



Affiliated with the Music Teachers' National Association, Inc.

Message from the Vice President

Happy New Year, OMTA!

Our January meeting will feature a panel of presenters who step outside the box of traditional piano teaching. Personally, I am really looking forward to this session!

Our first presenter will be **Ron Sticka**, the director of the *Kim Sticka PTSD Music and Arts Foundation*. His foundation exists to raise awareness of the prevalence of PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder), and to fund research into the ways that the arts, and music in particular, can be used in a therapeutic way to treat those afflicted with PTSD.

The foundation is also interested in providing opportunities for people afflicted with PTSD to participate in music making, by sponsoring lessons and providing instruments to those people. They are interested in generating a group of teachers who would be willing to work with students who have traumatic histories (i.e. children in the foster care system), and would like to fund their lessons and provide them with instruments. More information about who they are and what they do is available on their website, [www. ptsdmusicarts.org](http://www.ptsdmusicarts.org)

Our second presenter will be jazz pianist and teacher **Nick Reiser**, whose topic will be teaching improvisation to piano students. Nick likes to think of his improvisation presentation as a hands- on workshop. He wants everyone to feel comfortable getting their students to "make things up," as that is a wonderful way to help them play and compose better.

He will give people some ideas for using a very simple blues progression to let themselves feel comfortable improvising, so they can approach it playfully and get the students to feel free to make music uninhibitedly. We will riff on "*Dog Bit Me Blues*", which is based on a real student experience.

Two important concepts for Nick that he wants the audience to bear in mind are:

1. 1) you cannot play what you cannot hear
2. 2) improvisation starts with rhythm
- 3.

Lastly, he will present some simple ways to help develop improvisation skills.

Our final presenter will be composer, pianist and teacher **Paul Safar**. Paul is a composer of "Art Music" - active listening, concert or theatre based music. His original compositions continue the western classical music tradition as well as incorporate his love of jazz, pop and rock styles. Paul is also one of the official OMTA District Project Grants Presenters.

During his presentation, Paul will offer some ideas on how to incorporate composition in one's piano instruction, especially the first efforts of younger students. Paul will share guidelines he's used in both his own compositions and working with his students. Some improvisation games might be touched upon as well.

The meeting will take place at First Congregational Church, 1050 E 23rd Ave, Eugene, 97405. Refreshments will be served at 9:00, the business meeting will follow, then the presentations will take place from 10:00-12:00.

See you on Monday!

Sincerely,
Laura DuBois, Vice President

Treasurer Report



ACCOUNT ACTIVITY

December 1, 2017 - January 1, 2018



DATE	DESCRIPTION	DEBIT	CREDIT	BALANCE
12/01/2017	Beginning Balance			\$ 3,465.30
12/07/2017	PEAK Internet—December 2017 through June 2018	104.79		
12/07/2017	State Ensemble Festival student entry fees to OMTA	168.00		
12/15/2017	State Ensemble Festival student entry fees		168.00	
12/15/2017	Donation to general fund		60.00	
12/15/2017	2017-2018 Membership Dues		25.00	
12/20/2017	Barnes & Noble Fundraiser—piano moving	92.95		
12/21/2017	Jill Hickenlooper-Ensemble Festival adjudicator	142.43		
12/22/2017	Barnes & Noble Fundraiser		784.00	
01/01/2018	TOTALS	\$ 508.17	\$ 1,037.00	\$ 3,994.13

Savings account balance 01/01/2018: **\$ 9,476.70**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Wyatt L. Burger

OMTA-Eugene District Treasurer

Con Brio **January 2018**

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

OMTA Baroque Festival,

Hello everybody,

Done with holidays, and “en route” for the Baroque Festival! Our event will take place on Saturday February 10, beginning at 2:00, at Unity of the Valley Church. All the information is available on our Eugene OMTA website. Be sure to check it. Our adjudicators will be Mary Ann Guenther and Sunghee Kim, from Corvallis. The deadline for registration is Friday February 2.

Since the registration is through the Leggiero website, I have no way to take late registrations. The program simply locks on February 2. So, be sure to register your students in time!

Have fun with Bach and others!!!

Very musically,

Genevieve Mason, District Chair

ginou@soundmason.com

Composition Celebration

Get ready for our annual District Student Composition Celebration which takes place on Friday, April 6th at 5:30 pm at Unity of the Valley. Deadline for entries (sent to me) is March 13th. Details are on the website or email me at info@cblossom.org. This years adjudicator is Jennifer Wright of Portland! I hope to see both familiar and fresh faces of composers and teachers at this year's event.

Thank you!

Paul Safar

Alexander Technique Workshop Series II Breathe to Move, Move to Breathe

Shoulders locked up? Back tight? Free your breathing to free all the rest of your movement!

Saturday, February 3, 9:30 am to 1 pm.

At Cantare Studio - 870 West Centennial Blvd, Suite C, Springfield

Tuition: \$65

To Register: <https://cantarevoicestudio.worldsecuringsystems.com//htm/healthy-voice.html> (link)

Thank-you,

Marieke Schuurs

The deadline for submitting articles and announcements for the February 2018 issue of Con Brio is Sunday, February 4, 2018.

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.