



## President's Message, May 2020

Hello everybody,

It is nearly two months now that a lot of us are teaching online. What an experience! I hope all of you are satisfied and getting comfortable with the settings. Thanks again to Neil Patton for sharing his knowledge and experience with the virtual world in the last Con Brio. Around the same subject, I want to bring to your attention that a team of Eugene District OMTA teachers has met weekly to improve their skills in that domain. You will find some information in the following pages if you are interested.

This past month, Eugene District OMTA was very quiet, as Syllabus Examinations and the Contemporary Music Festival were cancelled. So, it was good news to receive the message about the State organizing a Virtual Concert for the students who were chosen as Honored Composers at the district Composition Celebrations! What a smart format the committee adopted. Yes, this is a time for creativity!

In the area of creativity, we are going to have fun here in Eugene! We will have a virtual party in the evening of Saturday May 16, in lieu of the Teachers' Showcase, which had to be canceled. As you will read, this event will provide an opportunity for our teachers to perform in a relaxed, homey situation. Thanks to Alexis for hosting this much anticipated online event!

We are also beginning to plan for next year. An online meeting of the Executive Board took place on Monday April 27. The fate of next year's student activities was discussed, as well as how to manage future district meetings. Also, we are hoping to bring innovative changes to the website, to make it more welcoming. This will be part of our next business meeting.

At our May 11<sup>th</sup> online meeting, in addition to the topics mentioned above, we will also vote into office our executive board for the coming year. Three officers from last year will remain in their positions. Genevieve Mason, President, Janet Pollack, Vice President, and Cheri Richardson, Treasurer, will continue in their respective positions; and there are two new candidates up for election—Sandy Hull for Recording Secretary, and Soriah Phillips Midow for Recording Secretary. You can get to know Sandy and Soriah better in the following pages. This meeting is important because it will determine how we will move forward next year, determine who will be our leaders, and provide a chance to thank those who have done so much for our organization this past year. Please mark your calendars and make sure you do not miss it.

Also, I hope you are planning to follow the online State Conference in June. Here is the link for information about this event: <https://oregonmta.org/teachers/conferences/omta-state-conference/>

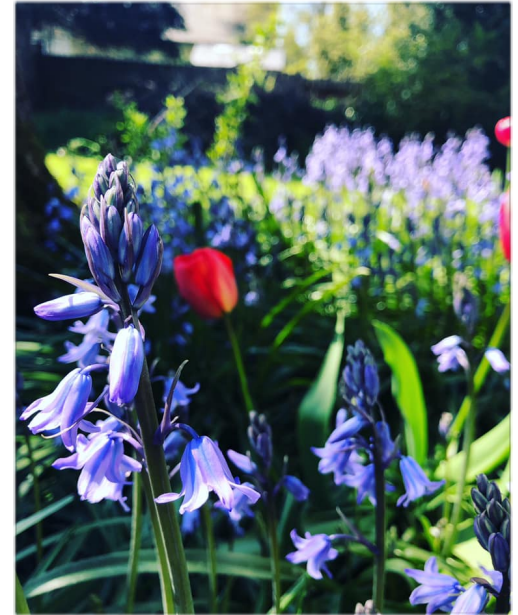
See you on Monday!

*Genevieve Mason,*

Eugene District OMTA President

Janet Pollack

Eugene District OMTA Vice-President



## OMTA Eugene Treasurer's Report



**Account Activity**  
**April 1, 2020**  
 through  
**April 30, 2020**



### Checking Account

Date	Description	Debit	Credit	Balance
April 1, 2020	Beginning Balance			\$ 2,524.36
April 1, 2020	Comp. Cele. Adjud.	\$240.00		
April 10, 2020	Composition Cele.		\$ 115.00	
April 28, 2020	Donation		\$ 10.00	
<b>April 30, 2020</b>	<b>Ending Balance</b>			<b>\$ 2,409.36</b>

### Savings Account

Date	Description	Debit	Credit	Balance
April 1, 2020	Beginning Balance			\$ 11,390.94
April 30, 2020	Interest		\$ 0.47	
<b>April 30, 2020</b>	<b>Ending Balance</b>			<b>\$ 11,391.41</b>

### Certificate of Deposit

Date	Description	Debit	Credit	Balance
April 30, 2020	Balance			\$ 2,388.49

Treasurer Cheri Ann Richardson

## **Con Brio** **May 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**

## Eugene District Board Update

Dear friends and colleagues,

I am pleased to report that all positions for officers for the following year, 2020-2021 have been filled!

President Genevieve Mason and Vice- President Janet Pollack will continue in their current positions. Sandy Hull and Soria Phillips-Meadow have graciously accepted the positions of Corresponding Secretary and Recording Secretary respectively.

Sandy Hull, NCTM bio: Sandy received a Bachelor in Piano Performance from the U of O where she studied with Marlene Thal, Dean Kramer and summer lessons with Victor Steinhardt. Sandy began teaching piano in Seattle, Washington in the early 90's and moved to Eugene in 1995 where she have been teaching for the past 25 years. She has served OMTA in many capacities over the years and is so grateful for the friendships she has made. Sandy received National Certification in 2009 and began adjudicating for the OMTA Syllabus program in 2010.



Soria Phillips-Meadow has run a private piano studio since 1998 and has belonged to the Eugene District OMTA for almost as long. She began her studies in piano performance at the University of Oregon and has continued to develop her piano pedagogy through numerous OMTA lectures, masterclasses, and conferences. In addition to the professional support offered through OMTA, Soria is especially grateful for the special friendships she has formed with her colleagues.

Thank you to all those who sacrifice much of their time, energy, and expertise in helping to strengthen our organization, to keep it running smoothly, and to keep inspiring young musicians on their musical journeys. Please keep safe and healthy at home!

Love and best wishes!  
*Marti Csonka*

The deadline for submitting articles and announcements for the June 2020 issue of Con Brio is Sunday, May 31, 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.

## OMTA Gets Zooming!

A few of our Eugene District OMTA members are meeting weekly on Zoom to share ideas and experiences of online music lessons. Nick Reiser got the ball rolling earlier in March as we all had began quite quickly to teaching online. We are learning from our own experiences and research (watching endless how to's and webinars). We are all struggling with some of the limitations of online lessons but as we share ideas and practice using some of the various features and platforms, we are getting better and more confident in experimenting with settings and equipment for video and sound enhancements. I think we all want to make the teaching online experience more enjoyable for both teacher and student. We plan on continuing weekly Monday meetings at 11:00-12:00 on Zoom. Watch for email link.

Our next meeting will be Monday, May 18 and you do not have to stay for entire hour. Please drop in to say hi - we miss everyone so much and can't wait to teach in our own studios soon.

Thanks so much,

*Sandy Hull, NCTM*  
[hullpiano@gmail.com](mailto:hullpiano@gmail.com)



## Teacher Showcase Party

Dear Eugene OMTA,

Due to COVID-19, the Teacher Showcase has been canceled. In lieu of this event, we will be hosting a Teacher Showcase Party on Zoom on Saturday, May 16 at 7:30 pm. This event is very informal and is focused on keeping us connected as a community. Those who want to participate can do so while sipping some tea, enjoying a glass of wine, or munching on dinner. For those that want, you can share a piece that you are working on but please don't feel like you are required to play if you are interested in joining in the fun.

A Zoom meeting link will be sent out the week of the event. If you have questions about this opportunity, please feel free to email me at [ahgibbons@gmail.com](mailto:ahgibbons@gmail.com).

Best,  
*Alexis Gibbons, NCTM*

## State Composition Celebration

**The 2020 State Composition Celebration will feature a virtual concert and free digital composition booklets.**

We are excited for our 2020 format for our State Composition Celebration. Student composers from around the state have been participating in district level composition events. Our honored composers from the district level will now present their compositions through a Virtual Concert on the OMTA YouTube Channel beginning Saturday, June 6 at 1pm: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCU4gbeA1xzDnRBpg1sPGaBQ/playlists>

Composers will also submit their compositions for inclusion in a 2020 Composition Celebration Booklet that will be assembled and then disbursed digitally, via email, to composers. Each participating composer will receive an honored composer medallion in the mail.

### Honored Composers from the Eugene District Student Composition Celebration

#### Selections for State:

K-3rd Grade:

Grace Phillips, Clocks

Elementary, Grades 4-6:

Pearl Carter, Starlight Sonatina

Rylie Jensen, Path of Starlight

Junior High, Grades 7-9:

Kaylee Jones, Hold On

Theo Elliot, Rondo Alla Turca Reimagined

High School, Grades 10-12:

Baird Quinn, Prelude

Elliot McLain, Beyond the Stars

College-Age 26: no entries

Adult:

Robert Davis, Muse

Mary Johnson-Armstrong, Intermezzo Shadow of Desire

Lisa Neher, adjudicator