



Editor's [Half] Notes

Dear Teachers and Colleagues,

I recently met a young lady at a concert I was performing with two other colleagues, Michele McLaughlin and Joseph Akins. My friends and I had all come from around the country to convene in Los Angeles for a musician's gathering, so we decided to perform together while we were all in one place. This young lady was a huge fan of Michele and her music. In fact, she had been ready to quit lessons until she discovered Michele's songbooks. Her parents surprised her with tickets to our concert, and so we invited her and her parents to join us for a late-night IHOP dinner after the show.

To see her light up as she talked about music with her hero was so heartwarming. She asked me advice about composition. I asked her what she wanted to do with her own music. It all reminded me (again) of *why* we do what we do as teachers: Finding that creative spark in each student, and then trying to fan it to a flame that helps them become who they are meant to be. I know that sounds kind of "woo-woo", but it helps me when I feel we are too caught up in technique, theory and the nuts-and-bolts of playing. Revisiting that place of inspiration and emotional connection gives the "why" to all the day-to-day "hows" we deliver as teachers. And when that connection is made, the results can be astounding.

Be encouraged. Love your students well. Keep making music together!

Sincerely
Neil Patton
Con Brio Editor

Con Brio

February 2016

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

President: David Cragun, Vice-President: Genevieve Mason, Treasurer: Wyatt Burger,
Corresponding Sec: Fern McArthur, Recording Sec: Neil Patton, Past President: Delores Tiktin
Con Brio founder and first publisher: Lea Mirabella
All materials for publication are due on the last Sunday of each month.
Con Brio is posted on the Eugene District website on the Wednesday prior to the monthly meeting.
Neil Patton, editor

February Meeting

Hello everybody,

This is just a reminder that our event with Kenn Wilson, planned on Sunday February 7th, is cancelled, and instead we will meet on Monday February 8. The meeting is at the First Congregational Church on 1050 E 23d Ave, Eugene 97405. We will meet at 9:00 for refreshments; the business meeting will be at 9:30. At 10:30, Claire Wachter and Dean Kramer will present selections from "The Essence of Chopin" videos with further commentary and live demonstration. The videos are available from The Virtual Piano Pedagogue website (virtualpianopedagogue.com). Teachers are encouraged to bring any Chopin repertoire that they are teaching if they would like specific commentary and suggestions from Claire and Dean.

Happy New Year,
Genevieve
Eugene OMTA Vice President

Treasurer Report



CHECKING ACCOUNT ACTIVITY

January 1—31, 2016



DATE	DESCRIPTION	DEBIT	CREDIT	BALANCE
01/01/2016	Beginning Balance			\$ 4,108.10
01/10/2016	PEAK Internet	\$ 14.97		
01/12/2016	DEPOSIT: Barnes & Noble Fundraiser		\$ 793.32	
01/29/2016	First Congregational Church—February meeting	\$ 60.00		
01/31/2016	Ending Balance			\$ 4,826.45

6-Month Certificate of Deposit: \$ 2,325.76

Savings Account Balance: \$ 6,753.31

Respectfully submitted,

Wyatt L. Burger

OMTA-Eugene District Treasurer

The deadline for submitting articles and announcements for the March 2016 issue of Con Brio is Sunday, February 28, 2016.

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.

Spring District Recital

Date	Saturday, March 12, 2016
Times	Recitals scheduled on the hour.
Place	United Lutheran Church, Eugene
Fee	\$7.00 per recital for each OMTA student.
Deadline	Friday, February 25, 2016 Recitals are filled on a first-come basis. All materials must be in the mail two days prior to the deadline. Please include the BWV or opus numbers with your entries.
Forms	Student Entry Form Recital Master List
Type	Non-adjudicated recital. Eligible for 1 trophy point.
Repertoire	Any style repertoire; solo or ensemble.
Description	Traditional afternoon recitals featuring a variety of music performed in a warm and relaxed setting. The United Lutheran Church has a Steinway grand piano, excellent acoustics, and comfortable seating. These recitals are open to students Syllabus Level 2 and above and offer an opportunity to gain valuable performance experience beyond the studio recital, without the pressure of competition or adjudication. Choice of repertoire, preparation, and quality of performance should be equivalent to that of other OMTA events.
Memorization	Encouraged but not required.
Chair	Jean Wilson
Mail Forms and Fees To	Jean Wilson 860 E. 43rd Ave. Eugene, OR 97405
	541-484-6727 jeanmerrillwilson@gmail.com

OMTA Composition Festival

*Deadline for composition entries is **Monday, March 14, 2016!***

I am looking forward to collecting entries for our district Composition Celebration at the March 14 meeting. Remember that student compositions can be notated either by hand or with a computer program. A recording is not necessary unless the piece is scored for instruments other than solo piano, however you may provide one for the adjudicator if you like. Please see the district website for entry forms and a complete event description.

Our own Dr. Michael Seregow will serve as our adjudicator this year. He will provide written comments on each composition as well as attend the recital scheduled to take place on **Friday, April 8, at 5:30 p.m. at the Eugene Piano Academy**. Susane Davis tells me that the recital space there has been remodeled and expanded and that they have partnered with Classic Pianos. This will be a very nice space with a fine instrument for the performances. Many thanks to Susane and to Michael!

It would be helpful for me to have an idea of how many students are planning to enter the festival this year. Teachers can let me know at the February 8 meeting or send me an email with an estimate. Thank you in advance.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions: ellenmcquilkin@gmail.com

Ellen McQuilkin, District Composition Celebration Chair



Piano for Sale

Marsha Boutelle has a Bergmann baby grand piano for sale. \$4195, but the price is negotiable. More info is available at this Craigslist Link:

<http://eugene.craigslist.org/msg/5419149751.html>

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Email: marshaboutelle@comcast.net