



President's Message, October 2019

Hello everybody,

I hope you are all doing well with the freezing morning temperatures and the sunny afternoons (so far.) Here is some news from our Eugene District OMTA!

We had a nice and longer than usual business meeting last October, as our guest Thomas Oten had to cancel his visit due to health issues. Be sure to read the minutes.

I heard from Sandy Hull that the Sonatina Festival went very smoothly. Thanks Fern, Sandy, and the team!

I was at the second recital of the Festival of Popular Music, and it was so enjoyable! We had great variety in repertoire, including Ava Renich performing the piece of her composer/teacher, Neil Patton. What an inspiration! Thanks Wyatt for chairing!

For the Ensemble Festival which will be this Sunday, November 9, we have seven performers from four studios participating. I would like to discuss the situation with this festival, as the participation is quite low. Should we have it for a year or two as a simple non-adjudicated festival, so it looks more casual? Maybe we could merge it with the Festival of Popular Music to attract some more modern music ensembles who play acoustic instruments? Please think about it and come to the meeting on November 11 if you wish to be part of the conversation and share ideas.

We were planning events to make OMTA more visible in the community. One in November, one in December. The one in November is happening, as we will have a table at the UO School of Music Industry Networking Fair on Friday November 15th from 1:00-4:00 PM in Aasen-Hull Hall (room 190) at the UO School of Music. Here is the description of the event: "This event is a hybrid career fair and networking event in which music-related businesses and organizations will be in attendance with students interested in a career in the music industry." Sandy Hull will be at the table from 1:00-2:00, I will be there 2:00-3:00. We need someone at 3:00-4:00. Please, consider participating! For December, we were planning to be part of the B & N Holiday Gift Wrapping on Saturday December 7th, at 10:00. I got only two answers after sending a message asking for volunteers, so I waited, and now they are no more freespots to participate on the week-end. We could take a spot on December 6, the Friday before our play-a-thon...To be discussed.

See you all at our monthly meeting on November 11th!

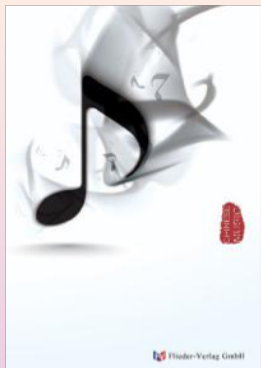
Genevieve Mason



Students and teachers at the Festival of Popular Music, Sunday October 27

November 11th, 2019 Meeting and Program

Hello Members,



I am pleased to announce that Ms Rentana Wu will present a program focused on *Intermediate-level Piano Repertoire by Chinese Composers* at our November 11th meeting of the Eugene District—Oregon Music Teachers Association. Ms Wu is a University of Oregon doctoral candidate in piano performance and piano pedagogy with a supporting area in collaborative piano. She was awarded a Graduate Teaching Fellowship at the UO from 2016-2019, teaching studio and class piano. Before moving to Eugene, Ms Wu was on the faculty of the Kwan Academy of Music in California, teaching studio and group piano as well as theory. In addition to performing solo and collaborative recitals in the U.S., she has presented guest lectures at [Guangxi University](#) in China.

Rentana Wu grew up in China and attended Shandong University for her undergraduate degree in musicology. She received her master's degree in piano performance from San Jose State—University of California, where she was a student of Dr. Gwen Mok. She is presently a student of Dr. Claire Wachter.

Janet Pollack

Vice President, Eugene District-OMTA

Details in Brief

Event date: Monday, November 11th, 2019

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

Social Gathering: 9:00-9:30 am

Business Meeting: 9:30-10:10 am

Program: 10:15-11:30 am

The deadline for submitting articles and announcements for the December 2019 issue of *Con Brio* is Sunday, December 1, 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.

Con Brio **November 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

OMTA Eugene Treasurer's Report



Account Activity
October 1, 2019
 through
October 31, 2019



Checking Account

Date	Description	Debit	Credit	Balance
October 1, 2019	Beginning Balance			\$ 3,013.95
October 11, 2019	U of O-Sept.Mtg.	\$105.00		
October 17, 2019	First Congregation	\$ 410.00		
October 23, 2019	Membership		\$ 100.00	
October 31, 2019	Ending Balance			\$ 2,598.95

Savings Account

Date	Description	Debit	Credit	Balance
October 1, 2019	Beginning Balance			\$ 11,178.10
October 31, 2019	Interest		\$ 0.47	
October 31, 2019	Ending Balance			\$ 11,178.57

Certificate of Deposit

Date	Description	Debit	Credit	Balance
October 31, 2019	Balance			\$ 2,368.00

Treasurer Cheri Ann Richardson

Barnes & Noble Fundraiser

Dear Teachers,

Our Barnes@Noble fundraising is going to take place on December 7 and 8, 2019. If you are planning to participate please let me and I will email you the schedule to sign up.

Thank you!

Lucy Clevenger NCTM
lucyclevenger@gmail.com
 951-440-1841
clevengerpiano.com



Festival of Popular Music

The Festival of Popular Music was held Sunday, October 27, at the United Lutheran Church, 2230 Washington St., Eugene. This year we had 35 student entries from 10 teachers, divided between two well-attended recitals.

Net income from this year's festival came to \$186.28.

For comparison, last year's festival had 43 students, 9 teachers, and 3 recitals. In 2017 we had 54 students, 14 teachers, divided among 3 recitals; and in 2016 there were 25 students from 6 teachers, and only one recital.

The United Lutheran Church sanctuary served as an excellent venue. The combination of well-prepared students, dedicated teachers, and supportive audiences continue to make this a popular and fun event.

Respectfully submitted,

Wyatt Burger, chair
Festival of Popular Music

Baroque Festival 2020

Now that the Popular and Sonatina festivals are over, it's time to focus on Baroque music for the Eugene District Baroque Festival!

When: Saturday, February 8, 2020

Deadline: Friday, January 24, 2020

Where: Unity of the Valley

Fee: The entry fee for all students is \$17.00.

Teachers may choose to enter students as competitive or non-competitive performers. Competitive students are grouped by age in four divisions and must perform from memory. All students are adjudicated and will receive written comments.

Submit your entries through the easy online program, *Leggiero*. Print your invoice and mail it with your check to Ellen McQuilkin no later than February 23rd so it will arrive by the deadline. Complete event descriptions can be found on the District and State websites.

If you have questions, please contact Ellen McQuilkin or Olga Aynvarg, event co-chairs.

Ellen and Olga
ellenmcquilkin@gmail.com
olga.aynvarg@gmail.com

Contemporary Music Festival goes Hand in Hand with In Good Hands!

This year's Contemporary Music Festival, taking place Sunday, April 19th at Unity of the Valley Church, will also include works by Northwest Composers. For nearly ten years, Portland based Cascadia Composers has presented the annual In Good Hands recital in Portland (This season's Portland recital will be on July 11th). This unique project involves piano teachers choosing new compositions by area composers for their students to learn and perform. The student and teacher get to meet with and get ideas from the composer of the piece at least once before the recital. For this season in Eugene, In Good Hands will pair up with the Contemporary Music Festival, chaired by Lucy Clevenger. A sweet In Good Hands tradition has been the composer presenting a rose at the concert to both the student and teacher (funny as we were just discussing this idea at the Monday meeting :)). For those Eugene teachers who received the spreadsheet of pieces(scores and recordings) to choose works from last year, please consider looking through them again or email me to give you the file. Otherwise, stay tuned for a new batch of pieces right after New Years to peruse.

Many thanks for considering to include a local compser's work in this years Contemporary Music Festival!

-Paul Safar info@cblossom.org, Cascadia Composers



Composition Celebration, Friday April 3rd at 5:30 p.m. at Unity of the Valley

Paul Safar here with a gentle reminder to consider encouraging some of your students(of all ages) to begin work on composition with the goal of submitting a piece for the Celebration this April 3rd (deadline is March 12th). This year's adjudicator is Lisa Neher, composer,soprano and teacher based in Portland. Nick Rieser and I would like to host a work session at my studio the weekend of February 1st for pieces in progress. Please let me know in the coming months if that is of interest.

-Paul Safar, Composition Celebration chair

MINUTES
Eugene District OMTA • General Meeting
Monday, October 14, 2019 • First Congregational Church, Eugene

President Mason called the meeting to order at 9:35 am.

The Treasurer's Report and the Treasurer's reports are both in Con Brio).

Committee Reports

Membership: 15 people did not renew this year. Genevieve followed up by calling them, including calling those who haven't renewed in the last 2-3 years; five renewals have happened since the phone calls.

Former chapter president David Cragun is one of the members who did not renew. He is moving to Utah. Genevieve suggested we do something nice for him before he leaves Oregon. Members present agreed.

We need ideas to bring in new members. Sandy Hull said there was a sort of music meet 'n' greet at U of O coming up that we could look into. Genevieve is going to take some of our new fliers and posters to LCC. Paul Safar suggested putting some in Epoch Music.

Genevieve proposed that we remove people from the OMTA directory who have not renewed their membership for three years. This was approved by unanimous vote. So the website will be updated to reflect this.

Student Activities

Sonatina Festival: - This is the last year Sandy Hull and Fern McArthur will be chairing this event. We need to find a chair for next year to continue with this tradition. Janet will put in an article to aid the search for next year's chairs.

Fern said there are less teachers this year than usual, but a good turnout of students (71). However, there are only two level 1-2 students. Please bring more of these!

At least three door monitors are needed - even a half hour would help.

Festival of Popular Music: (Genevieve presenting for chair Wyatt Burger). The festival will be at the United Lutheran Church, not Unity of the Valley. Registration deadline is this Friday, October 18, 2019.

Sandy Hull has a student who pulled out the Sonata Festival. She wants to know if her student can play her piece at the Festival of Popular Music (this had been approved by Wyatt). This was approved by vote.

Fall Syllabus: (Carol White presenting). 12 students registered and four teachers in two studios. It will probably be one afternoon because of the number of students. Registration is open until Friday, October 18, 2019.

Paul Safar offered his studio as a place for Spring Syllabus.

Ensemble Festival: (Michelle Norland presenting). Hung Yung Chu will be adjudicating. So far no entries have been received by mail.

President Mason brought up that we are trying to do outreach to get more participants as last year's attendance was down significantly. She also mentioned Nick Rieser's concern that the \$30 fee for non-member teachers would be a deterrent for participation, and perhaps we should waive it.

Fern said the fee is in the state by-laws, but there is some local flexibility. Some suggested President Mason bring it up at the President's roundtable if a price change is non-negotiable in the by-laws.

Others suggested that we could just waive the fee for non-competitors, but Fern McArthur said that the by-laws allow non-members participate only in paid competitive events. Others suggested that maybe we ***[Continued on next page...]***

could make a “first time free” to encourage non-members to participate. Fern says there is some autonomy between state and district so we might be able to do this.

Barnes and Noble: There are still some spaces. Please sign up!

March district recital: There is still no chairperson.

Announcements

Issue of motivating students to participate in competitions and events. Suggestions included trophies or other celebrations of achievements; earning trophies from event points; rewards like flowers, music or desserts.

Cascadia Composers/“In Good Hands” recital: (Paul Safar presenting). – This allows member composers to guide students in preparing their performances. In Good Hands will be combined with the Contemporary Festival in April to increase participation. A suggestion was made to re-name the combined event “Contemporary Festival, Hand in Hand with In Good Hands”. All members present thought it was a fantastic idea.

It was also suggested that they have an informal work session where students can get input on their personal compositions from other students or composers.

May Brunch

Valley River Center has a new policy where you must pay for a minimum of 25 participants (we usually have around 20). The idea of looking for alternative venues was met with general approval. Please send alternative suggestions to Janet.

“Jane Glover Presents” event proposal

Joe McInnis (widower of Jane Glover), plans to donate \$5,000 to the Eugene chapter for an annual concert to honor Jane named “Jane Glover Presents” and featuring a special piano talent from out of town.

We need a committee to look at feasibility, costs, planning, associated events like master classes, causes to support, etc. We need to move quickly so if you are able/willing to be a part of the committee please contact Janet as soon as possible.

President Mason adjourned the meeting at 10:55 am.

Attendees: Genevieve Mason, Lucy Clevenger, Nick Rieser, Sandy Hull, Cheri Richardson, Paul Safar, Carol White, Michelle Norland, Laura DuBois, Fern McArthur, Alexis Gibbons, Janet Pollack, Mary Ellen Yost.

