



## From Your President...

I hope you have all enjoyed a wonderful holiday season of beautiful music and special times with family and friends and are energized to face the challenges of a new year!

I'm writing this brief column on a beautiful but chilly December day, deep in recital/holiday music season for independent teachers and jury/final exam preparation for college teachers. "Oh what fun it is" to play a first recital Christmas carol duet with a tiny-fingered first-grader! What an even greater joy it is to play some rather challenging holiday duets with high-schoolers whose hands have somehow grown much bigger than mine! These students are now accompanying musicals and choirs, playing for church, working on concertos, and contemplating possible music careers.



One of 'these students'... Miranda Shawnessy, student of Judy Reeves, is shown holding her Senior Award certificate. The Norman Area MTA awarded 7 seniors with a \$50 check for participating in the Festival all 4 years of high school.

How did this happen? In addition to years of lessons, studio recitals, and

*(Continued on page 3)*

## '09 OMTA Conference Artist and Clinicians

The 2009 OMTA Conference will be held May 29-30 (OMTA board and committee meetings May 28) at the Hilton Tulsa Southern Hills on Lewis, right across the street from ORU.

As I write this, we are just days away from Christmas with music programs, recitals, church services, last-minute shopping, Christmas dinner planning, and decorating for the festive and meaningful season occupying our thoughts. State conference in May (unless you are the conference chair!) is far from your mind. But after Christmas is over

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### Mark Your Calendar:

- ◆ Foundation Fellow Nomination deadline—January 15th
- ◆ '09 OMTA Conference—May 29-30, Tulsa
- ◆ '09 MTNA Conference—March 28-April 1, Atlanta
- ◆ Next OMT submissions deadline—March 15

## '09 OMTA Conference, con't.

(Continued from page 1)

and you have the last ornaments put away and the last bit of fudge eaten, think about our state conference as a wonderful gift you can give yourself.

And you may even win a special gift if you are present at the last conference session, the Eight-TEA celebration of our 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary. One night's reimbursement of the conference hotel and one reimbursement of a complete meal package (both lunches and the banquet) will be drawn for. You must be staying in the hotel and have bought the meal package to win either prize—it might be YOU!!

Have you looked at the MTNA national conference programs? Did you notice among the clinicians is **Barbara Lister-Sink**, who will be our own conference artist and clinician in Tulsa May 29-30? Many of you attended the East or West District Conferences and saw a video clip of Barbara from her well-known DVD, "Freeing the Caged Bird." I hope you are among those who are getting excited about hearing Barbara **open gateways to freedom in technique!** She is endorsed by many well-known musicians and many within the medical profession as having an exhaustive knowledge of how the human body moves with ease and efficiency. If you have had to settle for partial solutions to technical problems, you will want to glean from Barbara's wisdom, developed over many years of study. She herself suffered from years of playing-related injuries before she found answers.

With our other clinician, **Lorraine Bosse-Smith**, I feel OMTA is exactly on the same page as MTNA. The Leadership Summit this past September addressed leadership style as a means of understanding each other and communicating better. Not a day of our lives goes by that we are not influencing others—our students, colleagues, parents, people in the community—not all of whom "speak music" as we do. Lorraine will give us insights into **leadership styles and communicating skills**. She is a dynamic presenter, who has a national track record. You will come away with greater self-understanding as well as ideas for communicating with people who work and process differently than you do.

Remember that the conference rate for the hotel is \$95 per night per room for 1-4 occupants. The rooms have either two double beds or a kingsize bed with a comfortable hide-a-bed. I just recently stayed at the hotel; the rooms are quite large and very comfortable. The hotel recently completed a \$7-million renovation. You will be pleased with the facilities. All sessions and meals will be in the hotel, so no driving at all once you arrive. Later this spring conference attendees will have their own website to make hotel reservations directly online with the hotel.

If you would like to receive conference reminders and updates via email, send me your email address. These will begin after the first of the year:  
sandra.meyer@okbu.edu



**Sandra Meyer, NCTM,**

President-Elect, is piano and theory faculty member at OBU and a church organist/pianist since 1975. She has degrees from UMKC Conservatory and the University of Iowa. She has been active in OMTA as a frequent adjudicator and workshop presenter, as well as holding a number of offices at local, district and state levels.

## *Save your Association time and money! Sign up to receive the E-OMT.*

**What is the E-OMT?** The E-OMT is this same publication, your Oklahoma Music Teachers Association Newsletter, except it arrives in your email inbox! You receive the OMT and the important information you need faster, you can print the forms you need right off on your printer (instead of taking a trip to make a copy), and you save OMTA postage and printing costs. Plus, the E-OMT arrives in your inbox in COLOR!

To sign up, just send an email to your editor, Sharon Pennington, at [mrs.pennington@gmail.com](mailto:mrs.pennington@gmail.com), requesting your email address to be added to our email subscription list. And a BIG thank-you to you who already signed up for helping out our Association!

## from Your President, continued

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(Continued from page 1)

hours at the piano, these high-achievers have participated for many years in OMTA District and State Achievement Auditions, Junior and Senior Auditions, mall performances and honors recitals –musical activities that provided needed regular goals, valuable critical feedback, and performance experiences at a variety of excellent college facilities across the state. Dedicated OMTA teachers have contributed thousands of hours designing theory tests, scheduling auditions, organizing musical events, serving on the OMTA Board and in local associations, and uniting in countless ways to provide motivating music education opportunities to students of all ages.

This past semester was another strong link in the OMTA chain of yearly activities. Thanks go to Heather Lanners, Carol Bell, Zarina Melik-Stepanova, and all those who helped with the successful MTNA/OMTA Auditions held November 14-15 at OSU. Both the East and West District Conferences featured excellent programs and sessions this year, and were well-attended. Thanks go to all four Co-Presidents (West: Emily Robinson and Kathryn Hickman; East: Kaye Shields and Kathleen Wimberley).

Thanks also go to the dedicated OMTA Board. I appreciate your year-round commitment to OMTA and am looking forward to seeing everyone January 17 in Shawnee for our Winter Board Meeting.

Please visit the OMTA website [www.oma.org](http://www.oma.org) (masterfully maintained by OMTA webmaster Thomas Labe) for a wealth of current information. You can also view archived OMT's (beautifully laid out by OMT Editor Sharon Pennington.)

Exciting upcoming events include the MTNA National Conference March 28-April 1 in Atlanta (visit [www.mtna.org](http://www.mtna.org) to register!) and our own OMTA State Conference in Tulsa May 29-30. Look for the conference call in the March OMT. President-Elect Sandra Meyer has done a fantastic job organizing a special 80<sup>th</sup> conference.

**Dr. Sylvia Ryan, NCTM,** President of OMTA, is a third generation piano teacher and church musician. She received a DMA in Piano Performance and Pedagogy from OU and studied in Belgium on a Rotary Fellowship. Sylvia has taught on the college level and currently maintains a full-time independent studio in Norman. She is a NAMTA Past-President and has been active on the state and local level of OMTA since 1983.



## From VP for Auditions

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Happy New Year to all and I trust all have had a Wonderful Holiday Season. Jr. Auditions are behind us and Senior Auditions are rapidly approaching. Please read the Membership Booklet carefully to avoid errors in Repertoire or Audition Rules. There are no changes from last years' Senior Auditions, just more clearly stated; however, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to email or phone me.

District and State Achievement pages have been reworded with the intention of clearing up any misunderstood rules. Please plan ahead and let's make this a pleasant experience for all.

Please take note of our MTNA/OMTA State Winners held November 14-15 2008 at Okla. State University. A Huge Thanks to Co-chairs: Zarina Melik-Stepanova and Carol Ann Bell.

**Gloria Johnson, NCTM,** VP for Auditions has been a MTNA member since 1970 and has taught piano for 47 years. She continues to study with Aldo Mancinelli from Illinois. She is also currently MTNA Junior Performance Coordinator for the South Central Division. Gloria maintains a full piano studio of all levels of advancement.



# OMTA/MTNA Competition Report

OMTA/MTNA Competition Report: November 15, 2008  
Location: Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK  
Audition Co-Chairs: Zarina Melik-Stepanova, Carol Ann Bell

## OMTA Collegiate Winners:

**PIANO A Winner:** Jiao Sun

*Alternate:* Kaelyn Neal

*Honorable Mention:* Daniel Pang

**PIANO B Winner:** Barron Ryan

*Alternate:* Mari Kumagai

*Honorable Mentions:* Kent Dennis

**PIANO C Winner:** Siqi Li

*Alternate:* Eo Jin Kim

**VOICE B Winner:** Morgan Gordon, soprano

**OMTA Marilyn Witcher Junior Honor Winner:** Gabriel Thng

**MTNA Junior Piano Winner:** Angela Cai

**MTNA Senior Piano Winner:** Sean Yen

*Alternate:* Charlotte Dumesnil

**MTNA Piano Young Artist Winner:** Heejin Jang

*Alternate:* Nicole Biggs

**MTNA Senior Voice State Representative:** Katelyn Sue Eden, Soprano, (teacher Lavonna Whitesell)

**MTNA Voice Young Artist Winner:** Aaron Foshee, Baritone, OBU, Senior, (teacher Rhetta Hudson)

**MTNA Senior Woodwind Winner:** Shaelynn Morefield, flute, (teacher Natalie Syring)

*Alternate:* Kimberly Anne Boross, flute, (teacher Lisa Hoel)

**MTNA Brass Young Artist Winner:** Brandon Dyer, trombone, OSU (teacher Paul Compton)

**MTNA Chamber Music Winner:** OSU Trombone Quartet: members Isaac Washam, Trombone, Steven Jessup, Trombone, Willie Seals, Bass Trombone, Brandon Dyer, Bass Trombone, (teacher Paul Compton)

*Alternate:* Rotavele String Quartet: members Rachel Fellows, Violin, Lacie Savage, Viola, Jennifer Sherman, Violin, Mika Hood, Cello (teacher Rossitza Goza)

*Honorable Mention:* University of OK Brass Quintet: members Kevin Shannon, Trumpet, Scott Jech, Trumpet, Cameron Kedy, Horn, Daryl Nagode, Trombone, Dan Sliger, Tuba (teacher Eldon Matlick)

**MTNA Junior Strings State Representative:** Philip Gamble, violin, (teacher Esther Fellows)

**MTNA Senior Strings State Representative:** Jessica Fellows, violin, (teacher Esther Fellows)

**MTNA Young Artist Strings Representative:** Bogdan Asanovic, Cello, UCO, (teacher Tess Remy-Schumacher)

## Keyboard Ensemble and Technology Seminar

June 18-25, 2009 at University of Central Oklahoma, Edmond, OK

Sponsored by OGILVY MUSIC, University of Central Oklahoma and YAMAHA Corporation of America

**Clinicians:** Susan Ogilvy, Susan Cooper, Larry Keenan

**Special Guest Clinician - Phillip Keveren**

**DAILY sessions on YAMAHA instruments include:** Teaching Strategies - Group Piano, Ensemble rehearsals & read through

Clavinova techKNOW, Portable keyboard/TYROS techKNOW, Consumer projects & performances, Open lab time on Clavinova's & PSR's, Lunch time teacher sharing

### NEW in 2009

Clavinova Composition winners performances, CVP strategies for special needs students, Internet audio/visual work, UCO Arts Media session

**MORE INFORMATION & REGISTRATION:** [sospace.com](http://sospace.com) **FOR ENROLLING FOR CREDIT AT UCO:** [ccharoenwongse@uco.edu](mailto:ccharoenwongse@uco.edu)

# Tentative Schedule for OMTA Conference

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## Tentative Conference Schedule (subject to change), Friday, May 29, Hilton Southern Hills Tulsa

**8:30** Teaching and Performing Sacred Music (featuring a panel of our OMTA composers and performers)

**9:30** Visit exhibits

**10:00** OMTA/MTNA winners Recital I

**11:00** Barbara Lister-Sink master class

**12:15** Lunch

**1:15** Lorraine Bosse-Smith, maximizing your influence by understanding your leadership style

**2:30** Visit exhibits

**3:15** Senior auditions winners recital

**4:30** Visit exhibits

**6:00** Banquet with special guest, Ann Gipson, MTNA National President and OMTA Past President

**8:00** Artist recital, Barbara Lister-Sink. Reception following.

## Saturday, May 30, Hilton Southern Hills Tulsa

**8:30** Lorraine Bosse-Smith, communicating with style

**9:45** Visit exhibits

**10:15** OMTA/MTNA winners recital II

**11:15** Barbara Lister-Sink pedagogy session I

**12:30** Lunch and business meeting

**1:45** Barbara Lister-Sink pedagogy session II

**3:00** Visit exhibits

**3:30** Eight-TEA and OMTA Past Presidents' Retrospective to celebrate the Eightieth Anniversary of OMTA. Grand Prize Drawings. Conference adjourn at 4:30.

[www.okmta.org](http://www.okmta.org)

[www.mtna.org](http://www.mtna.org)

## Theory Tests for District Achievement

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There are still a few theory tests left from last year. Contact Nancy Shelton 2505 Elmira, Muskogee, 74403, 918-682-4968, or [aprflf@sbcglobal.net](mailto:aprflf@sbcglobal.net) The cost is \$16.00.

If you have not participated in the theory program yet, this would be an excellent time to begin. The tests would serve as excellent guides.

# Membership News

## CONGRATULATIONS

### NEW STATE CERTIFIED MEMBERS

Callaway, Jana—Durant	Piano
Carrillo, Tony—Midwest City	Piano, Voice, Theory, History
Green, Cathy—Tulsa	Piano
Kuleshova, Tatiana—Edmond	Piano
Lewis, Julie—Glencoe	Voice
Mays, Jane—OKC	Piano
McNeese, Julia—Broken Arrow	Voice, Theory
Nelson, Dr. Karl—OKC	Choral Music
Melik-Stepanova, Zarina—Stillwater	Piano
Stone, Crystal Dawn—Ponca City	Music Ed., Voice
Vaughn, Betsy—Moore	Piano

### NEW PROVISIONAL MEMBERS

Fine, Jessica—Tulsa	Piano
Isgrigg, Lisa—Broken Arrow	Piano
Metivier, Nancy—OKC	Piano

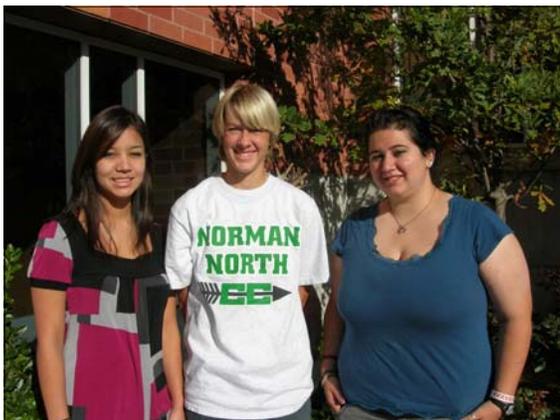
## ADDRESS CHANGE/CORRECTION

Cory, Marye Whitman: 716 N. Linn Ave, OKC, 73112  
 Cottingham, Amy: 2036 E. 14th Place, Tulsa, 74101  
 Greenwood, Nathan: 4324 SE 55th, OKC, 73135-3306  
 Joiner, Marla: marla@mrsmarla.com  
 Jones, Jenarold: 20301 Flowered Meadows Way, Edmond, 73012-0643  
 Kokojan, Marianne: 411 NW 20th Street, OKC, 73103-1918  
 Lilite, Louima: 1908 N. Broadway Ave, Shawnee, 74804-3722  
 Perez, Astrid Leal: 1010 W. Grant Street, Dimmitt, TX 79027-3020  
 Williams, Kim: 1332 Briar Forest Circle, Edmond, 73125

# Norman Area MTA Fall Festival

The Norman Area Music Teachers Association (NAMTA) held their 11th annual Fall Festival at the O.U. Catlett Music Center on Saturday, October 25th. Over 320 pre-college students in piano, flute, voice and strings performed solos and ensembles for professional adjudicators of Oklahoma MTA. Younger participants dressed in their Halloween costumes and also took part in Kids Fest, a musical carnival of games and crafts, sponsored by NAMTA.

The following students received the Senior Award and a \$50 check for participating all four years of high school: Nathalie Bernigaud, student of Steve Sewell; Maddie Hargrove, student of Jane Lam; Mary Corley, student of Terri Hlubek; Kim Roden and Jessica Moon, students of Sylvia Ryan; Miranda Shawnessy, student of Judith Reeves and Cherokee Marson, student of Nita Twyman.



Piano students receiving the Senior Award at the NAMTA Fall Festival were: (left to right):

*left picture* Maddie Hargrove, Nathalie Bernigaud and Cherokee Marson

*right picture* Kim Roden, Jessica Moon and Mary Corley



## Let's Be Early This Year!

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I enjoyed seeing a number of OMTA members at the West District Conference at Rose State in November. It was a tremendous conference!

I would like to remind our members that they need a minimum of 2 points in Professional Growth to renew their OMTA Certification every 5 years. This includes attendance at the District Conferences (1 point) and the OMTA Conferences (1 point). Please don't forget to check the OMTA Membership Handbook to see if you are due for membership renewal this year. You may renew your membership for this year - NOW! You don't have to send it in on the June 30th deadline. LET'S BE EARLY THIS YEAR!

Let's all encourage new members to join OMTA. The membership dues are reduced for January through June 30 to half-price. What a great time to join!

Why not consider making a New Year's Resolution to become Nationally Certified this year? Certification is a gift that will give you the satisfaction of having reached your goal for personal professional achievement, a sense of accomplishment as you improve your teaching through study and planning, the knowledge that you are raising the level of professionalism within our field, and a professional credential. Please visit [www.mtnacertification.org](http://www.mtnacertification.org) and download the application packet. All the instructions and forms that you need to complete the process are listed on the website. OMTA is offering the MTNA Certification Exam at Oklahoma Christian University this year on May 23rd, Saturday - (10:00 a.m.). This is the Saturday before the OMTA State Conference. Please work toward taking this exam.

OMTA would like to extend condolences to the family of Helen James, a very active member the Muskogee Area Branch. She passed away on December 6th after a long battle with cancer. She taught until 3 weeks before passing on. She had been a member of OMTA since 1956 and will certainly be missed.

I am available to answer your membership or certification questions. Feel free to call, write, or send an email anytime. Have a musical year!



**Terri Hlubek, NCTM, VP for Membership & Certification**, teaches independently in Oklahoma City. She received a Bachelors degree in Piano Performance from Westminster Choir College, studying piano with Phyllis Lehrer and accompanying with Martin Katz. She accompanies several soloists throughout the OKC area. The First Church of Christ Scientist, Midwest City, keeps her busy as an organist. She currently is President of the Central Oklahoma Music Teachers Association.

## Nominate a MTNA Foundation Fellow

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You may wish to nominate an outstanding individual to be the next MTNA Foundation Fellow. Each local association, an individual, or a board member may suggest a candidate to be presented to the OMTA Board at the winter conference board meeting. The board members present at the meeting will choose from the suggested candidates by secret ballot.

Here is suggested criteria for nomination:

The nominee does not have to be from the local association, but must be a member in good standing of OMTA.

Since this is a very prestigious award, the nominee will have made outstanding contributions to the music profession in Oklahoma or the nation through his/her teaching, professional involvement, performance, pedagogical

contributions, and/or composition. A nominee should be willing to attend the MTNA Foundation Gala to receive the award.

Suggestions should be sent to the MTNA Foundation Chair by January 15. A short statement stating the reason for the nomination should be included with the name. Those suggesting a candidate should be prepared to submit a bio and picture if their nominee is selected.

**Judith Macha, NCTM, MTNA Foundation Chair**, graduated from Washburn University in Topeka, Kansas, where she studied piano with Dr. Lawson Jones. She has taught piano in Kansas and Oklahoma for 28 years. She served in various capacities on the local, district, and state levels of KMTA and currently serves as president of TAMTA.





**Oklahoma Music Teachers Association  
Newsletter**

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**Happy New Year!**

**We're on the Web!**  
[www.okmta.org](http://www.okmta.org)

