

Musical Notes

A Note From the President

I ♥ teaching, and I'm sure you do too! With this being the month we celebrate love and friendships in so many ways, as teachers, may we find creative ways to instill a genuine love for music in all of our students. The gift of music is one that lasts a lifetime, and the influence we have as teachers is truly priceless.

As we move into February, many of us are already eyeing entry deadlines for upcoming events. Two important dates are coming up very quickly:

- OMTA District Achievement Auditions entry deadline is March 4th at 3:00PM
- Spindler-Lynch/Scholarship Competition entry deadline is March 13th

Please be sure to mark your calendars and allow time to prepare and submit entries.

We are also excited to host Dr. David Forbat, NCTM, who will be presenting "Zoom In – Then Clue Them In!" on Wednesday, February 18th at 11:45 a.m. at Frossard Auditorium, Hardesty Library. Please be sure to reserve your lunch reservation and join your TAMTA colleagues for what promises to be an engaging and inspiring program.

Thank you for all you do to nurture musicianship, creativity, and a lifelong love of music in your students. I look forward to seeing many of you this month.

As always,

Jo Dee Edwards

President, Tulsa Area Music Teachers Association



General Meeting

February 18, 2026, 11:45 AM

Hardesty Regional Library

Dr. David Forbat, NCTM, Presenter

Zoom In - Then Clue Them In - As teachers, we often observe students playing quite well from a technical standpoint while revealing that their comprehension of the score needs attention. While theoretical concepts are commonly introduced through method books, theory supplements/classes, and technical studies (scales, chords, etc.), the knowledge gained may not always translate into artistically informed performances. This is often due to time constraints within applied lessons. However, by zooming in on one or two details in the score, teachers may reveal the essential expressive implications of the musical fabric at hand – and thereby guide students toward musically informed and artistically satisfying performances.

David Forbat, DMA, NCTM is a professor of piano at UCO, where he has taught since 2005. Earlier, he served on the faculties of Geneva College, the University of Pittsburgh, Carnegie-Mellon University, and William Carey University (MS). His degrees in piano performance are from the Peabody Conservatory (DMA), the University of Cincinnati, College-Conservatory of Music (MM) and the University of Southern California (BM). His principal teachers were Ann Schein, Claude Frank, Frank Weinstock, and John Perry. His performance schedule includes solo recitals, lecture recitals, concerto performances, and collaborations with faculty colleagues. In recent years, he has performed and taught masterclasses at several universities and conservatories in China. In 2022, the UCO College of Fine Arts and Design presented him with the Vanderford Distinguished Teaching Award. Aside from performing, he ardently advocates for the integration of music theory and keyboard learning with the aim of building music literacy, functional skill, and artistry in developing musicians of all ages.



T A M T A
GENERAL
MEETING

and
Luncheon



Wednesday February 18, 2026
11:45 am
Hardesty Library

*Cozy pot pie, roasted veggies,
spinach salad, and chocolate dessert*

DR. DAVID FORBAT
Zoom In - Then Clue Them In!

[RSVP here by Feb 14th](#)

2026 OMTA Theory Tests Now Available!

Deadlines

- The e-Achievement theory deadline is March 30, 2026.
- For in-person Achievement Auditions, tests can be submitted for grading March 6-26, 2026

2026 Theory Test Updates

- This year's new, and final, official theory test is coded "Florence Price." Please make sure you are administering the correct test. The test code is listed beneath the score box on each test, and you can find this year's tests [here](#).
- The Florence Price test is largely new material, with a small amount borrowed from past tests. The aural portion, however, is exactly the same as the 2022 test. Please keep this in mind as you prepare students and choose study materials.

Study Recommendations

- Going forward, we recommend using the two "off-year" tests (this year, Mozart and Clara Schumann) as [practice tests](#), along with the [theory worksheets](#). This allows students to work with the most current materials.
- The current year's test (Florence Price) should be reserved for official testing only, not practice testing. While this system ultimately operates on the honor system, these practices help maintain fairness and consistency.

All other information regarding the OMTA theory tests can be found on the [OMTA District Theory page](#).

Important Dates

Feb 18 - General Meeting, "Zoom In - Then Clue Them In",
Dr. David Forbat, NCTM, Presenter

Feb 21 - TAMTA Sonatina Competition

March 4 - Online Entry Deadline - OMTA In-Person District Achievement Auditions

March 13 - Postmark Deadline - TAMTA Graduating Senior and Camp Scholarship

March 21-25 - MTNA Conference and Competitions

March 21 - Online Entry Deadline - Junior Competition



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DISTRICT ACHIEVEMENT

APRIL 4, 2026

UNIVERSITY OF TULSA

IN PERSON

District Event Details

April 4, 2026
University of Tulsa

State Event Details

May 15-16, 2026
Catlett Music Center, University of Oklahoma,
Norman

Online Entry Deadline

Wednesday, March 4, 2026, 3:00 PM
[ENTRY FORM](#)

Entry Fees

\$30 - District (includes Theory Exam)

\$30 - State

\$5 - Theory Only

All fees must be paid online when submitting the Entry Form. If a student does not qualify for State, teachers can request a \$30 refund.

Late Membership Fees

Teachers who paid Membership Dues after the July 1st deadline will be charged a \$50 late fee when registering students.

Volunteer Fees

If teachers choose NOT to volunteer at District or State, there is a non-refundable \$50 fee for each event (\$100 total). If a teacher is not entering students in State, choose THURSDAY SET UP on the Entry Form to not be automatically charged. You will NOT be scheduled.

Repertoire Requirements

Perform ONE memorized piece

Ratings

Students making a I+, I, or I- are eligible to perform in the OMTA State Achievement Audition. Students who receive a I+ or I will receive a medal after playing. Students may enter the MERIT DIVISION at State if they make a I+ or I AND make a 75% or higher on the Theory Test. Merit Division students must play a different piece at State, which must be listed on the District Entry Form.

E-ACHIEVEMENT

Virtual Option Entry Deadline

February 2, 2026, 3:00 PM

Video Submission Deadline

March 2, 2026, 3:00 PM - District
May 1, 2026, 3:00 PM - State

Entry Fees

Same as In Person Fees

E-Achievement Theory Tests

Submit no later than March 30, 2026

Submit PDFs [HERE](#)

Tests submitted digitally will be graded and returned digitally.

IN PERSON THEORY TESTS

Submission Deadlines

March 6 - 26, 2026

Graded tests may be picked up from the grader's home when they are ready OR at the District Audition on April 4th. Depending on submission date, it is not guaranteed tests will be ready for pick up at District.

MORE INFORMATION

In Person District Chair

Gina Lord
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(951) 317-1969

[TAMTA District Achievement Details](#)

[OMTA District and State Achievement Details](#)



TAMTA Monthly Board Meeting

February 6, 2025 .

[CLICK HERE FOR THE FEBRUARY BOARD MINUTES](#)