



## President's message October 2023

Welcome to Fall 2023! The "Oregon Sunshine" is shining, and the fires are out.

Our first meeting of the year is next Monday, October 9 at Berwick Hall at the University of Oregon. We will meet in the same meeting room where we met several times last year. There is metered parking along 18th Ave and free 2-hour street parking in the neighborhood to the south of 18th Ave. There is also a convenient pay-to-park lot directly behind the Frohnmyer Music Building (a short distance behind Berwick). It will also be available online - see the upcoming announcement for the link.

For the program we will migrate to the wonderful Keyboard Lab at Frohnmyer where we were for the Martha Hilley presentation last spring. This program is the first in a series of hands-on workshops Grace Ho has planned. The topic in October is Improvisation and features our own award-winning composer Paul Safar and myself. We aim to increase your confidence in improvising on your own and in teaching it to your students.

I hope to see you there!

Nick Rieser  
President, OMTA Eugene/Springfield Chapter



### **Con Brio** **October 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**

## September District Meeting

Dear OMTA Eugene District,

I hope you can join us for our October meeting and program this coming Monday, October 9!

Both will be at the University of Oregon School of Music and Dance. The 9:00am business meeting will be in the Berwick Board Room, and the 10:00am program will be in the UO Keyboard Lab (Room 111).

Below is information about the program:

### IMPROVISATION WORKSHOP

Presenters: Nick Rieser, Paul Safar

Location: UO School of Music and Dance (Keyboard Lab, Room 111)

“Play the right notes!” Many of us who have trained in classical piano remember our own teachers reminding us to play the “right notes” on the music score, and we shy away from improvisation for fear of playing the “wrong notes.” Our very own Nick Rieser and Paul Safar will give a hands-on workshop to empower us to become better improvisers and provide us with tools to teach our own students to improvise.

Sincerely,

Grace Ho

Vice-President, OMTA Eugene District

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

## Festival of Popular Music

Sunday, October 29, 2023

United Lutheran Church 2230 Washington St., Eugene

The Festival of Popular Music is an afternoon of fun and entertaining recitals, allowing students to perform popular music in a relaxed, informal setting. Jazz, Blues, Ragtime, Folk, Gospel, TV/movie themes, and musical theater, are just some of the musical styles students may perform. Seasonal/Halloween music, arrangements, improvisations and works for ensembles are also welcome. Memorization is encouraged, but optional.

We are planning recitals on the hour, beginning at 2:00 p.m. The entry fee is \$15 per student, and the **deadline for entries is Friday, October 20.**

Note: Fall Syllabus exams are taking place on Saturday and Sunday the same weekend. If you have a student who will participate in both events be sure to let the chairs know so we may schedule accordingly.

Register online through *Leggiero* and send checks to me by 10/20. [ellenmcquilkin@gmail.com](mailto:ellenmcquilkin@gmail.com)

Please note: If a composer you are seeking is not included in the database, contact me as I am able to easily add composers. Also, remember that *Leggiero* is able to accept a maximum of two pieces for this recital and is unable to accept information regarding arrangers or ensembles. We can announce that information at the recital. Check the box marked "Extreme Circumstances" and leave me a note.

Hope to see you there!

*Ellen McQuilkin*, Chair, Festival of Popular Music

## BoKyung Lee Solo Piano Recital

"Banquet on the Keyboard: with a Touch of Vietnamese Flavor"

With works by Beethoven, Chopin, and Đặng Hữu Phúc.

Saturday November 18  
2:00 PM



St. Jude Catholic Church.  
(4330 Willamette)

## MINUTES

Eugene District OMTA • General Meeting

Monday, September 18, 2023 • First Congregational Church, Eugene

*\* The North doors will be locked. Attendees should go to the far NE entrance near the office toward the parking lot.*

*Attendees: Siera Kaup, Ayden Katteman, Bokyoung Lee, Wyatt Burger, Alexis Gibbons, Sarah Rose, Genevieve Mason, Grace Ho, Rebecca Laird, Kumiko Vanderbush, Andrew Pham. Zero attendees online.*

President RIESER called the meeting to order at 9:25 am.

The May minutes were distributed at the meeting as they were not submitted to Con Brio in May. They were approved.

The Treasurer's report was approved.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Membership:** Genevieve welcomed new members: Ayden Katteman and Siera Kaup.

Ayden graduated from the UO in June and is currently teaching piano at the Lassen Piano Studio in the Friendly St. area.

Siera is currently teaching at Harmony Roadhouse Music Studio and is also teaching a Toddler Music Program. Siera also teaches voice and ukulele.

Genevieve reaches out to new members who have joined to welcome them and introduce them to OMTA. She raised the point that we also need strategies to find new members and someone to lead that. Grace suggested a networking/social coffee get-together.

Sarah suggested that Facebook could also be useful for attracting new members and offered to potentially help post events etc. on our Facebook page. Ayden also offered to potentially help with Facebook work including posting key words

## **2023-2024 Eugene District Programs:**

Grace Ho has put together an exciting slate of upcoming programs which she distributed at the meeting. They will be listed on the website along with handouts which will be available in advance. The monthly meeting is usually on the 2nd Monday of the month except September and January (3rd Monday).

The business meeting is held at 9:00 with the presentations by guest speakers beginning at 10:00. Half of the programs will be held at the First Congregational Church and the other half at the University of Oregon School of Music and Dance (SOMD).

The next program will be an **Improvisation Workshop** held on Monday, October 9th, 2023 in the Keyboard Lab Rm. 111 at the University of Oregon SOMD and presented by our very own Nick Rieser and Paul Safar!

## **STUDENT ACTIVITIES**

**Syllabus:** Chair Kami Hendrix. *Please note - Fall Syllabus is on the same weekend as the Festival of Popular Music.* Kami is looking for Studio hosts. Studios need to be in a separate space from the house and ideally have a waiting area. Upper division studios are required to have a grand piano. Syllabus runs 9-5.

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**Festival of Popular Music:** Chair Ellen McQuilkin. Deadline is October 20th, 2023. Registration is online through Leggiero. Entry fee is \$15. Invoices for students may be printed from Leggiero with teachers collecting fees and then submitting one check to Eugene District OMTA sent to Ellen.

**Ensemble Festival:** Chairs Genevieve Mason and Janet Pollack. The District Festival will be held on November 19th with a deadline of November 10th, 2023. It will be held at the University of Oregon SOMD with two pianos available for four- and eight- hand music. We will also have a teacher from Corvallis joining us who was unable to join the date held in Corvallis.

The State Festival will also be held at the University of Oregon on December 9th, 2023. Fees are \$20 per student for District and \$25 per student for State. Registration paperwork will be sent through the mail. A reminder that one legal extra copy of the music is needed for the adjudicator. Arrangements are not accepted for the competitive division.

### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

**Website:** Nick and Alexis have done extensive work throughout the summer and before to address the situation with our Eugene District website. Here is Alexis's summary of this project:

- In 2017 Alexis took on the job of overseeing the website and coding.
- In 2018 because of significant problems with the website designer at the time, we moved to a WordPress based site. Since then plug-ins have often broken, rendering the website problematic and dysfunctional. This led to further research for a better solution.
- Alexis wanted to move the website into something anyone could manage in the future, so she and Nick researched what different OMTA districts were using.
- They determined that Squarespace, which is used by East and West Portland and Hillsboro OMTA Districts, would be the best solution. Kyle Chinick is the web designer they are working with, and they have been very happy with his cooperative approach and work.
- In addition, Squarespace consultants are readily available and can be independently hired for future changes to the website.
- Migration to the new Squarespace site will take place over a several month period.
- Nick will present their proposal for hiring Squarespace for our website to the BOD for approval.

### **Changes to the teacher directory and teacher search with the updated website:**

We may not have a local teacher directory (for info on other teachers) at least for a while. That information can be found after signing in on the OMTA website: <https://oregonmta.org/wp-login.php>. Potential students can locate teachers under the MTNA Find-A-Teacher link by entering their location and radius for lessons. <https://www.mtna.org/MTNA/FindATeacherSearch.aspx>. It is important for members to go to the MTNA website to check that you indicated that you want to be on this list. Katie Caulley will remain as the local contact person for teachers looking for new students and for hands-on advice to potential students.

New members will be listed in Con Brio each month.

On Friday, October 6 at 6:00 pm, Alexis Gibbons will host an informal performance evening at her home. Teachers are invited to perform or just attend.

Alexis also graciously offered to host the end-of-the-year potluck at her home on Monday, May 13th.

Respectfully submitted,  
Soria Phillips-Meadow