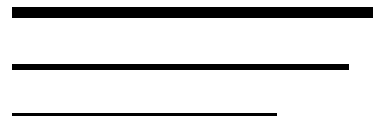


# CON BRIO



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

Affiliated with the Music Teachers' National Association, Inc.



Opus 213

September 2010

page 1

***A new musical season is coming soon!***

Eugene District will begin the Fall season with a meeting on Monday morning, September 13th, at the home of Carol White, 961 McKenzie Crest Drive in Springfield. Please join us at 9 AM for a brief social time and enjoy refreshments provided by Genevieve Mason and Jane Young. Carolyn will preside at the business meeting, with important announcements of plans for the coming year.

The program will be "A Panel Discussion: Teaching Tips" by three of our members: Sarah Burch, Sandy Hull, and Carol White. Each will give a short presentation followed by a period for questions and answers. Come to get new ideas to take back to your studio.

We look forward to seeing you!

*Delores Tiktin*

Vice-President and Program Chair

## ***October Meeting & Program***

9:00 AM, Monday, October 11, 2010

University of Oregon School of Music  
Business meeting room to be announced

10:00 AM program: Guest Speaker, Nelita True  
Lecture and Master Class: Beall Hall

(Please note that the Nelita True master class is not open to the public.)



**The deadline for submitting articles and announcements for the October 2010 issue of *Con Brio* is Saturday, October 2, 2010.**

***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 24th**

**Beginning as early as 1:00 through 4:00 PM on the hour**

United Lutheran Church

2230 Washington St., Eugene (corner of 22nd & Washington)

**Deadline for entries:** Friday, October 8

Send entries to

Soria Phillips-Meadow

2449 Harris St.

Eugene, OR 97405

**Student fee:** \$7.00

This is the perfect recital to invite all your students to join and share fun favorites from Summer! Kick off the new school year in the beautiful setting of the United Lutheran Church by sharing pieces they love to play. Please feel free to contact me with any question.

*Soria Phillips-Meadow*

Festival of Popular Music Chair



## *Con Brio*

September 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: David Cragun

Vice-President: Delores Tiktin

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

## *Eugene District Website*

Our district website has all the current information for the 2010-2011 year. Notice there is a new section called "Business Directory." In this section you will find local and Willamette Valley business information. You will also find our "Music Library" list revised.

Check the website periodically for reminders of upcoming events and deadlines. you will find all the forms for our district events on the website. They are editable and printable! The forms are no longer in the Yearbook.

If you have any pertinent news or photos during the school year for our website please send those to me. You may also contact me if you are interested in a page or a link to the Teacher Directory.

If you are on a committee please check to see that the information on the website is correct for your event. Make sure that your email address is correct. It appears at the lower left hand corner of your computer screen when you hold your cursor over your name. Please report to me any incorrect information, incorrect spellings, etc. to me. Thank you.

*Delores Tiktin*

Website Coordinator

**Victor Steinhardt** will play Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue with the Salem Chamber Orchestra at Hudson Hall on the campus of Willamette University, Sunday, September 12 at 3 PM.

Watch your email for both the September Treasurer's Report and the 2010-2011 OMTA Eugene District Directory.

*Our deep and sincere sympathy to the family of **Bill Mirabella**, husband of **Lea** and father of **Christine**, and the family of **Sue Cragun**, mother of **David Cragun**.*



## Snapshot

(This month's *Snapshot* features Eugene District member **Nobuko LeBeau**.)

*I started learning the piano in Japan when I was six. In my twenties, I was an organist for weddings and receptions, and also a Yamaha organ teacher. I came to Eugene ten years ago. About seven years ago, when both my sons were in high school, I started taking piano lessons again. I found out I enjoyed playing piano much more than playing organ. A few years later, out of the blue, my friend asked me to teach piano to her two daughters. Thus started my adventure as a piano teacher in the States.*

*My piano teacher, who is an OMTA member, recommended that I join OMTA. I didn't have any confidence to teach the piano in Eugene. I didn't even know how to say "tounkigou" (treble clef) in English! However, I wanted to be a good teacher for my friend's daughters so I joined OMTA. Thanks to OMTA (especially Sandy, Marti and Virginia) and to the OMTA events, I have learned many new approaches to both teaching and playing the piano. Now, to my surprise, I have twenty students! I am happy with my students and enjoy learning piano myself, too. Also, through teaching the piano, I'm able to share my major (Educational Child Psychology) with children, teenagers and their parents.*

*Dear OMTA Friends,*

*You can't imagine the joy I felt being a guest at my own birthday party given by the Eugene District OMTA at Sheldon Park. You are a second family to me and I hadn't seen you for nearly ten years.*

*Your encouragement and mentoring since 1946 were an inspiration to me. I reveled in the music—young people—piano world for 27 years.*

*My heart is full of love and thank you for the cards, meaningful gifts, flowers, and loving thoughts.*

*Many hugs and thanks,*

*Patricia Chase*



*Cristofori pianoforte*

## Strange Habits of 5 Famous Musicians

**Chopin** never entered a room left foot first.

**Brahms** played with tin soldiers until age 30.

**Beethoven** poured water on his head to stay awake.

**Verdi** planted a tree each time he finished an opera.

**Stravinsky** relaxed by standing on his head.

(from "Lives of Musicians: Good Times, Bad Times")

*Dear OMTA Colleagues,*

*I was so surprised and delighted with the gifts presented to me at the May brunch. They have brought joy to my heart all summer. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for these thoughtful gifts and for your kind words of appreciation.*

*The floral arrangement is blooming it's heart out on our patio. The petunias are so cherry and remind me of your generosity and support each time I look out my kitchen window. And what fun I had choosing reading material at Barnes & Noble on a prepaid shopping spree! You truly hit the jackpot with gifts that keep on giving.*

*Again, my heartfelt thanks,*

*Carolyn*

## *From the President...*

*Dear Colleagues,*

*Welcome back to our new school year of activities. Even numbered years bring elections for our District and we have two new officers to welcome. Delores Tikten has accepted the position of Vice President and is carrying out the duties of program chair with efficiency and enthusiasm. We are all in for a treat with next year's program lineup. David Cragun is taking over as Corresponding Secretary from Sarah Burch and already has been hard at work. My personal thanks to our outgoing Vice-President, Virginia Buhn and to Sarah Burch. Both of these ladies have been invaluable in their dedication and to execution of their duties. And special thanks to Wyatt Burger and Neil Patton for continuing on as Treasurer and Recording Secretary.*

*Most of our District Committee Chairs were willing to continue on with their duties for which I am most grateful and thankful. There are just a couple of changes to note. Marti Csonka is our new Membership Chair. Delores Tikten assumed the responsibility of putting together our Yearbook. We are indebted to Delores and her husband, Dave, for the many hours they have spent on the website and Yearbook. The hard copy Yearbooks will be given out at our September meeting. You can also find the Yearbook on our website. Thank you to Delores for the many years she has so ably served as our Membership Chair and to Nancy Harris for training us in more efficient methods for our Yearbook entries. What a boost it is when we have the help of professionals!*

*There have been some changes in our Student Activity Chairs and these will be announced at our September meeting. I am fully aware that the Chairpersons of our various committees, along with the Executive Committee, are the grease that keeps our District humming. All of you have schedules stretched to the limit but you somehow find time to continue making our District vibrant. You are amazing! You are all appreciated! Thank you, thank you.*

*Several of us were able to attend the State Convention in Corvallis. We all agreed that clinicians, musical programs and accommodations were excellent. Kudo's to Fern McArthur for pulling together one of the best ever conventions. We were proud that our own Dean Kramer and Claire Wachter were an integral part of the programming. We all came home with new ideas and inspiration to carry into this coming school year. As you make plans for next summer I would urge you to save time to support and be inspired by the convention which will be held in The Dalles.*

*MTNA advises that we use their liability insurance for all OMTA events. The only requirement is to submit a form for each event. We will decide at our first meeting if the Event Chairs wish to do this individually or take turns over the years having one person fill out the forms for all the yearly events. Possibly one of you who enjoys working with forms & computers would be willing to volunteer for this one time assignment.*

*Please note that this insurance is also available for our private studio recitals at no cost. The easy instructions are as follows: 1. go to [mtna.org](http://mtna.org), 2. in the white menu strip near the top of the page click "Programs," 3. Click on "General Liability Insurance," 4. in the small white box on the top right click "Submit Online," 5. fill out the form and submit. Allow 2 weeks to receive a certificate of insurance for your event.*

*I would like for us to take a few minutes now to reflect back on some major changes that took place in the lives of three of our members this summer. We have been saddened with the loss of Bill Mirabella, husband of Lea, and father of Christine, following surgery, and with the loss of Susan Cragun, mother of David who had battled with cancer for eight years. We want to extend our heartfelt sympathy and concern to Lea, Christine and David. May the memories of your faithful family members be a source of comfort to you.*

*Life is a precious gift that becomes more meaningful to us as we experience the loss of dear ones. May each of us cherish our families, our members and our students in loving ways that will fill their lives with special joy. We have a unique opportunity of doing this as we share the gift of music.*

*Musically Yours,*

*Carolyn McHan, President, Eugene District OMTA*

(The Nellie Tholen Endowment Fund Grant has helped OMTA to provide many benefits to members, including conferences, and the education grants to districts to help offset the costs of workshops, clinics, and master classes. But let's not forget the master teacher, artist, and clinician who shared here expertise with generations of students and teachers. The article below first appeared in the *Oregonian* many years ago, and gives us insight into the life and career of this remarkable lady. W. B.)

## *Nellie Tholen Teaches Music As A Part of Life*

By Hilmar Grondahl for the *Oregonian*

“THE FACTOR that mainly guides me in my teaching,” says master piano teacher Nellie Tholen, “is the belief that every human being has the ability to think, to feel and to be. Music, being a part of life, represents these three states. The melody gives the thought, the harmony creates emotional feelings, and before the music can come into being, it has to be performed rhythmically, because the rhythmic flow of the music gives it its continuity. The emotional response to harmony gives the dynamic gradations that are natural in speech.”

This concept of the humanity of music, its identification with normal living, dominates the attitude of this tall, slender professor of music at Lewis and Clark College who has made an art of teaching music.

“When should one begin the study of the piano? I think that 8 is the proper age. If the child is younger, it should be a child that is exceptionally musical, extraordinarily interested and possessing a longer than normal concentration span.”

“There have been many *wunderkinder*, or child prodigies who started as early as 3 or 4, but unless they were provided by the fairies with something akin to genius, they have suffered later for their too-early beginning. Even some who have attained the status of full-fledged artist later on have regretted the result of the unnatural start.

“In her life story, Ruth Slenszynaska vilifies her parents for having driven her out of the normal patterns of life as a child by their insistence that she submerge her normal childhood in the slavish strain of practicing. Other artists prodded by ambitious parents find that later on they have had to allot a period in their lives to re-adjusting to what was an unnatural devastation of spirit by this early pressure.”

“I recall once long ago accepting a pupil who was 5 at the time. His mother was very ambitious and intent on developing a prodigy. But those who started a few years later passed him by, because their normal growth patterns were better adjusted to the concentration and study needed to develop at a reasonable speed.”

Learning to play the piano is a serious enterprise, but it can be fun and spiritually very rewarding. It is one of the early enjoyments of coordination seeing the notes, hearing the sounds, using the fingers on the keyboard and employing the pedals. These interrelated actions lead to an early sense of accomplishment.

The ability to read notes by anyone interested in a musical career should be as basic as the ability to read one's newspaper. Sight reading is very important.

If you are a student of Nellie Tholen, you not only learn the constituents of the keyboard, the elements which make performance not only possible but attractive, but you also learn about the theoretical factors which lead to fuller appreciation of the medium, and how these factors conspire to increase the subtleties of interpretation.

Everyone who studies piano with Miss Tholen must attend a theory class held once each week.

“At these sessions,” the teacher explains, “the students share each other's ideas and each other's music. Here they don't talk about general principals, but in specific details. Not that it sounds ‘nice,’ but how and why it sounds the way it does. The naturalness of the exercise is the important thing. Pupils may sing out the melody, describe the chords they are playing and what their structural elements are, and the reason for the dynamic inflection. They sometimes walk while singing to set the rhythmic pattern.”

It was a strange twist of fate that ever made a teacher of music of Nellie Tholen. When she graduated from high school at age 15 in a little town near Girard, Kansas, she was qualified to teach in grade school, which she did for two years. She then took a business course, and because she could keep books, was given a position teaching in high school.

She had, during the years, taken piano lessons, and at one point her teacher suggested that she take a correspondence course in musical theory. The lessons came, but were not immediately solved.

In her 21st year, tragedy struck in the form of a virulent case of mumps. She was in pain and fearfully unsightly. So she hid from any but her family. One day she asked her mother about those correspondence lessons, and she fetched them from the attic. Nellie began working and mailing the problems, and before she had completed the set she had word from the school that she would be eligible for a full scholarship. So she went to college and graduated, and began teaching music.

One of her fellow teachers in St. Louis was Jean Williams. In 1932 the two women came to Portland and set up a joint studio. Miss Williams was an active composer. Five of her piano concertos have been published, as well as a trio for women's voices and 33 piano compositions. She died 11 years ago at age 89.

Miss Tholen's service to the teaching of music, with especial reference to the piano, has been widely recognized. She is called upon frequently to adjudicate contests and to give workshops on piano pedagogy. She takes immense satisfaction from the fact that her labors have enriched the lives of many people who carry on their love of music as a normal part of their lives. □

# 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)**



EUGENE SYMPHONY

announces its  
2010 Young Artist Competition

*Winner to receive scholarship and  
perform with Eugene Symphony*



Preliminary Round: Monday, October 18, 2010

Final Round: Tuesday, October 19, 2010

Final Competition Round Open to Public

Open to Oregon residents of Benton, Douglas, Lane, or Linn counties aged 18 years or younger. For official eligibility, rules and regulations, please see attached registration form.

Questions? E-mail Operations and Education Director, Chris Collins, at [chris.collins@eugenesymphony.org](mailto:chris.collins@eugenesymphony.org)  
For further information, please visit the Eugene Symphony website at [eugenesymphony.org](http://eugenesymphony.org).



# EUGENE SYMPHONY

## 2010 Young Artist Competition October 18 & 19, 2010 Registration Form

### Contact Information

---

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Parent E-mail† \_\_\_\_\_

School Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

†All official competition correspondence, including confirmations and audition times, will be sent via e-mail.

### Competition Information

---

Instrument \_\_\_\_\_ # of Years Studied on Instrument \_\_\_\_\_

Private Instructor Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Accompanist Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Piece \_\_\_\_\_ Movement to be Performed \_\_\_\_\_

Composer \_\_\_\_\_ Edition \_\_\_\_\_

Duration of complete movement \_\_\_\_\_ Judge's Comments requested?    Y    N

**Notice:** E-mail Operations and Education Director, Chris Collins, at [chris.collins@eugenesymphony.org](mailto:chris.collins@eugenesymphony.org) for approval of your music prior to sending in this registration form. For more information, please see the Eugene Symphony website at [eugenesymphony.org](http://eugenesymphony.org).

**Send this form bearing a postmark on or before Wednesday, October 6, 2010 to:**  
**Eugene Symphony Young Artist Competition**  
**115 West 8th Avenue, Suite 115**  
**Eugene, OR 97401**

---

### 2010 Young Artist Competition Official Eligibility, Rules and Regulations

1. Applicant must be aged 18 years or younger as of 10/19/2010 and must not have yet graduated from high school.
2. Applicant must reside in either Benton, Douglas, Lane, or Linn counties in the state of Oregon.
3. Preliminary competition round will take place on Monday, October 18. Final competition round will take place on Tuesday, October 19. Applicants must be available to perform on both dates.
4. Competition will take place at the Hult Center for the Performing Arts in Eugene, Oregon.
5. Final competition round is open to the public.
6. Two copies of the soloist's score are to be provided. Photocopies are permissible. All scores must have measure numbers.
7. All applicants must perform from memory.
8. All repertoire selections must have an orchestral accompaniment and must have parts readily available.
9. Each applicant must provide his or her own accompanist.
10. All pieces that include a piano reduction as an accompaniment part should be performed as such.
11. Participants will receive judges' comments following the competition.
12. Every effort will be made to schedule an audition time which is suitable for each applicant's schedule. The Eugene Symphony will make every effort to accommodate scheduling conflicts when possible, but make no guarantee that such conflicts can be avoided.
13. The first-place winner must be available to perform with the Eugene Symphony on a concert during the 2010-2011 season; likely performance dates include February 20, 2011 and/or March 15, 2011.
14. Previous winners of the Eugene Symphony's Young Artist Competition are ineligible to compete.