



## President Message, December 2018

Hello everybody,

I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving, celebrating around good food with friends or families, traveling to a different place, sleeping lazily in bed to recover from a cold (that was my case), and maybe playing music?

Eugene OMTA had a busy week-end on November 11-12.

As I was hosting the Syllabus examinations at my house on November 11, it was a good experience of musical social time, service, and teacher personal satisfaction. I met very nice families, and chatted with colleagues. Whatever examination my students presented, they all came out of the studio with a big smile! Thanks Carol!

The Ensemble Festival the following Sunday also went well. However, for this event, we will have to discuss the way registration is done, and where the event will take place next year, as the management of the room at U of O may be challenging, and the rental price high. Thanks, Susan!

Our monthly meeting on November 12 was rich, business wise, and artistically! The minutes are very interesting (Thanks, Nick!.) You will read among other things that Christine Mirabella generously gave \$1000 for the Soule Scholarship. Thanks so much, Christine!

Following the business discussion, the presentation by Daniel Stephens and Judith Kennedy about Baroque Dance was so inspiring!

Now, a lot of us are getting ready for Holiday performances, either at Barnes & Nobles, at church, at temple, and many other places! For the OMTA Barnes & Nobles fundraiser on December 15-16, be sure to distribute many vouchers to everybody! You can learn more about all that in the following articles. Have much fun with the spirit of the Holiday season. See you all on December 10 at the home of Alexis Gibbons for the potluck! Everybody is invited to play some music!

Musically,  
*Genevieve Mason*  
Eugene District President



## Con Brio December 2018

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

President: Genevieve Mason, Vice-President: Janet Pollack, Treasurer: Cheri Richardson,  
Corresponding Sec: Alexis Gibbons, Recording Sec: Nick Rieser, Past President: David Cragun  
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

## December Potluck! Monday, December 10

Hello Members,

It is that time of year when we gather to celebrate the holiday season by sharing food and camaraderie. This year Alexis Gibbons has kindly offered her studio for our December 10<sup>th</sup>, POTLUCK brunch, from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm. Please feel free to bring whatever you wish. Below are some suggestions:



Alexis's address is **712 E 39th Place**. It is located on the corner of Hilyard and 39th Place. You will enter on Hilyard even though her front door is on 39th Place. The entrance to the studio is through a door on her fence. Once you enter the fence door, there will be two sliding glass doors. Enter the door on the right that is next to the stairs. This will take you to what she uses as a waiting area for students to hang out while her previous lesson is finishing. If you are unfamiliar with this area, may I suggest you check Google Maps.

Please join us!

*Janet Pollack*

Vice President, Eugene District-OMTA

### Details of POTLUCK in Brief

Event date: Monday, December 10, 2018

Location: Home of Alexis Gibbons, **712 E 39th Place, Eugene 97405**

Time: 9:00 am-12:00 pm

Refreshments: Brunch. Please bring something to share.



The deadline for submitting articles and announcements for the January 2018 issue of Con Brio is Sunday, January 6, 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.

## OMTA Eugene Treasurer's Report



**Account Activity  
November 1, 2018  
through  
November 30, 2018**



### Checking Account

Date	Description	Debit	Credit	Balance
November 1, 2018	Beginning Balance			\$ 3,091.87
November 7, 2018	Ensemble Fest.		\$ 260.00	
November 21, 2018	Nobuko LeBeau	\$ 18.49		
November 21, 2018	Michelle Sulaiman	\$ 60.00		
November 24, 2018	Ensemble Festival		\$ 72.00	
November 29, 2018	Susane Davis	\$ 47.58		
<b>November 30, 2018</b>	<b>Ending Balance</b>			<b>\$ 3,297.80</b>

### Savings Account

Date	Description	Debit	Credit	Balance
November 1, 2018	Beginning Balance			\$ 9,903.52
November 14, 2018	Lee Mirabella		\$ 1,000.00	
November 30, 2018	Interest		\$ 0.43	
<b>November 30, 2018</b>	<b>Ending Balance</b>			<b>\$ 10,903.95</b>

### Certificate of Deposit

Date	Description	Debit	Credit	Balance
November 30, 2018	Balance			\$ 2,346.79

Treasurer Cheri Ann Richardson

### Fall Syllabus Report

Eugene District Fall Syllabus was held on November 9 and 10, 2018. We had 22 students registered from 8 District teachers plus one teacher from out of District. Our Adjudicators, Sandy Hull and Susan Todd, had two full days of hearing Evaluations, Demonstrations and Creative Auditions spanning Levels 1 through 10. Genevieve Mason and Nobu LeBeau graciously opened their studios for this event.

Spring Syllabus is scheduled for April 26 through 28, 2019. Registration through Leggerio will open late February.

Carol White, NCTM

Piano Studio

[carolsstudio1@mac.com](mailto:carolsstudio1@mac.com)

## Baroque Dances in Eugene



In the last October Con Brio, Janet Pollack explained about the program “Dance Music and Baroque Dance Rhythms” that Daniel Stephens and Judith Kennedy would present. Well, on November 12 at the OMTA meeting, we met Daniel and Judith. After a general overview, they took turns in giving historic and artistic input about a dance, and then performed it. They distributed nicely organized handouts, with information about the choreographer and the composer for each dance followed by graphs for the

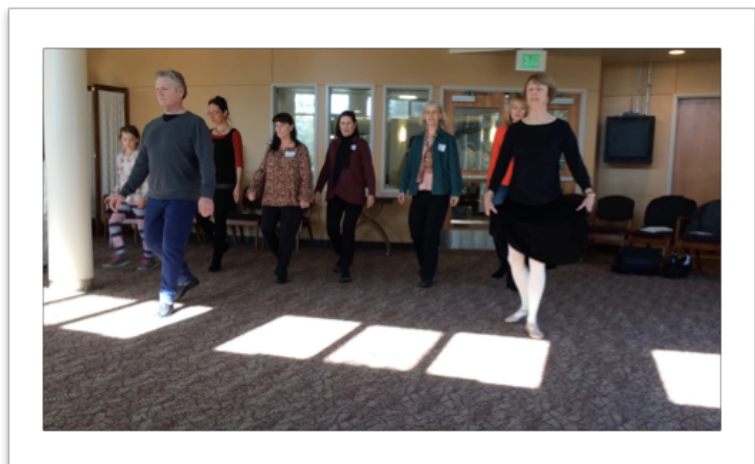
choreography.

In matter of artistry, I was very astonished to discover that the dancers would step up on the downbeat of the music. It gives the dance a sort of elegant “légèreté.” Dancers would stand sometimes tall on the ball of their feet, and this movement led to the ballerina “point” in the following centuries.

The historical vignettes were instructive and fun! It was nice to imagine the sumptuous palace’s ballroom where Louis XIV, a great dancer, would move about at the sound of the music. The protocol at the ball was rigorous, and if you could not dance, better stay outside! A segment of an historic letter was read, revealing that taking lessons in order to be ready for the ball was an important task, and sometimes a burden.

We were reminded that Louis XIV created the “Academy Royale of Dance” in 1661, and then the “Academy Royale of Music” in 1672. You know, in France, there is a support program for artists who wish to be professional, meaning trying to live by their art only. One wonders if the artistic spirit of Louis is still influencing the French government! Also, wouldn’t it be nice to see our dear Politicians move so graciously at the sound of elegant music? Maybe that would soften the atmosphere, and bring some wisdom. The program ended with all of us learning the steps of the Minuet. It was a happy lesson!

*Genevieve Mason*  
Eugene District President





## Ensemble Festival Report



On Sunday, November 11, seven teachers and twenty seven students participated in the Eugene District Ensemble Festival. UO Doctoral Candidate, Michelle Sulaiman adjudicated the event and was sensitive in her comments as she gave encouraging yet constructive feedback.

Congratulations to the following students from the studios of Winnine Kerner and Lucy Clevenger for being chosen to move on to the State Recital on December 2:

- Ellie and Timmy, playing Moszkowsky's Spanish Dances, Op. 12, No. 1 & 2
- Owen and Teresa, playing "Ballet" from Petite Suite by Debussy
- Ishika and Summer, playing "Dance of the Reed Flutes" from Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker Suite
- Kate and Kendrick, playing "Waltz" from Rachmaninoff's Six Pieces, Op. 11

It has been a pleasure to serve the OMTA as the Ensemble Festival for a number years. This will be my last year serving as chair and hope to offer some suggestion from my years of experience with this festival:

The recital was held at the University of Oregon in room 190 and, although it's a beautiful space to have a recital, the room requires set-up ahead of time and is expensive, as we are being charged an hourly rate, in addition to piano tunings. In the past we have held it here because of the availability of two pianos and the donation of the room rental. This helped OMTA profit in the past, but this year the festival ended up in the red. In addition to that, we only needed one piano which makes me question the need of having the recital there in the first place.

Reserving a room at UO in early summer, for the possibility of needing two pianos in November - and losing revenue for that decision, should be brought to the OMTA's attention to see if there's some solution to the problem. I'm not sure about any other location that would have two pianos in one room and dislike the idea of limiting an ensemble's repertoire so I leave these suggestions up for a debate that's open to more ideas.

- Have the UO liaison work out some sort of non-profit discount with the University of Oregon.
- Hold this festival at another location.

I also feel that the event's future chair would benefit from having the Master List and the Entry forms combined into one, or even having the master list simplified. I will provide Genevieve with some prototypes to discuss with the group in the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve the OMTA's Ensemble Festival. It has been such a pleasure to chair this event and work with its participating teachers!

Sincerely,  
*Susane Davis*

**MINUTES**  
**Eugene District OMTA • General Meeting**  
**Monday, November 12, 2018 • First Congregational Church, Eugene**

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President Mason called the meeting to order at 9:34 am.

The October minutes were approved.

Treasurer's report is in Con Brio.

### **Committee Reports**

Membership: New member: Kim Wonkak, clarinet teacher at UO. On 11/29, we will send two representatives, Sandy Hull and Ellen McQuilkin, to speak to pedagogy students at UO. We have members who teach there; President Mason wants to pursue this further.

Publicity: Website: Contents of the library needs to be put on the website. The contact person may need updating too.

### **Student Activities**

Festival of Popular Music: (President Mason spoke for Wyatt Burger). There were 54 students from 14 teachers. New income was \$430. Last year there were only 25 students, so this was a large increase.

Sonatina Festival: (Fern McArthur) It's now called "OMTA Sonatina Festival". It was a fun event. There were 26 teachers representing 7 districts (more than half of the 13 statewide) and 66 students. Nobuko LeBeau, Marty Czongka, and Janet Pollack, and Sandy Hull all helped. There were also volunteers from Portland and Salem. UO was very generous and reduced the price because we used fewer rooms than planned. There were 4 Eugene teachers participating; their students did very well. The adjudicator said that the playing level was excellent.

Fall Syllabus: 22 students and 11 teachers participated. Genevieve Mason, Nobuko LeBeau, and Sandy Hull helped. Note: when you fill out the Syllabus forms, when filling out the student's day preference, if you have a religious date restriction, put it in Leggiero, then put a sticky note or other note on the invoice, which is confidential. You can change the exam type right up until the student walks in the door.

Ensemble Festival: There were 15 ensembles in one recital. 30 students participated. The room was in disarray - parents helped set up the room. If Michael Reiter hadn't been there the benches would have been locked up! Michael tuned two pianos, but we only needed one. The position description for Chair of the Ensemble Festival needs to include communicating our needs more accurately to Mike Reiter (UO tuner) and David Mason (UO scheduler) so unnecessary pianos are not tuned and the rooms are not left cluttered with non-required stuff (i.e. how many benches, tables, easels, etc. are needed).

### **Announcements**

Barnes and Noble: Lucy will re-send the vouchers in pdf format. Saturday is full and Sunday is almost full. There was general agreement that the 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend in December would be better (tuck this away for next year). The 1<sup>st</sup> weekend is too soon after Thanksgiving. We can decide after we see the results from this year. Vouchers can be used during the full week of December 15 - December 21. You can order books online, but our percentage is lower.

Baroque Festival: Barbara Myrick and Larry Clabby will be the adjudicators - no travel fee will be required.

***[Continued on the next page...]***

**[November Meeting Minutes, Continued from page 6]**

Library: Nobuko listed the missing items in Con Brio. Several people have contacted her, but there is more to go. Please check to see if you have anything and let her know. She will bring only the DVDs to meetings. Please contact her if there is a printed book you want, and she will bring it.

Responsibilities for Event Chairs: Re: item #3 item (event notebooks) – President Mason is not sure if people are doing this. Item #4: remove “yearbook” – this should read “website deadline”. Also, there are no floral decorations anymore. Outdated info: our UO contact is David Mason. The person who handles the liability insurance has retired. They start booking rooms in January. Be aware of that.

MNTA convention in Spokane: (Fern McArthur): The Foundation Fellow honor (done at the conference) is a way to raise money for the organization and honor people. It supports the MTNA foundation. If you can, give even a small donation to the foundation. If you do, name Susan Todd in your donation.

Soule Scholarship: Christine Mirabella has a \$1,000 check to donate to the Beverly Soule Fund, from the sale of her mother’s (Lea Mirabella) music. There is still quite a lot of music left, including method books.

Next meeting: December 10, 9:00 am potluck at Alexis Gibbons’s house. We would like to hear people play! Christmas tunes, duets, prepare something!

Meeting adjourned by President Mason at approximately 10:15 am.

*Attendees: Carol White, Jane Young, Janet Pollack, Christine Mirabella, Jean Wilson, Jane McInnis, Genevieve Mason, Nick Rieser, Lucy Clevenger, David Cragun, Nobuko LeBeau, Fern McArthur*



Octaves roasting on an open fire,  
Major sixths nipping at your nose,  
Major seconds being sung by a choir,  
Chromatic alterations of the scale.

Diatonic scale. A turkey and some mistletoe  
Major sixths make the season bright.  
Major seconds with their eyes all aglow  
Will drop a perfect fifth tonight.

There's minor sevenths on their way.  
They've loaded lots of minor seconds on their sleigh.  
And every minor sixth will want to spy  
To see the supertonic prolonged over five.

And octave offering this simple phrase  
To major sixths one to ninety-two.  
Although it's been said many times, many ways,  
Meet the Flintstones. To you!