



## President's Message February, 2023

Happy late winter to all!

With the recent passing of Harley McArthur, Fern's husband, and the injury suffered by Mary Ellen Yost, we are reminded how precious life is and how much we mean to each other.

This month's business meeting is in-person at 9:00 at the First Congregational Church, 1050 E 23rd Ave., and also on Zoom at <https://uoregon.zoom.us/my/pianograce>. The program, at 10:00, is by Laura Chu Stokes and is titled "Turning Lemons into Lemonade: Ideas on Productive Lessons When Your Students Haven't Practiced". The same link works for both the meeting and the program.

The In Good Hands program has just released a spreadsheet listing the original composition choices (featuring Oregon composers) for this year's festival. Be sure to check that if you would like your student to participate in this excellent opportunity.

The in-person Baroque Festival took place this past weekend. It's good to see another of our wonderful programs move away from Zoom!

The state OMTA has created a statewide membership survey for guidance in serving you better. I participated in the process of creating it. I know that the survey of the Eugene-Springfield membership we did last summer was extremely effective in informing us about program changes (and thank you to those who participated! I encourage you strongly to participate in the new statewide survey. It's quite short and really will make a difference, plus there are valuable prizes for participating! Please do it soon! Here is the link: <https://forms.gle/jsUXKrZmXigvovLB7>

Nick Rieser  
Eugene/Springfield District OMTA President



## February Meeting

Dear OMTA Eugene District,

I look forward to seeing everyone at our February meeting and program! As usual, the meeting will be at 9:00am and the program will begin at 10:00am. Below are the details about the program.

February 13, 2023 – “Turning Lemons into Lemonade: Ideas on Productive Lessons When Your Students Haven’t Practiced”

Presenter: Laura Chu Stokes

Location: Zoom

**Laura Chu Stokes** has been a pianist and music educator for over forty years. A graduate of Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, Laura has taught hundreds of students in her private studio and as the director of Appalachian State University’s Community Music School. Laura also conducts hands-on workshops and clinics for E-Z Notes, a full line of music learning tools. She has been a featured clinician for professional music teacher associations all over the country.



### **Con Brio** **February 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 March 2023 issue of Con Brio is Sunday, March 5, 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.

### OMTA Eugene Treasurer's Report

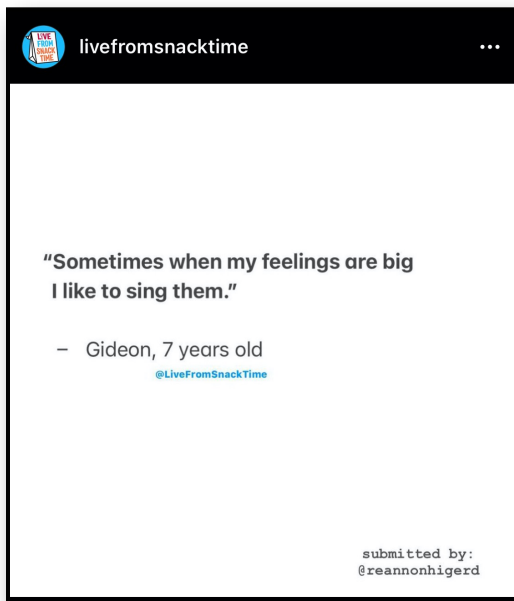


Account Activity  
 January 1st, 2023  
 through  
 February 7th, 2023

Treasurer: Sarah B. Rose  
 Address: 1348 Modoc Street,  
 Springfield, OR 97477  
[songbirdsarahb@gmail.com](mailto:songbirdsarahb@gmail.com)  
 541-510-6451

Checking Account				
Date	Description	Debit	Credit	Balance
1/1/2023	Beginning Balance			\$5,642.72
1/18/2023	OMTA- State Ensemble Festival	\$120.00		
2/7/2023	United Lutheran Church Crystal Zummerman	\$150.00		
2/7/2023	Honorarium	\$200		
2/7/2023	Ending Balance			\$5,172.72

Beverly Soules Scholarship Fund				
Date	Description	Debit	Credit	Balance
1/1/2023	Beginning Balance			\$10,422.63
1/31/2023			\$0.44	
1/31/2023	Ending Balance			10,422.63



**MINUTES**  
**Eugene District OMTA Meeting**  
**First Congregational Church**  
**\*no attendees on Zoom**  
**January 16, 2023**

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

Attendees: Nick Rieser, Grace Ho, Bill Crane, Robin Power, Sandy Hull, Genevieve Mason, Alexis Gibbons, Kami Hendrix, Paul Safar, Kumiko Vanderbush, Lucy Clevenger, Wyatt Burger, Soria Phillips-Meadow

November minutes were approved.

Treasurer's report was approved as summarized in the Con Brio. In addition, Grace Ho applied for and received a Grant for the Marth Hilley presentation in March. Adjustments need to be made to the budget accordingly.

### **Student Activities**

**Syllabus:** Chair: Carol White with Cami Hendrix co-chair. Carol reported that 24 students participated over 3 days between 2 locations and included 18 evaluations, 5 demonstrations, and 1 audition. Sandy Hull stepped in last-minute to adjudicate along with Heidi Adams. Genevieve stepped in to host for Alexis. Syllabus was a success thanks to these teachers coming together without advance notice or planning. It is hoped that Syllabus registration for spring will be accessible via Leggiero.

**District Ensemble Festival:** Chairs Genevieve Mason and Janet Pollack. There were 16 students and 8 ensembles which is considerably more than the last several years. The Festival ran smoothly. Several students went on to State, and there was one honorable mention. The goal going forward is to have even more participants.

Genevieve reported that the State Festival ran smoothly as well and showcased a high playing level. She noted that the District and State Ensemble Festivals need different chairs because it involves too much work for one chair.

**District Holiday Recital:** Chair, Alexis Gibbons. Held on December 4 at United Lutheran Church, there were three recitals showcasing nine teachers with 36 students. Five students were out sick. It was well-attended and ran smoothly. There was one non-member teacher who paid a \$35 participation fee in addition to the student registration fee who had to be typed in manually since they were not able to be processed through Leggiero. This was noted in case non-member teachers wish to participate in future recitals.

**Syllabus:** Kami Hendrix will be processing registration for Syllabus from February 1 – March 7. See Con Brio for more details.

**Additional Recital Discussion:** Since Barnes and Noble does not appear to be cost-effective, discussion of utilizing Valley River Center as an alternate venue was discussed. Kami suggested reaching out to the Children's Museum which she has connections with and has offered to check with and assess for potential recitals.

### **Other Business:**

**Scholarship Funds:** Alexis Gibbons discussed the goal of \$10,000 for scholarship funds which means that there should be a goal of raising \$700 per year. Leggiero fees are part of the funds raised for scholarships.

Nick will form a committee to discuss scholarship funds and the possibility of raising recital fees to increase the funds raised.

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**Website:** Alexis Gibbons gave an update on the status of IT work needed for the Eugene District Website in order for it to be managed and maintained smoothly and in a reasonable timeframe. Currently WordPress is being used, however, the plug-ins needed for enhanced features are a problem if not maintained. As a result, the links to internal events are not working and events are now posted like a blog.

It was agreed that our IT person is not fulfilling their job duties or responding to requests for IT work in a timely manner making it impossible for Alexis to successfully fulfill her role in updating our website as needed. It was agreed that it is long overdue for a new IT person to be found. Nick will check into our current contract as we move to terminate our current contract and hire a new person.

Several suggestions were made including Abraham with Cascadia Composers and Scott Freck with the Eugene Symphony.

**Tholen Fellowship Opportunity:** Bill Crane and Robin Power with Portland Piano International attended the meeting to invite members to apply for the next PPI Tholen Fellowship which begins in March. Teachers have the opportunity to enroll in a fully-funded 2-year program of study with a master teacher in 3-day intensives once per term. Teachers belong to a cohort of fellow teachers and receive private lessons as well as additional activities, concert tickets and more. For additional information, please contact Robin Power at <https://portland-piano.org/tholen-fellowships>.

Respectfully submitted,

Soria Phillips-Meadow Recording Secretary

