

# OhioMTA Central East District

*Affiliated with Music Teachers National Association and Ohio Music Teachers Association*

Newsletter  
October 7, 2020

## **President's Message**

Our 2020-2021 Activities got off to a big start with the Fall Conference featuring Jane Reed and Scale Olympics 2020! Both events moved online thanks to the efforts of our fabulous chairman and the Scale Olympics Committee - a truly herculean undertaking!

In a time when we may be feeling particularly disconnected, remember that a crucial part of CEOMTA is providing a supportive network for teachers. Now more than ever, consider taking advantage of our Teacher Activities, like the upcoming IMTF meeting this Fall, to reconnect with your colleagues virtually and help boost your spirits or just commiserate together! Also, please take time to read and reflect on the important message from our Vice President of Teacher Activities, Ashley Wise, about how we can extend this type of meaningful support to our students and colleagues of color as well.

Just a reminder that the Activities Guide and updated Membership Directory PDFs were both emailed to all website subscribers, and that the website is being updated regularly as events are adjusted to meet the current circumstances. Many thanks to Cynthia Adams, Beth Kloes, and Melissa Robol for their work in keeping us all up-to-date and connected to each other during these difficult times.

Andrea Keil, M.M.  
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As music teachers, we play a vital role in the lives of our students. In this time of uncertainty, our lessons help provide a bit of normalcy and consistency for our students. In addition to the pandemic, other events of the past few months have generated a great deal of focus on issues related to bias and racism in America. While the news surrounding these events and general climate of tension and unrest may have little or no lasting effect on many families' day to day lives, it tends to hit hard with families of color.

All of that to say, as a person of color in this organization, do not assume your students of color are "ok". While this is a season of great stress for all of us due to COVID, families of color are also dealing with additional stress that feels like a band aid being ripped off an age old wound once again.

As you resume your fall teaching, if you haven't done so already, I encourage you to check in with those students and their families. This can be done by asking "how are you really doing?" This simple act will go a long way in expressing while you may not know their struggle surrounding these issues, you recognize it and support them in it.

I realize this is not a usual conversation that happens in a lesson, newsletter or at any point quite

frankly however CEOMTA is a place for us teachers to learn, engage and grow and it would be to our organization's great benefit to have it. As VP of Teacher Activities, I want to thank our Board President Andrea Keil, the entire Teacher Events Committee, Liz Atkinson, Theresa Murphy and Suzanne Newcomb for listening, their support, understanding the importance of this topic and willingness to include this topic as a part of one of the upcoming IMTF conversations and in our programming this year. We play an important role in our student's lives and let's let them know we care. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me directly if you ever have questions or concerns with how to bring up this conversation with your families. I look forward to "seeing" you at our upcoming events.

Thanks and Happy Teaching!

Ashley Wise, CEOMTA VP of Teacher Activities

## **STUDENT ACTIVITIES**

### **Scale Olympics**

Scale Olympics 2020 will take place online over Zoom on Saturday, October 3rd , and Saturday, October 10th . We are excited that between the two dates, 215 students from 27 teachers, and 33 judges will be participating. An advantage of the online format is that it allows both students and judges who live outside of Central Ohio to participate.

While it has taken a great deal of effort to move this large event online, the Scale Olympics committee has worked together to make it happen.

Students in Scale Olympics participate in up to nine events, including: Scales, Cadences, Arpeggios, Triads and Inversions, Sightreading, Harmonization, Transposition, Ear Training, and Theory. Students earn individual ribbons for each event in which they participate. Students participating in all nine events may earn either a blue or a yellow rosette, depending on their scores in each event.

More information about Scale Olympics 2020 is available on the CEOMTA website.

We are proud that CEOMTA will be able to make Scale Olympics 2020 happen in 2020!

--Laura Wynia & Becky Blumensheid Buchan, Scale Olympics Co-Chairmen

### **Out and About Cancellations**

- Sunday, October 18 – Riverside Methodist Hospital – 1:30 p.m. CANCELLED due to visitor restrictions.
- Saturday, November 14 - Friendship Village Columbus - 2:00 p.m. CANCELLED due to visitor restrictions.
- Sunday, December 6 - St. Ann's Hospital - 1:30 p.m. CANCELLED due to visitor restrictions.
- Sunday, December 13 - The Shops at Worthington Place Grand Piano - 1:30-3:30 CANCELLED (Under new management - no indoor events)

--Miriam Brown, Out & About Chairman

## **Student Solo and Ensemble Recital**

The next Student Solo and Ensemble Recital is scheduled for Sunday, November 1, 2020, at Graves Piano & Organ Co., 5798 Karl Rd. (at Rt. 161), starting at 2:00 p.m. Be sure to get your registrations and participation fees in by Thursday, October 22, 2020 (postmarked). The recitals are open to students of all members who have studied for at least one year. They are a great performance opportunity in a non-competitive setting for any well-prepared student, and the perfect chance for them to hear other fine students from our district.

Detailed information can be found on our website: <http://www.ceomta.org/student-events/student-solo-ensemble-recitals> . Please contact Dr. Caroline B. Salido-Barta, chair, at 614-440-3555 or [thepianoartsstudio@yahoo.com](mailto:thepianoartsstudio@yahoo.com), for additional questions.

## **Buckeye Competition Update**

The Buckeye Auditions event is OhioMTA's premier competition for our most outstanding students. Each of Ohio's eight Districts holds a preliminary competition in March, April or early May leading to a statewide competition in June at Malone University. Winners are required to compete at the state level. There are no monetary awards in the preliminary competition.

### **DISTRICT PRELIMINARIES**

**Location:** Graves Piano and Organ

**Date:** Sunday, May 9, 2021

**The registration link will open January 1, 2021 and close on March 1, 2021.**

- Each student will register separately and pay a single entry fee through the **OhioMTA registration system**. Applicants will receive notification 2 to 3 weeks before the competition.
- **Levels (Age as of Sept 1, 2020):** Elementary Ages 9-11; Junior Ages 12-14; Senior Ages 15-18
- **Time Limits:** Elementary 5-10 minutes; Junior 6-12 minutes; Senior 9-18 minutes
- **Categories:** Piano, Strings, Voice and Winds
- **Member Fees:** Elementary \$70; Junior \$90; Senior \$110
- **Non-member Fees:** Elementary \$105; Junior \$135; Senior \$165

### **STATE FINALS – REQUIRED FOR WINNERS OF THE DISTRICT AUDITION**

**Date:** June 12, 2021

**Location:** Malone University – Canton, OH

Johnson Center for Worship and the Fine Arts

**Prizes:** Elementary \$200; Junior \$275; Senior \$350

For Rules, Regulations and Online Application go to:

<https://ohiomta.org/buckeye-auditions>

## TEACHER ACTIVITIES AND NEWS

### Workshop with Pianist George Lopez

Friday, October 30, 2020

9:00 AM on Zoom

(link will be sent the night before via email)

“The Eyes Have It!”

Important facets of eye movement in beginning to advanced piano playing to improve sight reading and technique featuring George Lopez.

Pianist George Lopez, Bowdoin College’s Robert Beckwith Artist in Residence, has been a dedicated and dynamic performer, educator, and lecturer for 30 years. Known in Europe, South America and the US for his “...kaleidoscopic colors and clarity of conception...” (LA Times) in the standard repertoire as well as being a champion of newly written works, Mr. Lopez is also comfortable in styles of music ranging from jazz, ragtime to more contemporary styles of improvisation. His 2019-2020 concert season has included tours of New England and New York, the Bay Area, Seattle, New Orleans, Boulder, Colorado, Vermont, Massachusetts, Mexico, with concerts in Switzerland and Italy this summer. He was invited to Cuba just before the embargo was lifted to give masterclasses and concerts as a member of the Aries Trio. Mr. Lopez initiated his “Music in the Museum” series at Bowdoin College that consistently sells out to audiences who enjoy his creative and engaging lecture recitals on the relationship of music to art and ideas.

He has taken up the baton and built up the all-student Bowdoin College Orchestra which performs full symphonic programs each semester. He resides in Brunswick, Maine.

### Conferences

The fall season for teachers of CEOMTA was kicked off to a fantastic start with our recent Fall Conference held the morning of Friday, September 25. It was our district's first online conference held via Zoom and was well attended. Andrea Keil gave a wonderful greeting to viewers as our new district president, followed by certification chair Janice Cook who introduced our state teacher of the year, Sally Sansbury. VP of Teacher Activities and conference co-chair, Ashley Wise, presided over the conference.

Guest Speaker Jane Reed’s talk *Inspire the Desire to Learn*, was practical, informative, and engaging. She offered several gems that could easily be incorporated in our teaching. She discussed communication strategies that will help our students be more curious, engage their thinking, and become more active learners. When we as teachers ask the right questions, our students will become problem solvers, more imaginative, and excited to learn each week. Jane encouraged audience participation and allowed time for questions.

In an attempt to engage participation in this online event and show appreciation to our teachers, ten door prizes were awarded at the conference. A variety of gift cards were purchased and a message of encouragement was included and mailed to each of the winning recipients. The winners won the items based on answering questions and selecting a neighboring viewer in a “Brady Bunch” fashion, lol! This served as a fun ice breaker as well and seemed well received.

Several teachers stayed on the line after the 11:00 hour and continued to talk till nearly 11:30. A recording of the conference will soon be available on the OhioMTA website.

The primary goal of our district co-chairs, Theresa Murphy and Ashley Wise is to strive to provide topics at each conference that are inviting and applicable for all instruments and to have speakers from a variety of diverse perspectives that pique the interests of our teachers and speak to the different seasons of teaching we are in. We look forward to seeing you at the spring conference scheduled for Friday, April 16, 2021 with guest speaker and composer Melody Bober. Additional details regarding this event will be available on the website.

--Ashley Wise and Theresa Murphy, District Conferences Co-Chairmen

### **Independent Music Teachers Forum**

Mark your calendars for the upcoming Independent Music Teachers Forum! On Friday, November 6th at 10 a.m., Suzanne Newcomb, IMTF chair, will lead a lively discussion about teaching during our historic COVID-19 quarantine. We'll talk about what has worked with our students online and what hasn't. Discussion topics will include technology that is helpful for the most effective lessons, teaching materials that have achieved success, and how to appropriately check in on the mental health and well-being of your students during this challenging time. Breakout rooms will be utilized for smaller group discussions. Our unique group of district teachers will be able to have an exchange of ideas as well as some much needed fellowship. The Zoom link will be published prior to the meeting.

Join us!

--Suzanne Newcomb, Independent Music Teachers Forum Chairman

### **Grants for Professional Development**

Fall is upon us and it is time to start thinking about the school schedule. During each school year, Ohio Music Teachers Association offers Grants for Professional Development. This is an opportunity for music teachers to be able to focus on ourselves and how we might improve our skills as teachers and the management of our studios.

With Covid19 on all our minds, there are more online opportunities than ever before. You can literally participate in a program anywhere in the world.

I challenge you to take this opportunity to examine your strengths and weaknesses as a teacher, and to identify ways to become more effective and marketable to potential students. Consider refining your performance skills by working with a master teacher or taking a finance course to maximize your potential earnings. Learn how to master Zoom, WhatsApp, WeChat, Skype, and other apps that enable you to teach online. There are countless ways a professional grant could enhance your skills. You are only limited by your creativity.

We can all make improvements to our studios. Take this time to see what would be most beneficial for you. CEOMTA offers up to \$350 per teacher, with a total of \$700 set aside each year. Look at the CEOMTA website for details. The deadline for your application is April 15, 2021.

Look now and plan ahead.

--Annette Suhovecky, Grants for Professional Development Chairman

## **Save the Date!**

### **MTNA National Conference 2021**

March 13-17, 2021

Atlanta, Georgia

### **OhioMTA State Conference 2021**

Collaboration with Kentucky Music Teachers Association

October 17-19, 2021

Greater Cincinnati area

### **OhioMTA State Conference and OU Piano Pedagogy Seminar - Summer 2022**