



Affiliated with the Music Teachers' National Association, Inc.

Opus 283

September 2017

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Editor's [Half] Notes

My daughter spent two weeks in Japan this summer with several other students from the Eugene/Springfield area. One of the teen-aged girls she stayed with (named Urara) had a trip planned to visit Eugene a few weeks later. Five days before her arrival, she found out that one of her host families had to cancel and she could not stay with them. She desperately contacted us, hoping we could host her for a week. Thankfully, our schedule was flexible and we were available.

We had a wonderful time showing her around Eugene and Florence, although the smoke from the early fires had already begun to settle into the valley, obscuring much of the green and blue we are so proud of here. Her English was very limited, making communication challenging. My daughter knew enough Japanese to help, and we even resorted to some translation apps on our phones when things got difficult. However, there were often awkward silences and long quiet drives, and she usually retreated to our daughter's room whenever we were home.

When we learned that she was studying bass and piano, we took her to The Jazz Station to hear a great quartet from Portland. She began to come out of her shell that evening, tapping her feet and nodding her head as she intently watched the bassist do his thing. It turns out that she leads and plays bass in her own little jazz band after school, learning standards and pop tunes.

The night before she left our home to head to her next host family, she was finally brave enough to play for us. She played Chopin's *Revolutionary Etude*, as well as an arrangement of *Misty* she had been working on by herself. (Her teacher back home refuses to help her with jazz, as she views it as a "silly" music form.) I played one of my own compositions for her, and we did our best to talk about music. Suddenly, we had a common bond, a common language. We sat at the piano and used sounds and hand motions to share together something higher than words. I will never forget it.

That night, she stayed in the living room with us and watched a movie and we had some good conversation. Music broke the ice and created a new friendship where there were barriers before. Yeah, it's been said so many times before: "Music is a universal language."

I tend to believe it now...

Welcome to the new year! Be encouraged. Love your students well. Keep making music together!

Sincerely
Neil Patton
Con Brio Editor

Con Brio **September 2017**

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

President: David Cragun, Vice-President: Laura DuBois, Treasurer: Wyatt Burger,
Corresponding Sec: Alexis Gibbons, Recording Sec: Nick Rieser, 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

From the Vice President

Greetings OMTA! I hope you had a wonderful summer!

To start our new season, we're having a master class with renowned pianist and master teacher, Thomas Otten. We'll be focusing on artistry at the piano, both for teachers and for students. Our day will begin with a new member meet and greet at 8:30, refreshments at 9:00, business meeting at 9:15, and the master class at 10:00.

Please note: We'll be meeting at Unity of the Valley (3912 Dillard Rd, Eugene, OR 97405).

Dr. Otten is professor emeritus from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. and has been hailed by the New York Times as "an extremely original player who puts a formidable technique at the service of his ideas." He made his debut at age seventeen with the National Symphony Orchestra at the John F. Kennedy Center, and has since developed a global profile, performing in Australia, Europe, the Caribbean, and throughout the U.S. He has appeared in such venues as the Gasteig (Munich, Germany), St. Petersburg Conservatory (Russia), Teatro Nacional (Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic), Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, the National Press Club, the German Embassy, and as concerto soloist at the Chautauqua and Brevard Summer Festivals. His performances have been broadcast on both coasts, including WQXR New York, WGMS Washington, and KUSC Los Angeles.

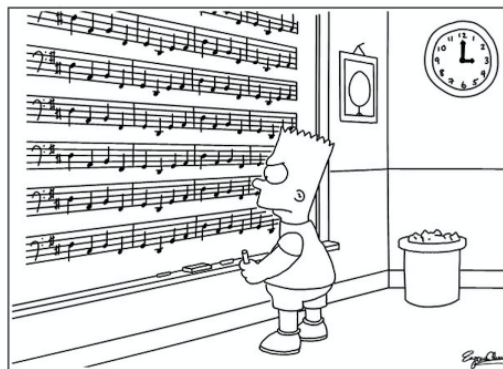
In addition to his outstanding credentials, Dr. Otten is a very friendly and approachable person. He would like the master class to be a relaxed and enjoyable experience for everyone.

On a final note, Dr. Otten will also be available for master teacher consultations with individual teachers and their students. If you're interested, his contact information is on his website:

<http://otten.studio/>

Thank you, and looking forward to seeing you soon!

Laura DuBois,
District Vice President



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The deadline for submitting articles and announcements for the October 2017 issue of Con Brio is Sunday, October 1, 2017.

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.

Treasurer Report



CHECKING ACCOUNT ACTIVITY

June 1, 2017 - September 1, 2017



DATE	DESCRIPTION	DEBIT	CREDIT	BALANCE
06/01/2017	Beginning Balance			\$ 2,415.06
06/01/2017	PEAK Internet	14.97		
07/01/2017	DEPOSIT—Membership Dues		715.00	
07/01/2017	PEAK Internet	14.97		
07/14/2017	Corresponding Secretary	49.94		
08/01/2017	DEPOSIT—Membership Dues		245.00	
08/01/2017	PEAK Internet	14.97		
08/14/2017	DEPOSIT—Membership Dues		100.00	
09/01/2017	TOTALS	\$ 94.85	\$ 1,060.00	\$ 3,380.21

Savings account balance: **\$ 9,475.12**

Certificate of deposit: **\$ 2,336.23**

Respectfully submitted,

Wyatt L. Burger

OMTA-Eugene District Treasurer



Festival of Popular Music

Saturday, October 21, 2017

Unity of the Valley

The **Festival of Popular Music** is an afternoon of fun and entertaining recitals, allowing students to perform popular music in a relaxed, informal setting. Jazz, Blues, Ragtime, Gospel, TV/movie themes, musical theater, and new-age, are just some of the musical styles students may perform. Arrangements, improvisations and ensembles works are also welcome. Halloween music, anyone?

We are planning recitals on the hour, beginning at 2:00 p.m. The entry fee is \$7 per student, and the deadline for entries is **Friday, the 13th** of October. Don't let your students miss this opportunity!

Wyatt Burger, chair
Festival of Popular Music

westlanepiano@cvcable.net

Teacher Referrals (2016-17)

Over the past teaching year I provided teacher referrals to 24 families. Sources of the referrals were:

- 15 - our website
- 7 - OMTA teachers
- 2 - Pacific Winds

As noted above, seven referrals came via our own membership referring families to me. Thanks to all of you who helped potential students connect with another OMTA teacher. I am always happy to give students several options of good teachers if you are not able to accommodate them in your studio.

Make sure you are included in our website's Teacher Directory if you want more students. I had fewer requests for referral assistance than the previous year (15 down from 30) so I assume people are finding their own teacher from our Teacher Directory.

<http://www.omt-eugene.org/directory.shtml>

If you have any updates about your teaching to help me match a student to you, please feel free to contact me.

Jane Young
Teacher Referrals Chair

Louis Landon Improvisation Master Class

Louis Landon Improvisation Master Class

Tuesday, September 26 at 7:00 PM

Tickets: \$15 Adults / \$10 Students

Ticket Link: smarturl.it/landonmasterclass

Unity of the Valley (3912 Dillard Rd, Eugene, OR 97405)

Sponsored by the Eugene District of OMTA

Dear fellow OMTA Members,

I want to let you know about this great opportunity for us as teachers and for our improvisationally minded students. Louis is a friend and a colleague of mine, and is an amazing performer, player, and a frequent clinician. He will be teaching and demonstrating, but also has offered to work with students who would like feedback. Please let me know if you have any questions, and please get the word out about this great educational event!

Thank you,
Neil Patton

[Continued on Following Page...]

*[Louis Landon continued...]***More Info:**

Demonstration and Lecture by Composer, Steinway Artist and Pianist for Peace, Louis Landon: An evening of ideas and approaches to jazz and pop improvisation for the beginner and experienced musician, alike.

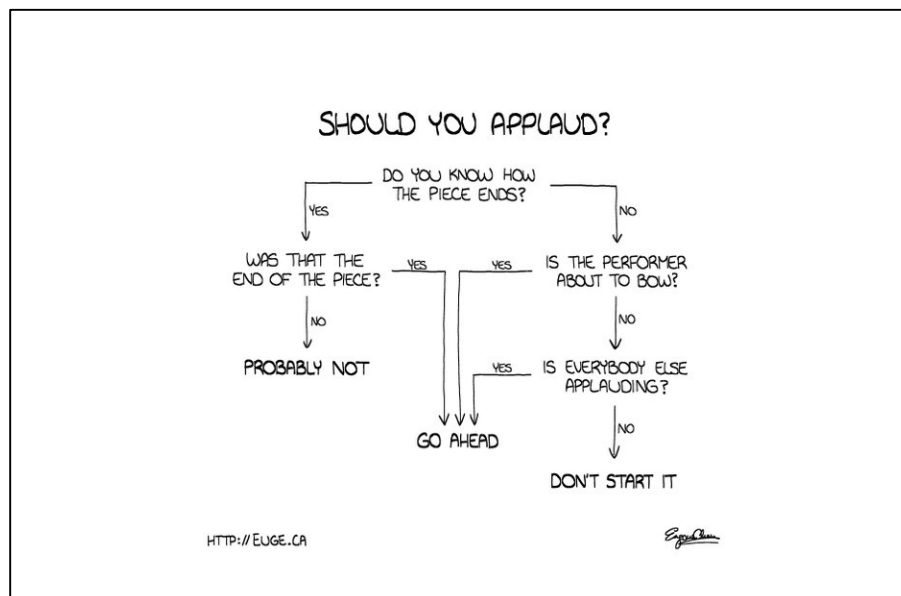
Louis will be discussing topics ranging from modal improv, ii-V-I progressions, altered, diminished and pentatonic scales, the blues scale & twelve-bar blues, time signatures, rhythmic feels, chord voicings, spontaneous composition and even coaching in creativity.

Louis Landon (www.louislandon.com) is a Steinway Artist, formerly of New York and currently of Sedona, who has dedicated his life to music. His passion is for peace. His career has taken him around the world playing a variety of styles with some of the most recognized names in the entertainment industry: classical music for Mikhail Baryshnikov on national and international tours, Latin music with "Pucho and his Latin Soul Brothers" on national and international tours, pop music with Rupert "Pina Colada Song" Holmes on television and national tours, rock & roll with John Hall, opening for "Little Feat" on national tours. For the past 24 years, through his production company, Landon Music, he has written and produced music for film, video, and commercials, including three years of "best plays" and "bloopers" commercials for the National Basketball Association.

Louis Landon is currently working with three missions:

- To create a more loving and peaceful world by writing, recording and performing, music from the heart.
- To inspire people to live joyously and passionately.
- To awaken and to assist people in healing themselves through music and mentoring.

He has released 24 CDs on the LCI record label, his latest entitled "Classic Pop Rock Solo Piano" was released on July 1, 2017.



Oregon Music Teachers' Association
(In affiliation with MTNA)
Presents:

A Master Class in Improvisation
Demonstration and Lecture by
Composer, Steinway Artist, & Pianist for Peace



Louis Landon



- The Greek Modes
- ii-V-I Progressions
- Altered Scales
- Diminished Scales
- Pentatonic Scales
- The Blues Scale
- 12 Bar Blues
- Time Signatures
- Rhythmic Feels
- Chord Voicings
- Spontaneous Composition
- Coaching in Creativity

Tuesday, September 26, 7:00 PM

Unity of the Valley Church
3912 Dillard Rd, Eugene, OR 97405
541-345-9913
Event Contact: Neil Patton 541-607-6175

Tickets: \$15 Adults / \$10 Students
Available in advance at: smarturl.it/landonmasterclass