



Con Brio

Oregon Music Teachers'
Association, Inc.
Eugene District

Affiliated with the Music Teachers' National Association, Inc.

Opus 239

March 2013

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President's Corner

Many thanks to **Carol White** who put in many hours of work as chair of both the District and the Regional Jr. Bach Festivals. She did a wonderful job putting on two lovely festivals. Thanks also to all the teachers for preparing their students so well.

I would like to take this opportunity to encourage all our members to attend the **2013 State Conference**. It will be in Bend, Oregon from June 27th to June 30th. Our guest artist Peter Mack will be giving three presentations, a master class on duets and a recital. He is an excellent and a very entertaining speaker and musician. There will be housing rebates available from the Nellie Tholen fund.

If you haven't done so take a look at the State website. It has had a complete makeover.

At our **March District meeting** we will have a presentation by one of our members, **Linda Spangler**. It is titled *Teaching Jazz: Welcome to 7th Heaven*. A quote from Linda regarding her presentation: "When seventh chords fall by fifths, magical things happen musically and kinesthetically. Start you students with easy closest-position 'inchworm' voicings, then move on to luscious 'open' voicings or suave 'shell' voicings. Learn how to use a cardboard Wheel of Fifths and songs like *Heart & Soul*, *Autumn Leaves* and *On the Sunny Side of the Street* to teach normal seventh travel in the Key of C."

The District meeting will be on Monday, March 11th at Linda Spangler's home at 2441 Emerald St. (near UO, between Onyx and Agate). The meeting will begin with a social/refreshment time at 9:00, the business meeting at 9:30 and the presentation from 10:30 to 11:30. Hope to see you there.

Sonatina Festival, Fall 2013: The State OMTA will be taking over the Sonatina Festival. This year it will be in Eugene on Saturday, October 26th at the University of Oregon. Cheri Richardson from the Roseburg district is the chair of the festival. She will be sending us more information soon. We will need volunteers from our district to monitor the four adjudicator rooms. The recital will be in room 190 where the Jr. Bach Festival took place. It is a very nice venue.

Looking Ahead to April 8th District Meeting (change of place). Dr. Barry Hannigan from Buchnell University will be giving us a presentation on *Piano Pieces from late 20th century and 21st century*. The meeting will be held at the First Congregational Church, 2050 E. 23rd, **not the U of O** as stated in the Yearbook.

Musically yours,

Delores Tiktin

Spring Syllabus

Dear Colleagues,

Spring syllabus forms and fees are due Friday, March 8. Please do not send a stamped envelope. If you have any questions contact me at lucyclevenger@gmail.com.

Lucy Clevenger
Syllabus chair
1142 Brookside drive
Eugene, OR 97405

OMTA Composition Festival

Deadline for composition entries is Friday, March 15, 2013!

The deadline for entries of original student compositions is Friday, March 15, 2013. Please submit all compositions and fees to me by that date, or contact me by then to let me know if you need more time. Students should notate his/her own composition, either by hand or by using a computer program. There is no need to submit a recording of the work unless it is for instrument(s) other than piano. See the complete event description, required fees, and entry form posted on our district website.

The OMTA Composition Celebration is a statewide event that provides students with a unique opportunity to both perform their original compositions and have them adjudicated by experienced composers.

Our adjudicator this year will be Rebecca Oswald. Rebecca is an award-winning U.S. composer with many areas of experience and excellence. In 1998 Rebecca earned her Bachelor of Music degree in Music Theory and Composition, *summa cum laude*, from Westminster Choir College of Rider University in Princeton, N.J., where she studied composition with Joel Phillips, Stefan Young, and Ronald Hemmel, and piano with Lillian Livingston. In 2001 she earned her Master of Music degree in Music Composition from the University of Oregon School of Music in Eugene, Oregon, where she studied composition with Robert Kyr and David Crumb. Rebecca currently lives in Oregon. She occasionally tours, performing her original solo piano music in concert.

Student composers will have the opportunity to present his/her piece to the public on one of the April 21 "Spring Theme Festival" programs at Westminster Presbyterian Church. Rebecca will be there to present certificates and announce the winning "Honored Composers", 25-30% entrants who will advance to the state event (details TBA).

Ellen McQuilkin
Composition Festival Chair

District Junior Bach Festival:

Two recitals were held on Sunday, February 3. Six students entered the non-competitive division and 29 students entered the competitive divisions. We were able to have both recitals with competitive and non-competitive students alike. Care was taken with the programs so that no one in the audience was aware of the non-competitive and competitive distinctions. Students were extremely well prepared for the recital and all played beautifully. The adjudicators, Ron Fabro and Julia Lee, chose the following students to go on to the Regional Event:

Division I: William Yu (student of Betsy Parker Steinhardt)

Division II: Cassidy Nairns (student of Betsy Parker Steinhardt); Isabella Miller (student of Ellen McQuilkin); Kate Vu (student of Lucy Clevenger)

Division III: Anzo DeGiulio (student of Ellen McQuilkin); Peter Shen (student of Lucy Clevenger); Anna Laptova (student of Lucy Clevenger); Ellwood Zwovic 3 time medal winner (student of Winnie Kerner)

Division IV: Elaine Disney (student of Winnie Kerner); Mizuo Nagayama (student of Alexander Schwarzkopf); Grant Crider-Phillips (student of Delores Tiktin); Micah Sundholm (student of Neil Patton)

In the future, I would ask teachers to be very careful in filling out the entry forms. It would be very helpful to have first and last names as well as the key and the catalogue number. This will save the chair much time in typing programs.

My thanks to Betsy Parker for her excellent proofreading skills on the programs and Crystal Zimmerman, Lucy Clevenger and Sandy Hull for assisting the adjudicators.

Carol White
Event Chair

The deadline for submitting articles and announcements for the April 2013 issue of Con Brio is Saturday, March 23, 2013.

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.

Regional Junior Bach Festival

Two recitals were held in Room 190 at the UO School of Music on Sunday, February 17, 2013. Twenty-three students were entered with one unable to participate. The first recital was made up of students in Divisions I and II; the second recital was students in Divisions III and IV. The students were all outstanding and the level of playing was wonderful. Additionally, we had a photographer and reporter from the Eugene Register-Guard attending with a fine article about the students and the programs appearing in Monday, February 18th Register Guard.

Our adjudicator, Elizabeth Willis, chose the following students to continue to the State Final:

Division I: Michael Gu (student of Rachelle McCabe)

Division II: Joshua Kang (student of Rachelle McCabe) and Lucy Lin (student of Anthea Kreston)

Division III: Elizabeth Yin (student of Rachelle McCabe), Anzo DeGiulio (student of Ellen McQuilkin) and Elwood Zwovic, 3 time medal winner (student of Winnie Kerner)

Division IV: Micah Sundholm (student of Neil Patton)

Honorable mentions: Martin Wang (student of Craig Hanson), Anabel Chang (student of Sunghee Kim) and Alvin Chang (student of Sunghee Kim)

Many, many thanks to Betsy Parker again for her proofreading, Lucy Clevenger for helping set up chairs and checking students in and Sandy Hull for assisting the adjudicator.

Carol White
Event Chair



Con Brio

March 2013

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

President: Delores Tiktin, Vice-President: Genevieve Mason, Treasurer: Wyatt Burger,
Corresponding Sec: Janie Kaminski, Recording Sec: David Cragun, Past President: Carolyn McHann
Con Brio founder and first publisher: Lea Mirabella

All materials for publication are due on the fourth Saturday of each month.

Con Brio is posted on the Eugene District website on the Wednesday prior to the monthly meeting.

Neil Patton, editor

New Member Snapshot

Gus Russell Piano and Flute Teacher

I've been playing piano since first grade, studying mostly classical music until high school. There I was introduced to jazz and studied it voraciously through college. I graduated from the University Of Oregon School of Music in 1983 as a piano and flute major. For the last 29 years I've been teaching and performing almost every musical style imaginable; jazz, latin, blues, rock, country, gospel, show tunes, etc. My main instruments are piano and flute; but I have extensive experience with the Hammond organ, samplers, synthesizers and hand percussion. I'm currently playing for modern dance classes at the University of Oregon; mostly piano, dumbek, djembe and flute. This has been a great challenge performing multiple styles of music, solid tempos, constantly changing phrase lengths and time signatures, and of course, improvising on the spot.



As a piano teacher; I focus on technique, theory, repertoire and ear training to give my students a well-rounded background. I've been using OMTA Syllabus guidelines for the last few years, even though I just joined. I teach all levels - from beginners who want to learn general musicianship, to advanced students who want to focus on a specific style. My strong suits include: jazz, gospel, blues, country, funk and rock piano. I also teach classical piano up to an intermediate level. As a flute teacher, I teach classical, some world music (Irish and Celtic) as well as jazz improvising. Most of my flute students are involved in school bands, but I also have adults who want to play duets or learn jazz improvisation.

I also have a project studio that has sophisticated recording, MIDI, sampling and notation capabilities. I teach composing, MIDI arranging, Pro Tools, computer aided notation (Sibelius) and sound design. These days I'm able to do a good amount of 'virtual' studio work - people send me files, I record parts, then send them off to the project coordinator to marry them back into the project.

Besides teaching, accompanying and recording I do live performances. Currently, I play solo piano at LaVelles Wine Bar (in the 5th Street Public Market); jazz with Paul Biondi every Wednesday at Macs at the Vets Club; funk and soul music with Soulicious (a 7 piece dance band) and vocal jazz duo with Laurie Hammond.

I'm look forward to meeting fellow members of OMTA in the coming months.