



Newsletter
February 11, 2024

President's Message

Our spring events are already in full swing, so please subscribe to our district calendar (<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/u/5?cid=cHVibGljaXR5Y2VvbXRhQGdtYWlsLmNvbQ>) or continue checking our Facebook page to make sure you stay up to date. I hope you will join me in thanking Angela Cover for her stellar work as Publicity Chair and wish her all the best with her new job! I am excited to welcome Stephanie Webster-Cheng to the board, following her appointment as Interim Publicity Chair at the end of January.

We are looking forward to the Spring Conference, hosted this year by Denison University. The conference will be preceded by the Annual Membership Meeting, which all members are encouraged to attend. Please notify me by March 17th if there are items you want to present at this meeting. We are always happy to welcome new guests, so please consider reaching out to teachers in your own network and invite them to join us for the Conference on April 19th!

It has been a great honor to serve as your president since 2020. I am so grateful for everyone's support and look forward to stepping into a different role once our new officers are elected this spring. Our district has gone through an incredible number of changes during this time, but I know it will continue to adapt to new challenges and thrive in the new year!

Andrea Keil, CEOMTA President
andrea@musicmakerspianostudio.com

TEACHER ACTIVITIES & NEWS

Piano Workshop

Dyslexia and the Music Teacher

Becki Tapia Laurent

Friday, February 16, 2024

10:00 – 11:30 AM

Graves Piano & Organ Company

5798 Karl Road, Columbus, OH 43229

"Hi! I'd like piano lessons for my child with dyslexia. I hear that music is good for this condition." Did you panic a little when you read that? Dyslexia is a very misunderstood condition. But music teachers are in a unique position to help mitigate its effects. Music teachers can literally rewire the brain of a dyslexic person! Five years ago, I did a deep dive into neurology and how the brain learns, and dyslexia was the condition that surprised me the most! I had no idea how totally misinformed I was and I'm on a mission to help teachers! Join me as we discuss dyslexia: what it is and what it isn't and strategies to help you help them!

Becki Laurent is a private music teacher, blogger, author, guest lecturer for local, state, and national conferences.

She is currently located in Texas where she is the owner of a large music school with over 400 students. An employee of Simply (formerly JoyTunes) Becki began adding technology to her private lessons in 1993 and continues to stay on the leading-edge using technology to teach and make music. ADHD is her superpower!

Fees: free for OMTA members; \$10.00 for Non-members; auditors attend free.

Send checks (payable to OMTA) to:

Lizbeth Atkinson, 2118 Farleigh Road, Columbus, OH 43221

614-485-9448



Spring IMTF

Central East District of OhioMTA
Independent Music Teachers Forum
Wednesday, April 3rd, 2024
10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Location:
Grandview Public Library
1685 W. First Avenue
Columbus, OH 43212
Meeting Room A

This informal gathering meets twice per year to discuss current topics concerning independent teaching. The first hour we will have a session given by Christina Whitlock via Zoom, titled:

Hello and Goodbye: The Art of Building Relationships from Start to Finish

A light-hearted glimpse into the world of maintaining positive studio relationships, from a student's first lesson to their last.

No news to any of us: a positive working relationship between teachers, students, and families is one of the most important elements of a successful lesson experience. At the same time, we also know working with people can be complicated business!

This webinar examines the ins-and-outs of building (and maintaining!) positive relationships when a student joins your studio, but also when they decide it's time to leave. The hour will be packed with energy and actionable steps, so be sure to join us!

You can read more about Christina [here](#). While you are reading her bio, check out her studio and professional websites. They're quite comprehensive!

The second hour we will reflect on the presentation and share pertinent and ongoing discussions. This topic is something we have been covering this year and is so important for independent teachers of any instrument. These forums are for you! We hope you can join us. The range of teaching experience and collective wisdom is very inspiring!

Suzanne

Dr. Suzanne Newcomb, NCTM, IMTF Chair

snewcomb@columbus.rr.com

Grants for Professional Development

Attention OhioMTNA members,

Grants for Professional Development is offering up to \$350 for YOU to help enhance your teaching skills. We all can improve our skills in some way. It is easy – just send an application specifying what you would do with the money and how it would benefit you as a teacher. In addition, please send a text to the Chair alerting that an application is on its way. The money will be awarded to the teacher(s) whose education is most beneficial. Applications are due April 15. For more information contact Annette Suhovecky at Annette@brierhill.net or review the CEOMTA website. Give it some thought. You might just be a winner of a Grant for Professional Development.

Spring Conference

DISTRICT SPRING CONFERENCE
Annual Membership Meeting, Conference and Luncheon
Friday, April 19, 2024 9:30-12:30pm
Michael D. Eisner Center for the Performing Arts
Campus of Denison University 240 W. Broadway
Granville, Ohio
Guest Speaker: Dr. Sun Min Kim

AGENDA

- 9:30 CEOMTA Business Meeting
- 9:40 Le Binh Anh Nguye- Piano Graduate Assistant, College-Conservatory of Music University of Cincinnati will share Preliminary Report on Sight-Reading Growth of 5 Universities Using Piano Marvel's SASR Score

Dr. Sun Min Kim

- 10:00 Session 1 "Music Study and Its Powerful Translation to Careers and Life Skills for Our Students"
This important discussion will help teachers receive validation as well as evidence to help your students and parents realize the importance and lifelong benefits of music study and how it translates into higher achievement in other life skills and professions.
- 11:00 Break
- 11:15 Session 2 "Beyond BBBs (Bach, Beethoven, and Brahms): repertoire selections that can spark interest in intermediate/early advanced students"
This discussion is perfect for the teacher who has busy students who enjoy studying music but are not planning for a career in music. Finding engaging music and allowing students to experience many styles and genres can help us retain students and ensure their continued musical growth through high school and college.
Attendees will hear ideas and selections from Dr. Kim and also have the opportunity to share their favorite pieces for intermediate and advanced students. Each of us will leave with an extensive list of excellent, accessible, and motivating music.
- 12:30 Lunch



South Korean pianist Sun Min Kim serves as Coordinator of Keyboard Studies and Assistant

Professor of Music at Denison University. He made his début with the Ulsan Symphony

Orchestra at age 13, performing Grieg's Piano Concerto. He has been a prizewinner of national

and international competitions such as the Maria Canals International Piano Competition,

Bradshaw & Buono International Piano Competition, MTNA, International Crescendo Music

Awards, Brevard Music Center Solo Piano Competition, Harold Protsman Piano Competition,

Competition of the Society for American Musicians, and Lee Biennial Piano Competition.

In 2008, the professional music fraternity Mu Phi Epsilon awarded him the Sterling Achievement

Award, the highest honor that the fraternity bestows upon its collegiate members. As a laureate of various awards, he debuted at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall, Merkin Concert Hall, and other prestigious venues across the United States and abroad.

He has frequently performed solo and chamber music at festivals such as Aspen Music Festival, Banff Center, Brevard Music Center, Piano Texas, Prague International Piano Masterclass, Quartet Program, and École Redaille in Belgium.

Sun Min is an active lecturer, competition juror, and masterclass presenter. His current and

former students have been prizewinners of national and international piano competitions. Sun Min Kim completed the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Piano Performance and Literature with a minor in Collaborative Piano at the Eastman School of Music, where he studied with and served as teaching assistant for Nelita True. He studied accompanying and chamber music with Jean Barr. Sun Min has previously taught at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Oklahoma State University, and University of Rochester.

RSVP

We are excited to host our spring 2024 District Conference at Denison University. We invite our current, new and prospective members to join us for our spring luncheon held immediately after the conference. Please RSVP by April 5th so we can plan for you. <https://forms.gle/LUtt41wdr4NdahyC8>

Ashley Wise and Theresa Murphy, District Conferences
Bernice Tamkin, Membership

OMTA State Conference

The Middle East District conference planning committee is seeking proposals for presentations at the OhiOMTA 2024 Fall Conference to be held October 3-5 in Akron, OH. Individuals selected to present will receive a 20% discount on the registration fee.

Instructions for submission are here: <https://ohiomta.org/proposal-submission>

Dr. Olga Rua
VP of Affiliated Associations

Certification

Congratulations to our newest nationally certified member, Dr. Stephanie Webster-Cheng, NCTM, who enjoys an active career as an educator, collaborative pianist, and accompanist in Columbus. Stephanie, a graduate of the Interlochen Arts Academy, holds a Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance from Lawrence University, and both a Master's and Doctorate degree in ethnomusicology from the University of Pittsburgh. She has received piano instruction from Dr. Michael Coonrod, Dr. Michael Kim, and Dr. Anthony Padilla, and studied chamber music with The Ahn Trio.

Stephanie has taught piano for over 20 years to students in Michigan, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania and Ohio. She currently teaches students ages 5 and up in her home studio located in Upper Arlington, SWC Piano, LLC. In addition to private piano lessons, Stephanie has taught college-level group piano and World Music courses at the University of Pittsburgh.

Stephanie recently accepted the position of Publicity Chair for the Central East District of the Ohio Music Teachers Association. She has also served our students by judging at Scale Olympics and Pianorama auditions and conducting Level 4 students at the 2023 Pianorama. An



active member of the Ohio Federation of Music Clubs (OFMC), she chairs the Donald Babcock Junior Composer's Contest for young Ohio composers.

When not teaching, Stephanie enjoys reading and performing collaboratively with her musical children and their friends. She also tap dances and composes fun new piano music for her students in her free time. Kudos to Stephanie Webster-Cheng for completing the five projects required to become nationally certified by MTNA. She wrote this about National Certification:

Why Certification? By Stephanie Webster-Cheng

I began looking into the MTNA certification process before the pandemic, but didn't actually commit to it until February of 2022. At the time, my studio had grown to almost capacity and I was excited to put my teaching and studio practices to paper, in a sense, sharing my passion for music education with others. I began working on Projects 1 (Teaching Philosophy), 4 (Positive Teaching Environment) and 5 (Ethical Practice and Business Policies). Then my daughter's senior year started. As a cello performance major auditioning for the major college and conservatories on the East coast, my free time was spent helping her record, edit essays or travel to auditions. By springtime, one of my kids had a mental health crisis and I found myself in the middle of a divorce. Somehow in the midst of this, I was able to complete Project 3 (Teaching and Performance videos), but my progress had understandably halted and I wondered if I would ever complete the certification process.

This summer, I found myself with three weeks of unscheduled vacation time. I decided that this was my opportunity to finish the certification projects, which included revising my previous work and completing the four analysis pieces. I dove into the analysis, completing one piece a day, and actually found the process to be fun! (I am a music theorist at heart).



When I finally submitted the fifty-page project in late July (and was approved shortly after), I realized that although I started the project in order to articulate and share my joy of teaching piano, I finished it as a gift to myself. I needed to show myself that I can do hard things, I can persevere through trials, and I can learn and grow as a teacher and musician.

In the end, this certification process gave me the gift of confidence, and also reminded me that I really love Western classical music history and analysis (I am now teaching an introduction class of this at Columbus State!)

I'd like to finish by saying a huge thank you to my colleagues who shared ideas via email or meetings at Graves, and to Janice Cook, who so kindly regularly checked in on my progress, offering her support and resources when I got stuck.

The MTNA Professional Certification Program exists to improve the level of professionalism within the field of music teaching. It benefits the members of the profession itself, as well as the public who interacts with the

professional. For the music teaching professional, certification provides prestige, recognition and the potential for student recruitment and increased earning power. For the public, certification helps readily identify competent music teachers in their communities.

For help in becoming nationally certificated, please contact Janice Cook, NCTM, at jbakercook@gmail.com

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Student Solo and Ensemble Recitals

The next Student Solo and Ensemble Recitals are scheduled for Sunday, February 18, 2024, at Graves Piano & Organ Co. Be sure to get your registrations and participation fees in by Thursday, February 8, 2024 (postmarked). The recitals are open to students of all members who have studied for at least one year. They are a great performance opportunity 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, for additional questions.

Summer Music Study Scholarships

The goal of the Summer Music Study Scholarship is to broaden the student's exposure to music through something outside the regular routine. It is not limited to the top performers, which is why the event includes an essay and sight-reading. Scholarships may be used to pay for a music camp, master class, workshops, institute, special lessons, or coaching, separate from study with the teacher of current enrollment. Please consider which of your students may benefit from this experience.

Check out the website for the rules, regulations, and the application which must be postmarked by 3/18/24.

Contact information for teachers only:

Chair/Registrar

Debra Mattera

(614) 529-1133 • ANote234@aol.com

Co-Chair

Sally Sansbury

(614) 747-1996 • studioklavier@yahoo.com

Scale Olympics

We are excited to announce that Scale Olympics 2024 will take place in-person at the Battelle Fine Arts Center at Otterbein University on October 12th, 2024.

Students in Scale Olympics may participate in up to nine events, including: Scales, Cadences, Arpeggios, Triads and Inversions, Sightreading, Harmonization, Transposition, Ear Training, and Theory. Students competing in fewer than 9 events 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. The registration fee for students of CEOMTA members will be \$35 for 1-4 events, and \$37 for 5-9 events.

Like in 2022, students will complete the Ear Training and Theory tests online, prior to the student's arrival at Scale Olympics. This enables us to streamline the experience at Otterbein and helps us to make the best use of our judge pool.

More information about Scale Olympics 2024 will be made available on the CEOMTA website as it is ready.

Laura Wynia and Katherine Bede
Scale Olympics Co-Chairpersons

Save the Date!

MTNA National Conference 2024

March 16-20, 2024

Atlanta, Georgia

OhioMTA State Conference 2024

October 3-5, 2024

Akron, OH