



# Con Brio

Oregon Music Teachers'  
Association, Inc.  
Eugene District

Affiliated with the Music Teachers' National Association, Inc.

Opus 248

February 2014

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## President's Corner

We were given an inspiring presentation by Gary Ruppert on *Pathway to Jazz* at the January district meeting. Forrest Kinney's workshops on March 8th and 9th on improvising and arranging tie in very well with Gary's presentation. Forrest Kinney's workshops will cover many styles of music other than jazz. If you are interested but haven't signed up for one or both of the workshops please contact Jane Young. There may still be openings. Class sizes are limited to ten. It should be a fun and educational weekend!

Our February 10th district meeting will be at Fern McArthur's home at 2128 Elysium, Eugene. The meeting will begin with refreshments and a social time at 9:00 a.m. , a business meeting at 9:30 and a presentation at 10:30. The presentation, *Cognitive Aspects of Learning: Talent*, will be given by our OMTA State President, Bonnie Esbensen. We look forward to seeing everyone.

Looking ahead: At our March 10th district meeting we will have a presentation by Lucy Clevenger and Susan Todd on *A Journey Through the New MTNA Certification Program* at Emerald Bible Fellowship in Eugene.

Please see the Weather and Event Cancellation Policy below. The policy will be on our district website under Recital Guidelines.

Musically Yours,

*Delores Tiklin*

## Weather and Event Cancellation Policy

1. In the event of emergency or hazardous weather, our executive board or our district president and recital chair reserves the right to cancel or postpone any event. These judgements will always be made with a mind toward the safety of our members and students. Sometimes the judgement will be that each teacher should decide with their students whether or not to participate. Other times the event might be cancelled
2. Trophy points will be awarded to students if an event is cancelled or if students are not able to attend the event because of hazardous driving conditions.
3. A cancelled event will not be rescheduled.

### Eugene District Membership News

On behalf of the Eugene District OMTA I would like to welcome two of our newest members, Lindsey Rodgers and Michael Seregow. Both members have significant backgrounds in music and we look forward to having them as active, vital members of our chapter. Look for their snapshot bios in future Con Brios.

Lindsey Rodgers just completed her Ph D in Musicology at the University of Oregon this past June, 2013. Her other degrees include a MM in Organ Performance from Yale University and a BA in Music from Walla Walla University in piano and organ. She also is a former student of our very own Lea Mirabella and Carolyn McHan.

Michael Seregow is in the process of completing requirements for a Doctorate Degree in Music from the University of Oregon this spring. His other degrees are a MM from the University of Oregon and a BA from George Fox University.

Members, if you know of anyone in our community who is interested in joining OMTA or just teaches music and wants to be more involved in the community, please invite them to our meetings and/or lectures the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month during the school year. These lectures are open to the public and there is no obligation to join. Just show up and enjoy the comraderie and maybe pick up some teaching ideas for their own studios. If you forward me their name, phone number or email, I would be happy to personally invite them as well. Please feel free to contact me at 541-485-3524 or email [hullpiano@gmail.com](mailto:hullpiano@gmail.com) if you have any questions regarding membership and how you can get involved.

Sincerely submitted,  
*Sandy Hull*, NCTM  
Eugene District Membership Chair

**The deadline for submitting articles and announcements for the March 2014 issue of Con Brio is Sunday, Feb 23, 2014.**

**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*

**February 2014**

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**

## **Forrest Kinney Intensives, March 8-9 "Pattern Play" and "Chord Play"**

Our October presenter, Forrest Kinney, is returning March 8-9 to offer us a more in-depth experience of his "Pattern Play" and "Chord Play" methods. We only have a couple spots to fill so please contact me right away to sign up. There is a maximum of 10 participants in each Intensive as these are very hands-on learning days. Those of you who are already comfortable with improvising and arranging will appreciate and quickly pick up Forrest's teaching ideas. Those of you who are more like me - stronger at note-reading than improvising - will be surprised to find yourself moving easily into this "other world" of musicianship, and having fun along the way.

One of the unexpected benefits of getting some of these patterns in my hands and brain is that my facility with classical literature has improved as well - improvement in any area of musicianship carries over to other areas.

Here's the schedule:

March 8th: Pattern Play (Improvisation), 9:30 am - 5:30 pm; working with lego-type musical patterns to improvise duets, trios, and solos. My students enjoy learning these patterns and often share them as well. ("Mrs. Young, would you show me the bass part to 'Persia'? I taught my friends the top part last week.")

March 9th: Chord Play (Arranging), 10:00 am - 6:00 pm (later start due to Daylight Savings Time); a clear way to make arrangements of melodies in various musical styles. This will help with the popular tunes our students want to play for which the existing arrangements are not good. And as with Pattern Play, skill with Chord Play also makes it easier to memorize classical pieces and brings music theory to life.

Cost: \$75 per day.

The Pattern Play Intensive is geared toward piano teachers who want to expand their abilities both as players and teachers. Students who plan to teach are also welcome to attend.

The Chord Play Intensive is open to teachers and piano students (teenage and above) who are knowledgeable about triads.

I have studied with some great teachers over the years and have purchased stacks of instructional books and CDs, DVDs, etc., to get more competent at improvisation and arranging. I have never gotten more for my money than I did in one day with Forrest Kinney last summer, and I am having great fun continuing to work with his methods. Having Forrest here really is a special opportunity for our District, so please join those of us who are already signed up and give yourself the gift of a day or two with Forrest!

Jane Young  
541-744-1211  
[pianogal@efn.org](mailto:pianogal@efn.org)

### Recital Etiquette

Please help to make all OMTA recitals and events a pleasant musical occasion for everyone by following these rules of recital etiquette:

- Arrive no earlier than 10 minutes before the recital is scheduled to begin. Wait quietly if an earlier recital is still in progress. Do not block exits.
- Absolute quiet is essential during the recital. Talking, whispering, rustling programs and other annoying sounds distract the performers and annoy the audience.
- Do not bring food or drink to the recital. Most churches and recital halls do not allow food or drink.
- Avoid bringing babies and very young children to recitals. They cannot be expected to remain silent for an entire program. If you must bring young children, keep them as quiet as possible and take them out of the recital hall if they become restless or fussy.
- Sit quietly during the recital. Children should remain seated with their parents and no one should be moving around the recital hall during the program.
- Plan to stay for the entire recital. It is impolite to leave before the program is over.
- If you must leave the recital briefly, always exit and re-enter during applause, not while someone is performing.
- Do not use any device that could startle performers and annoy the audience. This includes cellular phones, flash cameras and tape recorders. Please silence pagers and cell phones. Do not block the aisles with tripods or move about with video cameras. Photographs may be taken of the students at the piano after the recital is over.
- Support every student with your generous applause, but save cheering, shouting, whistling and stomping for sports events. Such behavior is inappropriate at a music recital.
- Please hold applause until a student has completed the entire performance.



### **OMTA Composition Festival**

***Deadline for composition entries is Friday, March 14, 2014!***

The OMTA Composition Celebration is a statewide event that provides an opportunity for students to perform and receive feedback on original compositions. I am pleased to announce that Nicole Portley will serve as our adjudicator this year.

Nicole is a fisheries biologist whose work has focused upon salmon and water quality in Oregon, California and Russia. While continuing her career as an employee of Sustainable Fisheries Partnership, Nicole has studied composition under Robert Kyr, David Crumb, and Terry McQuilkin at the University of Oregon, where she is currently a master's degree candidate. Her secondary musical interests include piano performance and intelligent pop music. Nicole released her first CD entitled "Which Way Is Jupiter?" with her popular music project "Nikki n' The Pathos" in late 2013. She will follow with a recording of art songs for soprano and string trio, envisioned for late 2014.

All student composers will be invited to perform their compositions in an OMTA recital. The date of the recital is yet to be determined. If we have at least 10 entries, or 30 minutes or more of music, we would like to arrange a special recital/master class with Nicole. Otherwise, we will include the original compositions on the Spring Theme festival slated for April 27.

Feel free to contact me with any questions regarding this festival!

*Ellen McQuilkin*  
*ellenmcquilkin@gmail.com*  
*Composition Festival Chair*