



President's Message September 2021

Hello everybody,

How is this Summer so far? I hope it was/is a joyous time, and much energy is gathered to begin this new school year of teaching. We are aware that some in the group are dealing with health challenges. We think of you, and we will see if we can help with anything.

I want to remind everybody that we have to strongly hold on together, to keep our music activities alive and exciting. These times call for creativity, resilience, prudence, and a strong sense of service. You can experience all that by participating in OMTA. We are a welcoming community, who are kept alive because enthusiastic members get involved and create together. Our students benefit so much from the festivals, the syllabus programs, the scholarships, etc...and we teachers keep growing with interesting presentations and conferences. I witness that many of us at OMTA are doing service, and we experience the positive impact of the community. And that is a healthy way to live!

Now, it is crucial and fair that the responsibilities rotate among members. At this point, we need help with some preparation for the Baroque Festival and the Ensemble Festival. We will also recruit new board members for the next two years. A committee will be nominated in that view. For sure, one key feature to the success of rotating responsibilities is to make members comfortable with a new task. Experienced members take time to contact and meet with new taskers, and explain what to do. A phone call, a Zoom meeting, or a safe in person meeting will happen, in addition to written instructions. All that done in the spirit of service for the common good brings satisfaction. Be sure to consider helping when you will be asked to help. And of course, so much thanks to all of you who have already committed to some task!

Genevieve Mason
Eugene/Springfield

OMTA District President



In this Con Brio, please find information about our collaboration with the Eugene Symphony (September 21, 22), the Sonatina Festival (October 9), the Popular Music Festival (October 30), and Fall syllabus (November 6-7).

Read about the exciting presentation with Geoge Lopez that will happen at our first monthly Zoom meeting, Monday September 13.

Consider the "Welcoming New Members" gathering on Saturday, September 18, at Alton Baker park.

And like usually, you can review the treasurer report, and the minutes from the last meeting.

Much thanks to all the writers and to the editor!

September District Meeting Meeting, Monday September 13

Meeting (9:00 am) September 13, 2021

and Program (10:00-11:30 am)

Welcome Members,

I am thrilled to announce that our first program of the year on September 13th features the dynamic pianist George Lopez whose program *Idea into Artistry: From interpretation to artistic performance* using nuanced technique and pianistic color explores the capability of the piano to produce a wide range of expression to convey your interpretation. I had the privilege of attending a masterclass that Mr. Lopez recently led and was so impressed with his kindness, incredible ability to convey technical advice to students, and engaging manner in general that I immediately asked him to present a program to our OMTA members. He is terrific. Do not miss this opportunity!



Pianist George Lopez, Bowdoin College's Robert Beckwith Artist in Residence, has been a dedicated and dynamic performer, educator, and lecturer for over 25 years. Known in Europe, South America and the US for his "kaleidoscopic colors and clarity of conception" in performances of the standard repertoire as well as being a champion of newly written works. He is also comfortable playing jazz, ragtime and contemporary styles of improvisation. His "Music in the Museum" series at Bowdoin College has consistently sold out to audiences who enjoy his creative and engaging lecture recitals on the relationship of music to art and ideas.

Born in Brooklyn to Mayan parents, George Lopez spent his childhood in Belize, before his family moved to Texas, where he began to play the piano at the rather late age of 11. He quickly discovered that he had a knack performing at the keyboard and, by age 14, he had won his first concerto competition; two years later, he received a full scholarship to the Hartt School of Music. A Franco-American study grant permitted graduate work in Paris, and he completed his Master's Degree cum laude at the Sweelinck Conservatory, Amsterdam.

See you there!

Janet P.

The deadline for submitting articles and announcements for the October 2021 issue of Con Brio is Sunday, October 3, 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
June 1, 2021
through
August 28, 2021



Checking Account

Date	Description	Debit	Credit	Balance
June 1, 2021	Beginning Balance			\$ 2,429.38
June 16, 2021	Membership		\$ 310.00	
June 24, 2021	Video for Teacher Showc.	\$70.83		
June 29, 2021	Lara Downs Mastercl.	\$ 250.00		
July 1, 2021	Transfer for Teacher S.		\$ 70.83	
August 5, 2021	Membership		\$ 370.00	
August 16, 2021	Pupitmaster -Website upkeep	\$ 360.00		
August 28, 2021	Membership		\$ 25.00	
August 28, 2021	Ending Balance			\$ 2,524.38

Savings Account

Date	Description	Debit	Credit	Balance
June 1, 2021	Beginning Balance			\$ 10,007.51
June 16, 2021	Soule Scholarship		\$ 30.00	
June 30, 2021	Interest		\$ 0.41	
July 1, 2021	Transfer to check	\$ 70.83		
July 31, 2021	Interest		\$ 0.42	
August 28, 2021	Ending Balance			\$ 9,967.51

Certificate of Deposit

Date	Description	Debit	Credit	Balance
August 28, 2021	Balance			\$ 2,410.07

Treasurer Cheri Ann Richardson

Con Brio September 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

Welcoming New Members

Sandy Hull and Genevieve Mason are inviting all of you to join in a happy outside setting at Amazon Park, on Saturday September 18, at 11:00-12:00. Hopefully the weather will be OK. We will meet near the playground so if people have younger children, they can play and we could still chat and get to know our newer members. The playground is just next to the pool. There is plenty of parking next to Hillyard Street.

We hope you can participate, especially if you are new to Eugene/Springfield OMTA! We will have coffee, tea, and cookies to share. Please bring a portable chair. RSVP to Sandy at 541-206-0538, or email at hullpiano@gmail.com so we can be on the lookout for you or answer any questions.

Looking forward to seeing you,
Sandy, Genevieve



2021 OMTA Sonatina Festival Announcement:

Due to recent changes in the COVID-19 Policy of the festival's venue, it has become necessary to transition the 2021 OMTA Sonatina Festival to an **online festival**. Registration will continue on Leggiero. If you have already registered, there is nothing further you need to do.

However, students must submit a video of their performance rather than perform in a live setting. **Video submission deadline: Wednesday, October 6th, 2021, 11:59PM PST.** Complete video submission instructions are on the [OMTA website](#).

Video submissions will be evaluated by the adjudicators on the day of the Festival: Saturday, October 9th. Adjudicators will select a 1st and 2nd place winner for each level.

Teachers will be notified by email with competition results no later than 8:00PM PST the day after the festival: Sunday, October 10th. Please inform your students of results. Teachers will receive their student's Evaluation Form and ribbon or trophy in the mail after the festival.

A virtual Honors Recital will be compiled after the festival date and will include the video submissions from the 1st and 2nd place winners of each level. Teachers will receive a link via email to view the virtual Honors Recital online after the festival date. Teachers will be responsible to forward link to students.

We will no longer need signed COVID 19 Liability Waiver form but Photo/Video Release Form is still required.

Please contact OMTA Sonatina Festival Co-Chairs with any questions:
Rebekah Carter, NCTM: rebekah@carterpiano.studio
Sandy Hull, NCTM: hullpiano@gmail.com



Festival of Popular Music

Saturday, October 30 as a **Zoom** presentation, or traditional, “live” recitals, if a venue becomes available.

Recitals on the hour, beginning at 2:00 PM

Deadline for entry forms, photo/video release forms, and fees: October 15

Deadline for submitting student videos, if applicable: October 22

The **Festival of Popular Music** is an afternoon of fun and entertaining recitals, allowing students to share performances of popular music, Jazz, Blues, Ragtime, Gospel, TV/movie themes, and works from musical theater. Arrangements, improvisations, and ensembles are also welcome.

The entry fee is \$10 per student. Registration forms and photo/video release forms are available at the district website. Please refer to “Recital Program Guidelines for Teachers and Chairs,” available on the district website.

Entry forms, release forms, and fees should be sent to the **event chair** by October 15. We will know if this event will be live or “virtual” the first week of October, and information will be updated accordingly in the October *Con Brio*.

Wyatt Burger, Chair.
Festival of Popular Music

westlanepiano@icloud.com

Fall Syllabus November 5-7, 2021

We’re very much hoping for a hybrid model for Fall 2021, with some days being scheduled as virtual exams (with the 5-minute breaks and short days) and some days scheduled as in-person exams! There are no promises that we will have enough in-person adjudicators to accommodate all the requests for this fall, so advance warning of this would help adjust the expectations a bit. Our State Syllabus Chair, Heidi Evans, writes more about Syllabus planning and protocols in the upcoming September Music News.

If you would be willing to host in-person adjudications, know that if your studio does not have a full day of adjudications, you may be asked to host students from other District teachers. Protocols for in-person adjudications (as of 8/23/2021) and safety measures that will be strictly adhered to:

- 1 All participants will wear a mask indoors regardless of vaccination status.
- 2 Everyone should wash hands upon entrance.
- 3 Parents & siblings need to stay in the car.
- 4 Only 1 student and the teacher in the host studio at a time

If a host, student or family will not adhere to these protocols, the Adjudicator may stop the adjudications and leave the host studio.

The safety and health of our teachers, students, families and Adjudicators is our priority.

Carol White, NCTM
Eugene District Syllabus Chair



EUGENE SYMPHONY

A Conversation with Pianist Michelle Cann
Eugene Symphony 2021/22 Season Guest Artist

Wednesday, September 22

10:00-11:30 AM

Hult Center for the Performing Arts, the Studio

Co-presented with the Oregon Music Teacher Association

Come meet Michelle Cann, a champion of Florence Price's music, and learn about the music she advocates for through her work as a concert pianist and educator. Cann will share her knowledge of African American composers that have historically been excluded from the canon of American music. Audience members will have the opportunity to ask questions. **We welcome piano educators and members of the public to attend.**



Michelle Cann will perform Florence Price's Piano Concerto with the Eugene Symphony on Thursday, September 23rd as part of the Symphony's "[Opening Night & Welcome Back!](#)" concert at the Hult Center for the Performing Arts. Single tickets available September 14, 2021.

Cost: FREE

Safety Requirements: Beginning September 1, 2021, the Hult Center will require proof of vaccination against COVID-19 for entry to all performances and events. Those unable to be fully vaccinated, including children under the age of 12, must have proof of a negative COVID test, taken with 48 hours of performance. Masks are also required at all times inside the building. Learn more about the Hult Center's COVID-19 protocols [here](#).

RSVPS Encouraged – [RSVP HERE](#)

About Michelle Cann:

Pianist Michelle Cann made her orchestral debut at age fourteen and has since performed as a soloist with numerous ensembles including The Philadelphia Orchestra, the Florida Orchestra, the North Carolina Symphony, and the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra.

A champion of the music of Florence Price, Ms. Cann performed the New York City premiere of the composer's Concerto in One Movement with The Dream Unfinished Orchestra in July 2016 and the Philadelphia premiere with The Philadelphia Orchestra in February 2021, which the Philadelphia Inquirer called "exquisite." She has also performed Price's works for solo piano and chamber ensemble for the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, Chamber Music Society of Detroit, and the New World Symphony, among other presenters.

Ms. Cann regularly appears in solo and chamber recitals throughout the U.S., China, and South Korea. Notable venues include the National Centre for the Performing Arts (Beijing), the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts (Washington, D.C.), Walt Disney Concert Hall (Los Angeles), and the Barbican (London).

Ms. Cann has appeared as cohost and collaborative pianist with NPR's From The Top and has been featured on WRTI-FM and WHY-TV in Philadelphia. Her summer festival appearances have included the Taos Chamber Music Festival, Yellow Barn, Perlman Music Program, Music Academy of the West, Geneva Music Festival, and Pianofest in the Hamptons, where she serves as artist in residence.

An award winner at top international competitions, in 2019 she served as the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra's MAC Music Innovator in recognition of her role as an African-American classical musician who embodies artistry, innovation, and a commitment to education and community engagement.

Ms. Cann studied at the Cleveland Institute of Music and the Curtis Institute of Music, where she holds the inaugural Eleanor Sokoloff Chair in Piano Studies.

Photo credit: Steven Mareazi Willis

MINUTES
Eugene District OMTA * General Meeting
May 10, 2021 Zoom Meeting

President MASON called the meeting to order at 9:14 am

Attendees: *Genevieve Mason, Alexis Gibbons, Janet Pollack, Sandy Hull, Nick Rieser, Carol White, Nobuko LeBeau, Lucy Clevenger*

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Teacher Showcase to be held on Sunday, May 16 at 3:00 – Wyatt Burger, Chair

- 7 teachers and 3 students participating
- Genevieve will host with Wyatt giving the Introduction in the iMovie recital
- 3 links will be sent out for the program, recital, and zoom reception afterwards

Syllabus: April 23-24-25 – Carol White, Chair

- 18 teachers and 76 students participated
- Please refer to the report in the Con Brio for details

Soule Student Scholarship

- 3 winners were chosen
- Cheri will send checks to the students
- A new rule will be that students who received 2nd or 3rd place can enter again the following year but will need to play new repertoire. 1st place winners will not be allowed to enter again.

Contemporary

- 2 full recitals and 23 students participated

Masterclass

- Laura Downes, pianist, activist, and Artist in Residence at the Bach Festival will lead
- students from the UO pedagogy classes will participate

OMTA State Conference

- 5 in-person spots are left

Executive Board Summary:

- Fall – we need to be prepared for live and online recitals and meetings
- need to research how to register
- need to determine rules for cancelling
- will do in-person recitals if allowed by OHA w/masks and distancing
- Sarah Ball will discuss protocol at state meeting

[Continued on next page...]

Fall 2021 Recital Planning:

- October 9th has been reserved at the UO for the Sonatina Festival, but we are also prepared for videos
- There will **not** be a Barnes & Noble Play-a-Thon in 2021
- Popular Festival will be held in late October/early November
- Holiday District Recital to be held in early December
 - registration fees to be determined
 - Alexis will chair
 - possibly to be held at Unity of the Valley

Reflections on '20-'21 recitals and Planning '21-22 recitals:

- hybrid recitals made money
- iMovie recitals did not bring a profit
- if do online recitals – would do some hybrid & some iMovie
- WIFI quality a problem for some students

- if have to do Baroque Festival online, competitive students would follow the State guidelines
- all other students would be hybrid
- Ensemble Festival would follow the State format

- decisions to be made in August

Recital Chairs:

- Ellen will continue chairing the Spring Festival
- Baroque Festival – TBD
- Syllabus – Carol White will chair 1 more year
- At the end of the '21-22 – will elect a new Board
- Teacher Showcase – need to recruit new participants

Meetings:

- May hold a Saturday Welcome/Social Meeting in September on September 11th
- Will discuss a Saturday meeting in June

Respectfully submitted,
Soria Phillips-Meadow
Recording Secretary



Thoughts on Victor Steinhardt

Neil Patton, Editor - from August 2nd, 2021

You keep thinking you'll get more time. So you put off that phone call or that visit.

Victor Steinhardt was my piano professor in college, from 1990 through 1994. A sensitive and vibrant pianist who loved to compose, he showed me that it was OK to have fun while performing. I loved watching his impish smile, his head slightly rocking left to right, as he would end a performance of ever-so-serious Beethoven and Chopin with a jaunty ragtime piece, sometimes from his own creative mind. He never showed off. He just loved music, and it was obvious. I will never forget, to the day I die, his gentle encore performance of Granados' Spanish Dance No. 2.

I grew up watching him perform around Eugene with the local symphony and orchestras, chamber groups, and in solo recitals. I was so excited when I finally realized I would get to study with him at the U of O. There were the countless lessons where he listened and coached and encouraged and questioned and challenged. There was that lesson where he sent me away early to practice, once it was plain that I had not prepared during the week. That one hurt, and was one of my most important lessons. He taught me that I didn't need others to set goals for myself. I could do that just fine on my own.

Then there was that lesson where we didn't play a note. I was losing faith in what I was doing as a music student, and he was frustrated at his job requirements as a judge in piano competitions. (He quoted Bela Bartok: "Competitions are for horses, not artists.") We just sat and talked about what we were doing all of this for. Why music? Why all the work? Why all the late nights and tired hands and endless competition? What was the goal? We didn't arrive at an answer, but we got closer. And although I can't speak for him, I was ready to get back to work, and I'm pretty sure I never looked back after that lesson.

I was a bit of a weirdo in the piano department, with my love for rock and my distaste for the social competition that is inherent in any college piano department. Victor encouraged my composing, even if the style wasn't his cup of tea. He even allowed me to play one of my own compositions in a jury, which was more than a bit presumptuous of me, but I was young enough not to care. Victor rolled with it.

I was his student when he met his future wife, Betsy. It was fun to watch his step lighten and his face smile even more whenever he talked about her. He was a wicked punster, and had various puns typed and taped on the walls of his office. One dominant decoration in his office was a huge poster of the cover of Nirvana's "Nevermind" album. He didn't know who Nirvana was, but he was impressed by the image and it's metaphor.

He was the perfect teacher for me.

I graduated, moved on, and built a career around music. We saw each other less and less, but I tried to keep him apprised of my music.

Then he grew sick. These past few years he had to stop performing. The tremors in his hands wouldn't allow him to play anymore. I waited. Every pianist fears this, and it's hard to face in another. I heard that his time was coming soon. So I finally got up my courage and spent an afternoon with him two Wednesdays ago. It was so good to see him again. We talked about music and where my career has taken me. I was able to thank him for the time we spent together, and for his loving care for my skills and for my future as a musician and as a human being. Betsy wanted to play my latest album as we talked. I was touched to hear him interrupt himself, and say that my music was beautiful. I didn't realize how much I wanted, maybe needed, to hear him say that.

I got a text from Claire this last Friday night. "Victor Steinhardt died this morning."

Like I said, you keep thinking you'll get more time. So you put off that phone call or that visit. I had hoped to get back over and visit again this week. There was more to say, and to listen to. I am so thankful for the little time I did take, but now there should be more. So much more. But that's it. Time is merciless.

Thank you, Victor. My life is very different because of you, and I am forever blessed.

Get thee to a punnery...

