

SOUNDWAVE

OKLAHOMA MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

J. P. MURPHY

As we welcome the beginning of a new academic year and fall season, it is with great enthusiasm and honor that I begin my term as President of OMTA. The impact each of you has on your students' lives, both musically and personally, is truly remarkable, and I am continually inspired by your dedication.

Earlier this month, I had the privilege of representing OMTA at the MTNA Summit for Leadership. This event offered an invaluable opportunity to connect with fellow leaders from across the nation. We were fortunate to hear from Brian Shepard as the new CEO of MTNA. His dedication to the MTNA organization and vision for the future brings a fresh outlook, and I look forward to seeing how his ideas will shape the future.

I am also thrilled to announce that Oklahoma will host the MTNA Collegiate Chapter Symposium on January 18-19, 2025 at the University of Oklahoma. This symposium

presents an opportunity to engage with keynote speakers and young professionals as they share their insights and innovations. I encourage you to participate in this enriching Symposium as we showcase our state's vibrant music community on a national stage.

Preparations for the 2025 OMTA State Conference are underway. I extend my sincere thanks to President-Elect Sallie Pollack and the dedicated conference planning committee on all their work thus far. I am confident that their efforts will result in an exceptional experience for all. The conference will be held May 30-31, 2025 at Oklahoma State University.

Lastly, I'd like to recognize Anna Dunbar for stepping into the role of editor for Soundwave. We are fortunate to have her, and I'm looking forward to the engaging content she will share with us in the upcoming issues. Wishing you all a fulfilling and musically enriched year ahead!

CONFERENCE, MEMBERS, AND IN MEMORIAM

2025 OMTA State Conference

Sallie Pollack, President-Elect

Come Together...Over Music

Mark your calendars! It may seem like Conference 2024 just ended, but we are already planning for 2025! Oklahoma Music Teachers Association State Conference 2025 will take place May 30-31, 2025 at the McKnight Center on the OSU campus in Stillwater, Oklahoma.

Come enjoy the stunning McKnight Center, stay at the beautiful Atherton Hotel, enjoy great sessions, exhibits, fellowship, networking, incredible recital performers - duo pianists Ana Maria Otamendi and Elena Lacheva, and informative pedagogy presentations given by Katherine Fisher of Piano Safari.

This is a conference not to miss! More information will be sent out via constant contact and you can always visit the website at oklahomamta.org. Come together.. in Stillwater!



From the Beginning - Improvisation, Part 1 of 2

Linda M. Fields, NCTM

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

Improvisation is fun and can be taught from an early age. Although it is creative, improvisation is not random. Providing the context of an overarching pattern gives a framework for both the player (to create) and the audience (to appreciate).

Verbal conversation is an example of improvisation, within the context of topic, sentence structure, etc. A child learns to converse after lots of listening and imitation. In music, Twelve Bar Blues is an advanced example - the harmonic progression is the broad context. Simple tonal patterns in various positions are the "sentences".

In Part 2 we'll explore ways to teach improvisation.

In Memoriam

- Harriet Morrow
- Robert O'Bannon (Husband of Karen O'Bannon)

NEWS AND EVENTS

LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS

NAMTA Fall Festival

October 26, 2024 - University of Oklahoma

Mark your calendar for the NAMTA Fall Festival which will be held the last Saturday of October (26th) at the OU Catlett Music Center. Any students of OMTA professional or collegiate members may be entered in a variety of divisions; including Ensemble, Memorized, Non-Memory or New Beginner (for young students who may not be playing pieces on the staff). Students may be entered in solo or a 2-piece category (for an additional fee).

All participants receive a written critique and stickers. Students in the memory divisions and ensemble divisions will receive a ribbon. High school participants playing all 4 years in a memory or ensemble division qualify for a \$50 Sr. Award.

Students may perform in costume if desired. The OU MTNA Chapter will host a bake sale booth with face painting and games to entertain younger students and siblings.

This year, the entry procedure has been stream-lined to resemble the entry form for Achievement Auditions. Detailed info and entry form can be found at normanareamta.org. Payment should be post-marked by the entry deadline of Oct. 11th to Jessica Witt.

For questions, email Jessica Witt at: namtateachers@gmail.com.



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! This year's events include a residency with Chicago Symphony culminating in dazzling performances with "Muti Conducts Tchaikovsky" on Thursday, Jan. 23 at 7:30 p.m., and "European Voyage" on Friday, Jan. 24 at 7:30 p.m. (MCPA Performance Hall). Thomas Lanners will host the Preludes pre-concert conversations at 6:30 p.m. in the MCPA Recital Hall before both events. 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."

Anne-Marie McDermott joins us again as pianist and artistic director of the Chamber Music Festival with concerts on Saturday, March 1st and Tuesday, March 4th. Ms. McDermott will also give a public master class to OSU piano students during the residency in the McKnight Center Recital Hall (free and open to the public).

Other major highlights this year include guest pianist Enrico Elisi, from the TCU piano faculty, performing a solo recital on Thursday, March 6th at 7:30 p.m. World renowned pianist, Yefim Bronfman joins us for a solo recital on April 11 at 7:30 p.m.

OSU High School Piano Competition and Audition Day

Teachers: Please encourage your high school piano students to reserve Saturday, February 8, 2025 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!



NEWS AND EVENTS

UNIVERSITIES

University of Central Oklahoma

UCO Piano Day

The ever popular UCO Piano Day returns Friday, November 15th. High school students from across the state are invited to spend the afternoon at UCO for ensemble fun, tours of the beautiful Edmond campus, a master class, pizza dinner with prizes, and an evening concert featuring members of the Piano Division as well as the incomparable, Valery Kuleshov.

Please the link below for more information and registration:
<https://calendar.uco.edu/fine-arts-design/event/6774-uco-piano-day>

Francis Poulenc's Double Piano Concerto

UCO faculty member and OMTA President-Elect, Dr. Sallie Pollack will be performing Francis Poulenc's Double Piano Concerto with the UCO Chamber Orchestra alongside her mother, Janet Pummill. Works by Dr. Sam Magrill featuring former MTNA Senior Woodwind winner, Mira Magrill, will also be featured on this concert entitled, "Double-Double." This creative performance takes place on October 1st at 7:30 PM in Mitchell Hall Auditorium.

Please contact Sallie Pollack (spollack@uco.edu) for more information.

Piano Potpourri - "Night Fantasy"

The UCO Piano Division will host a collaborative concert entitled, Piano Potpourri - "Night Fantasy," as part of the UCO Faculty Artist Concert Series on November 24th at 5 PM at the UCO Jazz Lab (100 East Fifth St. in Edmond). Music of Liszt, Grieg, Rachmaninoff, Whitacre, Dvorak, Clarke, Fauré and more will be performed by members of the Piano Faculty along with special guests.



NEWS AND EVENTS

UNIVERSITIES

University of Oklahoma

Upcoming Guests and Concerts

OU welcomes the broader community to attend campus concerts and special events this coming fall semester. On Thursday, October 3 at 8 PM, the School of Music will host the Mosaic Concert in Sharp Hall, showcasing the university's large ensembles, chamber music, and soloists in a dramatically staged performance (see ticket information <https://oufinearts.eventue.net/>).

Guest artist Seán Duggan, notable scholar in Baroque keyboard performance practice and Taubman approach, will perform and present:

- Goldberg Variations in Recital: Tuesday, October 8 at 7:30 PM in Sharp Hall
- Lecture on the Taubman Approach: Wednesday, October 9 at 2:00 PM in CMC 009

Alumna of OU and pedagogical author of Piano Safari, Julie Hague Knerr will present several workshops. Due to limited space, an RSVP is requested to oupiano@ou.edu:

- Seven Animal Techniques and Beyond, Tuesday, October 22 at 1:30 PM
- Foundations of Creativity: Rote, Technique, and Composition, Wednesday, October 23 at 2:00 PM
- Create Your Own Career, Wednesday, October 23 at 4:30 PM

View the complete calendar of School of Music events on our website. <https://www.ou.edu/finearts/music/performances-events>

OU Piano Experience Day

The piano area invites high school pianists to join us on Saturday, November 9, 2024 for the OU Piano Experience Day. Formerly called Winter Piano Camp, the new OU Piano Experience Day is an engaging event for upper-intermediate through advanced high school pianists. Attendees will participate in many piano activities including an ensemble sight-reading workshop, a keyboard literature session, and a studio class. In individual lessons, pianists will learn from a faculty member on a piece in progress, and all participants are invited to share a second recital-ready piece in the Showcase Recital. Interested pianists need to register by October 19, 2024. Visit us online for more information and to register. <https://www.ou.edu/finearts/music/areas-ensembles/piano-performance/piano-experience-day>

MTNA Collegiate Symposium

The University of Oklahoma is hosting the 2025 MTNA Collegiate Symposium on January 18-19, 2025. Mark your calendars and join us for this event featuring top educators and students from around the country. Keep an eye out for registration information from MTNA—this event is open to all!



COMPETITIONS AND AUDITIONS

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS OF COMPETITION ETIQUETTE

As read by King James and Michael Dean, Co-VP for Competitions and Auditions & Past President

Commandment I:

King James: Verily, let it be known unto all, that above all things, thou shalt at all times comport thyself with due respect and decorum. Forsooth, the most excellent performers in the concert hall are they who doth conduct themselves in a manner befitting professionalism and humility. Yea, those who, in their pride and disrespect, doth walk a crooked path, are not oft invited again to grace the stage with their performance.

Michael Dean: Above all, comport yourself with respect and decorum. The best musicians and concert performers are those who act professionally and with humility. Those who act with arrogance or disrespect are not often asked back to perform again.

Commandment II:

King James: In the realm of musical contests, thou shalt refrain from discussing the affairs of fellow contestants, the melodic offerings they present, or reminiscing about the days of thy youth when thou didst play as a mere child. Speak not of these matters to laborers, fellow disciples, instructors, arbiters, nor even unto the silent walls. Guard these musings within the sanctuary of thy thoughts and divulge them not.

Michael Dean: Don't talk about other contestants, other contestants' repertoire, or when you previously played the repertoire; not to workers, other students, teachers, or judges. Keep these thoughts to yourself.

Commandment III:

King James: Harken, I beseech thee, to the counsel given unto thee: Show due respect unto those who, in their voluntary service, doth labor to ensure the seamless running of the competition, be they the keepers of doors or the marshals guiding the way. Observe, with diligence, the rules they set forth, and let obedience be thy guide in all matters.

Michael Dean: Show respect for those volunteering their time to help the competition run smoothly, such as door monitors and those at the check-in desk, and follow their instructions.

Commandment IV:

King James: I charge thee, with solemnity and gravity, that thou shalt refrain from engaging in discourse with the adjudicator during the competition, even if thou art acquainted with him or her. Let thy silence in their presence be as the unbroken seal upon a sacred covenant, for the integrity of the contest must not be compromised by familiar discourse.

Michael Dean: Do not talk to the judge. Period.

Commandment V:

King James: Thou shalt refrain from casting aspersions upon the tuning, regulation, voicing, tone, or pedal mechanism of the piano. For these instruments have been bestowed freely, and thou shalt receive them with gracious acceptance. If perchance the instrument doth not meet thy favor, yea, even if it be deemed unworthy of thy station, thou art absolved from partaking in the competition. Choose wisely and let not thy critique tarnish the gifts freely given.

Michael Dean: We have been given great instruments to use for our Junior and Senior Competitions, and we are thankful for them. Your critique of them is not necessary. If you truly feel that they do not meet the standards for yourself, your child, or your student, you are free to find competitions more to your liking in the future.

COMPETITIONS AND AUDITIONS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7)

Commandment VI:

King James: The arenas chosen for competition are not accessible for the practice thereof in the days leading to the appointed contest. Suppress the inclination to assay the piano ere the event, for professionals accustomed to varied instruments daily exhibit adaptability. As aforementioned, the instruments are of noble quality. Approach on the day of competition, and relish in that which shall harmoniously echo thy musical conceptions.

Michael Dean: Do not go to the competition venues in the days preceding the competition to “try out the piano.” The instruments provided will respond to your musical ideas, and as a pianist it is important to learn how to adjust to a variety of instruments.

Commandment VII:

King James: Thou shalt attend diligently to the passage of time in all matters. Upon the appointed hour, thou shalt present thyself with sufficient time to divest thy coat, rectify the disarray caused by the wind, and attend to the necessities of the chamber. Tarry not excessively within the precincts of the preparation chamber, and let not thy spirit wane if the arbiter curtails the music whilst presenting an extended program. Adapt to the temporal rhythms with patience and forbearance.

Michael Dean: Make sure to arrive on time, so that you can use your allotted time in the warm-up room before performing. Don't worry if the judge needs to cut you off if you have reached your maximum performance time.

Commandment VIII:

King James: The chamber designated for warming up is sanctified for the purpose of warming, and not for the pursuit of further practice. Engage not in protracted exercises therein, for it is a sacred space to ready thyself for the musical odyssey that awaits. Let thy preparations be tempered with the understanding that the warm-up room is consecrated to the gentle kindling of thy musical prowess, not for the ceaseless labor of practice.

Michael Dean: The warm-up room is provided for you simply to get your muscles warm and supple before your performance. It is not for the purpose of practice. Practice should be completed before arriving at the venue. Please honor the time allotment for the warm-up room.

Commandment IX:

King James: Thou shalt employ lawful scores in thy musical endeavors. Entreat not the music emporium to procure for thee illicit scores on the very day of the competition, for it is not their burden to bear. Seek out legal manuscripts in preparation for thy musical pursuits and burden not others with the weight of transgressions.

Michael Dean: Use legal scores. Do not expect the music store to find legal scores for you on the day of the competition.

Commandment X:

King James: Rejoice in mirthful delight, and let gladness be thy companion. Partake in the joyous revelry, and may merriment attend thy endeavors. Find thy pleasure in the jubilation of the moment, and let the spirit of glad-heartedness be thy constant guide.

Michael Dean: Have fun. Have fun. Have fun!