

# SOUNDWAVE

OKLAHOMA MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION



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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

BY DANNY CALHOUN

I am hopeful each of you is enjoying a wonderful beginning to a new fall semester and looking forward to an exciting year of activities and opportunities for you and your students with the Oklahoma Music Teachers Association!

Earlier this month, I was privileged to represent OMTA at the MTNA Leadership Summit in Cincinnati. I came away with a renewed appreciation for the history of service and excellence that have been and continue to be hallmarks of so many volunteer leaders within OMTA.

Information on the OMTA website has been updated for this year. In addition, the major renovation to our website undertaken last year has been completed. Thank you to our Vice President for Communications, Terri Hlubek, for overseeing this task!

Our Auditions and Competitions team, led by Co-Vice Presidents Jessica Headley and Jennifer Walschap, have done a remarkable job arranging a wonderful slate of events and opportunities for all of our students. Please take advantage of the detailed information available for these events in this newsletter.

President-Elect J.P. Murphy and his team are planning a 2023 State Conference that promises to be both informative and inspiring. This year our conference will be held in Catlett Music Center at the University of Oklahoma in Norman. Save the date now!

Best wishes for a wonderful year of teaching, learning, and music making. Thanks to each of you for all you do that makes OMTA the best it can be!

# NEWS AND EVENTS

UNIVERSITIES

## Oklahoma State University

"The Oklahoma State University Greenwood School of Music and the McKnight Center for the Performing Arts are looking forward to an exciting season! Joining us this fall is pianist Conrad Tao on September 25th in a performance of Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 17 in G major, K. 453 with the New York Philharmonic. Thomas Lanners will host a casual pre-concert conversation with Mr. Tao in the Recital Hall, one hour before the concert, in a new series called "Preludes." It is a wonderful way to meet the guest artist and learn more about the program before attending the concert. Check out McKnightCenter.org for more information on these pre-concert conversations.

During their weeklong residency in Stillwater, members of the New York Philharmonic will give numerous public master classes to OSU students. The piano students will be treated to a master class with Eric Huebner, pianist for the Philharmonic, on Friday, Sept. 23 from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. in the McKnight Center Recital Hall.

Other piano highlights this fall include guest pianist Neil Rutman performing a program that includes J.S. Bach's Goldberg Variations on Thursday, Sept. 15th at 7:30 p.m., Thomas Lanners' faculty recital on Thursday, Oct. 13th at 7:30 p.m. (both events in the Recital Hall), and the return of Artistic Director and performer Anne-Marie McDermott and the McKnight Chamber Music Festival, with performances in the McKnight Center Performance Hall on Nov. 4 and Nov. 6.

Come visit us for world-class music-making in state-of-the-art facilities!"



## University of Oklahoma

The University of Oklahoma School of Music is pleased to welcome pianist Dr. Enrico Elisi as a guest artist this fall. The piano area invites you to join us for a Master Class with Dr. Elisi on Monday, October 31 at 1:00pm in Pitman Recital Hall and a solo recital on Tuesday, November 1 at 7:30pm in Sharp Concert Hall, Catlett Music Center.

The piano area invites high school pianists to join us on Saturday, January 21 for the 2023 Winter Piano Camp. The camp is open to upper-intermediate through advanced high school pianists who have studied piano for at least four years. Student participants will receive a private lesson from a piano faculty member and attend a faculty recital, a duet sight-reading workshop, a keyboard literature session, and a studio class featuring OU undergraduate and graduate performers. Lunch will be provided for all participants. Electronic applications will be available on the School of Music website and will be due on January 7, 2022. For additional information, please visit: <https://www.ou.edu/finearts/music/areas-ensembles/piano-performance/winter-piano-camp>.



# MEMBER SUBMISSIONS

OMTA MEMBERS

## From the Beginning

**Linda M. Fields, NCTM**

Former Chair, NCKP Committee on Young Musicians, birth-9 yrs.

### **Making Connections, Part 1 of 2**

What is the connection between early childhood music activities and the eventual goal of musical artistry? Three areas stand out: 1) observing and highlighting Contrast, 2) developing Control of the body and of the instrument, and 3) having Command of the language.

Young children are busily moving, listening and vocalizing, as they practice ways of relating to the world around them. Finding contrasts, building control, and acquiring a command of language are foundational.

In Part 2, we'll note how progressive levels of artistry develop, as both young children and mature musicians focus on these three areas.

## Commissioned Composer Nominations

**Jeremiah Titsworth, Chair**

OMTA is now accepting nominations for the 2024 Commissioned Composer. Please send nominations to [jeremiahtitsworthmusic@gmail.com](mailto:jeremiahtitsworthmusic@gmail.com) Please include the nomination's name and contact email address. Nominations will be taken until November 1, 2022.

# IN MEMORIAM

Virginia Reynolds, Norman

Peter Shea (brother of Heather Lanners)

# AUDITIONS AND COMPETITIONS

JENNIFER WALSchAP AND JESSICA HEADLEY, CO-VICE PRESIDENTS FOR AUDITIONS AND COMPETITIONS

### **Upcoming Audition and Competition Dates:**

Collegiate Competitions - Entry Deadline September 30; Audition dates November 5-6

Composition Festival - Entry Deadline November 19

Visit our [website](#) for a complete list of events and dates for the 2022-23 school year.

We would also like to welcome and extend our gratitude to Emma Gee, COMTA member, for graciously taking over the e-Achievement Chair position! These virtual auditions have been a great addition to our District and State Achievement season, and we are excited to keep them going. Thank you, Emma!

Any Auditions and Competitions questions can be sent to Co-Vice Presidents, [Jessica Headley](#) and [Jennifer Walschap](#).

# ACHIEVEMENT AUDITIONS

JENNIFER JENNINGS, OMTA DISTRICT AND STATE ACHIEVEMENT COORDINATOR

## Achievement Perspective

How often are students coasting through lessons and then the time comes for "the talk" about performing? Specifically, performing at the OMTA District and State Achievement Auditions.

Growing up in Oklahoma, I participated in both District and State. That is why my commitment to these events is strong.

District and State are not competitions. There is not a first-place winner, second-place winner, etc. These events are what the name states: "achievement" events. How well a student performs the music. It is an opportunity for students to perform one memorized composition for an adjudicator. I never use the word adjudicator or judge with my younger students - the title sounds scary! Instead, I say,

- The very nice teacher that gets to listen to your performance
- Imagine that you are playing for me
- Relax and know that the teacher listening to you has students that are playing in another District. The teacher understands that you have been preparing for this fun day!
- You may be playing a piece that the teacher has never heard before - you get to introduce new music to the teacher!

District and State serve as culminating events. Yes, taking lessons is good, but how much more learning is there when students work towards a goal? It is as similar as working towards a recital performance or studio performance class. The student has a goal, a purpose, and a focus for a short time. The result: performance experience, receiving feedback (students receive a critique sheet), applicable awards (medals are awarded for performance ratings of I+, I, and I-), and the satisfaction of completing a "task" (very similar to school projects). Equipping our students with confidence is just one part of taking lessons.

Theory tests are also a part of the achievement event. All the information is on the OMTA website - study guidelines, practice tests - written and aural, and an explanation of District and State theory awards. Students can participate in District also as a "theory only" student. Students in this category just take the theory test, with no performance.

Please always feel free to ask about District, State, and theory. Your District chairperson is your resource. Newer OMTA teachers, I encourage you to have your students participate. The entry process is easy, the requirements are listed on the website, and volunteers are needed to help with District and State. Fun, food and fellowship are always to be had at these events!

## OMTA website:

### Members Only>District Achievement Audition

- District Centers and Dates: where teachers can find specific information for their District center
- District and State Achievement Audition Entry Form: how teachers register students for District and State
- District Theory: where teachers can find past theory tests/study guidelines that can be used with students to prepare for the 2023 theory test and where the 2023 tests will be posted for teachers to print
- District Awards: description of District performance and theory awards
- District Refund Request for State: how teachers can request a refund of the State entry fee if a student receives a performance rating of a II or lower at the District level

## OMTA website:

### Members Only>State Achievement Audition

- State Achievement Audition: where teachers can find everything related to State: schedule, critique sheets, and map
- State Awards: where teachers can find information on State awards plus applications for the special State awards

Best wishes to all the achievement entrants!

Jennifer Jennings, NCTM  
OMTA District Achievement Coordinator  
OMTA State Achievement Coordinator  
[omtaachievementauditions@gmail.com](mailto:omtaachievementauditions@gmail.com)



# STATE CONFERENCE 2023

J.P. MURPHY, OMTA PRESIDENT-ELECT



## 2023 OMTA State Conference

### Dates

Friday, June 2 and Saturday, June 3, 2023

### Location

Catlett Music Center, University of Oklahoma

### Guest Clinicians

Drs. E. L. Lancaster and Gayle Kowalchyk

### Guest Artist

Dr. Artina McCain

### Conference Hotel

Best Western Plus, Norman

### Pre-Conference Concert

There will be a special concert on the eve of the conference, Thursday, June 1, in collaboration with the Norman Philharmonic. The performance will feature two members of the OU piano faculty, Jeongwon Ham and Igor Lipinski.