

SOUNDWAVE

OKLAHOMA MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION



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FROM THE PRESIDENT

BY DANNY CALHOUN

I hope each of you is enjoying the beginning of a wonderful fall semester and anticipating an exciting year of activities and opportunities with the Oklahoma Music Teachers Association! As I begin my final year as OMTA President, I continue to be inspired by the passion and professionalism of those within our state association. The willingness of so many to serve at the local, state, and even national level with such care and competence makes me certainly proud of our state, but more importantly, optimistic about the health, direction, and future of our organizations!

Earlier this month, I along with President-elect J. P. Murphy were privileged to represent OMTA at the MTNA Leadership Summit in Cincinnati. It was a rewarding experience with opportunities for engagement and sharing of ideas with the leadership of MTNA and her many state affiliates. It was also a thrill to attend the Summit with our own Terri Hlubek who now serves as the MTNA Director of Competitions as well as Barbara Fast who serves as the MTNA Vice President for Membership!

All of us in OMTA are indebted to our amazing team of event chairs and coordinators led by Co-VP's for Auditions and Competitions Jessica Headley and Michael Dean as they arrange a wonderful slate of events and opportunities for all of our students. Please take advantage of the detailed information available for many of these events in this newsletter.

In addition, a marvelous 2024 State Conference is being planned and curated by J. P. and his team on the Conference Planning Committee. Please make plans now to join us in Norman this next June for an event that you will not want to miss!

Best wishes to you and your students for a wonderful year of teaching, learning, and music making. As always, 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! The New York Philharmonic Orchestra arrives in September for another inspiring, week-long residency in Stillwater. OSU piano students will perform in a master class for the Philharmonic's pianist, Eric Huebner, on Thursday, Sept. 21 from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. in the McKnight Center Recital Hall. The masterclass is free and open to the public.

Pianist Anne-Marie McDermott joins the New York Philharmonic on Sunday, Sept. 24 at 2:00 p.m. for a performance of Mozart's Concerto in D minor, K. 466. Thomas Lanners will host a 30-minute pre-concert conversation before this 2:00 p.m. concert. Dr. Lanners will speak with guest artists throughout the year in an ongoing series titled "Preludes." It is a wonderful way to meet the artists and deepen your musical understanding of the works to be performed. Check out McKnightCenter.org for more information and keep your eye out for concerts that include "Preludes."

Other piano highlights this year include guest pianist Stijn De Cock, from the Florida State University faculty, performing a solo recital on Friday, Jan. 19 at 7:30 p.m., with a public master class on Saturday, Jan. 20 from 12:30 - 2:30 p.m. in the McKnight Center Recital Hall.

Teachers: Please encourage your high school piano students to reserve Saturday, February 10, 2024 on their calendars for our annual OSU High School Piano Competition and Audition Day. More information can be found at keyboard.okstate.edu.

Come visit us to soak up world-class music-making!



University of Central Oklahoma

The UCO School of Music community is happy to announce an exciting 2023-2024 season!

Piano Day 2023 takes place on Friday, November 10, from 12 PM-7 PM. Students of all levels will participate in piano ensemble sessions, Piano Division spotlight presentations, master classes, and a tour of the beautiful UCO campus. A complimentary dinner and Piano Division concert featuring Artist-in-Residence, Valery Kuleshov will round out this free event. Contact ocae@uco.edu or 405-974-3754 for registration.

The Piano Division presents Piano Potpourri on Sunday, October 29 at 5 PM at the UCO Jazz Lab. Come enjoy a fall evening of creative, eclectic and colorful piano music of all styles and genres!

Mark your calendars! The Kuleshov International Piano Competition returns April 12-14, 2024! UCO will welcome acclaimed juror/performers Ilya Shmukler (2022 Van Cliburn finalist) and Nadejda Vlaeva (Hyperion recording artist), along with UCO's Artist-in-Residence, Valery Kuleshov. Visit <https://www.uco.edu/cfad/academics/music/the-kuleshov/> for details and application information. You can also contact Dr. Sallie Pollack at spollack@uco.edu for more information.

NEWS AND EVENTS

UNIVERSITIES AND MEMBERS

University of Oklahoma

The University of Oklahoma School of Music is excited to welcome guest pianist Spencer Myer, distinguished faculty member at Indiana University Jacobs School of Music. Join us for his concert, workshop, and masterclass! He will perform Debussy's 24 Preludes on Tuesday, September 26, at 7:30pm in Sharp Concert Hall, Catlett Music Center. On Wednesday, September 27, he will present on strategies for memorization at 2:00 in Pitman Hall, and he will teach OU students in a masterclass at 4:30 in Sharp Hall. All events are free and open to the public.



The piano area invites high school pianists to join us on Saturday, January 20, 2024 for the Winter Piano Camp. This dynamic event is for upper-intermediate through advanced high school pianists. Attendees will experience piano at OU through an engaging schedule of activities, including a private lesson with a piano faculty member, a duet sight-reading workshop, a keyboard literature session, a faculty recital, and a studio class. Interested pianists need to register and submit a video performance by early January.

Visit us online for more information: <https://www.ou.edu/finearts/music/areas-ensembles/piano-performance>

From the Beginning

Linda M. Fields, NCTM - Former Chair, NCKP Committee on Young Musicians, birth-9 yrs.

Start with the Body, Part 1 of 2

If the body is the first instrument, it makes sense to start there when learning or creating music. When we can express a musical idea physically (by moving, chanting or singing) we prove that we own the concept and are able to get it out of our brain and into our body. We are then ready to put the music onto an instrument.

Elements of music such as rhythm, melody, harmony and expression can all be conveyed first with the body. In Part 2, we will explore specific activities dedicated to one or more of these areas.

NEWS AND EVENTS

LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS

Norman Area Music Teachers Association

Norman Teachers Host Annual “Town and Gown” Event

OU Student members, faculty and spouses were guests of the Norman Music Teachers at the annual Town and Gown Social held after OU’s first week of classes on Sunday evening, August 27th. The event was once again hosted in the home of Cindy (and Mike) Pullin and featured a wonderful spread of finger foods and drinks. The social provided a great way to introduce new arrivals to OU, including students and the newest addition to the Piano Pedagogy Faculty, Dr. Sara Ernst, who was recently hired to replace retiring faculty member, Dr. Barbara Fast. Other OMTA members and music faculty in attendance included Dr. Valerie Watts and Dr. J.P. Murphy, OMTA President-elect.

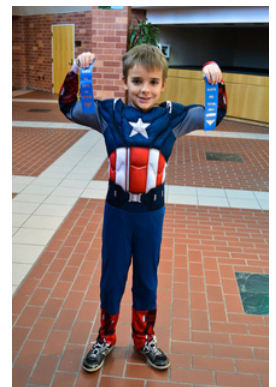
After each attendee had the opportunity to introduce and tell a little about themselves, the independent teachers explained a little about their local association’s programs and events for the year.



Norman Area MTA Announce Fall Festival

All OMTA members are invited to enter the NAMTA Fall Festival which will be held on Saturday, October 28th at OU’s Catlett Music Center. The festival provides a wide variety of performance opportunities for all students, including New Beginner, Non-memory and Memory divisions for one or two solos. There is also an ensemble division for students or non-teacher performers. (However, teachers may accompany their students in instrumental or vocal categories.) There is no minimum length of study requirement nor minimum number of measures in the New Beginner Division. Students are welcome to perform in costume and play Halloween music although any style of repertoire is accepted. Postmark deadline is Saturday, September 30, 2023.

This annual event provides an opportunity for students to perform and receive constructive comments as well as ribbons (memory and ensemble divisions only) and decorative stickers. NAMTA also presents a \$50 Senior Award to H.S. students who have participated in the Solo/Ens. Divisions all 4 years! The annual event is a great way to celebrate fall traditions and provide students with a fun performance opportunity midway through the fall semester. For more info and entry forms, go to: <https://www.normanareamta.org/>



NEWS AND EVENTS

LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS

Tulsa Area Music Teachers Association

TAMTA is pleased to present Ingrid Clarfield in a Fall Workshop. Many of us have attended Ingrid's sessions at the MTNA conferences. She was also the clinician for an OMTA conference in Norman. Professor Clarfield is entertaining and has a wealth of teaching ideas. Please plan to attend. Your students will benefit from your attendance and you will love it! TAMTA is providing this workshop free of charge to all teachers.



Ingrid Clarfield
Professor of Piano Emerita
Westminister Choir College of Rider University
Princeton, New Jersey
in a
Workshop for Teachers

Ingrid Jacobson Clarfield, Professor and Head of the Piano Division at Westminister Choir College of Rider University, is a nationally recognized performer, clinician and author. She has presented workshops, lecture-recitals and master classes in over 150 cities in 40 states across North America, including many presentations at State and National MTNA Conferences and other prestigious conferences and festivals. Professor Clarfield has written 25 books and is the subject of a documentary entitled: *Take a Bow: the Ingrid Clarfield Story*.

Date: Saturday, October 7, 2023 — University of Tulsa—The Lorton Performing Arts Center
Time: 8:30 a.m. registration — pastry and coffee served **Workshop** 9:00 a.m. — 12:15 p.m.

Cost of Workshop: Free to all teachers in the area!

Please email: karenharrington@cox.net to reserve a place. Reservations are preferred but not required.

Topics will include:

Top 10 Tips for Teaching Students How to Enjoy Practicing and Make it Creative, Efficient and Fun!!!

Professor Clarfield will share her Top 10 Tips for making practice efficient, artistic, and FUN. Both new and veteran teachers will leave this session with ideas for teaching students how to maximize their results and enjoy the process. The session will include examples from Early Intermediate through Advanced repertoire. Whether it's Fur Elise or the "Waldstein" Sonata, these practice strategies will help students solve problems to play the music they love! This session will address the different ways practice changes over the course of study, from the first week a piece is assigned to the final weeks leading up to a performance. We'll look at how to design charts to develop tempo consistency and control, as well as ideas on Rubato. Specific strategies to secure memorization will also be addressed. There will be something in this presentation for every student, whether they are preparing for their yearly studio recital or for a competition at the national level. The session will include a variety of musical examples from Early Intermediate through Advanced repertoire. "PRACTICE MAKES PERMANENT", so let's make sure you and your students are practicing correctly to achieve technical and musical security, and enjoying it too!!

The Road to Chopin: From Method Book to First Chopin Pieces

Your student is dying to play the Minute Waltz or Nocturne in Eb Major, but they're still in Book 3 of their method book! How will you get them there? This workshop will provide teachers with an extensive list of repertoire that will help students prepare for the technical and musical challenges they will encounter in the easiest works of Chopin. Professor Clarfield will give teachers numerous practical suggestions for HOW to apply the musical and technical elements found in this preparatory repertoire to Chopin's easier compositions. Specific technical exercises will also be shown how to introduce students at an early level to the voicing and pedaling they will need to play Chopin artistically. Teachers will learn lots of new ideas on repertoire and a clear musical and technical direction of the road their students need to take to go from method book to their first work of Chopin.

Masterclass—Professor Clarfield will work with two intermediate students.

AUDITIONS AND ADJUDICATIONS

Marilyn Witcher Jr. Honor Competition Changes

by Mary Sallee

Back in the late 1990's, OMTA Past President Marilyn Witcher established a Jr. Honor Competition for 5th and 6th graders to prepare promising students for the level of repertoire required for the MTNA Jr. Competitions for 7th and 8th graders. Marilyn was a proponent of high standards and encouraged all teachers to become nationally certified, which MTNA recognizes as NCTMs: Nationally Certified Teachers of Music.

In order to be compliant with MTNA's trade restrictions, OMTA had to remove Marilyn's requirement of limiting this competition to students of NCTM teachers. However, all other rules remain the same for 5th or 6th grade entrants: Pianists must perform works representing at least 2 of the 3 style periods by memory with a minimum performance time of 8 minutes but not to exceed 15 minutes. The same rules apply to instrumental entrants although there is no memory requirement.

This year's competition takes place on the same day as the Sr. Competitions: Saturday, April 20th at Gilliam Music Store in Norman. The winner will be mailed a \$75 monetary award along with an invite to perform on one of the Winners Recitals at the OMTA State Conference in Norman. Note: Any teachers that are NCTM and have competition winners performing on the recitals at the state conference will be recognized in the program.

OMTA Adjudication Seminar - FREE

October 14, 2023

WHO:

OMTA teachers, including experienced judges, those interested in dipping their toe into adjudication, or those who just want to learn more about OMTA adjudication standards.

WHAT:

OMTA Adjudication Seminar - focuses on District/ State Achievement Auditions, but includes general adjudication practices. All participants will be e-mailed a pdf of the Adjudication booklet and the scores for the performances used for practice judging. Space is limited. Zoom invitations and materials will be sent to participants a few days before the seminar.

WHERE:

Zoom

WHEN:

Saturday, October 14th

TIME:

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

REGISTRATION:

Email Kathy Wilson at okathyw@sbcglocal.net

Hurry to register now!

*NOTE:

OMTA Teachers who participate in the seminar will be added to the OMTA Adjudicator list.