



## President's Message, April 2019

Hello everybody,

During the Spring break, I came in touch with the following quote by Viktor Frankl:

"Don't aim at success. The more you aim at it and make it a target, the more you are going to miss it. For success, like happiness, cannot be pursued; it must ensue, and it only does so as the unintended side effect of one's personal dedication to a cause greater than oneself or as the by-product of one's surrender to a person other than oneself. Happiness must happen, and the same holds for success: you have to let it happen by not caring about it. I want you to listen



to what your conscience commands you to do and go on to carry it out to the best of your knowledge. Then you will live to see that in the long-run—in the long-run, I say!—success will follow you precisely because you had forgotten to think about it."

— [Viktor E. Frankl, Man's Search for Meaning](#)

If success and happiness ensue as the unintended side effect of one's personal dedication to a cause greater than oneself, let's ask ourselves the question "What greater cause than myself am I pursuing? Am I dedicating myself personally to that cause?" For sure, being an active member of OMTA is a dedicated act. Many of us give our time freely to serve the whole group! It takes time to organize festivals, to organize meetings, to go to state meetings, to create presentations, to create a website, to edit minutes, to write checks, to edit a newsletter....and I probably forget some of the tasks. Isn't it a great example of what life should be? A place full of generosity, love, rationality, creativity?

I am calling to all of you who are members of Eugene OMTA and have not yet engaged in serving in some way. Spring is the time when we will invite people to participate in organizing festivals and maybe take other responsibilities for the coming year. It is great to be part of a joyful musical team! And if your students participate and benefit from festivals, don't you want for these events to keep going? The best way to guarantee that is to help in organizing! As I mentioned in March, we will propose to have committees of two or three persons to run some festivals. It should make the task easier. So, gather passion, commitment and generosity, and be ready to answer a joyful "yes" when you will be invited! And of course, if you already feel the call and want to volunteer, please let me know!!!

Happy Spring!

Genevieve Mason,

*Eugene District OMTA President*

## Meeting April 8, 2019 Meeting Schedule

April 8, 2019 Meeting Schedule

Hello Members,

It is once again time to gather for social and business purposes and to enjoy an informative and helpful program. Our social time will begin at 9:00 am and extend to 9:30 am, followed immediately by the business meeting. At 10:15 our own members Dr. Genevieve Mason, Eugene's President, and Dr. Betsy Parker will host a program titled "Popular music from old favorites to recently published for solo and ensembles." **The meeting will take place at Betsy Parker's home at 3265 University St., Eugene, 97405.** As a special attraction, Betsy encourages members to experience the beauty of her phenomenal hand-built Fazioli grand piano. Fazioli produces only about 100 pianos a year from its single factory. I urge everyone to take advantage of this opportunity to feel and hear the Fazioli's wide dynamic range produced effortlessly and the clarity of its bass tones.

There is a very special and important request from Betsy. Please do not bring any food containing gluten into her home. She is extremely allergic to this substance and any crumbs or droppings could cause her a serious problem. If you have any questions about the refreshments that you intend to bring, please contact Betsy at 541-484-7196. Thank you.

Janet Pollack  
Vice President, Eugene District-OMTA

Details in Brief

Event date: Monday, April 8, 2019  
Location: Home of Dr. Betsy Parker, 3265 University St., Eugene, 97405  
Social Gathering: 9:00 am- 9:30 am  
Business Meeting: 9:30-10:10 am  
Program: 10:15-11:45 am  
**Special note: No refreshments continuing gluten.**

### Special Message from Betsy Parker

Genevieve and I are playing straight through our program of musical duets and solos in popular styles at my house this Saturday, April 6 at 4 pm for any interested members who are unable to attend on Monday. Please email or call Betsy to reserve a seat. It will be informal, so it's ok to come late or leave early. The playing is a little over an hour.

Thanks for getting the word out, Wyatt!

*Betsy*  
541-484-7196  
[betsyparker@comcast.net](mailto:betsyparker@comcast.net)

## OMTA Eugene Treasurer's Report



Account Activity  
March 1, 2019  
through  
March 30, 2019



### Checking Account

Date	Description	Debit	Credit	Balance
March 1, 2019	Beginning Balance			\$ 1,830.30
March 3, 2019	Baroque Fest.		\$ 561.00	
March 9, 2019	Membership		\$ 25.00	
March 11, 2019	Fee reversal		\$ 5.00	
March 11, 2019	Baroque Fest.		\$ 51.00	
March 11, 2019	Adjudicators Fee	\$ 533.00		
March 20, 2019	District Recital		\$ 330.00	
March 26, 2019	Patricia Morse	\$ 9.14		
March 30, 2019	Composition Cele.		\$ 235.00	
	<b>Ending Balance</b>			<b>\$ 2,495.16</b>

### Savings Account

Date	Description	Debit	Credit	Balance
March 1, 2019	Beginning Balance			\$ 11,854.79
<b>March 30, 2019</b>	<b>Ending Balance</b>			<b>\$ 11,854.79</b>

### Certificate of Deposit

Date	Description	Debit	Credit	Balance
March 30, 2019	Balance			\$ 2,350.28

Treasurer Cheri Ann Richardson

## Con Brio April 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  
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 May 2019 issue of Con Brio is Sunday, May 5, 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.

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***.

**The April 15th deadline for entries is fast approaching!  
We still need more teachers to participate.**

If you would like to perform in the ***Teacher Showcase***, please send the following information to me by email:

**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 include an accurate performance time.

Wyatt Burger  
westlanepiano@cvcable.net

## **300th Issue of the Con Brio!**

As the current editor of this journal for the Eugene District, I was pleasantly surprised to notice this was our Opus 300 issue. At ten issues a year, that works out to 30 years of Con Brios since Lea Mirabella began sending these out to our members. I still remember receiving my copy in the mail as a new teacher 22 years ago. Thank you to all the teachers who make this district such a blessing to its members. And thanks in memory of Lea for setting the bar so high for us as a district!

Sincerely,  
*Neil Patton*

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

President Mason called the meeting to order at 9:46 am.

The February 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: Alaina Norland is currently at Lane. She is seeking students. We still need to iron out some logistical issues with new members - getting them on the mail list, etc.

### **Student Activities**

OMTA District Recital: The recital program did not use our template - some members have trouble with it because it's in Word .doc format and they don't use Word. Alexis will find a solution by making it work as a Google doc.

Composition Celebration: [Paul Safar] Friday, April 5, 2019 at Unity of the Valley. The deadline for formal entries is March 14, 2019. It's a Friday evening, but is usually only about one hour. Nick Yandell (from Portland) is the adjudicator. Structured improvisation is OK, but most of it will be written-out pieces. Ensemble pieces are OK – they are usually performed with MIDI accompaniment, but it's OK if the composer arranges a piece for an ensemble.

Contemporary Music Festival: [Lucy Clevenger] Sunday, April 14, 2019 at Unity of the Valley. Deadline is April 1, 2019. Improvisation is OK.

Spring Syllabus [Carol White] The event will be April 26-28, 2019. Please re-read the instructions. Leggiro registration is now open and will run through Spring Break. We need more studios.

Soule Scholarship [Lucy Clevenger] High School juniors and seniors are welcome. Locations are not set – we are looking for a studio. President Mason said she heard complaints that students playing in their home studio are at an advantage because of familiarity with the piano, and that we should have all auditions at “away” studios. Members commented that that would be logistically difficult. There were also comments that the most neutral adjudication can be difficult if the adjudicator is from Eugene and knows the teachers, and that it would be best to have adjudicators from other districts.

Note: The Eugene Marathon is April 28. You may want avoid problems by requesting a Friday or Saturday slot for both the Soule Scholarship audition and the Spring Syllabus, both that weekend.

Teacher Showcase: May 18. Wyatt wants entries. 5/18. Please consider participating.

### **Announcements**

In Good Hands: [Paul Safar] Many (but not all) of the pieces will be premieres. Please let Paul know if you are interested and haven't requested pieces. He will send you the spreadsheet with sound files and scores.

State OMTA Board Meeting (and roundtable discussion): [Janet Pollack] At the roundtable, the possibility of an OMTA President's Facebook group was discussed. There was also a discussion of

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mentorship for officers-elect. Procedures for handling information requests are going to be streamlined through the creation of a “hierarchical tree.” This tree will be available on the OMTA website.

At the Board meeting, several important issues were raised: 1) declining membership; 2) OMTA President Manson is creating a marketing handbook, which will be available on the OMTA website; 3) grants for teachers to attend pedagogy conferences are available.

Note that Oregon Community Foundation (OCF) money – which generously paid for two of this year’s programs - will not be available to our chapter next year. With the decrease in available money, it is necessary to limit funds to rural districts only and not provide funding for districts with easy access to the I-5 corridor. However, Nellie Tholen funds will be available to all districts for one program.

Music Link remains active statewide. Please see Janet Pollack, the Eugene coordinator, for details.

The controversial issue of whether to allow non-OMTA teachers to participate in any of our festivals and syllabus events was discussed by the state board, and it was decided that they will not be allowed. David Cragun said the federal government told us several years ago that prohibiting non-member teachers and students to participate was non-competitive and disallowed.

Other information: the OMTA retail store (syllabus, books, etc.) is going entirely online. After May 1, 2019 you will not be able to call the office and send a check for merchandise.

Note: The Eugene chapter of OMTA is officially non-profit - Delores got that straightened about six years ago.

Yamaha piano repair at Unity of the Valley: Classic Pianos will pay for the needed maintenance. Issues to be returned to later: should we name Classic Pianos as a sponsor on some of our promotion? Should we send a gift to Classic Pianos? We also may want to formally thank Eugene Pianos (Tom Turner) because they provide the piano for the Barnes and Noble event.

**Unfinished business:**

Referrals on the website: We need a website link to Jane Young’s email for teacher referrals, perhaps a more prominent button on the home page. There is also nothing on the website that helps a teacher looking for students. Genevieve will work with Jane Young on this.

**Next meeting:** April 8, 2019, at the home of Betsy Parker, 3265 University Street, Eugene. Information on the web site is incorrect. The meeting is mainly about music for the Popular Festival, but others as well. *Betsy welcomes everyone to play during social time on her Fazzioli piano!* Refreshments for this meeting must be gluten free!

Meeting adjourned by President Mason at 10:50 A.M.

*Attendees: Alexis Gibbons, Carol White, Jane Young, Janet Pollack, Genevieve Mason, Nick Rieser, Lucy Clevenger, David Cragun, Paul Safar, Alaina Norland, Cheri Richardson.*