Oregon Coast Music Association

Newsletter - Fall 2026

Thank you for making the 2026 Festival a success!

Save the dates for 2027: July 17-31

Highlights from 2026

The Oregon Coast Music Festival celebrated its 48th season in July within a backdrop of other noteworthy anniversaries including the Nation's 250th year, the centennial of the Oregon Coast Highway 101, and the 90th anniversary of the McCullough Bridge that connects the highway across the bay. These and other coastal landscapes provide outdoor and indoor settings for OCMA Festival.



July Orchestra concerts featured a diverse range of musical literature from classics to contemporary compositions that included bassoon and contrabassoon. Guest soloist, **Martin Kuuskmann**, featured in Orchestra Concert I, *Our Solar System* is recognized as one of today's great bassoon virtuosos with fifteen bassoon concertos written especially for him. He performed the North American premiere of *Beyond the Solar Fields* by Tõnu Kõrvits with the Orchestra.



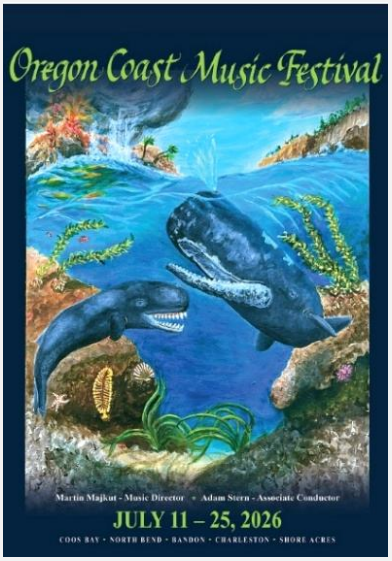
The OCMA Festival bassoon section with **Thomas Schubert**, Principal, **Ann Kosanovic-Brown**, and **Nicole Buetti** were well recognized in our concerts. Buetti's performance of *Leviathan* (Gipps), on the contrabassoon was featured in the Pops program, *The Stuff of Legends* conducted by **Adam Stern**.

The Saturday Orchestra finale, *Our Blue Home*, was a showstopper. This concert included Haydn's *Representation of Chaos* from the *Creation*, and Beethoven's *Pastorale*. Following intermission*, Losing Earth*, a contemporary percussion concerto by Adam Schoenberg provided an exciting conclusion that brought the audience to its feet. This complex performance required 6 percussionists, our timpanist, plus guest soloist **Terry Longshore**.



Percussion instruments were placed at locations in the auditorium. Percussion soloist Longshore dazzled the audience with his athleticism and rhythmic interpretation of this composition.

The Festival Orchestra Theme: ***Myths, Legends & Science in the Musical Arts*** set the stage for the three outstanding and innovative performances by the Orchestra. The art poster *The Long Song of Survival* by **Susan Chambers** stimulated conversations about the legends of ancient predatory sperm whales in a changing ocean environment. Depicted on the poster, the toothed (*Livyaton melvillei* -on left) lived in a warmer marine ecosystem of the Miocene. Fossils from this era are preserved locally in the Empire formation. The remaining single species of this whale lineage, (on right) has the largest brains of all animals and males can reach 50 feet long. OCMA Posters are available at the Coos Art Museum Front Desk.





Bay Area Concert Band, directed by Steve Simpkins provided the traditional opening concert as part of their 50th anniversary celebration. **Aaron Johnson** and charter member of the band, **Wilbur Jensen** provided featured solos in the program.

Two concerts were held at the OIMB Boathouse Auditorium. Composer, educator and performer **Darrell Grant** returned to play a unique and delightful combination of song and piano including some new tech tools that provided rhythm and overtones to his songs. Grant's connections and civic engagement of our south coast were recognized. Thank you again **Black Market Gourmet** for the intermission treats. Carmen and Annie at *7 Devils Brewery* brought **Horse Feathers** back to OCMA. The group was our only performance in the COVID shutdown of 2020, with an outdoor concert at a residence overlooking Coos Bay. Six years later, the ensemble filled the Boathouse with their indie folk sounds. We are grateful for the in-kind support of the U of Oregon that makes these concerts possible.



Featured at the North Bend Public Library's *Afternoon Café* were **Tree-O**: Peggy Maddron, Kathleen Zappelli, Josie Reid accompanied by Luanne May. The Library provided support for the event, including an intermission reception.



The vocal/keyboard duo of **Shaymus Hanlin** and **Patrick Cahill** closed out the concert. Both musicians graduated from North Bend High School. Shaymus will return as part of the Clambake Festival headliners in March.



The Hales Center at Southwestern Oregon Community College (SWOCC) was packed with community members for the **Dace Gregory/ Rachel Palen** cello/piano duo. After intermission, all enjoyed the **Swingin' in the Rain Big Band's** rendition of many classics of the big band era. Collaborations with SWOCC are important components of the OCMA legacy. We plan to highlight OCMA history in the coming months as we advance toward a 50-year celebration in 2028!

The Gothard Sisters: Greta, Solana, and Willow returned to Shore Acres State Park for an afternoon of dance and song. All enjoyed a great time on the lawn in the beautiful garden. Fans from several distant locations were entertained by the three sisters on a beautiful sunny day. The Friends of Shore Acres is a long-time co-sponsor and partner for this outdoor concert.



Backstage and offstage photos from the Festival



The Orchestra Percussion team from *Losing Earth* in Charleston, left to right: Joel Garza, Brian Gardiner, Ian Kerr, Justin Preece, Mitch Vogel, Terry Longshore, Chris Whyte, and Tracy Freeze. They were hosted for a delightful evening on our south coast by a generous local community member.

Moving a grand piano into the OIMB Boathouse required local experts from Ferguson Transfer to pack and safely move the piano from Sunset Hall at SWOCC to the Boathouse for Darrell Grant's concert. Piano Technician John Granholm was also a key partner in the move.

