



President's Message, March 2021,

Hello everybody,

This Sunday has been sunny, and it felt so good. I hope this is bringing good energy in all the studios!

Last month, the presentation by Dr. Jill Timmons brought many new ideas on the art of pedaling. It was a good push to review details in our teaching.

This coming month, our Eugene OMTA District Recital will take place on March 13. We are trying a new online format, with options of playing live, or playing videos, and students could add comments or show visual art. Note that the OMTA Composition Celebration on April 4 will use the same format. For the Contemporary festival on April 17, decisions about the format will be made depending on our experience on March 13. Thanks to all the chairs, Ellen McQuilkin, Paul Safar, Nick Reiser! See details about the events on the following pages, or on the Eugene OMTA website at <https://omta-eugene.org/calendar/>.

Also, this is time to think about Syllabus registration. The deadline for that is March 28.

I think several of us will follow some of the exciting programs presented during the MTNA virtual conference, March 13-17. Remember that Carol White, from our district, will be recognized as the 2020 Oregon MTNA Foundation Fellow during the gala on Monday, March 15. Like usually, this event will bring inspiration, motivation, new ideas for teaching. See you there!

I wish you all a happy March month, and I hope to meet with you all at the online meeting on March 8. We will explore the music of American composers from Copland to Ellington with Dr. Matt Cooper (see article.)

Genevieve Mason
Eugene/Springfield District OMTA President



Bee kind, buzzing...

March 8, 2021 Meeting and Program

Our guest presenter for our March meeting is Dr. Matt Cooper. He will be presenting a program entitled, *Ebony and Ivory: American Composers from Copland to Ellington*.

Details in Brief:

Date: March 8, 2021

Venue: Online via Zoom

Business Meeting: 9:00-9:55 AM

Program: 10:00-11:30 AM

About Matt Cooper

Matt Cooper is a Professor Emeritus of Music at Eastern Oregon University, where he was awarded the Distinguished Teaching Faculty award in 2019. He is the author of a Duke Ellington: A Study in Styles (College Music Society, 2013), has been a keynote speaker and recitalist on Ellington's piano music at conferences in Amsterdam, in England, and at Reed College (Portland), and has been interviewed on Dutch television station VPRO. A bronze medalist in both the Thelonious Monk International and Great American Jazz Piano Competitions (1988), he has toured with the Woody Herman big band, and performed or recorded with many jazz artists such as Eddie Harris, Nancy King, Glen Moore, the Nelson Riddle Orchestra, and Clark Terry.

Dr. Cooper has performed jazz and classical recitals and concertos with orchestras throughout the United States, as well as in three tours of the Russian Far East. His performance in Khabarovsk, Russia in 2000 was heralded as the first of its kind, combining a Mozart concerto with solo jazz standards. He has recorded four jazz and classical CDs, and has been a guest artist at festivals such as the San Juan College (New Mexico) Jazz Festival, University of Wisconsin-Platteville Jazz Festival, Piano Duet Festival-by-the-Sea, as well as the International Festival of Creative Pianists when it was located in Boise. He earned his Doctor of Musical Arts degree at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music and graduated summa cum laude from the University of Oregon. Dr. Cooper has done extensive study in the Taubman approach to piano, studying with teachers in Spokane, Portland, and Princeton, New Jersey, and has intensively studied Tango music at the Academia Nacional del Tango in Buenos Aires, Argentina.



Dr. Cooper has adjudicated many piano festivals and competitions throughout the Northwest, including the MTNA Performance Competitions in Washington and Montana, the Boise Sonata Festival, and many others. A Past President and Lifetime Member of Oregon Music Teachers Association, he is in frequent demand throughout the Northwest as a performer, adjudicator, clinician and presenter, and he is known locally as the accompanist of choice for nationally-known jazz artists such as Rob Scheps, Kathy Kosins, and Dmitri Matheyny.

Currently he is working on a book chapter for Music: My Rampart (College Music Society), planning performances of the works of Sun Ra and John Coltrane for this fall, practicing for performances of new orchestral music next spring with Oregon East Symphony, and starting a new piano trio with Zachary Banks and Viet Block (conductor and violinist of the Grande Ronde Symphony Orchestra). He teaches private lessons in piano, jazz piano and music theory for Art Center East.

The deadline for submitting articles and announcements for the April 2021 issue of Con Brio is Sunday, April 4, 2021.

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 Eugene Treasurer's Report



Account Activity
January 30, 2021
through
February 27, 2021



Checking Account

Date	Description	Debit	Credit	Balance
January 30, 2021	Beginning Balance			\$ 2,384.36
February 2, 2021	MTNA Foundation	\$300.00		
February 8, 2021	Membership		\$ 25.00	
February 10, 2021	2019-2020 Pres. Expense	\$ 131.23		
February 13, 2021	Baroque Fest.		\$ 374.00	
February 16, 2021	Baroque Adjud.	\$ 300.00		
February 27, 2021	Ending Balance			\$ 2,052.13

Savings Account

Date	Description	Debit	Credit	Balance
January 30, 2021	Beginning Balance			\$ 11,395.22
January 31, 2021	Interest		\$ 0.48	
February 27, 2021	Ending Balance			\$ 11,395.70

Certificate of Deposit

Date	Description	Debit	Credit	Balance
February 27, 2021	Balance			\$ 2,405.89

Treasurer Cheri Ann Richardson

Con Brio **March 2021**

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: Sandy Hull, Recording Sec: Soria Phillips-Meadow, Past President: Genevieve Mason
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

Composition Celebration

Happy winter/early spring everyone! Here is a quick update on this years **Student Composition Celebration**. The date of this years event is **Sunday, April 11th at 2 p.m.** and will, like our other recitals this year be virtual with students submitting pre recorded videos of their compositions on a private youtube link and meeting via zoom. We are putting the deadline for entrees and score submissions at March 26th and the deadline for video submissions at April 1st. A new, writable pdf entry form will be available on our website. All submissions will be done electronically if possible with scores emailed to Paul at info@cblossom.org. For this years event, we will have Michael Johanson, professor at Lewis and Clark College in Portland, as our adjudicator, providing private comments on each piece and being present at the viewing party to watch/hear all the pieces. In addition, on Saturday, February 27th at 1 p.m., we plan on holding our second annual Composition Workshop (Zoom edition) for students whose works are still in progress. This will be a very informal sharing just to chat and exchange ideas and tips. Let us know if you have any questions. Thanks!

-Paul Safar and Nick Rieser, co chairs of the Composition Celebration Recital

Composition Workshop Report

On Saturday, Feb. 27, the Composition Celebration co-chairs, Paul Safar, and Nick Rieser, held a workshop to support students in their creative process. This was a live Zoom event with no video recording of the workshop. There were three student participants - two with video and one via audio only. We talked a little about how to store your compositional ideas (playing into the phone recorder, writing down, etc.) We presented a snippet of the cadenza of the Bach Brandenburg Concerto #5 as a way to link improvisation and composing, and we talked a little about the Alberti bass. One student presented her complete piece that described a mouse seeking cheese for food, and another played and discussed the moods and patterns she is going to use in her piece. Our evaluation was that although we wished there had been higher attendance and that we could be together IRL instead of by Zoom, it was good for encouraging the students and helped to foster a sense of community.

Nick Rieser
Composition Celebration Co-Chair

Eugene District Syllabus April 23 - 25, 2021

Registration through Leggerio is open through March 28. Remember to print the Invoice and send with your payment by March 28. The Invoice is also a good place to send me a note regarding last minute changes or concerns.

Please refer to State website for latest COVID related instructions for Syllabus.

Scheduling Syllabus for on-line exams requires more time and less students per Adjudicator days. I will try to make your 1st choices work, but know that it may not always be possible. Please be flexible and let your student families know also.

If you have any questions, please email me at carolsstudio1@mac.com

Carol White, NCTM
Piano Studio
541-953-2307
carolsstudio1@mac.com

Contemporary Music Festival

The Contemporary Music Festival will take place on Saturday, April 17, 2021. This is one week before Spring syllabus and I ask all teachers to encourage their students to participate to make this festival a success. It is a wonderful opportunity to perform a contemporary syllabus piece. This is a non-adjudicated event and students can perform their own compositions as well if they participated in Composition Celebration. The format of this festival will be similar to Eugene District recital on March 13. Deadline for submission is Friday, April 2, registration is through Leggerio and the student fee is \$10.

Please send the forms and the fee to:

Lucy Clevenger
3345 Chambers St Eugene, OR 97405



the fifth annual

Teacher Showcase

Sunday, May 16, 2021

Zoom/YouTube

All teachers who would like to participate in the *Teacher Showcase* recital should send the following

information to me by **April 15, 2021:**

Music title(s)

Composer(s)

Performer(s)

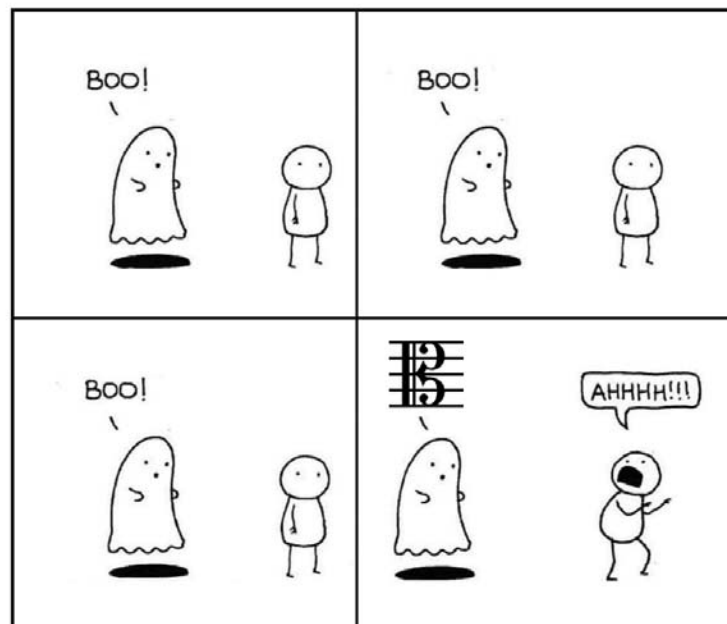
Instrument(s)

Total performance time

Please provide information as you would like it to appear on the program. It is especially important to submit an accurate performance time. Music may be single movements, short, descriptive works, and music that appeals to both children and adults, in any style. Duets and ensembles are always welcome. Emphasis is on **variety**. Don't miss this opportunity for students to hear their teacher perform!

Wyatt Burger
Teacher Showcase Chair

westlanepiano@icloud.com



MINUTES

Eugene District OMTA * General Meeting
February 8, 2021 Zoom Meeting

President MASON called the meeting to order at 9:05 am.

Attendees: *Genevieve Mason, Janet Pollack, Sandy Hull, Paul Safar, Marti Csonka, Nick Rieser, Lucy Clevenger, Betsy Parker, Carol White, Ellen McQuilkin, Winnie Kerner, Nobuko LeBeau, Claire Wachter, Charlotte Laughlin, Changqing Shi*

- January minutes were approved.
- The Treasury Report was approved.

-Sandy Hull received a thank you note from Fern for our flowers. As Corresponding Secretary, Sandy wants us to let her know if any of our members need cards or flowers.

Committee Reports:**Baroque Festival** –Ellen McQuilkin

- The recital was held via zoom with a short meeting before and after the recital.
- There were 2 recitals with 7 teachers and 22 students – 18 were competitive.
- It was a difficult task for the adjudicators – particularly since there was only one adjudicators as the other one had a family emergency.
- The recital is still available live on YouTube.
- Keep the link you were sent or get authorization from Neil to watch after the livestream.
- Students were allowed to chat to communicate with one another during the recitals.

Discussion for future recitals to foster interaction:

Betsy suggested that students could be given questions ahead of time such as to say one fun fact about their composer or piece, one thing they liked about their piece, and one thing they found challenging about their piece.

Genevieve suggested having no more than 1-2 questions – possibly with humor – to create an atmosphere of celebration at the reception.

Discussion of format for upcoming District Recital:

Students and families are becoming weary of pre-recorded recitals.
Pros and cons of live zoom vs. pre-recorded recitals were discussed.

Pros of live recitals:

-students could introduce pieces creating an interactive studio class format similar to Andrew Pham's Piano Forum

Cons:

-students' Internet will affect the quality

Hybrid:

- could have multiple options using an open zoom meeting format:
- students could screenshare their videos
- they could play live and talk about their piece – this would be optional
- they could create a video over their music
- they could present visual art/possibly something that would illustrate their piece

- It was recommended that students/teachers practice/rehearse screen sharing
- If problems arose for students trying to screen share, the teachers should screen share instead.
- Teachers would need to remind students of settings
- The sound settings needed for students would need to be updated on our website
- Students would need the latest version of zoom.

***Nick offered to update the guidelines for our website**

***Ellen will draft new guidelines for hybrid recitals and work on with Genevieve**

Contemporary Festival – Lucy would like to do a hybrid format.

Composition Festival – Paul and Nick would like to do a hybrid format.

- Paul will host and Nick will be the technician.

Spring District Recital – Genevieve will serve as technician for Ellen and Lucy

- The technician highlights the student playing and switches to gallery in between students.
- When recital chairs set up their recitals, they can allow all to screen share.
- Should we try hybrid format for the District Recital – if it works well to do a hybrid, we can do for future recitals.
- Will arrange with Alexis once the guidelines are in place.
- Teachers should decide who does screensharing and test out before the recital.

Teacher Showcase – Genevieve will sent Wyatt info. for website

MTNA Conference – in March – Carol White will be recognized as a Foundation Fellow at the Gala, Monday, March 15th at 7:00 pm ET (4:00 pm PST)

Syllabus – Carol White

- lower division – will be live performances
- upper division – will have a choice of live or pre-recorded

Following the business meeting, Dr. Jill Timmons gave a wonderful presentation on *Pedaling: Cracking the Code*.

Respectfully submitted,
Soria Phillips-Meadow
Recording Secretary