



Con Brio

Oregon Music Teachers'
Association, Inc.
Eugene District

Affiliated with the Music Teachers' National Association, Inc.

Opus 226

December 2011

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Dear Colleagues,

The brisk air, the glistening snow in the foothills of the Cascades, and the trucks heading South filled with the scent of fir trees, all remind me that our Christmas potluck is just around the corner. A very special program is planned for your enjoyment. I hope many of you, along with your spouse or a companion, can join together at Fern McArthur's, 2128 Elysium Ave, Eugene, December 12, for dinner at 7:00 pm. Ben Corbin, a Masters of Music student of Dean Kramer's, who just won the George Hopkins award from the Kiwanis Club, will perform for us. It promises to be a wonderful evening of fellowship and music.

Remember you can slip in at any time. You'll be welcome whenever your schedule allows you to get away.

Our year is well underway and we have been enriched with stimulating programs. There is reason for the Eugene District to rejoice! Our recitals, Fall Syllabus, and the Barnes & Noble Play-a-thon have all been successful. Each of you who have chaired these events has done excellent work in organization and in keeping to your budget. Thanks to the chairs and also to each teacher who has taught, encouraged and prepared your students to be a part of these events. We are so fortunate to have members who give generously of their talents to enrich our community with the joy of music.

In the midst of the bustle of the holiday season, some of us are dealing with challenges. We have been saddened to hear of the passing of Eularee's father. Our thoughts and prayers are with you, Eularee.

A serious lung infection placed Carol White in the hospital for more than a week. She is home recuperating. We pray that healing and strength will steadily return so you can again be teaching and join us soon, Carol.

Genevieve had looked forward to being a part of this year's Holiday dinner program, but an unexpected serious illness has befallen her father and has taken her too France. Our prayers are with you and your father, Genevieve.

As we have opportunity to be with family and friends this Holiday season let us cherish each moment and find time to give them appreciation for the ways that they bring joy and enrichment to our lives.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to All,

Carolyn McHan,
President, Eugene District OMTA

December 12th: Eugene District Holiday Potluck and Music!

Fern McArthur has invited us to her lovely home for our annual district holiday potluck. We hope that all our members and their spouses can join us for a festive evening of food and entertainment on Monday, December 12, at 7 PM. We are very fortunate to have Ben Corbin as our guest artist. He is studying at the U Of O for a Master's in Music Performance under Dean Kramer. He just won the George Hopkins award from the Kiwanis Club. In January of 2011 he won 2nd place in the Coeur d'Alene Symphony Young Artists' Competition, and was winner of University of Oregon Concerto Competition 2009-2010 (Totentanz).

An RSVP to Fern will help her in planning, but don't stay away if you discover at the last minute you can come and you haven't notified her.

Please bring your favorite dish to the potluck. It can be a main dish, salad, dessert, etc. Carolyn would appreciate an e-mail or phone call if you are going to be there. It will help her to plan for the evening.

January 9th Meeting: Teachers' Panel

In January we will have a "Teachers' Panel" with three of our members: Lucy Clevenger, David Cragun and Ursula Damgaard. They will answer questions that I have prepared for them.

Delores Tiktin

District Vice President/Program Chair

Fall Syllabus

Fall Syllabus took place on November 12 and 13 at the U of O School of Music studios. Our adjudicators were Heidi Evans and Liz Willis. 25 students and ten teachers participated this year. There were twenty successful evaluations, three demonstrations and two forfeits. The event went smoothly and uneventfully.

Special thanks to Dean Kramer for letting us use his studio, and to Crystal Zimmerman for being the best liaison there is. Also thanks to all the teachers for their hard work.

Lucy Clevenger

Syllabus Chair

OMTA Composition Festival
Deadline for submissions: February 17, 2012

I am delighted to announce that our adjudicator for the upcoming Composition Festival will be Simon Hutchinson.

Simon is a PhD candidate in composition at the University of Oregon, holding degrees from Bates College and the University of California, Santa Cruz. In addition to his academic education, Hutchinson spent several years in Japan studying shamisen (three-stringed lute) and Japanese Folk Music with virtuoso Sato Asao and shakuhachi (vertical bamboo flute) with Sato Chikuen. Now, drawing on experience from this diverse background, he composes unique works integrating music of different cultures and styles, exploring themes of nature, humanity, and global community.

Hutchinson's music has been performed across the US as well as in Japan, South Korea, and Portugal, including at various music festivals and conferences, such as the SEAMUS National Conference (2011, 2012), Miso Music Portugal (2010, 2011), the Music Today Festival (2011), April in Santa Cruz (2006, 2007), and the Oregon Bach Festival Composers Symposium (2009).

Ellen McQuilkin
Composition Festival Chair

Announcing
OMTA Composition Workshops
Saturday, January 14, 2012
Eugene Piano Academy

Session 1: 2:30pm
Session 2: 4:30pm

These workshops are designed for students age 6-10 who wish to use musical tools they are learning in piano lessons in a creative way. Through experimentation and improvisation with rhythms, students will compose melodies and discover simple ways to harmonize them. We will provide guidance in notation so that each student can come away with their own short composition. Headphones or earbuds are required.

Workshops will be lead by Susane Reis and Ellen McQuilkin. Cost is \$10.00 per session. Enrollment forms will be available on the web in December 2011.

For more information, contact Susane or Ellen

Refreshments provided!

A Thank You to Our Membership from Lea Mirabella

Dear Friends,

For a very long time I have agonized over how to express my gratitude for your kind support through the beautiful cards and flowers you sent. When the going was rough, rereading the cards warmed my heart, and renewed my determination to heal and get on with life. Thank you so much!

I love you all,
Lea

The deadline for submitting articles and announcements for the December 2011 issue of Con Brio is Saturday, December 3, 2011.

Send your news and announcements to district members between regular issues of Con Brio!

Simply submit the news item or announcement as usual, indicating you would like it sent immediately. It will be formatted and sent via email to all members.

Con Brio

November 2011

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

President: Carolyn McHan, Vice-President: Delores Tiktin, Treasurer: Wyatt Burger,

Corresponding Sec: David Cragun, Recording Sec: Neil Patton, 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 posted on the Eugene District website on the Wednesday prior to the monthly meeting.

Neil Patton, editor