



Affiliated with the Music Teachers' National Association, Inc.

Opus 271

May 2016

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Editor's [Half] Notes

Dear Teachers and Colleagues,

Our kids are sooooo busy these days. I have never seen such a decline in students' time at the piano as I have this year. Practicing is always the lowest priority. I've even seen it in my own life and schedule. Lately I have returned to making practice time a priority in my life.

It is now normal and expected to have immediate results. We have Google, YouTube and Wikipedia at our fingertips on our computers and phones, any time, night or day. It has become more and more difficult for young people (and us older folks, as well) to see the need for extended work and discipline to see desired results take shape. Thus, I struggle in my roles both as a parent and as a teacher.

I recently had to deliver a less-than-perfect grade to one of my college students. This student had worked so hard in his classes, but his schedule was too overloaded to allow for adequate time in the practice rooms each week. This lack of practice showed in his lessons. He can sight-read rings around me, but this was no good in digging deeper into the repertoire at hand, and thus his growth as a musician was stunted. After repeated discussions about needing more practice time, it came time to post his grades. It turns out I was the only teacher to not give him an A, thus ruining a perfect 4.0 average that had lasted through high school and into college. I was heartbroken for him, but I had no choice. I'm curious to see how this will affect our relationship moving forward, but, more importantly, how it will affect his priorities as he prepares for life as a musician.

I have passed other students who deserved worse grades, and have regretted it. These young people have moved on believing they had "arrived", when in reality they were ill prepared for the music world that awaited them. I had done them no favors. Part of my job as a teacher, while being an encourager and guide, is to be honest.

Consider this my confession, as well as my pledge to teach *fully* what it means to be a well-rounded musician.

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

Sincerely
Neil Patton
Con Brio Editor

May Meeting and Brunch


Our next monthly meeting will take place on Monday, May 9, at the Valley River Inn in Eugene. We will meet at 9:00 for brunch and for a business meeting and exchange of ideas. Our new Board will be introduced, as well.

Reservations should have been made by now, but if you have any questions about the meeting, please contact our Vice President, Genevieve Mason.

Con Brio**May 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 Tikin
 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



**Treasurer
Report**

CHECKING ACCOUNT ACTIVITY
April 1-30, 2016



DATE	DESCRIPTION	DEBIT	CREDIT	BALANCE
04/01/2016	Beginning Balance			\$ 4,685.51
04/01/2016	Valley River Inn—May Brunch	\$ 322.08		
04/01/2016	Dr. Michael Seregow—Comp. Celeb. Adjudicator	\$ 375.00		
04/08/2016	2015-2016 Membership Dues		\$ 25.00	
04/08/2016	Jean Wilson—District Recitals programs	\$ 8.80		
04/15/2016	District Recitals—student fees		\$ 217.00	
04/18/2016	Composition Celebration—student fees		\$ 395.00	
04/25/2016	NTF grant balance		\$ 131.00	
04/27/2016	Pat Morse—Spring Theme recitals	\$ 4.93		
04/28/2016	Spring Theme Recitals—student fees		341.00	
04/30/2016	TOTALS	\$ 710.81	\$ 1,109.00	\$ 5,083.70

Business Savings Account balance: \$ 6,774.99

6-month certificate: \$ 2,329.24

Total of accounts & certificate: \$ 14,187.93

Respectfully submitted,

Wyatt L. Burger

OMTA-Eugene District Treasurer

The deadline for submitting articles and announcements for the June 2016 issue of Con Brio is Sunday, May 29, 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.

Pianos and Keyboards for Sale:

Digital piano, Yamaha YPD142R.

Original price was \$1499; will sell for \$600 cash. Almost new!

Zip code: 97405; pick up only.

Seller: Yi-Yin Chien, DMA student of Claire Wachter, University of Oregon

Questions: jeanyiyin@gmail.com



Model: G-175, Young Chang

Serial Number: 111159

Finish: EP

List Price: \$11,000

Initial asking price (might take less): \$5000

Condition: Immaculate, needs tuning

Contact:

Joseph Palen: jwpalen@aol.com

Upcoming Performances

Neil Patton and Joseph Akins in Concert

Wednesday, May 18, 7:00 PM
Eugene Piano Academy
507 Willamette St, Eugene

\$15 Suggested Donation at the Door

Join us for an intimate evening of new, original solo piano music and storytelling. Joseph is a tenured professor of music technology at Middle Tennessee State University, and has released several albums of original piano music. Neil (Eugene District Member) has released three albums of solo piano music, the latest of which was awarded Album of the Year at MainyPiano.com and has been nominated for other awards, as well.

CDs and Songbooks will be available for sale.

*An Evening of New Solo Piano Music
with
Joseph Akins & Neil Patton*

Wednesday, May 18, 2016, 7:00 PM
 Eugene Piano Academy
 Classic Pianos, Eugene
 507 Willamette St
 Eugene, OR 97401

\$15 Suggested Donation

www.JosephAkins.com
www.NeilPatton.net