



President's Message May 2021

Hello everybody,

There is time for refueling, for reviewing what we do, why we do it. We need conviction, enthusiasm, and then happiness emerges with our actions! As musicians, artists, teachers, let's take time to reflect...

"Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and life to everything." -- *Plato*

"I would teach children music, physics, and philosophy; but most importantly music, for the patterns in music and all the arts are the keys to learning." -- *Plato*

"Music is service to people - music and art - we need it like blood and oxygen. It heals us, and it reveals us to ourselves." -- *Rosanne Cash*

"I have always wanted my art to service my people - to reflect us, to relate to us, to stimulate us, to make us aware of our potential. We have to create an art for liberation and for life." -- *Elizabeth Catlett*



Does it feel good to taste others' wisdom? We teach music, we perform music, we volunteer in organizing events for our colleagues and students. Service is the key to a joyful society, and music is one of the doors to be opened!

Now, what is the news?

April was full of great events, and it seems everything went well. Please look at the reports. Thanks to all the organizers!!!

Our teacher showcase will take place on Sunday, May 16. We have seven teachers and three students participating. Thanks to Wyatt Burger for organizing the event, and please come and listen!

On Wednesday, May 19, and Friday, May 21, at 10:00am, Lara Downes will lead two piano master classes followed by discussion on the theme "Music by Female BIPOC Composers." This is a collaborative project between the UO piano pedagogy department and the Eugene/Springfield district. For more information, please go to <https://music.uoregon.edu/breaking-news/lara-downes-virtual-residency>.

This is time to register for our OMTA conference. There are still some beds available in Bend, if some of you want to participate in-person. But you can also participate virtually. Note that the virtual conference is free if you are a new MTNA/OMTA member, and if you are a student. Don't miss it!!! Please go to <https://oregonmta.org/teachers/conferences/omta-state-conference/> for registration.

We will see all of you on Monday, May 10th, for our monthly meeting,
Genevieve Mason
Eugene/Springfield District OMTA President

May District Meeting
Meeting, Monday May 10 (9:00-9:50 am)
Program(s)—Two Masterclasses
Wednesday, May 19 & Friday, May 21, 2021
Both 10:30-11:30 am

Lara Downes, Pianist
"A musical ray of hope"
-NBC NEWS, LOS ANGELES

Hello Members,

Announcing an extraordinary double program in May! There will be no usual program following our Monday business meeting. Rather we will have two joint masterclasses with the University of Oregon's pedagogy class featuring Lara Downes. Downes is described as among the foremost American pianists of her generation, a trailblazer on and off stage whose musical roadmap seeks inspiration from legacies of history, family and collective memory. Fanfare Magazine calls her playing "ravishing", and The New York Times describes it as "luscious, moody, and dreamy, and The Huffington Post calls it "addicting."



As a self-described iconoclast, Downes has pursued original programming concepts both in concert and on recordings. On the same program you are likely to hear works by Clara Schumann and Florence Price alongside her arrangement of Paul Simon's America. She is not so much a crossover artist as one who incorporates classical and vernacular materials into a larger musical story.

Lara Downes was born in San Francisco to parents who had met as civil rights activists. Her father was a Jamaican-born biochemist, and her mother a Jewish American attorney of Russian background. Her background influenced Lara's fierce commitment to arts advocacy, mentorship and education and her decision to work in support of non-profit organizations, including PLAN international, the Sphinz Organization, the Lower Eastside Girls Club, Washington Performing Arts, and NPR's From the Top, where she appears as a rotating guest host.

In OMTA's continuing effort to expand and diversify our studios' repertory, the two masterclasses will feature piano works of two black American woman composers—Florence Price and Margaret Bonds—performed by students from the University of Oregon's pedagogy class. Lara Downes will conduct the classes, suggesting ways to teach this unfamiliar repertory to students and the nuances required to bring it alive. Please join us on May 19th and May 21st at 10:30 am (via Zoom) for what promises to be a lively and enlightening experience.

Watch your email for the Zoom link to the masterclasses!

Cheers,
Janet P.

OMTA Eugene Treasurer's Report



Account Activity
April 1, 2021
through
April 30, 2021



Checking Account

Date	Description	Debit	Credit	Balance
April 1, 2021	Beginning Balance			\$ 1,996.88
April 2, 2021	Composition Cele.		\$ 100.00	
April 7, 2021	Composition Adju.	\$175.00		
April 17, 2021	Syllabus		\$ 3,306.00	
April 17, 2021	Contem.; Bev Soule; Correction		\$ 330.00	
April 17, 2021	Composition Cele.		\$ 75.00	
April 17, 2021	Membership		\$ 50.00	
April 20, 2021	Syllabus	\$ 3,306.00		
April 20, 2021	Transfer from Savings		\$ 400.00	
April 26, 2021	April Program	\$ 250.00		
April 30, 2021	Ending Balance			\$ 2,526.88

Savings Account

Date	Description	Debit	Credit	Balance
April 1, 2021	Beginning Balance			\$ 11,396.62
April 20, 2021	Transfer to checking	\$ 400.00		
April 30, 2021	Interest		\$ 0.46	
April 30, 2021	Ending Balance			\$ 10,997.08

Certificate of Deposit

Date	Description	Debit	Credit	Balance
April 30, 2021	Balance			\$ 2,410.07

Treasurer Cheri Ann Richardson

The deadline for submitting articles and announcements for the June 2021 issue of Con Brio is Sunday, June 6, 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.



the fifth annual

Teacher Showcase

2:00 PM, Sunday, May 16, 2021

Zoom/YouTube

Seven member-teachers and the three Beverly Soule Scholarship winners will be performing in this year's Showcase Recital. Works by Bach, Chopin, Prokofiev, Gershwin, and many others will appear on a program you will not want to miss!

Preparation for the May 16th video premier is well underway. All videos should be received by Neil Patton no later than this Friday, May 7. Members will receive an email with the Zoom link and a .pdf file of the recital program. Please share these with your students and anyone interested in watching!

Wyatt Burger
Teacher Showcase Chair

westlanepiano@icloud.com

Beverly Soul Scholarship Auditions Report

Beverly Soul scholarship auditions this year were virtual. We had four participating students, who submitted recorded videos of three required pieces to the adjudicator Liz Willis. The first winner was Baird Quinn, student of Paul Saffar, the second winner was Emilie Wilson, student of Alexis Gibbons and the third winner was Aisha Brunden, student of Genevieve Mason. Asher McKinnor, student of Sandy Hull, received Honorable mention.

All winners will perform one selection from their program at Music Teachers Showcase.

Congratulations to all participated students and their teachers!

Respectfully submitted by Lucy Clevenger NCTM Scholarship auditions chair

Con Brio **May 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

Contemporary Music Festival Report

The Contemporary Music Festival took place on Saturday, April 17, on Zoom. We had 25 participating students and 7 teachers in two virtual recitals at 2 pm and 3 pm. The repertoire was very diverse and all the students were prepared and played really well. Some of them performed live and others shared their pre recorded videos. We had a live enthusiastic audience to applaud each performer, which was as close to a “real” recital as can be.

Respectfully submitted by
Lucy Clevenger NCTM Festival chair



2021 Composition Celebration Report

The Composition Celebration took place on April 11, 2021 on Zoom. This year's attendance was smaller than in past years (9 students) most likely due to the pandemic year. Nonetheless, we had a large variety of works and a wonderful mix of composers ranging in age from 8 to 80! This year's adjudicator, Michael Johanson, got us started with some wonderful words of encouragement and thoughts on composing. We did a hybrid approach with some live playing and some pre-recorded performances. In addition to piano works, we had two songs with voice and an electronic piece. We concluded the hour with a few minutes of social time! It seemed that being able to compose and present their music meant a lot to the composers this year. Considering the challenges of this format, it went pretty well. We felt that it was a success even to have had the event this year, considering the recent challenges. We're looking forward to next year's recital already.

Paul Safar and Nick Rieser (Co-Chairs)

Eugene District Spring Syllabus Report

Dates: April 23 - 25, 2021
Number of Teachers Participating: 18
Number of Students entered: 76
Number of forfeits: 1 (to date)
Number of Days of Adjudication: 10

Adjudicators: Crystal Zimmerman, Alena Dubauskaya, Heidi Evans, Irene Huang, Sue Nelson, Liz Willis

Eugene District had 10 days of Syllabus adjudication with students entered in Evaluations, Demonstrations and Auditions.

There were three Level 10 students:

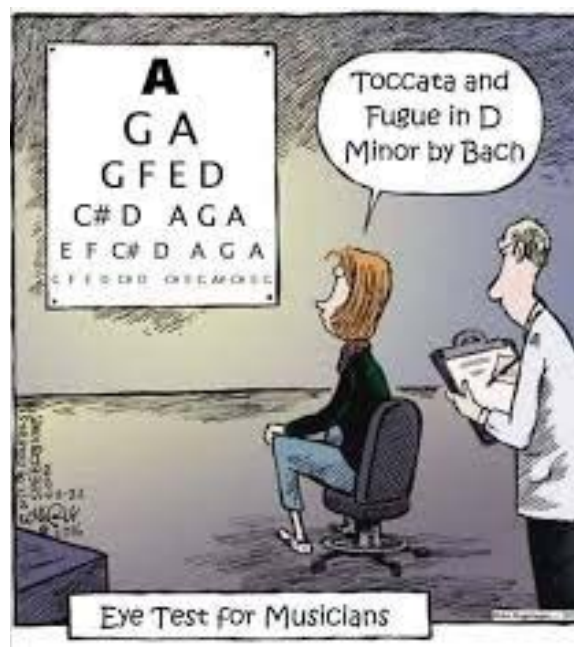
Laura Zhou, student of Olga Aynvarg
Asher McKinnon, student of Sandy Hull
Eddie Wei, student of Margaret Gowen Gates

Scheduling was still challenging at times, trying to accommodate students changing school schedules as well as group siblings together. In a few cases, I had to schedule odd break and lunch times and one day had a little later start time; however, I was able to end every day before 5pm (and a few days a little earlier!)

Our Eugene Syllabus went smoothly, thanks to teachers, students and especially our Adjudicators! We are always grateful for our Adjudicators for their energy, time and expertise but this year, we are especially grateful for them. Adjudicating on-line presents a myriad of challenges as we know from our own on-line teaching. I would encourage teachers and students to send their Adjudicator a thank you, this year especially.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. White, NCTM
Eugene District Syllabus Chair



MINUTES
Eugene District OMTA * General Meeting
April 12, 2021 Zoom Meeting

President MASON called the meeting to order at 9:06 am

Attendees: *Genevieve Mason, Alexis Gibbons, Janet Pollack, Sandy Hull, Nick Rieser,*

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

District Recital: The **District Recital** was held on Sat., March 13 chaired by Ellen McQuilkin.

- The Con Brio report was read aloud.
- Genevieve gave feedback that possibly pre-recorded vs. live is better for recitals because the sound quality is better especially for longer pieces.
- It was discussed that a mix of pre-recorded and live is nice.
- Teachers should test the students' sound.
- For future recitals, it was recommended that pre-recorded is done for pieces over 3 min. and the microphone should be tested.
- The **Contemporary Music Festival** will use the same format as the District Recital.

Composition Festival: The Composition Festival was held on Sat., Marcy 26 chaired by Nick Rieser and Paul Safar.

- Nick gave special thanks to Genevieve for her technical help with the hybrid format.
- Audio files proved to be more difficult because of trying to provide background pictures and converting audio into video files.
- A variety of pieces were played.
- Students ages 6-75 played.
- Formats included: an electronic MP3 audio file, two live performances, and several pre-recorded performances.
- Styles ranged from jazzy to classical creating a warm recital atmosphere.

Contemporary Music Festival: Will be held on Saturday, April 17th chaired by Lucy Clevenger.

- There will likely be two recitals at 2:00 & 3:00.
- So far there are 7 teachers with pre-recorded submissions and 25 students with live performances.
- Lucy will send the program with a link to Wyatt.
- The meeting link will be the same for each recital.

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Student Scholarship:

- Videos are due by April 17th. Teachers are responsible for sending the videos to the adjudicator.
- Prizes are: 1st prize - \$700, 2nd prize - \$250, 3rd prize \$100.

Syllabus: April 23-24-25

- It is recommended that Upper Division is pre-recorded.
- If teachers haven't heard from the adjudicator, they should contact them.

Masterclass

- Janet will confirm the dates.
- Janet proposed that OMTA contribute \$250 in conjunction with the the UO to the Masterclass.
- The vote was unanimous in favor of this proposal.
- The Masterclass can be viewed in May.
- Participants need to submit title, composition, performance instructor, and total performance time.

Teacher Showcase to be held on Sunday, May 16 chaired by Wyatt Burger.

- Teachers need to inform Wyatt by April 15th that they want to participate.
- Videos are due by May 7th.
- 1st and 2nd place Scholarship winners will also be included.

OMTA Conference: Thursday-Friday, June 24-25

- It will be a hybrid conference.
- Registration is still available on the website for in-person or online participation.
- Genevieve will send info. to Wyatt about the Conference.

Other Business:

- The BOD meeting needs to be scheduled to plan for next year.
- Chairs need to be determined.

Following the meeting, an informative lecture was presented by Donna Gunn entitled, "Discoveries from the Fortepiano."

Respectfully submitted,
Soria Phillips-Meadow
Recording Secretary