



President's Message

Three years ago was my first year as president of Eugene OMTA. As I asked myself what I might be able to contribute to move us forward as an organization, two things came to mind. Let me first share my reflections on those two things. Then, I will share a third goal for the coming year.

1. Member Recruitment and Integration

We are a group of educators, and our mission is to improve the value of music education in our community. In order to spread our influence, we have to remain vibrant and grow in activity. One key to our success is to actively recruit new teachers and to make them feel the value of membership.

We set a goal to recruit seven new members each year. We also wrote guidelines for what every new member should experience in the first months and years of membership. These guidelines include being invited to lunch, receiving phone calls before meetings, having a new members picnic, having the opportunity to assist a recital chair, etc.

The good news is, we came very close to meeting our goals for recruiting new members, and we followed the guidelines for some of them. I wish I could say we did for **all** of them. But there is room for improvement. Let's not beat ourselves up. After all, we are all volunteers. But let's do a little better this year. Our new members will appreciate it, and we will also benefit.

2. Teacher Certification

With the change in membership requirements state wide, our group is now more inclusive than before. Anybody can join us. Under these circumstances, we must encourage and uphold a standard of excellence in music teaching. Fortunately, the National Certification process is just what we need.

My goal was to get two teachers certified each year. One of them was to be myself. Again, the good news first: We did get a teacher certified. Congratulations to Alexis Gibbons! She now can have the opportunity to adjudicate state events. Due to some additional responsibilities in my life right now, I have not yet completed my certification. However, Katie Caulley is working on hers. Who else will step up this year? Not only will you re-vitalize your own teaching, but you will uphold the standard among us. I guarantee it will be worth it.

Now for the following year; here is my next goal.

3. Double Conference Attendance

Did you know that we had eight district members attend state conference in Lincoln City this year? Two of them were brand new members. Maybe you didn't know that the state will pay for conference registration for new members. In addition, there are incentives for experienced members to go to conference. Each year, our President Elect, Past President, and current President put many, many hours into planning and hiring the best presentations. They spend thousands and thousands of dollars.

Why does OMTA invest so much in conference each year? The short answer is, "why don't you come and find out?" Yes, you will see when you come. I was changed forever the first time I went to conference several years ago. This time was just as good. The conference artist especially touched my heart with his performances of Bach and Schumann, and with his personality.

Please join us for conference next year. The goal is to double our district attendance from eight to sixteen. When that happens, there will be a pulse of excitement in our group. Everybody will feel it, but only those who went to conference will understand it. I hope you will be one of them!

From the Vice President

Greetings, OMTA!

I hope all is well, and that you're having a splendid fall!

For our October meeting, Dr. Jeanine Jacobson will be presenting a workshop entitled "Memorize and Remember: A Solid Approach to Secure Memory."

She'll be discussing four types of memory, and how they interact in keyboard playing. She'll also address performance anxiety and how it can be managed to ensure successful performance by memory. Personally, I am really looking forward to learning more about these valuable subjects! :-)

Dr. Jacobson is professor emeritus at California State University at Northridge, having taught there for twenty years. She has written four books, including a piano pedagogy text that won the Frances Clark Keyboard Pedagogy Award in 2016, and is widely used at universities across the United States and abroad.

She will be have copies of her books, Professional Piano Teaching vol. 1 and 2 (second edition), for sale at our meeting. She is selling them at her cost (\$40 each - list price is \$60 each). She is happy to autograph the books if desired. She accepts both cash and checks for payment.

Our meeting will be held at First Congregational Church of Eugene (1050 East 23rd Avenue, 97405).

- Refreshments at 9:00
- Business Meeting at 9:15
- Workshop from 10:00 - 12:00

We will be in the Chapel, across the hall from our old meeting room.

Hope to see you there!

Laura DuBois,
District Vice President

Con Brio

October 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

The deadline for submitting articles and announcements for the November 2017 issue of Con Brio is Sunday, November 5, 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 September 1, 2017 - October 1, 2017



DATE	DESCRIPTION	DEBIT	CREDIT	BALANCE
09/01/2017	Beginning Balance			\$ 3,380.21
09/01/2017	PEAK Internet	14.97		
09/15/2017	DEPOSIT— NTF award from OMTA		425.00	
09/24/2017	DEPOSIT — Membership Dues		75.00	
10/01/2017	TOTALS	\$ 14.97	\$ 500.00	\$ 3,865.24

Savings account balance: **\$ 9,475.52**

Certificate of deposit: **\$ 2,339.76**

Respectfully submitted,

Wyatt L. Burger

OMTA-Eugene District Treasurer



Festival of Popular Music

Saturday, October 21, 2017

Unity of the Valley

Recitals beginning at 2:00 PM

IMPORTANT REMINDER!

The deadline for entering students in the *Festival of Popular Music* is **Friday, October 13**. (The early deadline allows time for an event chair to prepare a rough draft of the programs to email to teachers, who may then proof-read their students' information.)

Event-appropriate forms can be found on our district website. If you plan to mail the forms, please place them in the mail by Wednesday, October 11. You may also convert the forms to .pdf files and send them via email attachments, or simply send your students' information as an email message. Do not bring the forms to the October 9th meeting, as I will be out-of-town and unable to receive them. Please do not attempt to provide the information by phone.

Thank you for your participation in this event.

Wyatt Burger, chair
Festival of Popular Music

Alexander Technique Workshop I - Balancing through your Core

Are you familiar with the Alexander Technique and it's ability to create ease of movement in playing? Come to this workshop to find out more, both for yourself and your students.

Saturday, October 7, 9:30 am to 1 pm.
Cantare Studio: Voice and the Alexander Technique

870 W. Centennial Blvd, Suite C, Springfield 97477
Tuition: \$65

Email me for more information at: marieke@cantarestudio.com

Thanks,
Marieke Schuurs :)



Steinway Artist **Louis Landon** presents some fresh approaches to improvisation and composition at his OMTA-sponsored workshop on Sep 26 at the Unity of the Valley Church in Eugene. Learn more about Louis and his music at www.louislandon.com.

Piano Master Class with Dr. Alexander Tutunov
Beall Hall, Saturday October 28, 2017
10 -11:30 am
Admission is free

One of Oregon's favorite pianists, Dr. Alexander Tutunov will present a piano master class at the University of Oregon in Beall Hall on Saturday October 28 at 10 am.

Alexander Tutunov is widely recognized as one of the most outstanding virtuosos of the former Soviet Union. First Prize winner of the Belarusian National Piano Competition and winner of the Russian National Piano Competition, Tutunov's playing was described by Soviet Culture, Moscow, as "exhilarating and inspired, and which demonstrated a unique talent".



Dr. Tutunov maintains a busy performing schedule in Europe, China, Mexico, and the United States as a recitalist, soloist with orchestra, and on radio and television. Dr. Tutunov is also in demand as an adjudicator for piano competitions. Tutunov's recording of the Abeliovich Piano Concerto was featured as part of the Emmy award winning soundtrack for the History Channel documentary, Russia: Land of Tsars, and his CD of the Tchaikovsky Concert Fantasy with the Russian Philharmonic Orchestra was produced in January 2008. Other recordings include: Concerto for Piano & Orchestra by Peter Sacco with the Czech National Symphony Orchestra (Albany Records) and the solo piano works of Lev Abeliovich Sonatas & Frescoes, Trio, Songs (Altarus Records).

Tutunov graduated magna cum laude from the Central Music School of the Moscow Conservatory (studies with Anna Artobolevskaya and Lev Naumov) and University of North Texas (piano studies with Joseph Banowetz). Awarded his doctoral diploma with honors in concert performance from the Belarusian State Conservatory, Dr. Tutunov has taught at the Minsk College of Music, the University of North Texas, and Illinois Wesleyan University.

Alexander Tutunov now lives in Ashland, where he is Professor of Piano and Artist in Residence at Southern Oregon University. A successful piano pedagogue, he continues to prepare award-winning students. Dr. Tutunov is Artist in Residence at the University of Alaska Southeast, Artistic director of the SOU International Piano Institute, and was recently named the Director of the Chinese-American International Piano Institute in Chengdu, China.

Recently Dr. Tutunov was featured in The Virtual Piano Master Course online video series sponsored by The Oregon Community Foundation: "The Secrets of Russian Piano Playing."



Dr. Janet Pollack, Pianist, Harpsichordist, and Musicologist

As a new member of MTNA-Eugene Chapter, I am asked to describe my journey through the professional music world. To summarize briefly let it suffice to say — it was convoluted, long, and difficult at times but always exciting.

When I think back over my musical journey, it seems that I have always been a pianist and piano instructor. As a four year old I was entranced by piano music, began playing by ear at the age of 4, started lessons at 7, and taught my first student at the age of 7-1/2 for 5 cents. My first student was my best friend. I went on to perform in elementary school variety shows, accompany choruses and soloists in High School and snag the award for “Most Musical” in my senior year book. After undergraduate studies at Syracuse University and graduate work at the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, I went on to build a large studio of piano students in Cincinnati, perform with ensembles and orchestras in Florida, and enjoyed a time as lounge pianist for Westin Hotels where I bumped elbows with Tony Bennett and Andy Williams, among others. I still smile at my portrait hastily sketched on a cocktail napkin one evening by Tony Bennett now carefully framed and standing on my piano.

My interest in musicology can be traced back to my time as contracted keyboardist with the Southwest Florida Symphony Orchestra. Increasingly this position demanded not only my skill as a pianist, but the ability to play celeste, synthesizer, and harpsichord. I vividly remember preparing for a performance of a Bach Concerto and becoming uncomfortable when asked to improvise the second movement from just two notated chords, a task any baroque keyboardist could do with ease. I began listening to recorded performances, transcribing those I enjoyed, and ended up longing to know more about the craft of early improvisation and harpsichord performance in general. I applied to a doctoral program in music at Duke University with the initial intent of securing a Ph.D. in their newly created Performance Practice Program. This all changed when as a doctoral student at Duke I came across a small book of engraved early seventeenth-century English keyboard music titled *Parthenia, or the Maydenhead of the first musicke that ever was printed for the Virginalls* (1613)

Parthenia literally changed my life and my academic goals. I remember how excited I felt when first opening this slim book of 21 keyboard pieces in the British Library. I feared breathing too vigorously on this keyboard primer more than four hundred centuries old as I marveled at the elegantly engraved pages adorned with gilded edges. The title-page flaunted St. Cecilia with flowing hair seated at a virginal with fingers lifted over the keys appearing to be filled with joy stemming from the sounds she was creating. *Parthenia* was indeed filled with terrific music by three of the greatest composers of the day. Along with the music were verses, a dedication, and titles, suggesting there was more to the book than just its music. Intrigued I decided to pursue a Ph.D. in musicology and to focus on a contextual analysis of *Parthenia* as a dissertation topic. As a result, I have been a musicologist for 17 years with full time teaching positions at the University of Puget Sound and Colorado State University, respectively, and most recently visiting faculty at Luther College. During my university teaching I had the opportunity to teach every period of music history, undergraduate music theory, world music, a seminar in Spirituality and Music, alchemy, while continuing to direct and perform with early music ensembles. As one now preoccupied with both research and teaching, I find that my past performing experiences and musicological training transfer well to my piano studio.

I moved to Eugene 10 months ago and now live in the Santa Clara area. My focus is on developing a keyboard studio, completing my research on keyboard arrangements by the eighteenth-century pianist Johann Baptiste Cramer, and competing in dog agility with two of my canine buddies, Molly and Dolly.