

Oregon Coast Music Association

Newsletter — Fall 2025

Continuing Musical Connections Across the Landscape

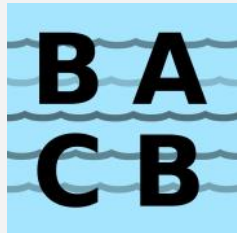
With the fond memories of our July festival, we look at our beautiful Oregon coastal landscape as we plan for events in 2026, our 48th year!

As always, none of this would be possible without exceptional support from our volunteers, members, business sponsors, foundations and donors that make the music possible. We send our heartfelt appreciation for all of your support and interest.

We plan increased community engagement and programming in the coming year. Your renewed support and engagement is vital as we plan for 2026 programs and events.



Our collaborations with the **Bay Area Community Concert Band (BACB)** have been an essential part of our legacy. The BACB was formalized in 1976 to provide opportunities for the adult musicians of the area to share their love of band music and its performance. Important to these early band and orchestra roots was Southwestern Oregon Community College and their first music professor, Frank Leuck. The origin of OCMA was the result



of efforts by these and other musical and community leaders. The concept was brought forth by Dr. Charles Heiden, a recently retired violinist from Willamette University who relocated to Coos Bay. He initiated a small festival that included students from the college and members from the community's choir. This 3-day **Heiden Festival** was incorporated as the Music Enrichment Association, and later renamed

Oregon Coast Music Association. At Heiden's departure in 1981, Gary McLaughlin served as director until 1991 when James Paul began as music director. Martin Majkut became music director in 2024.

The influence of members of the BACB and their enduring local musical contributions and connections are particularly noteworthy in the history of both organizations. BACB President Peggy Christensen has worked tirelessly to provide historical notes of the members and directors of the band over the past 50 years. <https://www.bayareaconcertband.org/history.php?d=1976-1999>

Their stories illustrate the interactions and importance of the BACB to musical enrichment in the community. We can all learn more of this legacy as we move to help them celebrate their history and include special events in our plans for 2026.

Community Musical Collaborations Planned for Spring of 2026

March 12th – 15th, 2026 are the dates for the **South Coast Clambake Music Festival**. This festival began in our community in the mid 80's and provides a fun long weekend of music and dance for visitors and the community. High school bands from the county are invited to perform at the festival venue on Friday morning, and outreach by selected performers is planned for many of the elementary and junior high schools in Coos County. We will provide more details in our spring newsletters.



Last spring the **BACB** began a well organized outreach program with area schools, designed to bring 5th grade students to the Hales Center on the SWOCC campus for a morning field trip. At that event they learned about the opportunities for students to engage in school bands as they entered middle and junior high school. OCMA volunteers helped BACB members with event support in 2025, and will engage in the 2026 event planned for April 22. The various band directors were introduced, and each conducted the BACB with selected student guests from the local high schools. The photo below NBHS band director Amber Yester, conducting.



Mark your Calendar for the OCMA 2026 Festival July 11—25

Festival Orchestra plans an Oregon coast premiere of the percussion concerto *Losing Earth* composed by Adam Schoenberg, educator and composer

Composer Schoenberg writes: "When I was first commissioned by the San Francisco Symphony to write this piece, I began to think about the history of percussion and how it can be traced back to the beginning of time. It is the most earthy and grounded of instruments, and in many cultures is considered to be the heartbeat of music. With the ability to make rhythm, keep time, and create melody, drums were a way for our ancestors to communicate love and joy, danger and survival. They have also traditionally been at the center of oral history, with percussionists being the storytellers. Second only to the human voice, this instrument has watched the earth endure all of its phases, including the devastation that is now beginning to emerge because of global warming. *Losing Earth* pays homage to this history."

OCMA plans a special outreach to local students to serve as interns and engage in support for the production of this exciting coastal premiere. Details forthcoming.

Selected Remembrances from OCMA 2025 Festival

The **Aaron Johnson Quartet** with Wilbur Jensen, Dave Captein, and Greg Chen provided exceptional interpretations of Bossa Nova and other music with Latin roots. Johnson has collaborated and performed numerous times with OCMA.



Afternoon Music Café at the North Bend Library brought a big crowd to hear **Just Jensens** and **Tree-O**. Members of both groups are performers and educators in the community with decades of dedicated service.



Langlois resident **Dace Gregory** joined Martin Majkut and the Festival Orchestra as a soloist, performing Dvořák's *Cello Concerto in B minor*. Gregory moved to the south coast in 2022 and has been highly engaged as a performing musician.

Nancy Zhou, violin soloist, performed He Zhanhao's *The Butterfly Lovers' Concerto* in the final Orchestra concert.

Zhou performs as a soloist in recital and with orchestras throughout the world. She is Professor of Violin at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music.



Support OCMA

Membership Matters

Our Festival and activities continue only with strong community support from members, businesses, grants, volunteers, and in-kind donations of services and products!

Renewed support now helps assure funding for program planning.

Thank you again to our 2025 Business Sponsors and Foundations

Premier Sponsor: Audrey A. Albaugh

Foundations: Judith Ann Mogan Foundation; Oregon Community Foundation; James F. and Marion L. Miller Foundation; Coos County Cultural Coalition; Lab Band Program Associates; Rada Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation; Rotary Coos Foundation; South Coast Orchestra Endowment Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation; The Wonderful Foundation.

Gold Baton Sponsors: First Community Credit Union, 7 Devil's Brewing Company; Southern Coos Hospital & Health Center.

Silver Baton Sponsors: Banner Bank, Bay Clinic; Friends of Shore Acres; ISSCO; Juul Insurance; Bradford McKeown-Morgan Stanley; Morgan Veterinary Hospital; Nasburg Huggins Insurance; RE/Max South Coast; Shoji Planning LLC; Tower Motor Company; West Coast Contractors.

Friends of the Festival Orchestra: Honda World; Oregon Coast Center for Sinus Wellness; Umpqua Bank; Russ Clark State Farm; Walt's Pourhouse.

12 Businesses and individuals contributed as **Page Sponsors** of the program book.

45 host families served as **Home Stay Hosts**, providing bed and breakfast to Orchestra musicians.

Orchestra BBQ and Green Room support was provided by more than two dozen individuals and more than a dozen businesses. OCMA green room support is truly unique as we provide gourmet foods for *all* rehearsals and performances.

More than 200 Personal Memberships and Donations Provided Substantial Support for Programs in 2025.

We appreciate your support. Renew and Donate Now!

[OCMA Membership – Oregon Coast Music Association](#)