

CASCADIA COMPOSERS PRESENTS

# IN GOOD HANDS

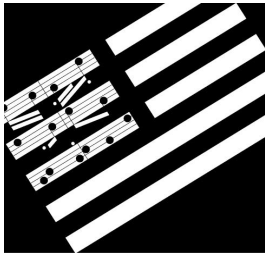
A COLORFUL CLUSTER OF MUSIC BY CASCADIA  
COMPOSERS PERFORMED BY SKILLED STUDENTS



**SATURDAY, JUNE 22ND 2019 AT 3:00 PM**

LINCOLN RECITAL HALL RM 75  
1620 SW PARK AVE. PORTLAND, OR





National  
Association of  
Composers  
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# Cascadia Composers

## Mission Statement

*Cascadia Composers* engages our community through the creation, performance, and promotion of contemporary musical art, while providing resources and opportunities to Cascadia composers.

*Cascadia Composers* serves northern Oregon and southern Washington and was founded in 2008.

Website: [www.CascadiaComposers.org](http://www.CascadiaComposers.org)

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*Cascadia Composers* is a chapter of the National Association of Composers/USA (NACUSA). NACUSA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Founded by Henry Hadley in 1933, it is one of the oldest organizations devoted to the promotion and performance of American concert hall music. Many of America's most distinguished composers have been among its members.

These concerts and presentations are made possible by dues from NACUSA (National Association of Composers/USA), other grants and donors, and fundraisers sponsored by Cascadia. Special thanks to our media sponsor, Oregon ArtsWatch. Cascadia Composers receives support from the Oregon Arts Commission, a state agency funded by the State of Oregon and the National Endowment for the Arts.



# CASCADIA COMPOSERS

(Cascadia Chapter of the National Association of Composers/USA)

*presents*

## ***IN GOOD HANDS***

*Local Music Students Perform Music by Cascadia Composers*

Saturday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019, 3 pm

Lincoln Hall Room 75, Portland State University, Portland, OR

### ***RAINFOREST SUITE***

Dianne Davies

*The Toucan and Macaw*

Maksim Smotkin

*The Golden Poison Dart Frog*

Leo Brown

*The Three-toes Sloth*

Carson Kaiser

*The Jaguar*

Brian Wei

### ***CRADLE SONG***

John DeRuntz

Kaylee Hu

### ***AURORA***

Liz Nedela

Audrey Hou

### ***STARLIGHT***

Timothy Arliss O'Brien

Samantha Lu

### ***RUFFLES***

Jan Mittelstaedt

Jay Yoshimari

### ***THE LION AND THE MERMAID***

Jan Mittelstaedt

Zixi Yang

### ***OVERNIGHT TRAINRIDE***

Timothy Arliss O'Brien

Cathy Jiang

### ***PRELUDE NO. 2 in B-flat Major***

John DeRuntz

Sienna Cai

<b><i>DISTANT CHURCH PIANO</i></b>	Tai Brown	Timothy Arliss O'Brien
<b><i>THE CANONETTE in G Minor</i></b>	Tyler Im	Gary Noland
<b><i>CROSSING PATHS</i></b>	Ray Yoshimari	Ted Clifford
<b><i>GENIUS</i></b>	Rachel Wang	Timothy Arliss O'Brien
<b><i>AUTUMN IN ANN ARBOR</i></b>	Kyle Chen	Jan Mittelstaedt
<b><i>SHIMMER</i></b>	Nishant Sane	Liz Nedela
<b><i>GRIMPROVISATION, Op. 38</i></b>	Eileen Koh	Gary Noland
<b><i>PENTA-MOODS</i></b>		Liz Nedela
	<i>Melody on Miyako Bushi</i> Ava and Brandon Lee	
	<i>The Chase</i> Jamie and Jalyn Hsu	
	<i>Penta-Moods</i> Jesse and Leah Nieman	

## **Teachers Participating**

Dianne L. Davies  
Pauline Eidemiller NCTM  
Irene Y. Huang NCTM  
Jan Mittelstaedt NCTM  
Dr. Kaori Katayama Noland NCTM  
Mimi Hui Shen NCTM

# Program Notes

## **RAINFOREST SUITE** by Dianne Davies

The *Toucan and Macaw*. The white-throated toucan's bill is typically 5½–7 inches long with total length of 21 to 24 inches and weighs 22 ounces. This bird delivers their call with a jerk of their bill and the tail upward with each yelp. The low register dampened strings mimic their croak. Toucans are endangered due to deforestation and poaching. The Spix macaw is a medium-size parrot weighing about 11 ounces, smaller than most of the large macaws and its plumage is various shades of blue. The high register of dampened strings mimic their squawk. Loss of habitat is largely responsible for the decline of the Spix's macaw, but the illegal bird trade has driven this parrot to extinction in the wild.

The *Golden Poison Dart Frog* grows to be about 2 inches long, yet the poison from just one of these frogs can kill ten grown men. They get the name from the fact that Native people of South America use their poison to coat their blow darts for hunting and combat. This piece illustrates the deceptive beauty of this frog's radiant skin and yet the suspense of danger. 130 species of poison dart frogs are extinct and 400 are on the endangered list. The reason for their decline is the loss of habitat.

The *Three-toed Sloth* adult measures 23 inches long and weighs about 8 to 9 pounds. Sloths are the slowest animal moving only 1.5 miles an hour on land. Because they are so slow, algae grows on their fur and provides camouflage. This piece depicts the slow crawling movement of the sloth. The strumming of the resonating strings is the wind in the trees. The Three-toed sloth is on the endangered species list due to deforestation, loss of habitat and the illegal pet trade.

The *Jaguar* is a compact, well-muscled animal and is the largest cat native to the Americas and the third largest in the world, after the tiger and lion. Their fur is covered with rosettes or spots for camouflage which vary in their shapes between individual jaguars from one to several dots. The adult Jaguar weighs between 110 and 250 pounds and 5 to 6 feet long. This music displays the Jaguar stalking prey, the chase and perhaps capture. You decide what happens at the end. Jaguars are still hunted for their attractive fur and ranchers kill them to defend their livestock. It is believed that only 15,000 jaguars remain in the wild.

## **CRADLE SONG** by John DeRuntz

A gently rocking lullaby written for a young lady whose piano technique had been sufficiently developed to the level required by the piece.

## **AURORA** by Liz Nedela

Imagine an aurora in the night sky. The pianist paints a musical picture with this dreamy whole tone creation, wandering through the sky, shaping patterns and then letting them float away.

## **STARLIGHT** by Timothy Arliss O'Brien

This beautifully simple melody falls across the keys. The harmonies and melodies are falling starlight under the fingers.

**RUFFLES** by Jan Mittelstaedt

*Ruffles* opens with arpeggiated augmented chords. As a child, I loved to play pieces that were made up of arpeggios, played hand over hand. But, usually the music I played was made up of primary chords. So, I decided to write a piece that contained augmented and diminished triads as well as major and minor ones. This piece is part of a collection, "Fabric and Frills" that was published in 1994 by Boston Music Co.

**THE LION AND THE MERMAID** by Jan Mittelstaedt

My inspiration was a statue, Merlion, which is part lion and part fish. It stands at the opening of the Singapore River.

**OVERNIGHT TRAINRIDE** by Timothy Arliss O'Brien

*Overnight Trainride* is a composition on acceleration. The dark brooding melody follows the performers, instigating them to speed across the landscape.

**PRELUDE NO. 2 in B-flat Major** by John DeRuntz

Chords in the treble clef are accompanied by scale work in the bass suggesting some kind of unrest. However, it concludes with an uplifting finish.

**DISTANT CHURCH PIANO** by Timothy Arliss O'Brien

*Distant Church Piano* is an exploration in arpeggiated harmonies and blending sound together. This short lullaby-esque melody soothes the heart and gives a moment for meditation.

**THE CANONETTE in G Minor** by Gary Noland

*The Canonette*, composed in 1998, is the first in a set of five short pieces for piano. Salted with spiky dissonances and cross relations, it is a canon at the octave until the formalistic pattern is broken just prior to its conclusion with a cadential passage that is intentionally overblown for a piece of such brevity.

**CROSSING PATHS** by Ted Clifford

The title is suggestive of a walk through the neighborhood, and this is how the piece feels to me. It is also suggested in the recapitulation, where the RH theme and LH accompaniment switch places. The overall development of this piece involves a melody in the RH and ostinato-like accompaniment in the LH. The theme is repeated with gradual harmonic changes and extensions to both parts, culminating in a longer running melody. Finally, the parts switch registers.

**GENIUS** by Timothy Arliss O'Brien

*Genius* takes the performer across the keys of the piano, creating a type of intellect. This song is a study in movement and dynamics. Creating a dramatic spar between major and minor harmonics, this song teaches intellect.

**AUTUMN IN ANN ARBOR** by Jan Mittelstaedt

The inspiration for this piece came from a visit to Ann Arbor to see my Aunt. The beautiful leaves and clear, cool day were so refreshing to us, as we had been living in Houston, Texas for a couple of years.

### **SHIMMER** by Liz Nedela

This “audience teaser” is fun to play. It begins with a chord that is held by the sostenuto pedal while both hands play a “shimmery” melody in the high register; all are transposed, and inside-piano patterns are added, which can instead be played on the keys. (Wait for the “real ending.”)

### **GRIMPROVISATION, Op. 38** by Gary Noland

I composed this piece on New Years Day, 1994. I premiered it on a Seventh Species concert at Smith Recital Hall, Western Oregon University, on January 22nd, 1995.

### **PENTA-MOODS** by Liz Nedela

*Melody on Miyako Bushi* is a Japanese Hemitonic Pentatonic Scale that accentuates a half-step – something we don’t usually hear in pentatonic. The Secondo is a minimalist pattern, while the Primo sings a melancholic emotional melody.

*“The Chase” on the Man Gong*—One explanation of “man gong” is ca 15<sup>th</sup> century and is an antique tuning, which we can only approximate. This playful piece utilizes a minimalist pattern recurring between “chases” by primo and secondo. It invites chorography between duet partners!

*Penta-Moods Variations* utilizes the Blues Minor and Man Gong pentatonic scales, (believed to be the same scale but interpreted differently in these variations), adding portions of diatonic scales, major 7<sup>th</sup> and dominant 7<sup>th</sup> chords, influences of jazz harmonies, sprinkled with slow melodic motives and fast, playful contrasts; and also includes a sentimental ballad. Playful interplay between Primo and Secondo invites integrative interpretation from the duet partners, especially giving it a splashy ending!

## **Composer Biographies**

### **Ted Clifford**

Ted Clifford has over 20 years of experience as a performer and composer. Growing up in St. Cloud, Minnesota, he attended college there and studied with Alvaro Bertand and Tom Allen. After travels in Europe and Central Asia, Ted continued to study jazz performance, and composition, under Art Lande, David Friesen, and Tomas Svoboda. A third stream of eclecticism has involved performance of arrangements of Frank Zappa. Ted has released an album of jazz originals (Azir), and his compositions and arrangements have been performed as far as Germany and Cuba. He is currently serving as President of Cascadia Composers.

### **Dianne Davies**

**Dianne Davies** received a BA in music from Lewis and Clark College with piano emphasis and K-12 music education certification. Since then, Dianne has taught public and private school music and currently focuses on her family, private piano studio and performing. In February of 2016, she created her own show titled Attachments & Detachments Tragedy to Triumph combining the music of Cascadia Composers with dance, live art and theatre to tell her own transparent story. It has become her passion to share new music with the next generation. As a member of Cascadia Composers, Dianne sought to perform the music of others. After much encouragement, she has started composing piano music for students. Last year she had her first piano compositions played

at PSU in the "In Good Hands" concert that connects living composers with young music students

### **John De Runtz**

John DeRuntz has written roughly 75 pieces for solo piano in classical, romantic and impressionistic styles. Fifty of his works appear on four albums, Soaring, Fantasia, Reverie and Encore. In May, 2011 he competed in the Sixth Van Cliburn International Piano Competition for Outstanding Amateurs in Fort Worth, Texas. To listen to some of his music you may visit the web site: <http://www.theunknowncomposer.com>

### **Jan Mittelstaedt**

Jan Mittelstaedt, B.S. in education from Bucknell University, B.A. in music from Marylhurst University and M.M. in composition from The University of Portland, continues to work with her mentor, Dr. Walter Saul. Jan participated in the Ernest Bloch Composers Symposium in 1993, was the Oregon Music Teachers Association Composer of the Year in 1994, has received ASCAP special awards since 1994, and has published piano music. A teacher of piano and composition, Jan has an active studio, is a member of the OMTA piano syllabus adjudicating staff and serves the organization in other ways. In 2017, she received an Honorary State Membership award. Her music has been performed in six states not including two of her student piano pieces which have been performed all over the country in various NFMC Junior Festivals. Jan is a past president of Cascadia Composers and remains on the board of directors. [www.sintsink.com](http://www.sintsink.com).

### **Liz Nedela**

Liz Nedela teaches piano and composition in Vancouver WA. She is fond of ethnic, modal and early music, melodic line, counterpoint, and contemporary techniques and weaves these aspects into her compositions. She writes music in many genres, instruments and voice, completing commissions from music teachers organizations, churches, orchestras, chamber music, Women's Music festivals, art galleries, and for concert music and special events, most recently: Portland Polonia, in celebration of the Poland Independence Centenary. She has earned an MM in composition (winning a Composer Showcase award and scholarships), and a BA and MEd with focus on piano, composition, English, Theater, music and the gifted and at risk student, devising a program for teaching composition. She has served as the Montana State and the Northwest Division chair of composition for MTNA (Music Teachers National Association), active in Montana Music Institute, founded Birchwood Performing Arts and Birchwood Players (MN), and many summer camps. In 2014, Liz was awarded the WSMTA (Washington chapter of MTNA) Composer of the Year, resulting in Penta-Moods, a study in pentatonic modes. She is an active member of Cascadia Composers and other music organizations, and has served as adjudicator in piano and composition.

### **Gary Lloyd Noland** (a.k.a. author Dolly Gray Landon & artist Lon Gaylord Dylan)

Gary Lloyd Noland grew up in a crowded house shared by ten people on a plot of land three blocks south of UC Berkeley known as People's Park, which has distinguished itself as a site of civic unrest since the late 1960s. As an adolescent, Gary lived for a time in Salzburg and Garmisch-Partenkirchen, where he absorbed many musical influences. Having studied with a long roster of acclaimed composers and musicians, he earned his Bachelor's in music from UC Berkeley in 1979, continued studies at the Boston Conservatory, and transferred to Harvard University, where he added to his credits a



Masters and a PhD in Music Composition in 1989. Gary's catalogue consists of hundreds of works, which include piano, vocal, chamber, experimental, and electronic pieces; full-length plays in verse, "chamber novels," and other text pieces; as well as graphically notated scores. His award-winning chamber novel JAGDLIED for Narrator, Musicians, Pantomimists, Dancers & Culinary Artists was listed as one of the "Top 10 Books" of 2018. Gary's compositions have been performed and broadcast (including on NPR) in many locations throughout the United States, as well as in Europe, Asia, and Australia. He founded the Seventh Species concert series in San Francisco in 1990 and, for a period of 23 years, produced well over 50 concerts of contemporary classical music on the West Coast. Gary has taught music at Harvard, the University of Oregon, and Portland Community College. His musical scores are available from J.W. Pepper, RGM, Sheet Music Plus, and Freeland Publications. Six CDs of his compositions are available on the North Pacific Music label at: [www.northpacificmusic.com](http://www.northpacificmusic.com). He has well over 300 videos of his music and narratives available for listening on YouTube at: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJt\\_eNyJqOZBERG9McQ51nA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJt_eNyJqOZBERG9McQ51nA) and numerous other sites on the Internet

### **Timothy Arliss O'Brien**

Timothy Arliss O'Brien is interdisciplinary artist in music composition, writing, and visual arts. His goal is to connect people to accessible new music that showcases virtuosic abilities without losing touch of authentic emotions. He has premiered music with The Astoria Music Festival, Cascadia Composers, and Sound of Late's 48 hour Composition Competition. He also wants to produce writing that connects the reader to themselves in a way that promotes wonder and self realization. He has self-published several novels, and has written for Look Up Records (Seattle), Our Bible App, and Deep Overstock: The Bookseller's Journal. Check out his full discography, Where Are WE?, Piano Memories, Fear Sides and Soundbath, and his newest novel at [www.timothyarlissobrien.com](http://www.timothyarlissobrien.com)

### **Performer Biographies**

**Leo Brown** is 10 years old and will enter 5th grade in the fall. He started learning piano from his teacher **Mimi Shen** when he was seven, and earned "Outstanding Achievement" marks at his first OMTA Classical Festival last year. He also loves to read and play basketball.

**Tai Brown** is 11 years old and started learning piano with his teacher **Mimi Shen** when he was five. He has earned "Outstanding Achievement" marks at numerous OMTA Classical and Romantic piano festivals. In February, he was selected to play at the state Baroque Festival. He also loves playing baseball and basketball.

**Sienna Cai**, 11, is a 6th grader at Catlin Gabel School. She started her piano study with **Irene Huang** since the age of 5. Other than piano, she loves to spend her time playing tennis and writing science fictions.

**Kyle Chen** is currently attending 7th grade at West Sylvan Middle School. This is his seventh year of learning piano and he has been taking classes from **Irene Huang**. He loves to play piano, read, and most of all, eat sushi. In his spare time he likes to ride bike, play tennis, watch YouTube, and swim.

**Audrey Hou**, 9, is a third grader at Findley Elementary School. She has been playing piano for 4 and half years, and started studying with Irene Huang at the age of 5. She also passed the OMTA Syllabus level IV. She participated in multiple OMTA festivals, and won many outstanding achievement awards. Besides piano, she likes swimming, ballet and enjoys ice skating with her friends and family. She got awards in art competition and a lot of trophies in chess tournaments.

**Jalynn Hsu**, 10, is a 4th grader at Rock Creek elementary school. She started her piano since age of 5 and transferred to **Irene Huang** in 2018. She has completed level 4 of the OMTA syllabus program, and was the winner of several OMTA festival. Besides piano, she enjoys reading, playing tennis and petting her favorite dog Mocha.

**Jamie Hsu**, 8, is a 2nd grade student at Rock Creek elementary school. She has been studying piano for 3 years and has studied with **Irene Huang** since 2018. She has completed level 2 of the OMTA syllabus program. She has participated in many OMTA festivals and wins several duet competition with her elder sister. When she's not playing piano, you will find her drawing/ painting, playing tennis and reading out loud to her dog.

**Kaylee Hu** is 8 years old and has studied piano for 4 years. Her teacher is **Pauline Eidemiller**. She was a 2019 Oregon Baroque Festival winner at TVOMTA and passed Syllabus level II last fall. She has participated in Oregon Federation Music Clubs Junior Festival for 3 years. Her hobbies are piano, gymnastics, singing and reading.

**Tyler Im**, 10 years old, has been playing piano with **Mimi Shen** since September of 2017. He received outstanding achievements in multiple music festivals and has successfully completed Level IV OMTA Classical Syllabus. Tyler enjoys reading, making origami, and playing football or basketball in his free time.

**Yuxuan (Cathy ) Jiang**, 9, started her piano study in Shanghai,China before her family immigrated to the U.S. She has been studying with **Irene Huang** since 2016. Cathy has participated in many OMTA period festivals and has been awarded Outstanding Achievement awards. In her spare time, she loves reading, swimming, skiing, tennis and drawing. She will be in fourth grade in Jacob Wismer Elementary School in the fall. She is a member in THSC swim team and a member of Girl Scout.

**Carson Kaiser** is 12 years old and will enter 7<sup>th</sup> grade at Conestoga Middle School in the fall. He started learning piano with his teacher Dianne Davies when he was 9 years old. He has participated in Syllabus and NFMC Junior Festival in the solo, duet and trio events. Carson is a big sports fan and likes playing basketball and running. He enjoys reading, traveling, time with friends and family including his cats, Tucker and Finn.

**Eileen Koh** is a thirteen-year old, early on the long path of music. She sings, plays the electric bass and the acoustic guitar in supplement to her main study of piano. The last Syllabus level she passed was Level Four in 2018. Her teacher is **Kaori Noland**.

**Ava Lee**, 9, is a 4th grader in the Chinese immersion program at The International School of Portland. She began her piano study with **Irene Huang** when she was 5 years old. She has completed OMTA syllabus Level III this last spring. Besides playing piano Ava

enjoys being on a junior swim team. During her free time Ava enjoys reading books and working on her art.

**Brandon Lee**, 6, is a 1st grader in the Chinese immersion program at The International School of Portland. He began his piano study with **Irene Huang** about a one and a half years ago. He is also active on a junior swim team and for the last two years has played baseball with the Tualatin little league. His favorite position to play is Short Stop.

**Samantha Lu** is 9 years old and started to play piano when she was five. Her teacher is **Pauline Eidemiller**. This year she was a winner at the Baroque festival and played at the state recital. Besides piano, she also enjoys wushu, ice skating and ballet. She won third place at last year's Portland Ice Crystal Classic Competition in pre free skate group.

**Jesse Nieman**, 16, is a student at Portland Community College. He studies with **Pauline Eidemiller** and has participated actively in and won many OMTA festivals. He currently is teaching piano to four students. Jesse is very active with his music, volunteering to play for his church and senior living homes. He has played violin in Portland Youth Conservatory Orchestra for 5 years. This is Jess's third year participating in *In Good Hands*.

**Leah Nieman** is 14 years old and is currently being home schooled. She began studying piano with **Pauline Eidemiller** since 2016. She has performed at state recitals multiple times as a winner of the Baroque and Ensemble Festivals. Leah also plays the violin in the Portland Youth Conservatory Orchestra. In her spare time, Leah enjoys gymnastics and spending time with her friends. This is Leah's second year participating in *In Good Hands*.

**Nishant Sane** is a sophomore at Westview High School. He has been playing the piano since age 5 and now studies with **Jan Mittelstaedt**. This year he successfully completed level IX of the OMTA syllabus. He also has received Junior Festival gold cups in solo and concerto. Other than music, he loves to read books and do programming. His favorite subject in school is Graphic Design 2.

**Maksim Smotkin** is 11 years old and will enter 7<sup>th</sup> grade at Conestoga Middle School in the fall. He started lessons at 5 years old with Bella Sheykman and after a 3 year break, he transferred to Dianne Davies in November of 2018. Maksim has participated in Syllabus and NFMC Junior Festival in the solo and trio events. Maksim likes to read, especially comics, to draw and talk tirelessly about his cat. His favorite subjects are art, math and science.

**Rachel Wang** is currently 13 years old and a 7th grader at Stoller Middle School. Music is a very important part of her life, helping her focus and reach her goals. She started practicing piano since the age of 5, and her piano teacher is **Irene Huang**. She also plays the flute and is a member of her school band. In her spare time, she enjoys arts and crafts, playing soccer, and reading books. She is also active in community service and volunteering her time to help other children and people in need. This is her 2nd year in the *In Good Hands* concert, and she's really looking forward to play!

**Brian Wei:** Age 10 and student of **Irene Huang**, will start fifth-grade at Forest Park Elementary. He started taking piano lessons at age 5. He has completed OMTA Syllabus Level IV and has earned Outstanding Achievements in OMTA period festivals Brian is a very talented basketball and hockey player. He has been playing basketball for five years, plays competitive and is the most important player. Besides sports, Brian loves art and reading. He has won first place in a calendar art competition. He also enjoys participating in Cub Scout activities. Brian also plays chess. He has won multiple awards at the state championships.

**ZiXi (Dora) Yang** will be nine years old in September 2019. She is currently a 2nd year student at Bonny Slope Elementary. Dora has been learning piano on and off with 3 different teachers back in China for the total length of less than a year due to family move. Currently she is happily being a student of **Irene Huang** and she's been learning with Irene since January 2019. Her out of heart love for music has grown since then and she is thinking of becoming a professional pianist when she grows up. Dora loves dancing, drawing, fashion design as well as swimming and bike riding with friends after school.

**Ray Yoshimori**, 12 years old, is taught by **Mimi Shen** since August 2017 and has won in all festivals he participated since then. At age 9, Ray played in a cancer research benefit concert that featured Michael Allen Harrison. Ray was a selected district winner of 2019 State Baroque Festival and successfully completed Level VIII of OMTA Classical Syllabus.

**Jay Yoshimori**, 9 years old, is taught by **Mimi Shen** since August 2017 and has won in 2018 Romantic Festival, 2018 Classical Festival, 2019 Baroque Festival and 2019 Romantic Festival since then. Jay was a selected district winner of 2019 State Baroque Festival in the age group 9-11 (Division II) where he competed as a 9-year-old.

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Participating OMTA teachers, students, and parents

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