



Affiliated with the Music Teachers' National Association, Inc.

Opus 269

March 2016

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## Editor's [Half] Notes

Dear Teachers and Colleagues,

Last weekend I was in Atlanta, GA for some performances with David Nevue. On Saturday, David and I performed at a beautiful piano store in Duluth, and I was introduced to a fellow MTNA teacher, Pam Asberry. During the show, we had the honor of meeting and encouraging several of her students. Afterwards, a few of us went out for a late-night dinner (till 2:00 AM. I'm getting too old for that.).

Pam teaches 65 students (!), and is a regular speaker at her GMTA conferences, and will be a featured speaker at the Texas State Conference this year. We had a wonderful time comparing our work, both the joys and trials of teaching today. I enjoyed how quickly we were able to bond and speak the same language. I asked how she can keep so many students going and committed. She replied: "*Respect your students. Respect them enough to have high expectations for them. They will see that and respond well, and they will also commit themselves to their craft.*"

Be encouraged. Love your students well. Keep making music together!

Sincerely,  
*Neil Patton*  
Con Brio Editor

## February Meeting

Our next meeting will be on Monday March 14, at the First Congregational Church, on 1050 E 23d Ave. **Take note that the schedule will be slightly different.**

We will meet at **9:00** for refreshments. The business meeting will begin at **9:15**. During the meeting, Lillie Manis will join us to discuss the program at the U of O, **CMI's Chamber Players**. I am sure a lot of you will find the idea very exciting. On page 3 of this edition of Con Brio is a message from Lillie. Please, take time to read it and get informed about her presentation.

At **10:00**, Joseph Hoffman will present his innovative method for teaching piano to young children. More information about Joseph's method is included on page 5 of this edition of Con Brio.

We have a very enriching morning in perspective. Let us remember that keeping studying, exploring, creating new opportunities is an important part of our teaching duties!!! So, see you all there!

Sincerely,  
*Genevieve Mason*  
Eugene OMTA Vice President

Treasurer Report		CHECKING ACCOUNT ACTIVITY		
		February 1—29, 2016		
DATE	DESCRIPTION	DEBIT	CREDIT	BALANCE
02/01/2016	Beginning Balance			\$ 4,826.45
02/08/2016	PEAK Internet	\$ 14.97		
02/08/2016	United Lutheran Church—Spring District Recitals	\$ 135.00		
02/12/2016	Cindy Peterson-Pearl—Jr. Bach Festival adjudicator	\$ 148.00		
02/12/2016	Susan Todd—Jr. Bach Festival adjudicator	\$ 148.00		
02/16/2016	University of Oregon School of Music—Jr. Bach Fest.	\$ 80.00		
02/20/2016	Westminster Presbyterian Church—deposit	\$ 50.00		
02/21/2016	Jr. Bach Festival—student fees		\$ 493.00	
02/26/2016	Jr. Bach Festival—student fees		\$ 17.00	
02/26/2016	OMTA—Jr. Bach Festival \$2 per student entry	60.00		
03/01/2016	<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$ 635.97</b>	<b>\$ 510.00</b>	<b>\$ 4,700.48</b>

Respectfully submitted,

*Wyatt L. Burger*

OMTA-Eugene District Treasurer

## Spring District Recitals

The Eugene District OMTA Spring District Recitals are scheduled for Saturday, March 12, 2016 at 2:00 pm and 3:00 pm. They will be held at the United Lutheran Church, 2230 Washington Street, Eugene, OR. There are 8 teachers and 31 students participating. There will be piano, voice and violin performances.

Jean Wilson, Chairman, has been assisted by Sandy Hull and David Cragun. Thanks for all of your help, and to the teachers and students participating.

*Jean Wilson*  
Chairman

## Con Brio March 2016

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**

### **OMTA Composition Festival**

*Deadline for composition entries is **Monday, March 14, 2016!***

Remember to bring your Composition Celebration entries to the March 14 meeting or deliver them to my house by 6PM. Students should notate his/her own composition either by hand or with a computer program. There is no need to submit a recording of the work unless it is for instrument(s) other than piano. Please see the district website for entry form, required fees, and additional information on the festival.

All entrants will be invited to perform on our district recital on Friday, April 8 at 5:30PM at the Eugene Piano Academy. Our adjudicator, Michael Seregow will be there to award certificates and return compositions. Approximately 30% of entrants in each age division will be selected to play on the state recital in Portland in May.

Looking forward to hearing some exciting new works!

*Ellen McQuilkin*

District Composition Celebration Chair

### **Message from Lillie Manis (Regarding the Community Music Institute Chamber Players)**

We've begun to integrate strong high school pianists, as well as UO piano coaches and/or undergrads, into our growing and thriving chamber ensemble program for middle and high school string players. We'd love to do more with piano and strings (or possibly piano, winds, and strings) in coming seasons. Having grown up as a serious pianist, sonatas and chamber music with piano + strings were some of my most fun and meaningful musical experiences: this is something I'm hoping to replicate for my own students.

I would appreciate the opportunity to interface directly with OMTA members in recruiting and placing piano students effectively in future seasons. Our auditions are upcoming in May.

The biggest challenge is appropriate repertoire for varying levels: I know local teachers would be an invaluable resource in helping me to build a library of pieces that would involve middle school and high school pianists with their instrumental peers in compelling yet approachable repertoire.

I know that MTNA is working to build its relevance and membership for non-pianists, and this would be an interesting way for our local OMTA chapter to outreach in that regard.

*Lillie Manis*

**The deadline for submitting articles and announcements for the April 2016 issue of Con Brio is Sunday, March 27, 2016.**

**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.

## Eugene District Jr. Bach Festival Final Report

Date event held: Sunday, February 14, 2016

Place: University of Oregon, Room 163

On Sunday, February 14, 2016, the Eugene District held our Junior Bach Festival. Thirty students representing 11 studios participated in two recitals (1:30pm and 3pm). We had student entries in Divisions 1, 2, 3 & 4. We enjoyed some outstanding Baroque performances during the afternoon. Our adjudicators, Cindy Peterson-Peart and Susan Todd, chose winners from the each of the 4 Divisions to perform at the State Festival in accordance with the 30% rule based on the number of entries for each Division in the District Festival.

### Winners:

Division 1: Ellie Cho

Division 2: Timmy Cho, MeiChi Neilson, Margaux Parsons, Jalen Wang

Division 3: Ethan Reeder, Owen McCoy

Division 4: Kyle Jensen, Asia Wooten

### Alternates:

Alina Raiskin, Teresa Padilla Amador, Eryn Reeder, Albert Liu

### Honorable Mentions:

Jeremy Wang, Gavin Williamson, Willie Race, Robert Rust, Mary McCoy, Kendrick Lee

### Income:

30 entries X \$17	=	\$510.00
Less \$2 per entry to State		<u>-\$60.00</u>
Total:		\$453.00

### Expenses:

UO, Room 163	\$ 80.00
Adjudicators	\$296.00
Printing	\$ 13.98
Flowers	\$ 9.99
Chocolate	<u>\$ 2.75</u>
Total Expenses	\$402.72

Respectfully Submitted,  
Carol White, NCTM

**CONTACT:** Genevieve Mason  
ginou@soundmason.com  
(541) 485-6263  
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For immediate release



### **OREGON MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION'S NEW STATEWIDE PROJECT BRINGS FREE WORKSHOP FOR MUSIC TEACHER ENRICHMENT**

(Eugene, OR) The Eugene District of the Oregon Music Teachers Association in partnership with the Oregon Community Foundation and the Nellie Tholen Fund is proud to present a free music workshop for teachers and the general public on Monday, March 14, 2016 at 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM presented by Joseph Hoffman, M.M. Entitled “Training the Ear and the Eye from the Start: The Hoffman Method” the workshop will be held at the First Congregational Church, 1050 E 23<sup>rd</sup> Ave, Eugene, OR 97405 and is open to all who are interested. No pre-registration, membership or fee is required.

#### **About the program**

Drawing on his Kodály training, Joseph Hoffman, M.M. has developed an innovative method for teaching piano to young children. Researchers have known for decades that young children do not learn best from books, but through direct experience. Mr. Hoffman will share techniques and activities which will immerse the children you teach in a rich array of musical experiences through singing, movement, and engaging activities that explore rhythm, pitch, and reading notes on the staff. Building on this solid foundation of musical awareness and skill, children develop a fluent piano technique and acquire an impressive repertoire of piano literature. The end result is students who are adept at playing by both ear and by sight.

This program has been used over the last ten years with hundreds of students in both group and private settings, and the results have been remarkably positive.

#### **About Joseph Hoffman**



Joseph Hoffman began playing the piano at age six. In high school, he studied with Alfred Mouledous, principal pianist for the Dallas Symphony Orchestra. While continuing his musical studies in piano and conducting at Brigham Young University, Mr. Hoffman was appointed chorusmaster and conductor for numerous BYU opera productions, including *Carmen* and *Pirates of Penzance*. He conducted the 300-voice University Chorale and taught courses for music majors in music theory, conducting and sightsinging.

In order to help pay his way through graduate school, Mr. Hoffman began teaching piano lessons to children in the neighborhood. He wanted his students to love music and piano playing as much as he did, but he struggled to find a piano method that provided a rigorous, well-rounded musical training, while still being fun and engaging. Over the next several years, he made it his personal quest to study all he could about learning theory, researching the best methods available for teaching music. It was from these years of study, exploration and experimentation that the “Hoffman Method” of teaching piano was born.

#### **About OMTA**

The Oregon Music Teachers Association (OMTA) is dedicated to fostering excellence in music education. We strive to develop productive relationships with schools, organizations, businesses, and the media to promote music everywhere. We seek to elevate the status of the private music teacher and to encourage and recognize student achievement in music. Our members are the concert artists of today and tomorrow, faculty members of fine music schools, and the private music teachers who build the foundation of America's music scene. OMTA is an affiliate of the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA), the oldest professional music teachers association in the United States. For more information or to contact someone in your area, go to our website at: [www.oregonmta.org](http://www.oregonmta.org).