



## President's message September 2023

Welcome to Fall! As school and piano lessons get underway, it always feels like a renewal! I know all you dedicated teachers of OMTA-Eugene/Springfield are busily preparing.

First, a hearty thank-you to our Events and District Chairs, who have worked hard making the last year a robust return from the pandemic.

Our first meeting features a social gathering again! Please join us and bring prospective or new members with you to experience our fellowship. Dr. Ho has put together a great program of presentations for this year. Please check the website for meeting locations, which include First Congregational, UO/Berwick, and the UO Keyboard Lab.

The OMTA State conference in Ashland in June State Conference was delightful - we saw Shakespeare's Twelfth Night together under the stars, learned a lot, and tried on silly hats for our group photo!

As you are probably aware, there is a new COVID variant circulating, so please take appropriate precautions and pay attention to local health authorities on guidelines.

There is good news on the updated website - we have selected a consultant and will start the migration soon. The new website should be easier to work with, function better, and bring us up to date. Thank you to Alexis Gibbons for working diligently on this.

Events chairs - please get any event updates to Alexis Gibbons ASAP.

Here's to a wonderful year of spreading joy and beauty through the arts!

Nick Rieser  
President, OMTA Eugene/Springfield Chapter



## September District Meeting

Happy September!

Our first meeting of the year will be on Monday, September 18 at 9:00am at First Congregational Church (1050 E. 23rd Ave, Eugene). This will be a "welcome back" social gathering. Bring a snack to share as we get together to catch up after the summer and kick off into a new year of OMTA programs, recitals, and festivals. I'll bring the coffee! Looking forward to seeing everyone!

Sincerely,

Grace Ho  
Vice President, OMTA Eugene District

## Fall Syllabus

Fall Syllabus is scheduled for Friday, Oct 27th- Sunday, Oct 29th. Please note this is the same weekend as the Festival of Popular Music. I am looking for teachers who might be willing to host adjudications in their studio space. Please email me and/or list on Leggiero if that's a possibility for you. Registration will open on Fri, Sept 1st and close on Fri, Sept 29th. Let me know if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.

Kami Hendrix  
Syllabus Chair  
OMTA Eugene  
[esotericgrl@gmail.com](mailto:esotericgrl@gmail.com)  
541-513-5132 (call/text)

### **Con Brio** **September 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 October 2023 issue of Con Brio is Sunday, October 1, 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 District Programs, 2023-2024

### September 18, 2023 – “Welcome Back” Social Gathering

*Let’s get together, yeah yeah yeah! Bring a snack to share as we gather together to catch up after the summer and kick off into a new year of OMTA programs, recitals, and festivals!*

Location: First Congregational Church

### October 9, 2023 – “Improvisation Workshop”

*“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 improvisors and tools to teach our own students to improvise.*

Presenters: Nick Rieser, Paul Safar, Neil Patton

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

### November 13, 2023 – “The Story Behind the Notes”

Presenter: [Cyrus von Hochstetter](#)

Location: UO School of Music and Dance (Berwick Hall)

*With his training in both classical and jazz, New York-based **Cyrus von Hochstetter** straddles the musical worlds as a pianist, composer, and teacher. A passionate educator and storyteller, he is a master at sharing his insights into the underlying fabric of music.*



### January 22, 2024 – “Bringing Opera to Life Through Piano Transcriptions”

Presenter: [Brian Hsu](#)

Location: UO School of Music and Dance (Beall Hall)

***Dr. Brian Hsu** is our newest piano faculty member at the University of Oregon! In this lecture-recital presentation, Dr. Hsu will share music from his “Night at the Opera” recording project and illuminate the art of the virtuosic piano transcription, bringing the music and drama of opera to life.*

## February 12, 2024 – “Pedagogy Research Panel”

Presenters: Michelle Sulaiman, Changqing Shi, Dasol Um  
Location: First Congregational Church

*In this panel, graduate students and alum of the **UO piano pedagogy program** will present their research. Topics include:*

- “Teaching Adaptations for Students with Autism and ADHD”
- “Chinese Character Pieces for Intermediate-Level Students”
- “Incorporating Aural-Centered Teaching Within Traditional Piano Methods”

## March 11, 2024 – “Workshop and Master Class”

Presenter: [Deborah Rambo Sinn](#)  
Location: UO School of Music and Dance (Berwick Hall)

Workshop – “Practical Interpretation: What Your Teacher Never Taught You”  
Master Class – Program TBD (for intermediate and early-advanced students)



*Veteran piano pedagogue **Deborah Rambo Sinn** is the author of the acclaimed book, *Playing Beyond the Notes: A Pianist Guide to Musical Interpretation*. In this workshop, Deborah will help pianists understand concrete ways to apply interpretive concepts to their own playing and help teachers to teach interpretation to their students. The workshop will be followed by a master class for students of OMTA teachers.*

## April 8, 2024 – “The Art of Memorization”

*“I played through it without the music just fine before!” We have all been there. What makes someone a better memorizer than others? In this talk, **Dr. Michelle Huang** will look at the four different types of memory: visual, tactile, aural, and analytical, and how to best use them to securely memorize pieces for the next performance.*

Presenter: [Dr. Michelle Huang](#)  
Location: First Congregational Church

## May 13, 2024 – “End-of-Year Celebration”

*Celebrate good times, come on! Let’s end the year with a party to wrap up our OMTA Eugene-District’s activities.*

## 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)

Hope to see you there!

*Ellen McQuilkin*, Chair, Festival of Popular Music



## Composition Celebration, OMTA Eugene Chapter

Dear teachers: As we all get back into a fall teaching routine, we wanted to remind you to consider encouraging some of your students to begin thinking about this year's composition celebration.

Our recital will take place on Saturday, April 6th at 2 p.m. at the First Church of Christ (1390 Pearl Street). Our adjudicator this year will be local composer/violinist Colin Pip-Dixon! Although the March deadline is quite awhile from now, perhaps we can start planting the seeds for new ideas. Solo piano pieces, duos, etc and electronic works are all encouraged as well as structured improvisation. A notated score, of some kind though, is needed for adjudication.

*Paul Safar and Nick Rieser*, co chairs

## The Beverly Soule Award Competition

The Bev Soule scholarship auditions took place on Sunday, April 30, at Lucy Clevenger studio. There were four contestants this year: Albert Liu, student of Winnie Kerner, Giovanna Pesiri, student of Alexis Gibbons, Claire Saxman, student of Sandy Hull and Timmy Cho, student of Lucy Clevenger. This competition is open to high school juniors and seniors studying with Eugene district members. They are required to play three memorized pieces representing different style periods. The first winner was Timmy Cho, second winner - Albert Liu and the third winner - Giovanna Pesiri. Claire Saxman received Honorable mention. The winners are invited to participate at the Music Teacher Showcase.

Respectfully submitted

*Lucy Clevenger, NCTM*

## Fall Women's Choir



**Fall Women's Choir**  
 With Sarah Rose, Director

Tuesdays 6:30-8:30pm  
 starting Sep 19th  
 \$110 for fall term,  
 \$99 early bird discount

Contact us for more information!

[songbirdsarahb@gmail.com](mailto:songbirdsarahb@gmail.com)  
[sarahbrosemusicstudio@gmail.com](mailto:sarahbrosemusicstudio@gmail.com)  
 541-603-8692

Hello OMTA members!

I hope you all have had a fantastic summer. I wanted to let those who may be interested know, my Women's Choir will be starting their fall season September 19th. We will meet Tuesdays this Fall from 6:30-8:30pm at First Congregational Church. Please reach out to me if you're interested, or if anyone you know is. Kumiko Vanderbush (OMTA Member) will be our accompanist, and I will be the director.

[songbirdsarahb@gmail.com](mailto:songbirdsarahb@gmail.com)  
 541-603-8692

Thank you,  
 Sarah Rose

## OMTA - Eugene Treasurer Report

### Activity Report

May 1st, 2023

through

September 9th, 2023

#### Checking Account

Date	Description	Debit	Credit	Balance
May 1, 2023	<b>Beginning Balance</b>			<b>\$ 4,685.21</b>
May 1, 2023	Rob Tobias	\$ 750.00		
May 9, 2023	Cindy Peterson-Peart	\$ 104.00		
May 15, 2023	Giovanna Perisi	\$ 150.00		
May 16, 2023	Syllabus and Comp Fest		\$ 3,591.00	
May 19, 2023	Syllabus payment to state	\$ 3,286.00		
May 24, 2023	Leggerio Software	\$ 256.00		
June 6, 2023	Timmy Cho- Scholarship Winner	\$ 350.00		
June 29, 2023	Bokyung Lee	\$ 70.00		
July 31, 2023	2023 Bev Soule Scholarship		\$ 700.00	
August 28, 2023	Albert Liu Scholarship	\$ 200.00		
September 7, 2023	Membership fees		\$ 360.00	
	<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$ 5,166.00</b>	<b>\$ 4,651.00</b>	<b>\$ 4,170.21</b>

#### Savings Account

Date	Description	Debit	Credit	Balance
May 1, 2023	<b>Beginning Balance</b>			<b>\$ 10,724.90</b>
May 31, 2023	Interest Paid		\$ 0.45	
June 30, 2023	Interest Paid		\$ 0.44	
July 31, 2023	Scholarships	\$ 700.00		
July 31, 2023			\$ 0.45	
August 31, 2023			\$ 0.43	
	<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$ 700.00</b>	<b>\$ 1.77</b>	<b>\$ 10,026.67</b>

Treasurer

*Sarah Rose*



Performers for our Annual Teachers' Showcase Concert, 2023.



Our End-of-the-year Potluck, May, 2023.

