



## President's Message, January 2020

Hello everybody, Happy New Year!

I hope your Holiday season was happy and peaceful. As this 2020 year begins, I wish all of you the best, and particularly a lot of joy with all your musical activities!

It is a good time to think again about why we are part of OMTA. Our Bylaws says that the object of the Association is the advancement of musical knowledge and education. Why do we choose to do that? It's because we love music. This love for music shows when we play our instruments, when we teach our students. In our OMTA group, it shows up with all the activities we are creating: festivals, syllabus examinations, monthly meetings with presentations, conferences... As we create these events, we "practice" generosity, responsibility, imagination, flexibility, respect. Social skills improve, we grow as human beings! For our students and families, all these performing events bring a sense of accomplishment, and a lot of motivation!

Let's keep this creative movement alive and exciting! Thanks to everybody for all your great work! And see you all at our meeting on January 13!

Genevieve Mason  
*Eugene District OMTA President*



Some pics from our  
December Potluck.

## January 13th, 2020 Meeting and Program

*Happy New Year,*

I am delighted to announce that the Eugene District of the Oregon Music Teachers Association will kick off the new year with **Jennifer Wright's** program titled *Playing Perfectly: What it Takes to Practice and Perform Completely Without Mistakes (or fear of mistakes) —Yes, it is possible!* The program will take place at the First Congregation Church of Eugene, Wheeler room.

Jennifer Wright's innovative spirit amazes and intrigues me, and I hope she will inspire you to push your own musical boundaries. She holds two degrees in classical piano performance (BM, Hartt School of Music; MM, Trinity College of Music, London, England) and studied for two years at the Stuttgart Music Conservatory in Germany. Further studies and obsessions include the harpsichord, toy piano, jazz, piano pedagogy, theater, voice, composition, history, art and creative storytelling. These interests combine with her passion for teaching and she claims to spend her days continuously devising a diverse range of adventurous performances and educational projects. Jennifer is a member of the Board of Directors of Cascadia Composers.



*Janet Pollack*

Vice President, Eugene District-OMTA



### Details in Brief

Event date: Monday, January 13th, 2020

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

### **Con Brio**

#### **January 2020**

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  
November 26, 2019  
through  
December 31, 2020



### Checking Account

Date	Description	Debit	Credit	Balance
November 26, 2019	Beginning Balance			\$ 3,030.23
November 27, 2020	Mtg. refreshments	\$25.61		
November 27, 2020	Ensemble Fest.	\$ 16.81		
December 18, 2020	Valley River Inn	\$ 100.00		
December 26, 2020	Ensemble Adj.	\$ 72.00		
December 31, 2020				
<b>December 31, 2019</b>	<b>Ending Balance</b>			<b>\$ 2,815.81</b>

### Savings Account

Date	Description	Debit	Credit	Balance
November 26, 2019	Beginning Balance			\$ 11,178.57
November 30, 2020	Interest		\$ 0.46	
December 31, 2020	Interest		\$ 0.47	
<b>December 31, 2019</b>	<b>Ending Balance</b>			<b>\$ 11,179.50</b>

### Certificate of Deposit

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

Treasurer Cheri Ann Richardson

The deadline for submitting articles and announcements for the February 2020 issue of Con Brio is Sunday, February 2, 2020.

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.

## Baroque Festival 2020

*Brrrrrrr-oque...* is it just me, or is it starting to feel a bit *trilly* with this cold weather? January is here, and it's time to start putting away the ornaments... but don't put away those mordents or turns! Register your students 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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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, Olga, and Andrew

[ellenmcquilkin@gmail.com](mailto:ellenmcquilkin@gmail.com)

[olga.aynvarg@gmail.com](mailto:olga.aynvarg@gmail.com)

[pham.andrew.t@gmail.com](mailto:pham.andrew.t@gmail.com)

## 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 workshop at my studio the weekend of February 8th, 1:00, for pieces in progress. Please let me know soon if that is of interest.

-Paul Safar, Composition Celebration chair

[info@cblossom.org](mailto:info@cblossom.org)



## 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](mailto:info@cblossom.org)  
Cascadia Composers



### Barnes & Noble Fundraiser

Our annual OMTA fundraising event took place on December 7th and 8th at Barnes@Noble bookstore. We had nineteen participating teachers this year and recitals ran smoothly from around 10:30 am till 7 pm for both days. We had a very nice Yamaha grand GC2 provided free of charge by Portland Classics Piano that was brought from Eugene Piano Academy. Susan Davis was the liaison between Portland Classics Piano and OMTA coordinating the move which was very helpful. OMTA expense was \$250 to Emerald movers.

Respectfully submitted by  
Lucy Clevenger, NCTM

## MINUTES

Eugene District OMTA • Discussion  
Monday, December 9, 2020 • Home of Lucy Clevenger

The discussion began around 9:30 am.

**2020 OMTA Composition Festival/In Good Hands:** The Composition Festival will be in Eugene in 2020. It will be combined with In Good Hands (IGH will be a separate section of the overall concert). Five teachers have indicated so far that they probably will participate. Paul Safar said that pieces from the composition database from last year can be used. He will provide a list of composers, and he can also provide extra pieces if needed. Once you have selected a piece, you find out who the composer is and meet with him/her and your student electronically or in person. At the IGH concert the composer presents a rose to the student as a thank-you.

**Jane Glover Presents:** Paul Safar recommended his friend George Lopez, Professor of Music at Bowdoin College and proposed that he be the first Jane Glover artist. Recently George presented a house concert of Cuban music and master class at Paul's studio. His presentations are flexible, and for our chapter he could combine a concert, master class, and solo recital, or other events. The group discussed this with interest and set the weekend of October 9-10, 2020 as a tentative date for Mr. Lopez's presentation. Late April 2020 would work too.

The gift from Joe McInnis will allow us to spend some money on publicity. One possible plan: we would forego our regular meeting. The recital would be Friday or Saturday, with a master class possibly Saturday afternoon. Genevieve will check other venues. Please think about intermediate and advanced students.

**Other monthly meeting presentations:** (Dr. Pollack) Dr. Tutunov will have a master class after our February 2020 meeting (fairly near the Baroque Festival). We'll decide later about having a short meeting (or no meeting) to allow extra time for it. This is valuable enough for a student to skip school. Students should be intermediate to advanced. Email Dr. Pollack if you have a candidate ASAP! It will be in the chapel at the Congregational Church (our regular meeting location).

Dr. Otten will not have a master class, just a presentation.

**Contemporary Music Festival:** Leggiero will be used for registration for 2020. It eliminates the need to print a program. We could absorb the cost of using it, but maybe perhaps the \$2 additional cost is not an issue for students. Decision on this left for an official meeting.

**Sonatina Festival:** it will start being biennial (so not 2020, but yes 2021). It's too much work to do annually. We discussed the idea of having a classical festival in November in the "off" years of the Sonatina Festival. Any type of piece would be allowed, not just sonatinas. It could be adjudicated or not. We can finalize the idea of a local classical festival in the January meeting.

**Ensemble Festival:** Two concerns: First, we need to account for the fact that there are Level 1 students playing duets with their teacher even though the description says Level II and up. Second, decoupling from the state festival would mean that students who want to go on to the state festival (for their playing history this is beneficial) won't get to do that. That could affect their playing history. This argues for making the festival very open and appealing while retaining the state timing link.

**Photo permissions:** We must have permission to publish photos of minors from now on (Con Brio and state Music News). We need to use the MTNA permission form. We will link to the state form from the chapter website.

## ***On the Topic of Recitals***

I joined OMTA in 2006, a year after moving to Eugene from San Diego. This was my first membership in a professional organization, and the main attraction for me was all of the opportunities for students to perform. Being on my own in California, I had just two annual class recitals. 13 years later, after learning all about the benefits and responsibilities of being an OMTA member, chairing numerous events, attending yearly conferences, becoming nationally certified and training to be an adjudicator, I still think that the prime reason I am an OMTA member is student activities.

Piano playing is a performing art. We take 5-6 years olds and we teach them theory and technique, how to practice, develop their musicality and give them a taste for classical music. And then we have to teach them the most important skill - performance. It is true that we can practice performing (and certainly should) at home for a family, in the teacher's studio at performance classes, recording yourself during practice sessions. But the ultimate goal, the challenge, the reward of all these hours of practicing is to successfully perform in front of an audience.

Some years ago we had vibrant recitals, especially competitive Ensemble and Baroque Festivals. This year we had only 7 groups participating in one recital - the Ensemble Festival. By the way, it was a wonderful recital, probably because students performed so well. We had a 5 year old and an 82 year old performing, and it was so moving! There were talks about cancelling this festival because of low participation, and if we had gone ahead with this, the disappointment for students and teachers would have been significant. I am so glad it didn't happen! In addition, recitals, particularly the non-adjudicated events, generate income for our chapter.

There is one event that is the most popular in our district - the Barnes@Noble Fundraiser. There are about 20 teachers who always

participate, and the attraction in part seems to be the beautiful venue for a free class recital, the festive atmosphere which is perfect for beginners, the unrestricted repertoire, lack of forms to fill and send in, no fees to collect, no deadlines. Although we do have strong participation for this event and others, we also have many teachers in our district who sign up their students for recitals only rarely or not at all. In our chapter meetings we hear more and more suggestions to eliminate this or that recital, along with continuous problems finding volunteers to chair them. I find this tendency disheartening. We have to think how to make recitals more attractive for teachers - using Leggiero for registration will definitely make paperwork and chairing much easier, for instance. We know that active, caring members make all the difference in a non-profit organization like ours.

Looking at some of the vibrant Portland festivals participation and talking to teachers there, I noticed one interesting statistical fact - out of 231 participating students and 61 teachers in one particular festival, only 5 teachers had about 10-15 students, the rest - between 1-8, mostly 1-3. That means that even one student from one studio makes a big difference. Recitals are successful not because of a few teachers with a lot of students but lots of teachers with a few students.

We have already started to plan for the next school year. Because the Sonata Festival will not be held in October 2020, and it has been proposed to move the Ensemble Festival from November to January, we will have a gap between the Festival of Popular Music in October and the Barnes@Noble play-a-thon in December. Since Baroque, Romantic and Contemporary styles are covered by the Baroque, Spring and Contemporary Festivals, perhaps we could have a Classical Festival in November.

I am also working with Ramona Goddard to add Eugene recitals on the Leggiero platform, starting with Contemporary Festival in April 2020, which will make participation easier. In addition, It would be helpful to hear from

our members what kind of recitals they think would attract participation. Let's try to support and participate in these important performance venues.

Respectfully submitted,

*Lucy Clevenger, NCTM*

## Hair Reed Hammer: The Articulation of Sound and Song

Cascadia Composers presents an evening of the music of Paul Safar and Daniel Heila. Both composers will present string quartets, saxophone quartets, and piano works.

Guest artists include the Delgani String Quartet and vocalist Nancy Wood.

The concert will be held at the Unity of the Valley Church (3912 Dillard Rd Eugene, OR 97405) on Saturday February 22 at 7:30pm.

Tickets will be available at the door:

Adults - \$15-20 sliding scale  
Students \$10.



### Upright Piano (w/bench) For Sale!

\$4200, Charles Walter #520472

circa 1995

43 "

I've had this piano for about 10 years. I bought it from Portland Piano Company. It's been well maintained, and regularly tuned. It's a lovely ebony upright that is my second piano which I just don't use enough these days to make it worth my keeping. Hope to find a good home for it!

Paul Safar(piano teacher/composer)  
541 868 5725 or [info@cblossom.org](mailto:info@cblossom.org)

