



President's Message November 2021

Hello everybody,

Halloween was joyfully celebrated around here, and November has begun with a very rainy day. Some of us gathered virtually for the Festival of Popular music two days ago. It was fun again to meet again with our students and colleagues, and share uplifting music. Thanks Wyatt for organizing!

Big news is that we are daring to plan our Winter Holiday Recital on December 5th in person, at the United Lutheran Church. Note the change of date. It is great, and challenging at the same time, as we will have to be very wise to create an event that is safe. We are planning to have only 10 students per recital, masks will be required, hands sanitized, and social distancing monitored. Please read the article from Alexis for more information.

See you all at our monthly meeting on Monday November 8.

Genevieve Mason
Eugene/Springfield OMTA District President

In this Con Brio, please find also information about our coming program on Monday November 8, and about the Winter Holiday Recital on November 5. You can review the treasurer report, and the minutes from the last meeting.

Genevieve Mason
Eugene/Springfield OMTA District President



November 8, 2021th Meeting and SPECIAL Program

Hello Members,

I am pleased to announce that The Eugene District of the Oregon Music Teachers Association in partnership with the Oregon Community Foundation and the Nellie Tholen Fund will present a free lecture for OMTA members, piano teachers and all who would be interested on Monday, November 8, 2021 from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. presented by Deborah Cleaver. No pre-registration, membership or fee is required. Please feel free to invite friends, students, and other interested community members. Non-members need to notify Genevieve Mason, if they intend to join us.

About the program: The Taubman Method of Piano Playing

This program will focus on the practical aspects of the Taubman approach that can be incorporated without a lot of training. Teachers will learn the most advantageous physical relation to the piano keyboard, how to successfully perform leaps, polyrhythms, chords and octaves, and improved tone production. Anyone who has a problematic section in a piece is urged to scan and submit it to janetkippollack@comcast and Deborah Cleaver will address it during the presentation.

About Deborah Cleaver

Deborah Ingram Cleaver holds a Master of Music degree in piano performance from Boston University where she studied with the renowned pianist and pedagogue Leonard Shure. After finishing her degree, she worked closely with Shure as his teaching assistant at New England Conservatory. She inherited his passionately held view that the coupling of performance and pedagogy was essential for both endeavors, and this has informed her professional direction and philosophy through the years.

Ms. Cleaver has also spent many years studying the performance practice of the Baroque and Classic periods with such luminaries as Sandra Rosenblum, Edward Parmentier, and Elisabeth Wright. Her broad interests have resulted in lectures for universities and music teachers' organizations, ranging from the expressive aspects of Baroque performance practice to the correlation between Romantic literature and music. As a passionate promoter of contemporary music, she created and chaired a contemporary music festival for Portland students during her tenure as president of the Portland District OMTA.



Ms. Cleaver is an adjunct faculty member of Lewis and Clark College, as well as having taught at Reed College (1995-2018). In addition, she maintains a private studio where she currently teaches online lessons for students in WA, OR, and Canada. Former teaching positions include Willamette University, St. Andrews College, and the South Shore Conservatory in Boston.

Deborah Cleaver began studying the Taubman approach in 1997 after attending a workshop in Portland, Oregon conducted by senior faculty members of the Taubman Institute. Her studies transformed her playing with increased speed, tonal control, expressivity, and accuracy. In addition to the ease of playing, being able to give this body of knowledge to her students has been an amazing benefit. Her teachers have included Edna Golandsky, John Bloomfield, and Robert Durso. She has been a faculty member of the Golandsky Institute since 2005, and is certified at the Master Level, the institute's highest level of certification. She organizes seminars for the Portland/Golandsky Institute community with John Bloomfield.

An avid performer, she has appeared with the Makrokosmos Project, the Fear No Music Ensemble, the DeRosa Chamber Players, Cascadia Composers, and Friends of Rain. Her performances have been aired on the classical music programs PLAYED IN OREGON and All Classical.

Details in Brief:

Date: November 8, 2021

Venue: Online via Zoom

Business Meeting: 9:00-9:55 AM

Program: 10:00-11:30 AM

Winter Holiday Recital

Deadline for Entries to the Chairperson through Leggiero: Friday, November 26.

The Winter Holiday Recital will be held on Sunday, December 5 with recitals starting at 2 PM. Please note that the date for this event has been changed from our original date to facilitate having an in person event. This event will be held at United Lutheran Church located at 2230 Washington Street.

Because this event will be held in person, we will have the following protocols in place:

- Masks must be worn by all in attendance.
- We will space out those in attendance to allow for social distancing.
- Performers will use hand sanitizer before playing.
- The piano will be sanitized before and after each recital.
- Recitals will be limited to a maximum of 10 students.
- Each participating student will be required to fill out the following form:
 - https://members.mtna.org/FAQs/COVID_Waiver.pdf.

Because we are limiting the number of students performing, we will have shorter recitals and will likely start the second recital at 2:45 instead of on the hour as is usual for festivals in the past.

All music is welcome, including holiday music that celebrates this joyous season. Soloists, vocalists, and ensembles are all encouraged to participate. Memory is not required but is strongly encouraged.

The entry fee is \$10 per student. Registration is through Leggiero. Please direct questions about this event to me by email at ahgibbons@gmail.com.

Alexis Gibbons, NCTM

The deadline for submitting articles and announcements for the December 2021 issue of Con Brio is Sunday, December 5, 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.

Con Brio November 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



Festival of Popular Music

The Festival of Popular Music was held Saturday, October 30th at 2:00, using the Zoom "hybrid" format: students had the option of performing live, or by pre-recorded video. We had 10 student entries from 6 teachers, performing in a single recital.

Entry fees totaled \$100, with no expenses.

A thank you to the participating teachers and students; Genevieve Mason who hosted the Zoom event, and Sandy Hull, our most excellent "Master of Ceremonies."

Respectfully submitted,

Wyatt Burger, chair
Festival of Popular Music

westlanepiano@icloud.com

OMTA Eugene Treasurer's Report



Account Activity
October 1, 2021
through
October 31, 2021



Checking Account

Date	Description	Debit	Credit	Balance
October 1, 2021	Beginning Balance			\$ 2,570.90
October 22, 2021	Nellie Tholen		\$ 697.00	
October 22, 2021	Membership		\$ 115.00	
October 22, 2021	Fall Syllabus		\$ 957.00	
October 27, 2021	Fall Syllabus	\$ 957.00		
October 30, 2021	Popular Festival		\$ 100.00	
October 31, 2021	Ending Balance			\$ 3,482.90

Savings Account

Date	Description	Debit	Credit	Balance
October 1, 2021	Beginning Balance			\$ 9,968.34
	Interest		\$ 0.42	
October 31, 2021	Ending Balance			\$ 9,968.76

Certificate of Deposit

Date	Description	Debit	Credit	Balance
October 31, 2021	Balance			\$ 2,413.11

Treasurer Cheri Ann Richardson

MINUTES

Eugene District OMTA * General Meeting

October 11, 2021 Zoom Meeting

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

Attendees: *Genevieve Mason, Janet Pollack, Fern McArthur, Sandy Hull, Nick Rieser, Carol White, Ellen McQuilkin, Lucy Clevenger, Alexis Gibbons / Additional members attending the presentation: Katie Caulley, Kami Hendrix*

Minutes from September meeting: approved with one correction: Alexis Gibbons is the chair of the Winter Holiday Recital while Paul Safar is the chair of the Composition Festival.

Meeting minutes protocol: it was determined that the minutes should be sent to Genevieve and Sandy the week of the meeting. After any corrections have been made, Genevieve will send the minutes to Wyatt who will send them out to everyone. He will note that any corrections should be sent directly to the Recording Secretary.

Treasury Report: approved.

Membership: On September 18th, a Welcome Meeting was held for new members at the University Park picnic structure. We were delighted to welcome new member, Grace Ho, and enjoyed talking together about the potential for the UO and OMTA to connect and partner together. It was a nice gathering and agreed upon that it should be held annually in the fall.

For new members, the Con Brio will now feature no more than two new members per issue in order to spotlight those teachers.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Review of Chair Guidelines: For hybrid format recitals in which students can either play live or submit videos to be played during the recital, teachers should play the videos since they have to screen share and have good Wi-Fi. Teachers should also check the student's video background for presentable appearance.

Sonatina Festival: Congratulations to all teachers and students who participated! Adjudicators Dr. Crystal Zimmerman and Dr. Grace Ho were very impressed with the level of performances. Due to COVID restriction at the University of Oregon, the festival was switched to a virtual format. Kudos to the State OMTA office staff for posting the information on the website so quickly for members. Rebekah Carter, Co-Chair, did a fantastic job for her first year on this festival and was responsible for finally getting this festival on Leggiero – a huge time saver!

Results were emailed to participants Sunday evening and will be posted in the November edition of Music News. The virtual Honors Recital of 1st and 2nd place winners from each of 10 levels is being processed and will be available for viewing for 30 days from release. Watch for announcement.

The festival committee would like to thank all of the volunteer teachers here in Eugene who helped make this State Festival a success! There were 65 students and 25 teachers participating. The repertoire committee was comprised of Lucy, Ellen, Nobuko, Marti, and Sandy. Trophies and awards were coordinated by Nobuko and Sandy. Sandy secured the adjudicators.

Thank you, Sandy!

Festival of Popular Music: Please note the following correction to the information in the Con Brio: **the deadline for entries is October 22nd**. Videos do not need to be submitted. Registration is on Leggiero. If using pre-recorded videos, it was suggested to have teachers screen share and play videos **and** to remind students to stage the background (clear clutter) and dress in recital attire. *Thank you, Wyatt!*

Syllabus: Carol White is scheduling students this week. It will be a smaller group with approximately 14 hours of playing. It will all be done online and possibly scheduled over three shorter days. Alexis is offering her studio that Saturday morning. Because most students have requested virtual exams, Carol will determine whether or not to schedule any at Alexis's studio. *Thank you, Carol!*

Timing and protocol make Syllabus scheduling a challenge. State Syllabus requirements state that only the student, host, teacher, and adjudicator may be present during Syllabus exams and masked at all times.

Winter Holiday Recital: Alexis will determine by November 1st whether to hold an in person or virtual recital. When children under 12 are approved for the vaccine, they will not be able to be vaccinated in time for the recital. Unity of the Valley is a possible location. *Thank you, Alexis!*

January 2022 and forward: If we are able to do in-person recitals in the future, our district will follow the State Guidelines on Covid protocol.

Ensemble Festival: The tentative date is Saturday, January 22nd. It is possible that it will need to be on Sunday depending on the location. *Thank you, Janet!*

Baroque Festival: Ellen has officially resigned from chairing the Baroque Festival. Winnie will secure and coordinate adjudicators and submit announcements for the Con Brio. Genevieve will contact Olga to see who takes care of contacting Ramona in view of the Leggiero registration. *Thank you for all your work, Ellen!*

Eugene Symphony Collaboration with OMTA: On September 22nd, Michelle Cann gave a presentation on women composers who are underrepresented highlighting Margaret Bonds and Florence Price. We are grateful to Katy Vizdal for contacting us for this collaboration. Everyone who attended gave wonderful reviews of Michelle Cann's presentation and hoped we could continue to collaborate with ESO.

Nominating Committee: Genevieve will work on appointing a Nominating Committee to select a new Executive Board. It should be comprised of long-time members who are familiar with the District and know members. Service needs to be limited to two years. The committee needs to select names by April for the membership to vote on in May.

Ideas for increasing our pool of members who chair recitals and help out included having new members team up with current members. It was also discussed that we need to convey that membership comes with benefits as well as responsibilities. It was also discussed that the fee for non-members to participate should be raised. Non-member fees can not be higher than the State dues, however. *Thank you, Fern, for your insight on all of this!*

Attention Recital Chairs: Genevieve needs a list of participating teachers for each recitals since Leggiero does not provide this. Please email this information to her ASAP.

Updating membership information: As a note in discussing participating teachers for recitals, be sure to send in any updated membership information to both the Membership List and to Leggiero.

Possible Opportunity: Shannon Johnson with the Oregon State Dept. of Education contacted Janet regarding possibly including our Eugene District OMTA in their newsletter featuring education in the arts. It was noted that if we do this, we would start by having the State OMTA featured in the newsletter.

Respectfully submitted,
Soria Phillips-Meadow
Recording Secretary

Accompanist and Organist Needed

Bethesda Lutheran Church is in need of a pianist and an organist. If interested in either position, please contact Pastor Steve Dow at 541-688-9085.

