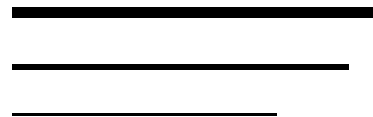


# CON BRIO



*Oregon Music Teachers' Association, Inc.*  
**Eugene District**

Affiliated with the Music Teachers' National Association, Inc.



Opus 212

June 2010

page 1

**Lets  
Celebrate!**

On Monday evening, June 14, we will gather together for our annual springtime pot-luck to celebrate the end of another successful Eugene District season. And this year we have an additional reason to celebrate with the awarding of our first Beverly Soule Memorial Scholarship.

Three outstanding young pianists were selected for recognition and they will be with us to perform. Elizabeth Monroe, student of Pat Morse, was winner of the \$250 award and will play three pieces from her audition program. Performing one piece will be students selected for Honorable Mention, Mira Howard, student of Lucy Clevenger and Juhyun Shin, student of Genevieve Mason.

Spouses and children are invited to enjoy the evening with us. The potluck will begin at 7:00 PM at the home of Virginia Buhn, 2100 Ridgeway Drive. Please bring food of your choice to share...hot dish, salad, dessert, whatever; beverages and dinnerware will be provided. Don't worry if your teaching schedule means a late arrival. There is always plenty of food at Eugene District events and the program promises to be extra special.

## *Festival of Popular Music*

**Sunday, October 24th, from 1:00 to 4:00 PM**

United Lutheran Church  
2230 Washington St., Eugene  
(corner of 22nd and Washington)

**Forms are due Friday, October 8.** Send to *Soria Phillips-Meadow, 2449 Harris St., Eugene, OR 97405.*

Please mark your calendars now! Keep those popular pieces from Spring fresh over summer and keep the Festival of Popular Music in mind when you're choosing fun repertoire for your summer students. This is the perfect recital to share student favorites. For more information, contact:

*Soria Phillips-Meadow*

Festival of Popular Music Chair  
541-484-7090

**The deadline for submitting articles and announcements for the September 2010 issue of *Con Brio* is Saturday, September 4, 2010.**

***Your news and announcements can be sent to the membership between issues of Con Brio!***

*Simply submit the items as usual, indicating you would like the news sent immediately. It will be formatted and sent via email to all members.*

## District Website

### IMPORTANT UPDATES!

1. If you are a chair of a committee/recital, please send any new information (chair, dates, venue, etc.) regarding 2010-2011 events that you want on our District website to:

**ddtikin@gmail.com**

Dave and I would like to update the website early in the summer.

2. Throughout the year always be sure to send me any changes to your email if your name is on the district website.

3. If you are interested in having a web page in the Eugene District website "Teacher Directory" or a link to your personal website, please contact me. See our website for examples.

*Delores Tiktin*

Website Coordinator



## Con Brio

June 2010

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

President: Carolyn McHan

Corresponding Sec: Sarah Burch

Vice-President: Virginia Buhn

Recording Sec: Neil Patton

Treasurer: Wyatt Burger

Past President: Claire Wachter

*Con Brio* founder and first publisher: Lea Mirabella

All materials for publication are due on the Saturday preceding the first Monday of each month.

*Con Brio* is posted on the Eugene District website on the Wednesday prior to the monthly meeting.

Wyatt L. Burger, editor

***Don't miss the brochure about the free Nelita True Master Class, in this issue of Con Brio.***

The master class takes place on October 11, 2010, and is presented for teacher development by the **Oregon Community Foundation**, in partnership with the **University of Oregon**.

## OMTA Fundraising Opportunity

We would like to invite you to support this OMTA fundraising opportunity once again. Please encourage student, parents, family, friends and neighbors to host some wonderful Chinese students.

**What:** Hosting Chinese middle/high school students participating in the 2010 Summer University of Oregon Music/English Camp.

**When:** Session 1 July 14-22, 2010 (9 days). Session 2 July 23-31, 2010 (9 days). OK to host either or both sessions.

**Note:** Host family provides transportation, meals and hospitality. Students may share a room but must have their own bed. Host families are strongly encouraged to take 2 students. All host families are invited to participate in group activities, student concert and potluck dinner.

**Stipend:** \$150 per student per session or \$300 for two students. Stipend will be offered to cover expenses for meals, transportation, and activities. Host families are encouraged to donate part or all of their stipend to OMTA.

**Contact:** LuAnn Langford 541-517-5915, [luannlangford@gpyinternational.org](mailto:luannlangford@gpyinternational.org)

For more detailed information, visit [www.gpyinternational.org/hostfamily.html](http://www.gpyinternational.org/hostfamily.html)

Linda Hwang, Program Director  
Global Perspectives for Youth  
541-870-8300  
[www.gpyinternational.org](http://www.gpyinternational.org)

## *Membership*

I would like to welcome the following new member to the Eugene District:

Alexander Schwarzkopf  
2942 Riverview St.  
Eugene, OR 97403  
541-359-6641  
PIANO

*Marti Csonka*

Membership Chair



### *from the Treasurer...*

A reminder to all committee/event chairs:

Please use the **OMTA Billing Form** to request payment of funds from our district account. This form identifies the event or committee, what the expenses are for, and who should receive payment.

All funds submitted to the treasurer for deposit to our accounts must be accompanied by the **OMTA Remittance Form**. This form identifies the source of the funds and is essential for good record-keeping.

Chairs will be reimbursed for their expenses, but **should not pay for venues, programs, or other large expenses from their personal funds**. Please submit a billing form, in advance, for these expenses and the treasurer will prepare a check, either sending it directly to the vender or venue, or to the chair.

All event chairs must complete the **General Liability Insurance Form** at the MTNA website, at least three weeks prior to the event. One copy will be sent to the venue, another copy will be sent to you for your records. You may go directly to this form by following the link below:

<http://www.mtna.org/Programs/GeneralLiabilityInsurance/LiabilityInsuranceOnlineForm/tabid/249/Default.aspx>

*Wyatt Burger*

OMTA Eugene District Treasurer

## *Spring District Recitals*

The 2010 Eugene District Spring Recitals took place on Sunday May 2 at the United Lutheran Church, at 2230 Washington Street in Eugene. There were five recitals, beginning at 2:00 PM and ending with the final recital at 6:00 PM. Eighty-six students, representing sixteen teachers, participated in this event. The students performed music from a wide variety of styles on solo piano, piano duets, and solo violin. Each recital included repertoire from elementary through advanced. Congratulations to all the teachers for preparing the students to perform so well!

I want to thank all the teachers who helped hand out programs and check students in on the day of the recitals. A big thank you to Wyatt Burger for formatting and printing the programs. We also thank Janie Kaminiski and Westside Baptist Church for providing the beautiful flower arrangements.

Respectfully submitted,

*Bethany Foster*

Spring District Recitals Chair.

## *Spring Syllabus*

Spring Syllabus for OMTA Eugene District took place on May 13-16 this year at teachers' studios and University of Oregon classrooms. It was a busy and successful event with 30 participating teachers, 200 students and 10 adjudicators. There were 128 successful evaluations, 44 demonstrations, 28 auditions and 10 forfeits. Among these there were 9 successful level X evaluations, students of Virginia Buhn, Ellen McQuilkin, Patricia Morse, Mary Ellen Yost, Fern McArthur and Lucy Clevenger.

I want to express my deep appreciation to all participating teachers for their endless patience and cooperation with scheduling, bringing their students on time, and taking care of adjudicators' lunches. A special thanks to our liaison Crystal Zimmerman for her hard work arranging classrooms and helping on the days of the event.

*Lucy Clevenger*

OMTA Eugene District Syllabus Chair

## *Teacher Referrals*

Over the past year I provided teacher referrals to 49 families, down from 87 the year before. I assume part of the drop was due to the economy. But also, I know that some parents have found their teacher from our website Teacher Directory, without going through me. Make sure you're included in the Teacher Directory, if that might be useful to you. (Contact Delores Tiktin to be included - its easy.)

I am always happy to help a potential student or parent connect with an OMTA teacher. If you are not able to accommodate a student in your studio, please feel free to have them contact me for guidance in finding the best teacher for them. I usually give them several teachers' names. I trust that we all are attracting exactly the right students for us, and that they are finding the perfect studio for their education and enjoyment.

*Jane Young*

Teacher Referrals Chair

### Eugene District OMTA Referrals, May 2009 - April 2010

2009-2010 MONTH	District Telephone Line	website	Piano Liquidators	Arts Umbrella	Lawson's Keyboard Center	Pacific Winds	OMTA Teacher
May	2		1				
June	4	1		1			
July							
August	4	1	1				1
September	4						
October	3	2			1	1	4
November			1				
December	3				1		1
January	3	1	1				
February	1	1	1				
March	2						
April	2						1
<b>TOTALS</b>	28	6	5	1	2	1	7

## *from the archives...*

*(I found these guidelines for District Recitals from 1981. We have made a few changes since then! —editor)*

### **Recommendations for Recital Procedures for Eugene District OMTA**

1. Each teacher may present ONE student at EACH recital. If there are enough students for two recitals the first one will be at 7 PM and the second at 7:45 PM.
2. The first recital is limited to grade school students and junior high students who have not reached the Bach Two-Part Invention level and who have had limited experience. The second is for high school and advanced junior high students.
3. Performance time for each student should be limited to 3 minutes.
4. Music for all recitals should be from the Syllabus suggested list or a comparable list. No popular music is acceptable.
5. Piano students are encouraged to perform from memory. Voice students are required to perform from memory. Music may, however, be used in the Fall recital.
6. If a description or translation of the music is deemed necessary by the teacher, it will be typed and inserted into the program.
7. The privilege of recital performance should be passed around. No one student should always be presented at every recital.
8. Students participating in the program are asked to sit together during the program.
9. Teachers and students are expected to arrive on time and remain until the program is finished.
10. Please encourage students to dress as one would for a “special” occasion.
11. The \$2.00 recital fee is paid at the time dues are paid.

Submitted by the Recital Chairman and Executive Board, March 1981.

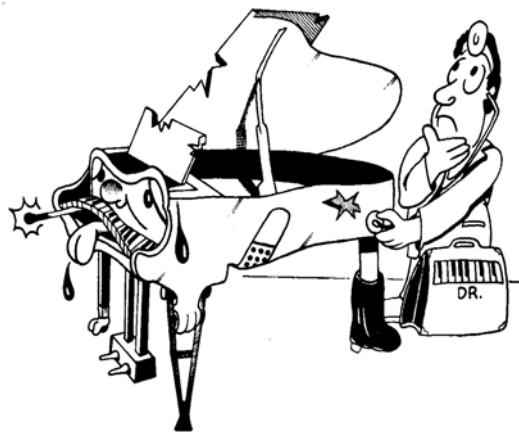
## *The Piano Doctor*

**One of the bass strings on my piano has started to buzz and has become quite annoying. What causes this, and is there a way to correct it?**

A piano's bass strings are an exercise in compromise. To sound its very best, the lowest A string would need to be about 23 feet long! Of course it would be impractical to design pianos just to satisfy the laws of acoustics, but we know that the longer the bass strings are, the better they sound. This is why a 9' concert grand usually has a more glorious sounding bass than a 6' studio grand, and why the taller uprights have a more resonant bass than a spinet. A spinet or console often loses bass tone quality in the second octave; the lowest octave often sounding “tubby” or dull.

To compensate for the lack of length, the strings need to be “fatter.” Thus piano bass strings are a compromise between length and diameter. Increasing the diameter requires wrapping the steel core wire with one or more layers of copper wire. When some part of the copper winding becomes loose, the string will start to buzz or ring. This is usually caused by age, but may also be caused by a defect in the string that doesn't show itself for several years. The only solution is to replace the annoying bass string. The guilty string is removed and sent to a string shop for duplication. The new string is then installed and, after a brief breaking-in period, the problem is solved.

*(The Piano Doctor welcomes all questions about pianos, tuning, regulation, repair; evaluation and purchase of new and used instruments.)*



***If you haven't sent your dues for 2010-2011 to MTNA yet, please hurry!  
The deadline is July 1, 2010.***

## *Some thoughts on Transfer Students...*

**Transfer student:** a student who has studied previously with one or more teachers. I have known teachers who love to receive transfer students from other teachers. These students have usually completed learning the basics of music reading and are now ready to tackle standard repertoire. I have also known teachers who are reluctant to accept transfer students because they may have a sketchy, incomplete grounding in the rudiments of music, or may come with flaws in technique and musicianship. I have always enjoyed the special challenge of helping a transfer student make the transition to my studio. Here are some of the guidelines I follow:

1. When I receive a phone call from the student or parent, I first determine if they are still enrolled in lessons with a teacher, or if lessons have already ended. If they are still receiving lessons from a teacher, I will not discuss accepting the student unless their current teacher contacts me first. If lessons have ended, I always contact the former teacher to make sure all business and personal matters between the prospective student and the teacher have been settled, before I consider accepting the student.
2. At the interview, I take considerable time to get the most complete overview of the student's past study and experience. I ask to see music studied over the past year, recital and performance history, syllabus records, etc. I also ask the student to perform two or three pieces, do some sight reading, and I like to assess their knowledge of music theory. The more I can learn about the student's background, the better equipped I am to make the the student's transition easier.
3. I never say anything negative about the student's performance, background, or pervious teacher(s). I might find that the student has poor music reading skills, sloppy technique and limited musical aptitude, but voicing these concerns serves no useful purpose. I look forward to the challenge of helping a student overcome any gaps in their musical background. It is too easy to fault a student's former teacher(s) for such problems, but I have found that in almost every instance the source is with the student or the student's family situation and not with the teacher.
4. Teach with the greatest possible patience and understanding. The student may have been with a beloved teacher for many years and the change is very difficult for them. The student may have had a bad experience with a previous teacher, or has moved often and studied from many teachers. I have found that a student who has studied with a parent or other family member, also needs adequate time to adjust to a teacher outside the family.
5. If possible, I begin the lessons with the music the student last studied; ongoing or unfinished pieces, unfinished method books, and music that is familiar to them. I find this makes the transition easier for the student, and I know I will have ample time to gradually incorporate my own materials and repertoire selections when the time is right. I would never say "We will need to start all over from the beginning." Rather, I prefer saying to the student, "Let's begin where you left off and if we find any "gaps" we can fill them in along the way."
6. As a courtesy, always give credit to the student's former teacher on recital programs, etc. for at least the first three months of lessons.

Looking back to former students of mine who have gone on to study music at the collegiate level, and graduate with a music degree, about half were transfer students from other teachers. In every instance, their first teacher provided them with the essential foundation in music upon which all future study could be built. I am grateful to these teachers for their excellent work.

Wyatt Burger  
Con Brio Editor

## *OMTA Conference*

**July 22 - 25, 2010**

Information and registration form at the OMTA website  
[oregonmta.org](http://oregonmta.org)

## *President's Message*

Dear Colleagues,

My best wishes are with each one of you as we head into summer with its varied pursuits. From what I hear our members will be involved in rewarding activities from workshops to graduations to weddings to family reunions to teaching assignments and vacations. Wherever you go may you have safe travels and meaningful experiences.

I'm happy to report that all Eugene District positions are filled for the 2010-2011 school year. An energetic organizational meeting, of next year's chairpersons, was held the morning of June 3 at Carol White's lovely home. We addressed as full agenda giving out a list of responsibilities to Event Chairs and deciding on a tentative Student Activity Calendar of Events. These dates and locations will be emailed to you when the locations and dates are firmed up by the chairperson.

Below are listed two changes voted at that meeting:

1. We will wait until the 2011-2012 school year to give consideration to more Composition Workshops.

Eularee Smith organized a Composition Workshop for us in 2009. It was so well received she agreed to have another this year (it had a much smaller attendance). It was decided to wait for a year and then revisit the Composition Workshop idea—possibly making some changes and doing them every other year.

2. Alternate Jr. Bach Festival with Festivals from other music era's: Classical/Romantic/Impressionistic/Contermprorary.

The chair stated we will give teachers one full year advance notice before changing a long standing event. Therefore our district will participate in the State sponsored Junior Bach Festival in February of 2011.

Our vice president and program chair, Delores Tiktin has an excellent lineup of programs already in place for next year. The first meeting will be the popular Teacher Exchange of Ideas with our own experts sharing their ways of enhancing and invigorating their studios.

Enjoy these three months of "summer vacation" and we'll see you in September.

Musically yours,

*Carolyn McHan*

President, Eugene District OMTA

### *OMTA Eugene District Officers for 2010-2011*

President	Carolyn McHan
Vice President	Delores Tiktin
Treasurer	Wyatt Burger
Recording Secretary	Neil Patton
Corresponding Secretary	David Cragun

# THE OREGON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

October 11  
The University  
of Oregon  
Beall Hall  
Eugene  
10 am – 12 pm

October 12  
Southern  
Oregon  
University  
SOU Music  
Recital Hall  
Ashland  
10 am – 12 pm

October 13  
Central Oregon  
Community  
College  
Wille Hall  
Bend  
10 am – 12 pm



## Invites you to the Nellie Tholen Fund Master Class Series with Pianist, Nelita True

The Oregon Community Foundation is sponsoring a piano master class series by Nelita True, Professor of Piano at Eastman School of Music, through The Nellie Tholen Fund of The Oregon Community Foundation.

The purpose of this master class series is to provide a professional development opportunity for piano teachers. The class will be tailored to piano teachers, with Nelita True using each student's performance to give teachers tools and techniques to advance their teaching.

Ms. True has been described in *Clavier Companion* as "One of the world's most sought-after and beloved pianist-teachers." Her students have won top prizes in national and international competitions, and many

of her former students now serve on the faculties of major schools around the country. Formerly Distinguished Professor at the University of Maryland, Ms. True is currently Professor of Music at the Eastman School of Music.

Since Nelita True made her debut at age seventeen with the Chicago Symphony in Orchestra Hall and her New York debut with the Juilliard Orchestra in Avery Fisher Hall, her career has taken her to the major cities of Western and Eastern Europe, Indonesia, Korea, Japan, Mexico, Iceland, New Zealand, Brazil, Australia, Canada, India, and to Hong Kong and Singapore, as well as to all fifty states in America.

The master class series is free. Piano

teachers are welcomed and encouraged to attend. Interested participants must register by October 1, 2010. This event is not open to the public.

The mission of The Oregon Community Foundation is to improve life in Oregon and promote effective philanthropy. OCF works with individuals, families, businesses and organizations to create charitable funds to support the community causes they care about. Through these funds, OCF awards more than \$60 million annually in grants and scholarships

**For more information, or to RSVP, please contact Jessica Currier at 541-728-0802, or by email at [jessicacurrier26@gmail.com](mailto:jessicacurrier26@gmail.com)**



## RESULTS OF 2010 SPRING SURVEY

## EUGENE DISTRICT, OMTA

### STUDIO MANAGEMENT

Do you charge    By the lesson: 0    By the month: 8    By the term: 7    Month/Term: 3  
Fee per hour    Range: \$28 - \$50    Average: \$37    Raising fee for coming year: 1  
Do you add a fee for late payments?    Yes: 5    No: 6  
Has the current recession affected your studio?    Lost students: 3    Fewer students: 4  
How long are your private lessons?    45 min: 4    Combination of 30/40-40/50 - 60 min: 14  
How often group lessons in a year?    None: 2    One: 2    Two: 3    Three: 6    Four: 3  
How often studio recitals in a year?    One: 5    Two: 7    Three: 3    Four: 1  
Are your students    Pre-school: 4    Elem/Middle: 18    High School: 17    Adults: 14  
Do you incorporate computer learning in your studio?    Yes: 7    No: 8  
What method books (in order mentioned) ?    Faber, Alfred, Snell, Bastien, Hal Leonard, Celebration  
What theory books/aids?    Faber, Snell, Syllabus, Flashcards, Alfred Scales, Theory Gymnastics  
Do you have favorite "Pupil Savers" to share ?    Vandall, Mier, Alexander, Gillock, Charlie Brown  
Fun music, sheet music, certificates, gifts, praise, laughter, don't push too hard  
Where do you purchase music?    Sheet Music Plus.com, jwpepper, Buy & Sell, Portland Music

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### OMTA DISTRICT

What district programs have been most valuable to you this year?  
Teaching Tips, Strategies for Success, Schumann/Master class, Jan M., All excellent!

What topics and/or presenters would you recommend for next year?  
Thank you for some excellent suggestions.

Which OMTA events are most helpful/enjoyable for your students?  
Syllabus, District Recitals, Barnes & Noble, Spring Theme / Bach, Pop, Ensemble

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*Many thanks to the 18 members who responded to the questionnaire!*

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