



## President's Message, June 2020

A Message from the President and Vice President, June 2020

Hello Members,

We wish to begin by thanking each and every one of our Eugene District—OMTA members who offered their time services this past year. Although these were trying times, we managed to form terrific teams of volunteers who organized and handled successful events, and somehow we forged through the year in fine form, in spite of the pandemic. So, please let us say once again: Bravo, Brava! We sincerely hope all of you will end this school year healthy and with thriving studios.

We would also like to extend very special congratulations to Carol White and Fern McArthur, who are nominees for this year's MTNA Foundation Fund and OMTA's Honorary Life Member Award, respectively. We are honored and thankful to have Carol and Fern as our members. It is important to be aware of what these special awards mean and the honor it bestows on the recipients, so we invite you to read more about the conditions of the awards and Carol's and Fern's contributions to our organization in the following pages.

Hopefully, all members are planning to join the OMTA State Conference on June 25-26 in the comfy virtual space of their own homes. The conference will be streamed live and sessions look promising with such enticing titles as "Lower the Rear End of the Elephant Slowly Onto the Keys" offered by Peter Mack; masterclasses will be conducted by Peter Mack (Thursday) and Brazilian music specialist Jessica Pacheco-Hjelmstad (Friday). We urge you not to miss them. For your convenience we are including the entire exciting conference program in this month's *Con Brio*.

Even in such uncertain times, Genevieve is already in the process of planning next year's student programs with the help of Carol White and Sandy Hull. There is much to consider for we must plan for multiple formats — whether next year's recitals will be online and/or restricted live recitals is currently not known. Janet is also planning and contacting presenters for our monthly programs and is pleased to announce that Dr. Thomas Otten will be our presenter at the November meeting and George Lopez will be our special guest in October. Our Eugene OMTA online/zoom Tech researchers, who have been meeting regularly on Monday mornings, are certain to have innovative ideas for us.

Finally, we will have our end of the year monthly meeting on Monday, June 8<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 pm. The original plan for that meeting was to meet at Lucy Clevenger's house for a potluck followed by a short business meeting and ending with Nellie Tholen Foundation Scholarship winners performing. Due to the ongoing pandemic, we will have an online event instead. A business meeting will begin at 7:00 pm and immediately following, we will enjoy another party. Since we had so much fun at our last May 16<sup>th</sup> virtual gathering, we thought we would do it again. If you have a special piece you enjoy teaching or a work dear to your heart, please perform it for us and share your insights.

Please note this is our last *Con Brio* of the School Year 2019-2020. So we conclude by thanking Neil Patton for all his efforts in making our district's monthly newsletter a reality.

We wish you a peaceful summer filled with rest and productivity and hope to see you next year.

Warm regards,  
*Genevieve Mason and Janet Pollack*

## OMTA Eugene Treasurer's Report



Account Activity  
May 1, 2020  
through  
May 31, 2020



### Checking Account

Date	Description	Debit	Credit	Balance
May 1, 2020	Beginning Balance			\$ 2,409.36
May 20, 2020	Membership		\$ 65.00	
May 31, 2020	Ending Balance			\$ 2,474.36

### Savings Account

Date	Description	Debit	Credit	Balance
May 1, 2020	Beginning Balance			\$ 11,391.41
May 31, 2020	Interest		\$ 0.48	
May 31, 2020	Ending Balance			\$ 11,391.89

### Certificate of Deposit

Date	Description	Debit	Credit	Balance
May 31, 2020	Balance			\$ 2,388.49

Treasurer Cheri Ann Richardson

### Con Brio June 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

## Heartfelt Congratulations to Fern McArthur

We are proud to announce that dedicated and hard-working Fern McArthur from our own Eugene District has received the OMTA Honorary Life Member Award. This award recognizes individuals who have given *extraordinary* service to OMTA at the state and district levels and who have been members of OMTA for at least 25 years. To receive this award, honorees must have demonstrated excellence in their commitment to students, to OMTA and to MTNA, and to their colleagues. Fern has certainly done all that!

A personal note: Fern was President of the District when I first came to OMTA, some 18 years ago. I will always remember how I was warmly welcomed by her and her irresistible smile. Fern has such a talent for expressing things in a warm, constructive way! She has been a pillar of OMTA for many years, serving not only as president of our district but treasurer of the state organization and chair and co-chair of the Sonata Festival for a number of years.

Honorees are recognized at the Awards Banquet at the annual OMTA Conference and receive a commemorative certificate. Their State dues are henceforth waived. State Honorary Life Membership conveys all rights and privileges of Active Membership. Your award is well deserved.

Thank you, Fern, so much for all you have done and are still doing.

Warmest wishes,  
*Genevieve Mason*



## Congratulations to Carol White

As it was announced at the May meeting, Carol White, a dedicated member of our Eugene District OMTA, has been nominated as Oregon's MTNA Foundation Fellow for 2021. That means that OMTA recognizes that Carol has shown excellence in her commitment to students, to her local district, to OMTA and MTNA, to her colleagues and has been a member for over 20 years. Thanks, Carol, for your dedication!



The Foundation Fellow program is a fundraiser for the MTNA Foundation. Carol's nomination will be fully funded if \$1500 on her behalf is raised by January 15, 2021. Carol will be recognized at the Awards Banquet at the 2021 MTNA Conference in Atlanta and also have her name listed on the MTNA and OMTA websites.

Our Eugene District will donate \$300 towards Carol's nomination. If our members would like to make a personal donation, one could do that through the OMTA Conference registration, which has an option for the raffle. The raffle, of course, will not be held this year. Another option is to go directly to the MTNA Foundation website for donations. All donations must indicate Carol White for Foundation Fellow.

If you wish to know more about the MTNA Foundation Fellow, please go to the links below.

<https://www.mtnafoundation.org/fellow-program/>

<https://oregonmta.org/teachers/honors-and-awards/foundation-fellow-nomination/>

## State Conference Content

Conference presenters, Dr. Peter Mack and Dr. Jessica Pachecho-Hjelmstad are putting together fantastic presentations for you! Take a peak at a handful of what is coming your way...

- **Lower the Rear End of the Elephant Slowly into the Keys – Part 2** by Dr. Peter Mack (*picking up where he left off at our 2013 OMTA Conference*)
- **Well-Known Intermediate Pieces and How I Teach Them** by Dr. Peter Mack
- **The Flavor of Brazil: A Lecture-Recital on Solo Piano Pieces for Beginners and Beyond by Brazilian Composers** by Dr. Jessica Pachecho-Hjelmstad
- **Brazilian Four-hands: the history, repertoire, and tradition of piano duets in Brazil** by Dr. Jessica Pachecho-Hjelmstad
- **YouTube, Emojis, and Memes: How to Be One of the New Decade’s Coolest Teachers** by Melody Morrison NCTM
- **OMTA Composer of the Year Recital** featuring composer Nick Yandell and his composition “A Quiet Place in the Rain” for harp and cello
- **A Closer Look at MTNA Certification: Who can do it, What’s the process, and Why should I?** by Rebekah Carter NCTM

Link to the Conference information:

<https://oregonmta.org/teachers/conferences/omta-state-conference/>

### Fall 2020 Syllabus:

Our Fall Syllabus is on the calendar and planning by the State Syllabus Chair and the Syllabus Advisory Committee is on-going. At this point, how the Fall Syllabus evaluations will take place will depend on Oregon Health Authority and Governor Brown’s directives for safe gathering as well as family, teacher and adjudicator concerns for safe distancing. Possible travel restrictions as well as the comfort level of families, host studios and adjudicators will be paramount.

My advice to all teachers planning for Fall Syllabus would be to prepare your students for both in-person and on-line exams. Even if in-person exams are deemed safe this fall, you and/or your families may still feel the need to do on-line exams. Getting pianos turned this summer would be a good thing to encourage all our families to do, just in case.

Scheduling will also be an exciting exercise this Fall. I would ask all teachers who are planning for Fall Syllabus to be thinking ahead and talk to your families in the early Fall regarding Syllabus and these options as we all continue to deal with this pandemic and try to stay safe and well.

Carol White, NCTM  
Eugene District Syllabus Chair  
Piano Studio  
541-953-2307  
[carolsstudio1@mac.com](mailto:carolsstudio1@mac.com)

## Recommendations for Disinfecting Piano Keys

By Janet Pollack

As we continue to teach during the Covid 19 pandemic and think about soon opening our studios to students, one thought ever present in our minds concerns how to effectively disinfect our piano's keys—the most important part of our piano and the most likely site of virus transmission. With this in mind I did a little research into the recommended and least harmful yet effective way to clean and sterilize the keys and what solutions to use. I also gathered information on the care and cleaning of the case parts. Products mentioned below are inexpensive and readily obtainable from a number of sites. Hopefully this information will prove useful and contribute in some small way to keeping everyone healthy. I would like to thank Mike Reiter and the Piano Technician Guild (PTG) for sharing their expertise and help in assembling this information.

### General Recommendations

- Use alcohol-based disinfectants—do not use bleach-based disinfectants or any product containing citrus.
- If using a spray or liquid bottle, use a disposable towel like **WYPALL L30**. Put the disinfectant on the towel and not the piano.
- After use, immediately put the towel or disinfectant hand wipe in the trash and wash your hands as the CDC recommends. Do not use reusable towels or cloths which could spread germs to your next student.
- Always follow up with a dry towel and never leave any liquids on the piano or keys.

### Keys

The keys are the most important part. Generally speaking, most disinfecting wipes or sprays should be safe to use on the keys—if they do not contain bleach or citrus. If the keys are dirty, it is best to use **Cory Key-Brite** to clean and then follow up with the disinfecting wipes or sprays. Cory Key Brite cleans, brightens and preserves all plastic, ivory and wood keyboards and is a useful solution to have at hand. It can be purchased from [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) and [Reverb.com](https://www.Reverb.com).

### Case Parts

Always test the disinfectant in a discrete area before moving forward to ensure there is no adverse reaction. Check to make sure the finish does not come off on the wipe or towel, the finish discolors or changes sheen. If none of this happens after a few minutes, you should be able to proceed.

High gloss polyester is the most durable to almost any store-bought disinfectants. Always do the test first. If the finish is dirty, use Windex or **Cory Pre-Polish Finish Cleaner**, followed by the disinfectant, then for the final step use the **Cory Super High-Gloss Piano Polish**. Make sure to always follow up with a dry towel.

Polyurethane and lacquer finishes require a more careful approach. Disinfectant wipes and sprays may be harmful to these finishes. Test an area first. In these cases, it is recommended to use a few drops of hand/dish soap with warm water on a towel. Make sure to always follow up with a dry towel.

For satin pianos always wipe down the piano in the direction of the 'hand rubbed' finish or grain. Going in the opposite direction may result in hazing or scratch marks.

Aged and damaged finishes are a challenge. It is difficult to know what is best to keep the integrity of the finish and still clean thoroughly. Always test an area and proceed with caution.

Cleaning pianos is a gentle process not a scrubbing process. Pressing hard or vigorous scrubbing may lead to scratching or removing the finish. Always proceed with caution and use common sense. Remember to wash your hands after you have thrown away the towels or wipes.

**MINUTES**  
**Eugene District OMTA • General Meeting**  
**Monday, May 11, 2020 • Online via Zoom**

President Mason called the meeting to order at 9:20 a.m.

Treasurer Report (in Con Brio) was accepted by general assent.

**Student Activities**

**General OMTA Eugene event guidelines due to COVID-19: plan next year's schedule in two phases: calendar year 2020: be flexible, initially plan for live events but be prepared to go online; calendar year 2021: plan for live events but remain aware that the situation could change.**

Composition Celebration (State): Will be online, June 6 at 1:00 p.m. Link and instructions were forwarded. A recording will probably be made. For questions contact Dr. Pollack.

In Good Hands: This will happen online on July 1. The compilation video of students playing the Cascadia composers' works will be released that day.

Teacher showcase: This will be online May 16. Participation is encouraged. It's an informal, relaxed opportunity to share pieces you are working on, which are not necessarily in polished form. The general sense was that people want to get together and have fun with minimum pressure.

Festival of Popular Music: If we can follow the guidelines, we could have a limited live event with broadcast for non-local relatives, etc. President Mason expects to get some training in doing these broadcasts. We might be able to do something similar to the live broadcast by the Eugene-Springfield Youth Orchestra on YouTube on May 21.

Sonatina Festival: the next one will be October 2021.

Syllabus: Carol White sent a communication to let teachers know they should be flexible and prepared for either a live or online format.

Event chairs: the main task this coming month is to find new event chairs.

**Announcements**

MTNA re-enrollment: you can designate money for Carol White as Foundation Fellow when you re-enroll.

Officers: the following outgoing officers were thanked: Alexis Gibbons (Corresponding Secretary) and Nick Rieser (Recording Secretary). Cheri Richardson was thanked as well (Treasurer, continuing). Soria Phillips-Meadow was voted in as Recording Secretary. Sandy Hull was voted in as Corresponding Secretary.

Meeting schedule for Fall 2020: October - there may not be a meeting; the Jane Glover Presents event would possibly be online. November - Thomas Otten is scheduled. December – we will have the holiday party if possible. Vice-President Pollack is applying for a grant for a presentation of early keyboard music and the fortepiano (time TBA).

Student referrals: We still need someone to fill the vacant student referral slot.

Con Brio: There will be a June Con Brio.

*[Continued on next page...]*

The deadline for submitting articles and announcements for the September 2020 issue of Con Brio is Sunday, September 6, 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.

[...Continued from previous page.]

### **Unfinished business**

Yamaha Piano at Unity of the Valley: Classic Pianos is having difficulty due to the COVID-19 situation and wants the piano back. Since we like this piano, it would be good to find a way to retain it. The relationship with Unity of the Valley has been excellent and we want to continue that, but co-ownership of the piano may be over-complicated for us. We can seek a local donor to avoid that.

Website: We need it to be more welcoming. Other Oregon chapter may be doing better than we are in this regard. Alexis Gibbons e-mailed presidents of districts with websites. There were three responses; one said she got her ideas from our website. We discussed how much to draw down our \$13,000 in available funds. Some suggested caution because of the general uncertainty. We need to keep in mind that events may cost more if we cannot retain the Yamaha at Unity. ACTION: A motion to spend up to \$3,000 passed by show of hands.

Please submit ideas you like from other websites to Nick Rieser and Alexis Gibbons. Soria Phillips-Meadow will send a communication re: ESYO website.

Parental consent to children's images in our promotion materials: We should add to our parental consent form. We are currently using MTNA form, but we can add our own permission form for our website.

OMTA State conference: It is online, but we are still charging nominal fee because we need to show revenues for our OCF grant application. Fern encourages us to attend. There is a \$15 early bird fee. Two master classes are planned.

2020 MTNA conference online: the events from the conference of March 2020 are available online.

President Mason adjourned the meeting at approximately 10:30 a.m.

*Attendees: Soria Phillips-Meadow, Genevieve Mason, Sandy Hull, Fern McArthur, Paul Safar, Alexis Gibbons, Laura DuBois, Nick Rieser, Delores Tiktin, Cheri Richardson, Jane Young, Janet Pollack, Nobuko LeBeau, Marti Csonka.*

