



President Message, March 2019

Hello everybody,

A friend from Portland was visiting on the weekend around February 23d. We commented then that it was a mild winter, this year. Well, last week changed our view. When you will receive this month Con Brio, I hope everything is back to normal for all of you!

Our OMTA Baroque Festival took place on February 9th. I heard many great performances during the two first recitals, when I was there. Congratulations to all the students and teachers! Thanks David for chairing.



This month, we will hear more students on Saturday March 9, at the Eugene District Festival. Have fun for the last touch on your pieces. Thanks, Pat!

We had our monthly meeting on February 11th. During the business time, issues with Festivals' organization were discussed. After more conversations on the following days, I would like to propose another way of preparing the adjudicated festivals, to ensure an excellent organization. Guidelines are being prepared, and we will have a summertime meeting for all chairs.

The maintenance of the Yamaha piano at Unity of the Valley was also discussed at the meeting. We may soon have an even more beautiful piano for all our students and teachers to play on! (This said, it's still time to enroll for the teachers' showcase and to register for the Contemporary Music Festival!)

After the business meeting, the presentation by Johnandrew Slominski was very informative, rich of history and pedagogical ideas.

Please read the following articles for more information. See you all for our next meeting on March 11!

Genevieve Mason
Eugene District President

Meeting 11, 2019th
Meeting Schedule
and Preliminary Program

Hello Members,

We will once again convene for conviviality and business on Monday, March 11th. Unlike other weeks, the social gathering will be extended to 45 minutes, and the business meeting will be a leisurely hour in length. The meeting will be followed by a brief preliminary program on *Creating a Methodology for Mastering Sight-Reading*, our district's project this year. Ellen McQuilkin, Genevieve Mason, and I will lead the discussion and offer some thoughts on the topic and discuss plans for developing the topic further. Since this district project invites all members to participate, I ask that you consider the questions below concerning the teaching of sight-reading. They will form the basis of our discussion.

1. What are the obstacles that students face when learning to read music proficiently at any stage?
2. Does your approach for young students differ from adult learners?
3. Are there sight-reading methods available for purchase that you recommend? Please tell us what they are.
4. Do you know of any online sites that are useful for sight-reading practice?
5. Do you incorporate theoretical analysis (theory) in your teaching of sight-reading? If so, how much?
6. Do you consider the different skills necessary for sight-reading? By this I mean there is the skill of reading the notes and rhythms versus the skill of applying the notes to the keyboard.

Janet Pollack

Vice President, Eugene District-OMTA

Details in Brief

Event date: Monday, March 11th, 2019

Location: First Congregation Church, 1050 E 23rd, Eugene, OR 97405, Wheeler Room

Social Gathering: 9:00-9:45 am

Business Meeting: 9:45-10:45 am

Preliminary Program: 10:45-11:30 am

OMTA Eugene Treasurer's Report



Account Activity
February 1, 2019
 through
February 28, 2019



Checking Account

Date	Description	Debit	Credit	Balance
February 1, 2019	Beginning Balance			\$ 1,857.30
February 12, 2019	Membership		\$ 50.00	
February 23, 2019	Fee	\$ 5.00		
February 27, 2019	David Cragun	\$ 72.00		
February 28, 2019	Ending Balance			\$ 1,830.30

Savings Account

Date	Description	Debit	Credit	Balance
February 1, 2019	Beginning Balance			\$ 11,854.34
	Interest		\$ 0.45	
February 28, 2019	Ending Balance			\$ 11,854.79

Certificate of Deposit

Date	Description	Debit	Credit	Balance
February 28, 2019	Balance			\$ 2,346.79

Treasurer Cheri Ann Richardson

Con Brio **March 2019**

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

The deadline for submitting articles and announcements for the April 2019 issue of Con Brio is Sunday, March 31, 2019.

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.

Contemporary Music Festival

The Contemporary Music Festival will take place on Sunday, April 14, 2019 at Unity of the Valley Church in Eugene. This is two weeks before Spring syllabus and I ask all teachers to encourage their students to participate to make this festival a success. It is a wonderful opportunity to perform a contemporary syllabus piece. This is a non-adjudicated event and students can perform their own compositions as well if they participated in Composition Celebration. Deadline for submission is April 2, and the student fee is \$10.

Please send the forms and the fee to:

Lucy Clevenger 3345 Chambers St Eugene, OR 97405



OMTA-Eugene

Teacher
SHOWCASE

May 18, 2019

the third annual

Beverly Soule Memorial
Scholarship Fundraiser Recital

Saturday, May 18 at 3 PM
Unity of the Valley

The *Teacher Showcase* is an opportunity for teachers to perform, and at the same time help raise funds for the *Beverly Soule Memorial Scholarship Fund*.

All teachers who would like to participate in the *Teacher Showcase* recital should send the following information to me by **April 15, 2019:**

Music title(s)

Composer(s)

Performer(s)

Instrument(s)

Total performance time

Please provide information as you would like it to appear on the program. It is especially important to submit an accurate performance time. **This event can only take place if we have enough participants.** Music may be single movements, short, descriptive works, and music that appeals to both children and adults, in any style. Duets and ensembles are always welcome. Emphasis is on **variety**. Don't miss this opportunity for students to hear their teachers perform!

Wyatt Burger

westlanepiano@cvcable.net

Teaching Historically Informed Improvisation: Reflections and Highlights from our District's February 11th Program

On February 11th, our Eugene district hosted a well-received lecture/demonstration titled *Classical Music on the Spot: The Training of an Eighteenth-Century Musician* by presenter Dr. Johnandrew Slominski, Assistant Professor at Linfield College. In our present day culture invested in Historically Informed Performance (HIP), Dr. Slominski's erudite presentation was both timely and informative. The program's focus was on how to incorporate improvisation from an historical perspective in present day student lessons. Starting the lecture was a thought-provoking definition of improvisation as "meaningful expressions of musical ideas and manifestation of musical thought," coined by Christopher Azzar (1992). This was immediately followed by the question, "But what was improvisation to the 18th century musician?" To answer this, Slominski quoted the more poetic eighteenth-century version that improvisation is like "drops of effervescence distilled from his countenance" by Charles Burney. The remainder of the program outlined several pathways Classical musicians followed to teach improvisation, including examples of *Partimenti*, "Rule of the Octave," cadence patterns, counterpart fragments, and especially useful, Galant Schemata, that if followed meticulously results in stylistic musical phrases. Each example was expertly demonstrated by Slominski to the delight of everyone present.

Dr. Slominsky also offered a number of excerpts from primary sources to bolster his pedagogical approach. They included C.P.E. Bach's "Preface to Six Sonatas with Varied Reprises" (1759), Francesco Durante's Cadence Patterns, Charles Burney's *History of Music* (1776-1789), Franz Benda's "Violin Sonata, No. 3," W. A. Mozart's "Lessons for Barbara Ployer," and the twentieth-century Swiss psychologist Jean Piaget's "Theory of Schemata"—mental frameworks that develop over time through assimilation and accommodation of experiences. These developmental structures are important to understand because Dr. Slominski proposes using a modified version of Piaget's schemata to serve as tools in teaching improvisation. We hope to bring back Dr. Slominski next year to continue our conversation about his intriguing pedagogical practices.

Our district wishes to thank the Oregon Music Teachers Association, the Oregon Community Foundation and the Nellie Tholen Fund for making this and other inspiring programs available this year to our members. We would also like to thank First Congregational Church of Eugene for providing a wonderful space.

Review by

Janet Pollack, Vice-President

Eugene District Spring Syllabus April 26 - 28, 2019

Registration on Leggiere will open on February 11 and close on April 6. As you are getting ready to register your students, please review the current Syllabus manual and suggested repertoire list.

You may register your student for an Evaluation, Demonstration or Lower or Upper Level Creative Audition. You may change your registration at any time while registration is open. Once the registration closes, you cannot make any changes on Leggiere; however, you may make changes on the day of Syllabus up to the time you introduce your student to their Adjudicator.

If you have more than 4 hours of Syllabus, please consider opening your studio for the day. We do not have access to any UO studios, so we will be dependent on our teachers to open their studios. I would like to encourage teachers to look at Friday, April 26, as a viable Syllabus choice; we have 2 studios and 2 Adjudicators who have committed to that day already. Because of Adjudicator hours and studio availability, I will be scheduling 2 full days of Syllabus for students on Friday, April 26.

The State Syllabus schedule this year was very full and there were not enough Adjudicators to go around. We will have some of our local Adjudicators filling in here in Eugene in addition to those assigned from out of the area.

If any of your students have any time or date restrictions, please note in Leggiere and add a note to the Invoice you send with your check.

If you have any questions, please email me at carolsstudio1@mac.com

Carol White
Eugene District Syllabus Chair

District Composition Celebration

Attention budding composers! It's that time of year again to think about submitting student compositions for our annual District Composition Celebration. The recital will take place on Friday, April 5th at 5 :30 pm at Unity of the Valley. This year's adjudicator will be Nicholas Yandell from Portland! The entries need to be submitted to me by March 14th. This promises to be a rewarding event as always. I plan on having a special little tribute to Tomas Svoboda as well at this recital.

New this year, in light of increased activity in improvisation, we encourage teachers to submit structured improvisations of their students to perform at the recital. A simple lead sheet with perhaps a chord sequence, and /or a short written description of the form-concept of the piece can be the "score"..These may or may not be adjudicated formally. However, this might be the best fit for some students in participating in this event and connects improvisation with composition.

If you have questions, email me at info@cblossom.org. I hope to hear some of your students work!

Paul Safar
District Chair of the Composition Celebration

MINUTES**Eugene District OMTA • General Meeting****Monday, February 11, 2019 • First Congregational Church, Eugene**

President Mason called the meeting to order at 9:32 am.

The January minutes (in Con brio) were approved by voice vote.

The Treasurer's report (in Con Brio) was approved by voice vote.

Committee Reports

Membership: New members: Emily Lassen rejoined. She was president of her undergraduate chapter at BYU. She would be interested in university outreach. She teaches classical and is seeking students. Owen McCoy joined in September. Alaina Norland is thinking of joining.

Student Activities

Baroque Festival (this past Saturday): [David Cragun] This is too much responsibility for one chairperson, especially a new one. Lucy Clevenger and Genevieve Mason will work on this. There are some good models for how to manage this. It is also important to have a summertime meeting of all the event chairpersons; Genevieve Mason will make this happen next summer. Also, based on this recital, we should make sure the adjudicators are familiar with OMTA.

OMTA District Recital: The event is March 9, 2019 and the deadline is February 22, 2019 or postmark by February 20, 2019. An issue was brought up from the Ensemble Festival which applies here too: a parent was upset about paying \$20 for siblings to play one song. Clarification: it is OMTA policy that the fee is per student. The family discount applies when a parent accompanies their child.

Composition Celebration: [Paul Safar] Friday, April 5, 2019 at Unity of the Valley. The deadline for formal entries is March 14, 2019.

Contemporary Music Festival: April 14, 2019 at Unity of the Valley. Deadline is April 1, 2019. Lucy Clevenger will put some details in Con Brio.

Spring Syllabus [Carol White] The event will be April 26-28, 2019, not what was on the agenda. Please re-read the instructions. Leggiero registration is now open and will run through Spring Break. For questions about registration type or number of pieces, please contact Carol via email. The type of adjudication can be changed up until time they meet the adjudicator. If you can open your studio, please let her know. We need more studios.

Soule Scholarship: Juniors and Seniors are welcome. Three pieces must be performed. Prizes: 1st: \$750, 2nd: \$250, 3rd: \$100.

[Continued on next page...]

Teacher Showcase: [Wyatt Burger] May 18, 2019. Please consider participation. Collaborations are welcome. Contact Wyatt for more information and about the deadline.

Announcements

Hult Center Student of the Month: [Sandy Hull] The Hult Center is doing a Student of the Month afternoon recitals in their showcase. Sandy will look it up and report back.

Roberta Rust Master Class at Beall Hall: Thursday, February 28, 2019. Recital March 1, 2019.

Piano maintenance at Unity: (Harsh tone, other issues). Mike Reiter has evaluated it. We need an itemized estimate. To save time, the Executive Committee will vote on the repairs. This was approved by general assent.

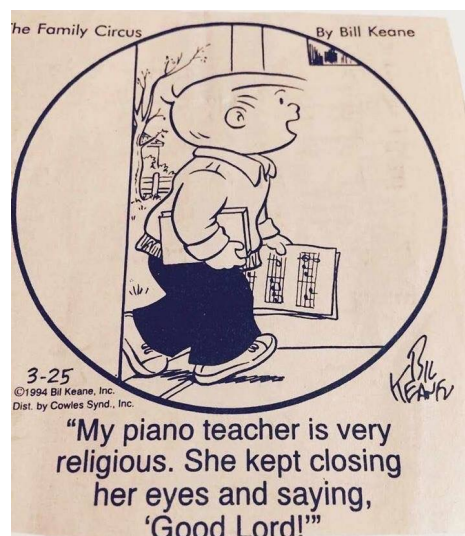
In Good Hands: A selection meeting will take place at the home of Paul Safar on Sunday, March 3, 2019. This event is not on our website. No decision was made about making it an official chapter activity, but at least it will be mentioned on our website to act within the State OMTA restrictions on putting events for profit on the website (e.g. recitals with admission). Plan: Alexis can create an information sheet or add a link to Cascadia Composers. Nick Rieser will get the information from Paul Safar and relay it to Alexis.

New resource: Composer Rene Salm has a new music publishing company, mostly for piano music. There are discounts for volume orders. They would members to review the music in exchange for free copies. On March 30, 2019; there will be a world premiere of his new organ pieces at the Church of the Resurrection with Hunter Slowinski. Rene promote it through Con Brio.

Next meeting: March 11. Presentation topic: Creating a Methodology for Mastering Sight-Reading. Presented by Eugene OMTA Members.

Meeting adjourned by President Mason at 10:16 A.M.

Attendees: not available.



Member Composer Corner

Dear Eugene OMTA member—

I'm a composer member in the Eugene chapter of OMTA and would like to introduce piano teachers to my Children's Pieces, which have just been published by Laureate Music (www.laureatemusic.com), my fledgling publishing company.

I'm excited to offer Eugene OMTA colleagues a 33% discount on all Laureate Music publications during the year 2019. Five publications are scheduled to appear this year. The following two are now available, both for solo piano:

- Children's Pieces (retail \$8.95; Eugene OMTA member discount \$5.95). Elementary-Intermediate levels. 12 pp. Dr. Genevieve Mason expertly assisted with the editing and fingering of these seven short and very melodious pieces.

- Preludes, Inventions, and Processional (retail \$11.95; Eugene OMTA member discount \$7.95). 8 pieces, intermediate level, 28 pp.

To receive the discount, please click on the "Eugene OMTA member" option on the product page at www.laureatemusic.com.

This discount will be good thru 2019 as long as supplies last. To qualify, you need to be a member of the Eugene chapter of OMTA at the time of ordering.

Of special interest to piano teachers, an even greater discount (50%) is available to any teacher who orders five or more copies of the same item at once, for his or her students.

With very best regards,

Rene Salm

Laureate Music
rene@laureatemusic.com

