

Thomas Labé, Editor



From Your President...

Dear OMTA members (and I begin with “dear” because you really are dear to me),

In this, my first OMT article as your state president, I want to thank you for your confidence in me, expressed by your voting for me last June at the state conference at ECU in Ada. I have some enormously big shoes to attempt to fill as I look back over the history of many distinguished individuals who have been OMTA president through the years. Of course, I cannot do this without the support of all of you! I truly know that, so thank you in advance for your support.

(continued on page 2)

RANDALL FABER WILL BE THE GUEST ARTIS AND RANDALL AND NANCY FABER WILL BE FEATURED PRESENTERS AT THE OKLAHOMA MUSIC TEACHERS 2011 STATE CONFERENCE!



President-Elect Report

I am pleased to announce the OMTA State Conference on June 2-4, 2011 at Oklahoma Christian university! Our Guest Artist will be Randall Faber, and Randall and Nancy Faber will be conducting the session.

Randall Faber has toured Korea, Taiwan, the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, the United States and Canada. He was a master teacher for the World Conference on Piano Pedagogy, National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy, and the National Piano Teachers Institute. He gave recent recitals in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth, St. Louis, Ann Arbor, Dallas and Austing, with upcoming engagements at the Wasserman Festival, the Gilmore Festival and the Portland International Music Festival. Dr. Faber holds three degrees from the University of Michigan and a Ph.D. from Vanderbilt University. In 2005 he presented his academic research at the 9th International Conference on Motivation in Lisbon, Portugal.

(continued on page 3)

Inside this issue:

From Your President	1-2
District Conferences Information	3
Commissioned Composer Nomination Information	4
Membership News	5-8

Mark Your Calendar

- Eastern District Conference: November 20, 2010 at OBU
- Western District Conference, November 20, 2010 at Rose State College
- Commissioned Composer Nominations: November 1, 2010

From Your President

(continued from page 1)

My first involvement with OMTA probably began with my move to Oklahoma in 1975, when I began teaching at OBU and studying privately with Professor Celia Mae Bryant, a former OMTA state president and MTNA national president. I am not sure from which place I had the strongest encouragement to become involved with OMTA. But it wasn't long before I was asked to serve on the Certification Committee. I remember being amazed that I, as such a young teacher, was being asked to help and I quickly said yes. Back when we had four districts in the state, I served as Southeast District President at several different times, member-at-large, VP for Local Associations and Collegiate Chapters, theory committee member, and most recently President-Elect. In addition, I have presented at OMTA district and state conferences and have adjudicated at OMTA auditions now too numerous to count. At the time I was asked to serve as President-Elect, I was personally at a very low point in my life and was touched more than you will ever know by this vote of confidence in my leadership potential. I realized that I was saying yes to a six-year commitment to the OMTA Executive Committee and Board. I hope that this insight into my OMTA "history" will encourage all of you, whether a very new member or one who has been in the organization for many years, that OMTA is truly a caring, far-reaching organization where one member can make a large difference. By asking someone or by saying yes when asked, you may be opening the door to involvement in music in ways that are satisfying beyond words.

As OMTA president, there are several things that are very important to me, my "platform" if you will. I would like to see these happen or be well on their way to happening when I leave office: Systematic ways to stay in touch with, encourage, mentor, and follow up with not only our new provisional members but **all new members**. Many new members of course live in areas where there are active local associations and so this happens naturally and easily. But there are some who may be the only OMTA teacher in their community. If you are a newer member and have ideas about this, I would love to hear from you: sgmeyeromta@gmail.com

More **connections among the various music organizations across the state**. For example, I have just been in touch with a new faculty member at OBU who is very active in ACDA as a regional director. He just asked me late this summer if OMTA members (pianists in particular for this) would be interested in being accompanists for reading sessions for OCDA meetings—I said I knew that some of us would be! I also just finished chairing this year's meeting of the Oklahoma Music Theory Roundtable for college theory teachers across the state. Think of the contacts you personally have with those who are members of NATS, OMEA, ASTA, AMTA, and others—there are more organizations that I can list here. Which organizations are you a member of in addition to OMTA? There is where contacts with musicians begin. I feel that the future of music in our state will be enhanced by connecting with others in our shared profession of music. If you are an active member in some other music association, please let me know that: sgmeyeromta@gmail.com

Ways to make our association even more meaningful to our **younger members**. It is clear that the future of any vital organization is eventually going to move to the next generations. I am planning to be in touch with those in the association who I already know that are younger members, having visited with a few already, and I hope to make a difference in this area. If you *are* a younger member and are interested in talking with me about things you would like to see in our association that you currently don't see, please don't wait to be asked! Consider this your invitation to email me with anything that is on your mind: sgmeyeromta@gmail.com

More awareness of how **music impacts the brain**—it varies with the type of music, with the instrument, and it has been scientifically proven to make qualitative and quantitative impact upon various parts of the brain. Some people in decision-making positions with whom we may interact will be more impressed with the documented evidence for music's efficaciousness than they will be by the feelings that music evokes its social impact, etc. I certainly know and believe the latter, yet this is not an argument that speaks to some people with whom we *need* to speak. This has been an area of interest to me for a long time, and I will be happy to talk further with anyone about ways to become knowledgeable. Believe me, it is far from a dry topic! I will be speaking on this to the Broken Arrow Music Teachers Association in April and would be happy to do this elsewhere: sgmeyeromta@gmail.com

I also am interested in having *many of us* share some ways in which OMTA has been meaningful in our lives—or how teaching music has made a difference in your life or your students—or funny memories you have of teaching—any of these things. I would love to see us come up with a book with these and other thoughts. Our **collective legacy as music teachers** is incredible—wouldn't it be fun to document this and inspire ourselves and others in the process? Email anything like this to me: sgmeyeromta@gmail.com

Elsewhere in the OMT are articles about members who are being honored in significant ways at the **MTNA National Conference in Milwaukee March 26-30, 2011**. This year [plan to stay till the end of the conference!](#)



Sandra Meyer,
NCTM, President,

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.

(continued from page 1)

Western District Conference

The Western District will be held on November 20, 2010 at Rose State College (*not* OCCC as the handbook stated). We are pleased to have Janet Romanishin (flautist) as our conference artist, who will be presenting a collaborative recital with pianist Susan Babock, playing literature that offers challenges in collaboration. Dr. Jeremy Clifton, the conference clinician. Dr. Clifton will be giving a presentation on using Sibelius and ProTools in the private studio.

~ Emily Robinson

Eastern District Conference

The 2010 East District Conference will be held on November 20, 2010 in Raley Chapel on the campus of Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee. We are pleased to have DuoSolo, a piano and flute ensemble consisting of husband and wife team Dr. Michael Kirkendoll and Dr. Mary Fukushima, to present our conference artist recital. The duo specializes in contemporary music and will highlight that literature in their program. Michael, currently part of the piano faculty at Oklahoma State University, will also serve as our conference clinician. His session will deal with strategies to incorporate more contemporary literature in students' lessons and repertoire.

The Conference will also include recitals featuring our wonderful Junior Auditions winners from across the East District. Look for more information in the conference call which will be sent out later this month. We are anticipating a wonderful conference this year and hope that all of our East District teachers will make plans to attend.

~ Dr. Michael Dean
Danny Calhoun, NCTM
OMTA East District Co-Presidents

Nancy Faber was named "Distinguished Composer of the Year" by the Music Teachers National Association for her award-winning composition *Tennessee Suite for Piano and String Quartet*. Her flute quartet, *Voices from Between Worlds*, was the winning composition for the 1994 National Flute Association as Professional Chamber Music Competition. Nancy Faber's music has been heard on network television and on public radio. Teachers of composition include Joan Tower, William Albright, and British composer Nicholas Maw; piano studies were at the Eastman School and Michigan State University.

Nancy and Randall Faber have combined their backgrounds as composer and performer to become leading supporters of the piano teacher and student. The husband and wife team has authored over 200 publications, including the best-selling *PreTime to BigTime Piano Supplementary Library* and the acclaimed method *Piano Adventures*. The Fabers advocate piano study not only for personal expression and performance success, but also as a vehicle for the student as creative and cognitive development. Their philosophy is reflected in their writing, their public appearances, and in their own teaching.

Our hotel is the Four Points Quail Springs (next to Quail Springs Mall on Memorial Road). We have a group rate of \$89.00 + tax. This price includes the Hot Buffet Breakfast. Our group is active in the system for reservations, and you may call the hotel directly at 405-418-8448 or 1-800-368-7764.

~ Terri Hlubek, OMTA President-Elect



RANDALL FABER

A Call For Nominations for 2011 Commissioned Composer

Presently, your OMTA Commissioned Composer Committee is working in relationship with two different commissioned composers. One of these is 2009 commissioned composer, Dr. Marvin L. Lamb. His commissioned composition, "Pablo/Saul," was recently premiered at our state conference, and will soon be submitted to the MTNA national competition. The winner of this competition (announced in January 2011) is proclaimed the MTNA Distinguished Composer of the Year and receives a check for \$3,000 and a concert performance of the work during the next MTNA National Conference.

The second of our composers is Dr. Matthew C. Saunders, whose selection as the OMTA 2011 Commissioned Composer was announced at the state conference. Assistant Professor of Music and Director of Bands at Oklahoma Panhandle State University, Dr. Saunders is actively preparing a new work for presentation at our 2010 state conference. The committee offers its congratulations to Dr. Saunders and our thanks to the members of OMTA for their assistance in the selection process.

It is now time to enter into the process of selecting our 2012 commissioned composer. **The committee is hereby soliciting nominations for the 2012 OMTA commissioned composer.**

Nominations may be submitted to the chair of the commissioned composer committee: W. T. Skye Garcia -- wgarcia@ecok.edu or 1824 East 17th St., Ada, OK 74820

- Please include nominee's name, address, phone #, and email address.
- **Nominations are due by November 1, 2010.**
- Any member or local association may recommend composers for consideration.
- When considering making a nomination, first ascertain the interest of the prospective nominee in pursuing the commission. In the past we have had nominees decline.
- Upon receipt of the name of each composer nominee, the commissioned composer committee will contact the individual and request a resume (or curriculum vitae) and an audio sampling of their previous work.
- **The deadline for composers to submit materials/CD to the Chair is December 1.**

It is very important that all nominees understand that the commission is not a prize for an extant composition; rather, it is a meaningful encouragement for a recognized composer to create a new musical work.

The commissioned composer committee would like to thank each of you for your thoughtful participation in the current selection process. If you have any questions or need for assistance, please feel free to contact the chair or any member of the committee.

~ W. T. Skye Garcia (Chair, OMTA Commissioned Composer Committee)



2010 OMTA Composition Festival Winners Announced

The 2010 Composition Festival had ten entires this year representing six studios. Winners were as follows:

Elementary

1st Place: Connor Young (Night Sky Sonata), student of Shirley Johnson of Norman

2nd Place: Garbiel Hyde (Dragons, Theme and Variations), student of Janelle Whitby of Tulsa

3rd Place: Connor Young (Hamster Hop), student of Shirley Johnson of Norman

Junior High

1st Place: Ashlin Hunter (Zepher's Theme), student of Krystall Hennessey of Stillwater

Senior High

1st Place: Christy Strauss (Uncertainty), Student of Steve Sewell

2nd Place: Dillon Harper (Ever Changing Winds) student of Ken Teel of Norman

1st place winners are required to enter the MTNA Composition Competition and perform on one of the recitals at their District Conference in November. OMTA will reimburse the winner's MTNA entry fee.

~ Mary Sallee, Composition Festival Chair

Membership and Certification

Welcome to an exciting new year of opportunities through your OMTA membership. If you are a new member and paid your dues directly to MTNA be sure and contact me for an OMTA application. If you have any questions about membership certification please let me know. Join me in welcoming the following new members to OMTA and congratulate the members that recently received their MTNA Certification

Judy Werner

1213 E. Uniontown

Broken Arrow, OK 74012

Phone: (918) 355-4123

Certification: Piano

Victoria Ting

11401 Twisted Oak Road

Oklahoma City, OK 73120

Certification: Piano, Theory

Charissa Schaefer

7030 S. Joplin Ave.

Polo Run Apt. #511

Tulsa, OK 74136

Certification: Piano

Provisional: Flute

Molly Plangman

17401 Zinc Dr.

Edmond, OK 73012

Provisional: Piano

MTNA Certification Recipients:

Amy Cottingham

Melissa Johansen

Christine Kiespert

Yiuka Spannagel

William Spannagel

~ Beverly Fitch

Vice President for Membership and Certification

Local Associations

It is a pleasure for me to serve as the OMTA Vice President for Local Associations during the upcoming year. Having been a part of the Broken Arrow Association for the past 24 years, I know first hand that our local associations are the foundation for our members' growth and development as music teachers in our various fields. Striving to learn and grow in our profession as well as working on a day to day basis with our fellow teachers and students takes place at the local level. I am excited to be a part of strengthening and encouraging each of our seventeen Oklahoma local associations.

Listed below are our local associations and their presidents. Please accept my thank you for serving as president of your association and my best wishes for a very productive and successful year.

Bartlesville MTA: Ann C. Sheldon

Oklahoma Teachers of Broken Arrow: Phyllis Welk

Central Oklahoma MTA: Terri Hlubek

Clinton Area MTA: Virginia Atkinson

Duncan Area MTA: Anita Jones

Durant Area MTA: Mary Ann Craigie

Enid MTA: Patty Ann Tate

Lawton MTA: William Spannagel

McAlester MTA: Debbie Brown

Muskogee Area MTA: Nancy Shelton

Norman Area MTA: Mary Sallee

Panhandle Area MTA: Kristina Roberts

Ponca City Area MTA: Roberta Motz

Shawnee Area MTA: Shelley Levisay

Stillwater Area MTA: Sue Hines Popham

Tahlequah Area MTA: Mary Ann Head

Tulsa Accredited MTA: Barbi Cottingham

~Phyllis Welk

Vice President for Local Associations

Membership News



Jennifer Mansour, NCTM, was awarded the StAR (Student Achievement Recognition) Studio Teacher Fellowship Award at the 2010 MTNA Conference in Albuquerque. Jennifer is a private piano instructor in Edmond and a faculty member at Central Community Music School and Henderson Hills Academy of Worship Arts. She holds the bachelor of music degree in piano performance from Southwestern Oklahoma State University and the master of music degree in piano performance and pedagogy from the University of Oklahoma. While at OU, she was a member of the MTNA Benjamin Whitten Collegiate Chapter of the Year, received the Alice and Albert Kirkpatrick Scholarship in Piano, and won the Gail Boyd de Stwolinski Award.

An active member of MTNA and OMTA since 2003, Jennifer served as the SWOSU chapter's president and vice president while an undergraduate student and acted as the OU chapter's high school mentoring director in 2008-2009. Jennifer also served OMTA as the chair for music company advertising in the 2010 State Conference program book.

OMTA enthusiastically congratulates one of our members **Phillele McBrayer** on having been named the **2011 recipient of the MTNA Distinguished Service Award**. This will be presented to Phillele at the MTNA National Conference in Milwaukee at the Awards Brunch on Wednesday, March 30, 2011 at 10:30 a.m. (President's note: My birthday also falls on this date, and I cannot think of a more wonderful way to celebrate! I hope that many OMTA members will plan to attend the conference and stay to the end to be a part of honoring Phillele).

Phillele McBrayer, NCTM, graduated magna cum laude from Oklahoma City University, having studied piano with Dr. Clarence Burg and organ with Nancy Laughbaum Ragsdale. She is certified in piano by both the Music Teachers National Association and Oklahoma Music Teachers Association. She has taught in her private studio in Houston, Texas and Clinton, Shawnee, Midwest City and Tulsa, Oklahoma.

While in Texas Phillele was president of the Texas Music Teachers Association and also the Houston Music Teachers Association. Each of these associations honored her as "Teacher of the Year," Houston in 1979 and Texas in 1983. She was awarded Honorary Life Membership in the Texas MTA.

Since moving back to Oklahoma, she has served OMTA in many capacities including State President, MTNA Foundation Chair, VP for Local Associations and Student Chapters, VP for Membership and Certification and was treasurer of the Tulsa Accredited Music Teachers Association for 24 years. She has been awarded Honorary Life Membership in both the Oklahoma Music Teachers Association and the Tulsa Accredited MTA.



She served six years as Certification Chair for the South Central Division of the Music Teachers National Association and has been a member of the National Certification Board, MTNA Nominating Committee, MTNA Membership Services Task Force, and MTNA Foundation Development Committee. She has attended every MTNA conference since 1975 and has attended 25 South Central Division conferences. She also spoke on the program or conducted sessions at several national conferences and has published an article in the *American Music Teacher*.

In addition to OMTA and MTNA, she is a member of Sigma Alpha Iota, honorary music fraternity, Tulsa Piano Study Club, and The Hyechka Music Club which is the oldest music organization in Oklahoma, formed before statehood. She occasionally gives a solo performance, but mostly performs duets and two-piano numbers and does accompanying. She has judged many festivals and auditions including Guild Auditions in Texas, Missouri, Arkansas and Oklahoma. Her students have won numerous awards and several have gone on to teach both privately and at the college level.

Oklahoma Baptist University

DIVISION OF MUSIC

announces

Music Scholarship Auditions

November 7 & 8, 2010

(Night on the Hill)

February 20 & 21, 2011

(Fine Arts Main Event)

March 5, 2011

**High School Senior
Concerto-Aria
Competition**

December 4, 2010

Register online:

www.okbu.edu/musicauditions

For more information
contact Thresa Swadley
at 405.878.2305 or
music@okbu.edu.



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OKLAHOMA MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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Have a Great Holiday Season!

We're on the Web!
www.oklahomamta.org

Celebrating ten years of incredible musical talent, the Dallas Symphony Orchestra is pleased to announce the

T E N T H A N N U A L
Lynn Harrell Concerts Competition
FOR VIOLIN, VIOLA, CELLO, BASS AND PIANO

The Dallas Symphony Orchestra's prestigious Lynn Harrell Concerto Competition is intended to identify and encourage the highest level of young musical talent in the South Central United States. Applicants must be between the ages of 8 to 18 (inclusive) on April 23, 2011, and be a current resident of the states of Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Louisiana or Arkansas.

FIRST PLACE: \$3,500 Scholarship & an opportunity to perform with the DSO

SECOND PLACE: \$2,500 Scholarship

THIRD PLACE: \$1,500 Scholarship

ALL OTHER FINALISTS: \$250 Scholarship

APPLICATION DEADLINE:
FEBRUARY 21, 2011

For complete details contact Kristin Carpenter at 214.871.4006, k.carpenter@dalsym.com, or visit www.studioDSO.com

