



President's Message

Greetings, Fellow Teachers!

Today I had a lesson with a 9 year old girl. I'll change her name to Sophia. For a year and a half, I have struggled to get her to play high quality music and play it well.

She has often come to me with simple, less challenging songs that she wanted to play. It's not that these songs were bad--they just lacked much of the interest and nuance found in the art music I would ask her to play. And the songs were easy enough that she did not have to work much. So she didn't.

As she passed through this stage of mediocre performance and mediocre music, I recalled my own experience as a 10 year old student. I remembered not wanting to work very hard, being bored, and wanting to quit. It seemed she was experiencing some or all of these same things. So logically, I kept trying.

Today, she came in with a totally different story. "I worked really hard and learned the whole song, and I want to play it for you!" This was a song I had found for her last week. Although it is not my favorite, it does have some of the quality that I value. It is also quite a challenging piece for somebody at her level. She played it all.

We worked on it for 25 minutes, refining some of her technique and expression. She wants to perform it this week at Barnes and Noble, and so I will schedule an extra lesson to help her prepare. Now, I really am looking forward to the next few weeks and months with Sophia!

What a change! What happened? She found the music that spoke to her. Sometimes we just have to search and find the right jewel to spark our student's creativity and inspire their dedication. Then we can watch in wonder as they blossom.

With warm regards,

David Cragun

Eugene OMTA on FaceBook!

Katie Caulley has set up a new FaceBook page for Eugene OMTA, and we need members to participate! If you use FaceBook, go to <https://www.facebook.com/OMTAEugene> and "Like" the page. As we develop more content there, we hope to include information on upcoming events, as well as teaching advice and articles.

Upcoming Meetings

Monday, December 8

Please join us for our Holiday Party Celebration at Nancy Harris' house (3317 Southview Dr, 97495) at 9:00. This will be a potluck, so you are invited to bring and share goodies. We will have a short business meeting at 9:30, and then everybody who would like to perform some music for the group is welcome! We can also have background music, for those of us who prefer that. Nancy is a little concerned that the road may be too icy to be safe. Please check your email on Monday morning if the weather seems bad. We hope to see you there.

* * *

Monday, January 12

We will meet at First Congregational Church (1050 E 23rd Ave, Eugene) at 9:00, with a 9:30 business meeting. Following our meeting, Claire Wachter will be giving a presentation on her new project, *The Virtual Pedagogue*.

Treasurer's Report

11/01/2014 to 12/01/2014

CHECKING ACCOUNT

DATE	DESCRIPTION	INCOME	EXPENSE	BALANCE
11/01/14	Beginning balance			\$ 4,504.98
11/10/14	PEAK Internet		20.89	
11/10/14	Ensemble Festival student entry fees	180.00		
11/13/14	OMTA—Ensemble Festival fees @ \$2 per student		36.00	
11/13/14	Grace Ho—Ensemble Festival adjudicator		41.00	
11/13/14	Ensemble Festival—misc.		7.00	
12/01/14	TOTALS	\$ 180.00	\$ 104.89	\$ 4,580.09

Respectfully submitted,

Wyatt L. Burger

OMTA Eugene District Treasurer

Reach the World Right Where You Are...Become a Host Family!

Discover the rewarding world of hosting students
In your own home this winter!

- What: Middle and High School Age Chinese Students
participating in the 18th bi-annual Music/English Camps
at the University of Oregon
- When: February 1-8 (7 nights)
February 3-10 (7 nights)
***Possible Additional Camp February 11-18**
- Note: The host family provides transportation, breakfast and dinner on
weekdays; 3 meals a day on the weekend and occasional sack lunches.
Students may share a room but must have their own bed.
Students spend only evenings and the weekend at home. Host families
are strongly encouraged to take 2 students.
- Stipend*: \$125/person for 7 nights or \$250 for two people
- *Stipend should cover expenses for meals, transportation, laundry
and all activities. The number of days may vary slightly due to
travel arrangements; stipend will be prorated accordingly.
- Website: www.gpyinternational.org/hostfamily_short.html
- Contact: luannlangford@gpyinternational.org or
Phone 541.517.5915 for additional details

*We are Looking forward to having Your Family
Join in the Fun with Us!*



The deadline for submitting articles and announcements for the January 2014 issue of Con Brio is Sunday, December 29, 2014.

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.



Con Brio

December 2014

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

President: David Cragun, Vice-President: Genevieve Mason, Treasurer: Wyatt Burger,
Corresponding Sec: Fern McArthur, Recording Sec: Neil Patton, Past President: Delores Tiktin
Con Brio founder and first publisher: Lea Mirabella

All materials for publication are due on the last Sunday of each month .

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

Neil Patton, editor