



Con Brio

Oregon Music Teachers'
Association, Inc.
Eugene District

Affiliated with the Music Teachers' National Association, Inc.

Opus 245

November 2013

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President's Corner

We are looking forward to a presentation by Dr. Beverly Serra Brooks at our district meeting on Monday, November 11th. The subject will be "Beyond the Lingo: What is the Tobias Matthey Principal?" It is partially funded by a Nellie Tholen grant.

There will be refreshments and social time beginning at 9:00, a short business meeting at 9:20 and the two-hour presentation from 9:45 to 11:45.

I would like to thank Soria Phillips-Meadow for chairing another very successful Festival of Popular Music in October. We really appreciate the work of all our event chairs.

Get ready for another December holiday gathering at Virginia Buhn's home for refreshments, socializing and entertainment by our members. It will be Monday morning, December 9th.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone at the November meeting.

Musically yours,

Delores Tiktin

Celebrating Lea Mirabella

On September 29th, 2013, members gathered at Lea Mirabella's home for a very special afternoon. In honor of Lea's 100th birthday, a party was held to celebrate the incredible contributions she has made to the Eugene OMTA and piano pedagogy and above all to cherish what a wonderful person she is.

Beautiful music was performed by Genevieve, Betsy and Victor. Virginia Buhn gave a marvelous tribute to Lea's rich life and amazing accomplishments. Afterwards, Christine presented her mother with a gorgeous scrapbook containing photos, writings and memorabilia from countless colleagues and friends from over the years.

Thank you so much to Virginia, Fern, Sandy and Nobuko for their help with the party – we couldn't have done it without such a wonderful group of friends helping out! Thank you, Delores, for suggesting that we honor Lea Mirabella with such a celebration. Finally, I'd like to thank all of you for coming out amidst the pouring rain and wind to celebrate one of our most treasured members.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY LEA!

With many thanks,

Soria

***Students demonstrate excellent musicianship and technique
at the 2013 Festival of Popular Music***

On Sunday, October 22th, 11 teachers and 52 students participated in the 2013 Festival of Music from 2:00-5:00 at the United Lutheran Church. Students were well prepared and played with enthusiasm. We were happy to welcome one of our newest members, Paul Safar, to the Festival this year. Paul's students contributed an amazing level of creativity and love of their music to the Festival.

I appreciate everyone for preparing their students so early in the season and making the Festival a success. What an impressive way to begin the new year!

I want to give special thanks to Sandy for all her help especially in announcing the programs and making everyone feel so welcome and comfortable. I also want to thank Carol White for so graciously greeting families and handing out programs. Thank you to Alexis Gibbons for her help in typing the programs as well as to all the teachers for proofreading the programs. Finally, I'd like to thank Delores for all her support along the way. Having her encouragement made all the difference in making my way through chairing the Festival this year.

I have enjoyed working with all of you over the past several years on the Pop Festival, however, I am retiring as Festival Chair. For anyone interested in chairing this recital, I have organized the Festival planning and would be happy to go through all the details for a smooth transition.

One of the items to discuss for next year is the start time. The last church service at United Lutheran begins at 11:00, so a 1:00 recital is too early. However, with so many students needing an early recital time, it might be helpful to consider starting at 1:30. Other concerns or suggestions can be discussed at future meetings.

Thank you again for making the Festival so successful!

Sincerely,

Soria Phillips-Meadow
eands@q.com

**The deadline for submitting articles and announcements for the December 2013 issue
of Con Brio is Sunday, Dec 1, 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.

Eugene District Membership News:

On behalf of the Eugene District OMTA I would like to give a warm welcome to our newest members from Montana - April Lane, Piano and Sam Taylor, Violin, Viola and Guitar.

April and Sam have been teaching music for many years and most recently the past 10 years at the North Valley Music School in Whitefish, Montana where they also have private studios. They both have recently relocated to Eugene to work on graduate degrees at the University of Oregon. They continue to travel back and forth to Montana to teach their current students but are also both seeking new students in the Eugene area.

April has a Bachelor and Masters degree in music from the University of Northern Colorado. She is a registered Suzuki piano teacher through Book 2 and is also an accomplished accompanist. She is looking forward to working on a graduate degree in accompanying at the U of O next fall. In her spare time she enjoys taking care of her 2 husky dogs and rescue horses.

Sam has music degrees from the Royal Conservatory of Music in Brussels, Belgium and Muziekkonservatorium in Kanton Zurich, Switzerland. He is currently a graduate student in violin performance at the U of O and is a registered Suzuki violin teacher through Book 2. We are very happy to welcome more string teachers in our district and hope this is a new trend for our membership.

I am still looking for volunteer mentors to assist new members to becoming a vital part of our organization. I know everyone is busy and I promise it isn't a huge time commitment. It is really fun to get to know these new members and hear about their exciting careers. It is just a matter of a welcoming phone call to say hi and see if the new member has any questions or invite them to one of our meetings. Please come see me at the next meeting if you are interested or contact me 541-485-3524 or email hullpiano@gmail.com.

Sincerely submitted,
Sandy Hull, NCTM
Eugene District Membership Chair

Con Brio

November 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

Sonatina Festival Results

The 4th annual OMTA Sonata/Sonatina Festival took place Saturday, October 26 at the University of Oregon. Congratulations to Cheri Richardson, Chair and all the volunteers for the day for a successful festival. It was a very busy day as there were 4 judges this year each judging a group of lower and upper division of students from levels 1-10. Auditions were scheduled from 12-1:45. This was the first year parents and friends were allowed to be in room during the audition. The final performance of the 1st place winners took place at 2:30 in room 190. Each level honored 1st and 2nd place with trophies and Honorable Mentions received a medal. All students received a participation ribbon and comments. Congratulations to all the students and the 18 teachers that participated from around the state.

Sandy Hull

LEVEL 1

1st - Hope Tran

Teacher - Huong Phan - Portland

2nd - Natalie Richardson

Teacher - Cheri Richardson -

Roseburg

Honorable Mention

Anabel Bounds

Teacher - Majorie Connet - Roseburg

LEVEL 2

1st - Kaitlyn Brinkman

Teacher - Marjorie Connet -

Roseburg

2nd - Colton Kohler

Teacher - Sandy Hull - Eugene

Honorable Mention

Priscilla Tam

Teacher - Sandy Hull - Eugene

Colin Kopf

Teacher - Laura Davis - Tualatin

Valley

Taylor Brooks

Teacher - Cheri Richardson -

Roseburg

LEVEL 3

1st - Enya Wonderly

Teacher - Marjorie Connet -

Roseburg

2nd - Sydney Tran

Teacher - Huong Phan - Portland

Honorable Mention

Hanna Tran

Teacher - Huong Phan - Portland

Ashlynn Lander

Teacher - Cheri Richardson -

Roseburg

Megan Darmadi

Teacher - Sandy Hull - Eugene

LEVEL 4

1st - William Yu

Teacher - Betsy Parker - Eugene

2nd - Henry Sturges

Teacher - Anne Young - Tualatin

Valley

Honorable Mention

Derrick Nguyen

Teacher - Huong Phan - Portland

Tarah Burnham

Teacher - Cheri Richardson -

Roseburg

Elayna Lockwood

Teacher - Nobuko LeBeau - Eugene

LEVEL 5

1st - Joshua Kim

Teacher - Ron Fabbro - Portland

2nd - Jacob Mathison

Teacher - Stella Meinzer - Linn-

Benton

Honorable Mention

Nguyen Do

Teacher - Huong Phan - Portland

Isabel Yu

Teacher - Betsy Parker - Eugene

Abby Fedor

Teacher - Irena Ivanitsky - Salem

LEVEL 6

1st - Nathanael Koester

Teacher - Nobuko LeBeau - Eugene

2nd - Kate Vu

Teacher - Lucy Clevenger - Eugene

Honorable Mention

Alan Ma

Teacher - Elena Istratova - Portland

LEVEL 7

1st - William Race

Teacher - Betsy Parker - Eugene

LEVEL 8

1st - Meiling Larson

Teacher - Dorothy Grace Bernhard - Salem

2nd - Tessa Thurston

Teacher - Irena Ivanitsky - Salem

Honorable Mention

Anzo DeGiulio

Teacher - Ellen Mc Quilkin - Eugene

Dale Cummings

Teacher - Andrea Pauly - Tualatin

Valley

Michael Saulls

Teacher - Cheri Richardson -

Roseburg

LEVEL 9

1st - Claire Ku

Teacher - Majorie Janove - Portland

2nd - Polina Verkhovodova

Teacher - Elena Istratova - Portland

Honorable Mention

Danny Luo

Teacher - Elena Istratova - Portland

Peter Shen

Teacher - Lucy Clevenger - Eugene

Emma Shortt

Teacher - Sandy Hull - Eugene

LEVEL 10

1st - Aman Sharma

Teacher - Elena Istratova - Portland

2nd - Christina Lu

Teacher - Lucy Clevenger - Eugene

Honorable Mention

Tiffany Chen

Teacher - Elena Istratova - Portland

Congratulations to Lucy Clevenger for receiving her **National Certification** as a teacher with MTNA and OMTA. Well done, Lucy!

For more information on how you can receive your certification, visit <http://www.oma-eugene.org/certification.shtml> or contact Wilma Hawkins, our State Certification Chair.

OMTA Fundraising Opportunity



You are invited to support this OMTA fundraising opportunity again. Please encourage student parents and friends to host some wonderful Chinese students!

What: Hosting Chinese piano students and teachers participating in the
2014 Winter University of Oregon Music & English Camps

When: **January 21 - 27, 2014** OR
February 5 - 9, 2014

Note: Host family provides transportation, meals and hospitality. Guests may share a room but must have their own bed. Host families are strongly encouraged to host 2 guests. All host families are invited to participate in group camp activities.

Stipend: Stipend will be offered to cover expenses for meals, transportation, and activities. Host families are encouraged to donate part or all of their stipend to OMTA. **(The number of days may vary slightly due to travel arrangements; stipend will be prorated accordingly.)**

Contact Us: hostfamily@gpyinternational.org or Phone 541.968.5029

For more detailed information, visit www.gpyinternational.org/hostfamily.html



Pianist's Recital Preparation

Recitals are opportunities for our students to demonstrate what they have learned, show their growth in musical understanding and gain poise and confidence. They are also an educational introduction to the concert hall for both students and their families. Through teaching and practice, they learn considerate etiquette for the concert/recital hall.

In order to showcase the best of what our students can do, a solid preparation is essential for the student and their family. Here are some ideas we've gleaned from Virginia Buhn, Lea Mirabella and Dorothy Munz:

- Lay a firm foundation of technique and theory.
- Cover a wide selection of repertoire at each level. Include more than what is contained in the method books. There are so many choices of supplemental repertoire to delight and challenge the students.
- Develop concepts of style and expression with each piece. For example, how is the Mier jazz piece different from the Gillock waltz? Do the staccatos in the jazz piece sound the same as in the waltz? Help the student so he/she not only "feels" the expression but can project those feelings/sounds to the audience. Can the student's dynamic contrasts be easily heard from the back row? Compare and contrast with the student. Play and listen.
- Choose repertoire carefully for recitals. The method book is similar to the students' school reader, i.e., short stories covering educational concepts but not the stuff of book reports and special projects. The grade school student is excited to read those special books for reports. The same should hold for our selection of special pieces for performing at special events.
- Memorization - the key to reliable performance. Memorization should be expected at least three to four weeks ahead of the event. Teachers can drill the various memory spots to make the memory work secure.
- Rehearsals are paramount. Rehearse with the student on how to walk up, adjust the bench, mentally prepare, perform, bow and exit. Rehearse the piece at home with parents, friends, at school, with stuffed animals, etc. Rehearse and enjoy in special playing classes where students can share their special music with each other. These rehearsals can start with the shy student using his/her music, then gradually moving toward full memorization. The primary purpose is to grow and learn how to perform in front of others.
- Studio and OMTA recitals offer a more formal environment where students are encouraged to play to the best of their ability. Suggest that students "dress up" for this special event that showcases what they have accomplished.

Even with solid preparation, students are human and make mistakes. Even the best-prepared student will have off days. With solid preparation, students and teachers are better able to deal with mishaps along the way and continue to take on the challenge of performances and growth.