



Newsletter
September 20, 2026

President's Message

Welcome to the new and returning members of the Central East District! We have a lot of exciting opportunities for teachers and students to be involved this fall, including the [CEOMTA District Conference](#) on September 25th, and the [OhioMTA Conference](#) in Cleveland November 5th-7th.

Our district website, <https://www.ceomta.org/>, and Facebook page are great ways to stay up to date on CEOMTA activities! [Here](#) is a link to our district calendar.

We have a new Student Image Permission Form for 2026-2027! Here is the link: The form can be accessed via the CEOMTA website (<https://www.ceomta.org/student-image-permission-form>)

I hope to see you at CEOMTA events this fall! Happy teaching!

Laura Wynia, CEOMTA President
slwynia@sbcglobal.net

Fall District Calendar with links:

September 2026

- September 20th, 2026 – [Scale Olympics](#) Registration closes
- September 20th, 2026 – [Out and About](#) – September – Deadline is Wednesday before
- September 21st, 2026 – [Scale Olympics](#) – Judges Training at Old Worthington Library Conference Room, 10am
- September 22nd, 2026 – [Scale Olympics](#) – Judges Training at Stanton's Sheet Music, 10am
- September 25th, 2026 – [District](#) Fall Conference at Solich Piano

October 2026

- October 10th, 2026 – [Scale Olympics](#) at Otterbein University
- October 18th, 2026 – [Out and About](#) – October – Deadline is Wednesday before

- October 30th, 2026 – [Piano Workshop](#) with Lisa Bastien

November 2026

- November 5th – 7th, 2026 – [State Conference](#) in Cleveland
- November 8th, 2026 – [Student Solo and Ensemble Recital](#) at Graves
- November 13th, 2026 – [IMTF](#) at Stanton's
- November 15th, 2026 – [Out and About](#) – November – Deadline is Wednesday before

December 2026

- December 13th, 2026 – [Out and About](#) – December – Deadline is Wednesday before

Funds Available

Dear CEOMTA,

I am pleased to report there are available funds from the **Beverly A Rawles Fund for Music Education**.

Beverly was a wonderful supporter of our organization, and she cared deeply about helping music teachers and students alike. Funds can be used for 3 purposes. Teacher Conference Assistance, Student Financial Assistance, Private Study for Teachers.

The application process is easy, and the Finance Committee usually gets an answer back quickly. You can find out about the Grants on our website www.ceomta.org. Click the [Beverly A Rawles Fund for Music Education](#) link at the top of the home page.

Bruce Piper,
Treasurer, OhioMTA Central East District
Treasurer, OhioMTA

Attention, CEOMTA members,

It's time to start thinking about applying for a **Grant for Professional Development**.

This process takes time, so I encourage you to begin by reflecting on the needs of your students and your ability to meet those needs.

Perhaps your students are transitioning from elementary to intermediate-level repertoire, and you need to find interesting and challenging music to keep them engaged. Working with an experienced teacher could help you expand your skills and teaching resources. You may have other areas in your teaching where additional training or resources would be beneficial.

CEOMTA is offering grants of up to \$350 to help you support your students. There are many valuable resources available to help you grow professionally and address the needs of your students.

If you have any questions, please visit the website and look under Grants for Professional Development or feel free to contact me directly. I encourage you to take this opportunity and apply! Priority will be given to teachers who have never received a grant and whose applications best support the education and musical development of piano students.

Annette Suhovecky, NCTM
Chairman, Grants for Professional Development
Annette@brierhill.net

Teacher Activities

CEOMTA Fall Conference

Please join us for our Fall Conference on Friday, September 25th at 9:30 a.m. at Solich Piano in Dublin, OH.

This year, we are thrilled to host Dr. Andy Villemetz, Division Head of Keyboard Studies and Associate Professor of Piano and Piano Pedagogy at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. Dr. Villemetz's talk, entitled "Opposites Attract: Foundational Principles of Creative Music Making," explores how we can cultivate creativity in our students.

Our business meeting starts at 9:30am. Participants are welcome to arrive at 9 am to enjoy coffee and bagels! For details, please visit our [conference web page](#).

CEOMTA Piano Workshop

Lisa Bastien - pianist, pedagogue, and author
October 30th, 2026
10:00 a.m. - noon
Stanton's Music

Our fall CEOMTA Teacher Workshop is coming up on October 30th at Stanton's Music from 10:00-noon.

Lisa Bastien, well-known pedagogue, composer, and author is our presenter. Please mark your calendars for this special event.

The schedule is as follows:

9:45-10:00 a.m. coffee and light refreshments

10:00-10:50 a.m. -*Beginning Piano Basics That Inspire a Love of Music*

Join Lisa Bastien as she shares her time-tested teaching, technique, and motivating technology tips for beginning piano students! In this exciting session, Lisa will offer practical ideas for laying a strong foundation right from the very first lesson, fostering solid practice habits and encouraging parental involvement at home.

Lisa will also explain how to use the highly effective musical tool, the IPS App. This free practice app is included with every book in the NEW Bastien series, Bastien New Traditions, making it an invaluable asset for both teachers and students.

As a special bonus, all attending teachers will receive a FREE packet of Bastien books, providing immediate access to the IPS app.

10:50-11:00 break and refreshments

11:00 - noon

Please vote for **one** of the following Pedagogy topics

1. *The Beginning Pianist's Technique Journey*

Lisa Bastien considers it an honor and a privilege to teach beginning piano students. Her immediate focus lies in establishing a strong foundation in technique. Come and explore how Lisa guides students in acquiring the skills to play the piano with efficiency and comfort, while producing a beautiful sound. (Complimentary Technique books provided for the teachers.)

OR

2. *Successful Teaching in a Rapidly Changing World*

Lisa Bastien has dedicated herself to the art of piano teaching for over three decades. Throughout her journey, she has sought novel and practical approaches to inspire and captivate her students, while also fostering a sense of community through group classes, recitals and studio traditions. Witnessing the gradual musical growth of her students over time has been a rewarding cornerstone of her career. Now, Lisa opens the door to her world, offering a behind-the-scenes peek into her daily life, twenty stories above the vibrant streets of Manhattan and now in Lisa's new studio in San Diego, California! Lisa will share her day-to-day

experiences that reflect the challenges and joys of managing a thriving piano studio in the midst of our rapidly evolving world.

Please click on the link below, indicating whether you will attend, and choose your preferred topic for the second hour of the workshop. We need this information to plan the room setup, morning refreshments, and number of free materials Lisa will bring. If you have already completed the survey that was sent several weeks ago, please DO complete this one, as it will give us a more complete head count.

<https://gforms.app/r/iWiBkZw>

Congratulations to Susan Frost, the 2026 OhioMTA Certified Teacher of the Year!

Susan Frost, who was named our District's Nationally Certified Teacher of the Year in the spring, was recently selected as the 2026 OhioMTA Certified Teacher of the Year!

We warmly congratulate Susan on this outstanding and well-deserved honor, and we celebrate her many years of inspiring teaching, generous service, and devotion to the central Ohio music community and CEOMTA.

[Here](#) is a link to the OhioMTA Certified Teacher of the Year webpage with more details about Susan's teaching accomplishments!

-Janice Cahill, NCTM, Certification Chairperson

Student Activities

Scale Olympics 2026

Scale Olympics is a fun, ribbon-earning event for students of all ages! It motivates students to practice the other elements that contribute to good musicianship, with a theory and technique emphasis. 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 \$32 for 1-4 events, and \$37 for 5-9 events.

--Scale Olympics 2026 will be held at Otterbein University's Battelle Center on Saturday, October 10th, 2026

--***The last day to register is Sunday, September 20th***. Teachers will receive student times and teacher ID numbers shortly after registration closes. The email address for all forms is ceomtascaleolympics@gmail.com.

Out and About

Many thanks for the awesome job that Miriam Brown has done chairing this event for our district since 2014!

Out and About Co-chairs are Bernice Tamkin and Jen Sweeney.

The schedule is set for Out & About for the 2026-2027 school year. We have chosen to have a program each month except for January.

We would like to highlight two of our upcoming "Out & About" Events.

October 18, 2026

1:30 PM

St. Ann's Hospital – Spooktacular

500 South Cleveland Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43081

This Out & About event will be different from usual. We will not limit the number of students who can participate. We will also encourage them to come close to their performance time and encourage their families to attend, knowing that they will most likely leave soon after the performance.

This will be a Costume Dress-up event, modeled after an event that Jen has been doing with her studio for many years with great success. Students should dress up to match their piece. For example, a beginner playing "Old McDonald" could dress as a farmer.

The pictures at this event will probably be taken multiple times since the students will be coming and going. Specific questions should be directed to Jen Sweeney.

April 18, 2027

1:30 PM

Kensington Senior Center

1001 Parkview Blvd, Columbus, OH 43219

This Out & About will be tailored to honor a resident living there. Jen has been taking her students there for a number of years and learned that resident, John Carter (90-something) is a local music composer/arranger, of primarily sacred music. Our Goal is to have students learn music he has written or arranged and play it at this event. We would also be happy to have teachers participate. We hope to make this very well known to our teachers so that this will be a successful experience.

Teachers: Please consider choosing some John Carter pieces for some of your more advanced students to work on, starting soon. They would certainly also be appropriate for Guild and/or a recital piece as well as to be played at this special event. We would love to have some advance notice from teachers so that we would know whether we will have some pieces to be performed.

Please see the CEOMTA website for the complete schedule and remember to register your students each month by Wednesday preceding the Out & About event.

Pianorama 2027 plans are underway!

The Pianorama Chairmen met several times this summer to play through duet literature. We have many inspiring pieces selected for each level but still have some work to do. Remaining tasks are to complete music selection, play through music to set suggested tempos and finalize the Literature List. Look for the Duet Literature List to be posted on the Pianorama page of the CEOMTA website in late fall, but no later than January of 2027.

Some dates have been set aside:

Registration (Online): September 3, 2027-October 2, 2027

Video Auditions: Due on Saturday, October 2, 2027 (accepted no later than 5:00pm)

Rehearsals: Saturdays, October 23 and 30, 2027 (held from approx. 10am-6pm)

Dress Rehearsal and Concerts: November 6, 2027 (concerts at 5:30pm and 7:00pm)

Concert Location: Discover Christian Church in Dublin, OH

(This is a preliminary schedule and subject to change.)

In the New Year, our major task will be to recruit conductors. We hope that we can count on many of you to prepare your students for this event and are happy to accept offers from

any teachers who would like to conduct. Please direct any questions or suggestions to the Pianorama Co-Chairmen:

Amy Cain

amycainpianostudio@gmail.com

Amy Girvin

girvin1of5@yahoo.com

Upcoming Dates

Ohio Music Teachers Association State Conference

The Ohio Music Teachers Association State Conference will be held November 5th-7th, in Cleveland, Ohio. [Here](#) is a link to see the schedule and register! Each participant will receive a copy (digital or hard copy – your choice) of ***A Living Legacy: New Works by Ohio Composers - published in celebration of MTNA's 150th anniversary***. Our own Stephanie Webster is one of the composers included! The pieces will be premiered in a concert November 5th! OhioMTA is honored to present Antonio Pompa-Baldi, award-winning concert pianist and professor of music at the Cleveland Institute of Music, as the conference performing artist and keynote speaker. Professor Pompa-Baldi will conduct a masterclass and perform a recital on November 6th.

MTNA National Conference

The MTNA National Conference will be April 2-6th, 2027, in St. Louis, MO. [Here](#) is a link to register! Immerse yourself in transformative sessions, a vibrant exhibit hall, an illuminating keynote from [Michelle Markwart Deveau](#), world-class performances by award-winning vocal ensemble [Chanticleer](#) and emerging pianist [Tom Borrow](#), as well as invigorating master classes from [Ingrid Clarfield, NCTM](#), and [Nancy Weems](#).