



## OREGON MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION MINUTES FOR THE PORTLAND DISTRICT MEETING January 28, 2015 | Portland Piano Company | Portland

**CALL TO ORDER** President Deborah Cleaver called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

**GREETING AND PRESIDENT'S REPORT** Deborah welcomed all members and guests. She reminded everyone that up-to-date district information can be found on the Portland District Blog. When asked how to access it, she demonstrated finding it on the [www.OMTA-Portland.org](http://www.OMTA-Portland.org) website, clicking on the News tab, then on the blog. Members can “follow” the blog and receive email notices of updates. News items can be submitted to blog maestra, Samantha Smith, [samantha.j.smith.13@gmail.com](mailto:samantha.j.smith.13@gmail.com).

Deborah reported that some members have had challenges registering on Leggiero, and encouraged everyone to keep their Leggiero user name and password and their MTNA member number in place they can access it when needed. She also encouraged everyone to renew their membership promptly so that they can access Leggiero and so that their contact information is published in the online and print OMTA membership directories.

**MINUTES** Recording Secretary Susan Todd provided the members with minutes from the September 24, 2014 meeting. Minutes were approved.

### **REPORTS**

Treasurer Cindy Peterson-Peart's reported a Checking Account Balance of \$16,079.77 and Savings Account balance of \$10,042.43. She also reported that Portland District's Non-Profit status has been reinstated. Because information was lost in transition from one treasurer to another, she had to complete the application process, she had to complete seven years' worth of tax forms.

Corresponding Secretary Alice Lyle reported sending a total of nine cards since September. Congratulatory cards were sent to Irene Huang and Ross Harris for earning their national certification, and Monica and Kenji Bunch on their new baby boy, Apollo. Condolence cards were sent to Dr. Beverly Serra-Brooks and Myrn Corban on the passing of their husbands. Thank-you cards were sent to Alona Maizlin for her six years of service as membership chair, and to Irene Huang for her many years of service as Romantic Festival Chair. “Thinking of You” cards were sent to Shauna Jones who has been seriously ill, and Josephine Pohl, who is in hospice at home.

Syllabus—Deborah relayed that state chair Suzanne Savaria is working with a team of members to update jazz, strings, guitar, voice, and flute syllabus. These will eventually be put on Leggiero. The syllabus committee's goals are to grow, diversify and stay relevant. Creative use of the audition element is being promoted.

Focus Groups—Debra Sostrin had a flyer listing Bethany Focus Group's programs and invited all to attend. Dianne Davies reported Beaverton Focus Group will meet February 11 at Portland Piano Company, with a composition program by Kenji Bunch. Alice Lyle reported Far East's next program will be on Rachmaninoff, February 20 at Barbara Chapman's home. Hillsboro's next meeting is March 4 at the Hillsboro Library with a program by Debbie Bush. All info is posted on the Blog.

### **FESTIVALS**

Several members requested that the festival deadline dates be published sooner.

Deborah encouraged all teachers to get their checks in early and certainly post them no later than the postmark deadline. Unfortunately a member sent a nasty note to one of the festival chairs when the chair reminded the teacher that their students could not be scheduled before the check was received. This is not acceptable. Fully 1/3 of the students registered for Baroque festival had teachers who were tardy in turning in their registration checks.

New members especially were encouraged to volunteer to assist with the festivals, by helping with program packet assembly or by monitoring at the festival.

**Ensemble Festival-** Fen Fang Tsao reported the January, 2015 festival had 84 students of 17 teachers participate, with 71 winners and 13 Honorable Mentions.

**Baroque & Contemporary Festival-** Co-chair Evanee Knezevich reported that on February 6, from 10-12 at Portland Piano Company, Dr. Chapman Nyaho will give will present exciting piano music by composers of Africa and the African Diaspora. Workshop charge is \$10 teachers, \$5 students. Also on February 6 Dr. Paul Barnes will present "Liszt and the Cross"—7 p.m. On February 15 duo team Stephanie and Saar will give a concert at 7 p.m.

**Composition Celebration-**Dan Brugh reported that application forms can be found on the state website. Deadline is this weekend, event is February 14.

**Trula Whelan Concerto Competition-** Dr. Marjorie Janove sent word that registration will open February 1 and close March 7, with checks due by March 9.

**Classical Festival-** Lilin Chen has resigned and a new chair or co-chairs is needed if the festival is to continue. Responsibilities include hiring adjudicators, scheduling, running the festival. Details will be published in the blog.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Patti Duthie and Liz Willis reported 25 new members since September. Those present were given carnations and were welcomed by all. Present were: Spencer Finnan, classical, jazz and rock piano traveling in NE, teaching; Denise Kangas, voice and Alexander technique, Bethany; Neil Mattson, pick-style guitar, southeast; Joel Morris, piano, traveling in downtown; Elizabeth (Betty) Sheppard, piano, southeast; Yvette Starkey, piano and theory, southeast; Elaine Soldo, piano and theory, northeast, Clay Giberson, piano and composition, Clackamas Community College and northeast.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Julia Lee announced the Petri Scholarship, for students ages 21-35 with a prize of \$15,000 for one winner for two years of study. Entry details are available on the state OMTA site and will be published in the blog.

Patricia Scordato announced that Catherine Kautsky has invited members to participate in her workshop in Sienna, Italy July 1-13.

Susan Todd reported that OMTA has received a generous Nellie Tholen Grant from the Oregon Community Foundation which will provide Portland District with two additional programs per year, and asked members to submit ideas for presenters and topics.

Cindy Peterson-Peart announced that Oregon had four winners at the NW Division competition Nathan Kim, student of Renato Fabbro, Junior Piano and Emily Brother, Senior Piano, student of Dorothy Fahlman received travel grants from Portland District. Emily is a Music Link student and Cindy encouraged members who would like to give her extra support send a donation to Music Link care of Eileen Knox, chair.

Dan Brugh reported that the In Good Hands concert will be held at the Old Church this summer. He and Dianne Davies will publish music on Drop Box by March 1 for teachers to review with their students, with a selection meeting to be scheduled in April.

Special Thanks to the Portland Piano Company for hosting our meeting, and to Bella Sheykman for arranging today's refreshments. The meeting was recessed for refreshments at 9:50.

**PROGRAM** Dr. Julia Lee introduced Dr. Paul Barnes, who gave stimulating program entitled New Generations: Exploring the Music of Living Composers both Young and Old.

These minutes were prepared by Recording Secretary Susan Todd.