



President's Message April, 2023

Happy April!

Spring is a busy time and this year is no exception - all the more stimulating for its near-normalcy after the pandemic. Take time to enjoy its opportunities and challenges!

On March 13, we had a wonderful presentation by Martha Hilley. She has spent her whole career as a group piano instructor and has a unique very hands-on style with students. I find I've been using elements of that interaction style with my students since that presentation.

Please don't forget about the Piano UO Festival on Sunday, April 30 - the deadline is coming up April 14. This year's theme is character pieces - a great category of enjoyable works for students.

Sarah Rose has taken the reins of the Teacher Showcase! It's coming up soon on May 13 at Unity of the Valley. Please consider participating - think "out of the piano case". Remember, it raises funds for the Soule Scholarship, but it's also a lot of fun to play. It looks like we're going to have quite a few collaborations - don't forget that as a possibility too. The deadline is Friday, May 5!

Don't forget the deadline for the Beverly Soule Scholarship competition, coming up on April 9.

Important note about his Monday's meeting: we will be at Berwick Hall, not at FCC. The meeting will take place in the concert hall, not the board room and needs to end by 9:45. Look for an announcement soon with the online link.

For our presentation, we are honored to have the eminent pianist Dr. Alexandre Dossin, Professor of Piano at UO and a past winner of the 2003 Martha Argerich International Piano Competition, among many other honors. He will present on the music of George Walker. See his bio here: <https://musicanddance.uoregon.edu/directory/profiles/all/adossin>

See you Monday!

Nick Rieser
Eugene/Springfield District OMTA President



April District Meeting Monday, April 10

Dear OMTA Eugene District,

Welcome to April! This month's meeting and program will be on Monday, April 10. As usual, the business meeting will be at 9:00am and the program will be at 10:00am. Please note that the location will be at Berwick Hall, not FCC. A description of the program is below. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Sincerely,

Grace Ho
Vice-President, OMTA Eugene District

April 10, 2023 – “The Piano Music of George Walker”

Presenter: Dr. Alexandre Dossin
Location: Berwick Hall (975 E. 18th Ave)

Pianist and composer George Walker (1922-2018) was the first African-American to win the Pulitzer Prize for his piece Lilacs in 1996. In this presentation, Dr. Alexandre Dossin (Steinway Artist and UO Professor of Piano) will talk about and demonstrate Walker's musical style in his works for piano. Dr. Dossin has recently been performing George Walker's piano music around the country, and his recording of Walker's complete piano works is forthcoming.

Con Brio **April 2023**

Con Brio is the newsletter of the Eugene Chapter of OMTA, published and distributed monthly, except July and August.

President: Nick Rieser, Vice-President: Grace Ho, Treasurer: Sarah Rose,
Corresponding Sec: Janet Pollack, 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

The deadline for submitting articles and announcements for the May 2023 issue of Con Brio is Sunday, April 30, 2023.

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.

Eugene Teacher Showcase Concert

Hello fellow OMTA teachers!

This year, the spring teacher showcase and fundraiser will be **May 13th, 2023 at 2:00pm** at **Unity of the Valley** and we would love for you to play!! Unity has a BEAUTIFUL Yamaha 7' 6" piano, and we are encouraging people to play classical or popular styles. Also, feel free to invite non-OMTA performers to play with, and playing more than one song is welcome! The deadline to enroll is May 8th, but it would help us to know ASAP what piece you would like to play, if it's a solo or ensemble piece and how long it is.

This is our first in person showcase since the pandemic and I would love to have as many performers as possible! Let's all have a wonderful time together, and make this a successful fundraiser! I think it will be a really enjoyable concert! We welcome original compositions as well as existing repertoire and a variety of instruments!

This is the first time I am heading up an event for the OMTA, and Betsy Parker has so graciously offered her help! I am so thankful she's my co-chair!! So, feel free to contact either or both of us with questions!! My number is 541-510-6451.

My email is songbirdsarahb@gmail.com.

Betsy's email is betsyparker@comcast.net

Sarah B. Rose
Event Chair



MAY 13TH, 2023 2:00PM UNITY OF THE VALLEY

OMTA TEACHER SHOWCASE

Join us for a spring concert and fundraiser!



For more info, contact:
Sarah Rose,
songbirdsarahb@gmail.com
541-510-6451

The poster features a central illustration of a grand piano with its lid open. The background is a light beige color with a subtle vertical striped pattern. At the bottom, there is a red horizontal band containing a treble clef on the left and a bass clef on the right, framing the contact information.



UNIVERSITY OF OREGON | School of Music and Dance

APRIL 30, 1-6pm
Frohnmayr Music Building
University of Oregon

PIANO UO
FESTIVAL

Scan for registration
and information

The UO piano faculty and MTNA Collegiate Chapter are very excited to host our annual community piano event this Spring!

Please join us for our [Piano UO Festival](#) on Sunday, April 30th, 2023, 1:00pm-6:00pm, held at the UO School of Music and Dance, Frohnmayr Music Building.

Piano students of all levels are invited to register to participate in the [Piano UO Festival](#), where they will have the opportunity to

- Share their passion for music with other pianists in an in-person recital
- Perform on a professional nine-foot Steinway concert grand piano
- Recitals will be recorded and events in Beall Hall will also be live streamed
- Advanced-level performers will have the opportunity to engage with UO piano faculty in masterclasses and be featured in a showcase recital alongside UO piano students

Light refreshments will be provided, and we encourage all to explore the UO campus and restaurants nearby. Roadside parking and the lot on the corner of East 18th and Alder are free on Sundays.

For more details and registration, please visit <https://blogs.uoregon.edu/pianouofestival/>. We hope to see you at our wondrous day of music-making!

Bev Soule Scholarships auditions

Bev Soule Scholarships auditions will take place on Sunday, April 30 at Lucy Clevenger piano studio. You can get all the information on the Eugene OMTA website. It is very important that you send me the email about students' participation by March 7! The deadline for the fees and forms is April 9.

Contemporary Music Festival

Festival of Contemporary music will take place on Sunday, April 16, at United Lutheran Church. The fee is \$15 and the deadline is Friday, April 8. Registration is on Leggiero.

Sincerely

Lucy Clevenger, NCTM
951-440-1841
3345 Chambers St, Eugene, OR

Spring District Recital Report

The afternoon of March 12, 2023 was filled with beautiful music! Eugene District OMTA hosted three full recitals at St. Paul Catholic Church. 35 students of all ages performed elementary through advanced repertoire for solo piano and ensemble. Students were poised, prepared and polished! Congratulations to the following teachers whose students presented such fine performances:

Olga Aynvarg, Wyatt Burger, Alexis Gibbons, Sandy Hull, Genevieve Mason, Ellen McQuilkin, Betsy Parker-Steinhardt, Nick Rieser, Paul Safar and Carol White.

Respectfully Submitted by Sarah Burch, Program Chair



I know, I know. I couldn't resist including this.

- Neil

MINUTES
Eugene District OMTA Meeting
Berwick Hall BOD Rm.
Monday, March 13, 2023

President RIESER called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

Attendees in-person: Nick Rieser, Grace Ho, Genevieve Mason, Alexis Gibbons, Wyatt Burger, Lucy Clevenger, Kumiko Vanderbush,

Attendees via zoom: Betsy Parker February minutes were approved. March Treasurer's report was approved. **Student Activities**

Spring District Recital: Chair: Sarah Burch. The recitals went well with a total of 36 students representing 10 teachers performing over three recitals. Nick noted that Sarah did a wonderful job of acknowledging the hard work of the students and teachers as well as highlighting the importance of piano studies especially in today's world.

There was discussion of needing to review with students both the time limit allowed to perform as well the importance of being prepared.

A discussion of Leggiero was also raised since there were scheduling adjustments needed which could not be accommodated by Leggiero. Nick said he plans to correspond with the State OMTA regarding the challenges that teachers have had with Leggiero for some time.

Although there are benefits to Leggiero, it was designed for Syllabus and so does not allow for teachers to specify repertoire details. As a result, Sarah had to type the programs by hand. Out of the \$367.50 raised by the Spring District Recital, \$140.00 was spent on Leggiero which is especially important to consider given that the programs still had to be typed by hand.

Future venues were also discussed since the Kawai at St. Paul's posed some challenges including the action, tuning, and the sound up close as well as reverberation at the back of the hall. The cost for St. Paul's was \$150.00.

Piano UO Festival: To be held on Sunday, April 30 1:00-6:00 pm at the UO School of Music and Dance. Registration deadline is April 14. The theme is character pieces.

For more information, please contact Grace Ho or visit <https://blogs.uoregon.edu/pianouofestival/>.

Composition Festival: The video comprised of compositions and student discussion has been produced and will be shown on May 6 at 4:00 at the Broadway Metro. Teachers and students are invited to attend the viewing.

Discussion was held on whether teachers would be interested in using the video for OMTA promotion with parental permission. In addition, Rob Tobias, who produced the video might be interested in using the video for promotional purposes with the permission of the Eugene District OMTA. All in attendance at the meeting were in favor of using the video for promotional purposes.

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Teacher's Showcase: Sarah Rose has agreed to chair. *Thank you, Sarah!* It will be held on Saturday, May 13 at 2:00 at the Unity of the Valley Church. The deadline for registration is Friday, May 5.

Although there is less time to prepare this year, it was noted that in years past, Wyatt contacted teachers in advance to promote participation.

Unity of the Valley is resuming live events and offering us a preferred event rental rate of \$150.00 for OMTA events and \$100.00 for individual member events until 1/1/24.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Discussion of potential future fundraising event:

Since Barnes and Noble is no longer viable for our annual winter fundraising play-a-thon due to their donation restructuring, should we consider finding a new location to hold this type of festive winter fundraising event? Perhaps we could consider adding such an event next year.

Nick will poll our membership to gauge interest to determine if we should pursue this. Alexis would be willing to chair once we determine if and where we plan to hold such an event.

Website:

Nick and Alexis need one more person to join their committee. They are in the process of implementing Trello to serve as an electronic post-it board for teachers to post information on upcoming events.

Managing the website is a top priority right now. To offer input or to help, please contact Neil or Ellen.

Membership: We have a new member, Bokyoung Lee, who is looking for new students. Since he is just beginning to establish his studio and it is the beginning of Spring Term, it was proposed that Eugene District OMTA sponsor his membership fees until July by paying for half of his membership dues which would be \$75.00. He will need to pay for the full dues amount and then can submit a form for reimbursement for \$75. All were in favor.

Future recital venue discussion:

The issue of recital venues needs to be discussed. Genevieve proposed possible fundraising to cover venue fees. This discussion will be taken up at future meetings.

Respectfully submitted, Soria Phillips-Meadow Recording Secretary

