, Harrison Wiesert, Isaac Palmer, Callista Hunt, Thomas Meinzen, Manya Maleki, Neeva Kirtner, Simon Ewing, Ethan Bursofsky, and Erick Hendricks.

We did something new this year by having a panel of Judges/Cheering team. Daniel Burgh, the Adjudicator, Eularee Smith, and Neil Patton. Daniel, who is involved with the Portland Composition Program gave very insightful comments encouraging the students and complementing them on their use of different styles, modes, time signatures and their creativity. Eularee and Neil, who had not heard the music ahead of time, also gave on-the-spot evaluations that were also very insightful and positive. A big thank you to our panel for making this program so interesting for all participating and attending.

The way our program ran was that I would ask each student their age, if they had composed any pieces before and why they had named the piece what they did. This was really fun to hear about before they played because we could then really understand more of the musical picture. Afterwards they panel would give their evaluations and cheers. you could see each student's demeanor change from a bit uptight to glowing as the panel gave their kudos. What an outstanding and creative program.

Mr. Brugh's comments at the end of the program to me was that Eugene has some awesome talent. Then I asked the questions. How many will be going on to the honors recital in Portland next month? His answer was exactly what I would have chosen—ALL OF THEM! There wasn't one student that we could leave out because all of the students had such creatively clever and well written pieces.

A big thank you to the teachers who helped their students get their pieces written out and submitted on time. They are Genevieve Mason, Fern McArthur, NCTM, Ellen McQuilkin, NCTM, Patricia Morse, Betsy Parker, Sharon Turner, Mary Ellen Yost, and Jane Young.

Those of you who missed this monumental event can read about it in the Register-Guard, Monday's edition or on line at: <http://www.registerguard.com/csp/cms/sites/web/news/cityregion/11256334-41/story.csp>.

We want to thank Mark Baker for this fine story and are very happy about the positive publicity.

So, to all of you teachers who have students that are composing, keep working with them now so that we can have another fine Celebration next year.

*Sharon Turner*

District Composition Celebration Chair

Congratulations to **Cheryl Luan** who last week completed requirements for her Masters in Violin Performance from the University of Oregon.

### **Volunteer Musician Wanted**

To play or practice and have fun for an hour or so in the Artisans Studio, at the Lane County Fair which runs Aug. 18 through 23. Volunteers will be given a free Fair pass for the day. There is a piano and PA system in the Atrium. A poster, naming the volunteers will be displayed. If interested call or email Dale or Carol Fournert, 461-3183 or [dfourt@msn.com](mailto:dfourt@msn.com).

### **Offering to House-Sit Upright Piano**

I am interested in house-sitting a high-quality upright piano in my home at 2449 Harris St. Please contact Soria Phillips-Meadow at 484-7090 or [eands@q.com](mailto:eands@q.com) for more information.

## *Spring Theme Festival*

**March 1, 2009  
The Studio, Hult Center  
Eugene, Oregon**

Our Eugene District Spring Theme Festival, "Music That Dances and Moves," was a success. We received 108 student entries representing 24 teachers. We had five recitals: 11:30 AM, 12:30, 1:45, 3:00 and 4:15 PM; the shortest recital timed out at approximately 30 minutes, the longest at approximately 49 minutes. Twenty minutes was allowed between each recital for pictures and time to clear the Studio area so as not have student families feel rushed in and out. I heard positive comments from families about the opportunity of playing at the Hult Center. A beautiful floral decoration from Janie Kaminski's church was added to the "stage" area.

Our total student entries were down this year from last year (199 entries in '08 to 107 entries for '09). Studios represented remained the same at 24 teachers participating. Students participating ranged in age from 6 years to one adult student. Repertoire ranged from syllabus level 2 through level 10. Students performed from memory as well as using their music.

Many teachers deserve thanks for their help with this recital, especially Nobu LeBeau as co-chair, Wyatt Burger for the programs, Sandy Hull for being the MC for the first 2 programs and all the teachers who helped check in students and make the day run very smoothly. An especially big thank you to Dave Chase who must have broken at least a few speeding laws in order to go home and get his tuning equipment and tune up the piano before the 3 PM and 4:15 PM recitals.

### Discussion:

Once again, the major problem this year was a terribly out of tune piano at the start of the recitals. As a result of the condition of the piano in 2008, I requested in the Hult contract that the piano be tuned the day before our 2009 event; however, the piano was terribly out of tune at the beginning of the recitals. This year, I called the house manager who came down, heard the piano and gave David Chase permission to tune. The house manager told me that after talking with Theresa, we would not be charged for the piano. He also said that the piano had been tuned the day before but was used the night before for a Hult event. Thanks to David, the piano was tolerable for the remaining recitals; but tolerable is not what these students deserve. I emailed Theresa with our concerns. The final bill from the Hult has all charges regarding the piano removed.

A secondary problem continues to be sight lines for the audience. A portable stage is available at the Hult, however the cost of this stage has been the reason we have not pursued it.

### Financial:

Once again, because of a generous grant from Chambers Family Foundation, we were able to hold this recital at the Hult Center. I will send a follow-up report with recital programs to Chambers Family Foundation and also make application for a 2010 grant. There are no guarantees that we will receive any grant money for 2010.

2009 Income: \$ 500.00 Grant from Chambers Family Foundation  
\$ 740.00 Student entry fees  
\$1,240.00 TOTAL

2009 Expenses: \$640.54 Hult Center Rental Fee (total fee, a \$200 deposit was paid in the Fall)  
\$ 85.00 Programs and misc.  
\$725.54 TOTAL

Net profit: \$514.46

*Carol White*

Spring Theme Festival Co-Chair



# EUGENE DISTRICT OMTA *Annual Questionnaire*



Spring 2009

*Please complete the questionnaire and bring to the April meeting, or mail to Virginia Buhn, Program Chair.*

## STUDIO MANAGEMENT

1. Do you charge: \_\_\_\_\_ by the lesson                      \_\_\_\_\_ by the month                      \_\_\_\_\_ by the term
2. Fee per hour: \$ \_\_\_\_\_
3. Do you add a fee for late payments? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Has the current recession affected your studio? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, how? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. How long are your private lessons? \_\_\_\_\_
6. How often do you have group lessons? \_\_\_\_\_
7. How often do you schedule studio recitals? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Are your students: \_\_\_\_\_ Pre-school                      \_\_\_\_\_ Elem./Middle                      \_\_\_\_\_ High School                      \_\_\_\_\_ Adults
9. Do you incorporate computer learning in your studio? \_\_\_\_\_
10. What method books do you find most successful? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. What theory books/aids do you find most successful? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. Do you have favorite "Pupil Savers" to share? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
13. Where do you purchase music? \_\_\_\_\_

## EUGENE DISTRICT

14. What district programs have been most valuable to you this year? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
15. What topics and/or presenters would you recommend for next year? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
16. Which OMTA events are most helpful/enjoyable for your students? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Please use the back for additional suggestions, thoughts, and questions. Thank you!*