



# STAFFLINES



Monthly Newsletter of the Tidewater Music Teachers Forum



## February Meeting: Friday, Feb. 18th

Jordan Kitts Music

5164 Virginia Beach Blvd, Virginia Beach, VA 23462

**Nancy Breth**

### "The Practice Triangle"

9:30 Coffee

10:00 Business Meeting/Workshop

12:00 Lunch

### The Practice Triangle

Parent, teacher, student: what role does each one have in practicing the piano? How should one work with and relate to the other, from the initial interview through the senior recital? How can teachers motivate parents to motivate their children? How can parents help, and not help? Who should attend lessons and why? Questions to ask parents about children; questions to ask children about parents. What to do when the triangle shatters.

### Biography

Nancy O'Neill Breth teaches piano and chamber music to students of all ages in the Washington, DC metro area. Nancy collaborates with teachers at home and throughout the country. She's headlined a number of state MTA conferences, and 2020 marked her fifth appearance as a presenter at MTNA's national conference. Her latest projects for teachers and students are Effective Practicing, a collection of short YouTube videos for pianists, and a clickable list of Modern Piano Music.

Breth piano and chamber music students are frequent laureates in state, national and international competitions. Several appeared on National Public Radio's "From the Top"; three duet teams won MTNA's national Piano Duet competition. Her students have been privileged to attend Aspen Music Festival, the Tanglewood Institute, Indiana University Piano Academy, Greenwood Chamber Music Camp, and the International Institute for Young Musicians; some earned music degrees from the conservatories of Juilliard, New England and Eastman and the universities of Indiana, Miami, and Maryland. Several former students hold piano professorships in university schools of music.

Nancy worked as a collaborative pianist and arts presenter in the United States, Latin America and Asia. The Washington Post praised her "superb musicianship", calling her Music Connection concert series "brilliant" and "imaginative". The Mexico City News wrote that Breth's Camerata de Mexico "offers the best chamber music in Mexico." In New York City Nancy was producer/director of a children's opera by Michael Colgrass, and built an acclaimed chamber music program for the children of Roosevelt Island. (Continue on the next page.)

Nancy taught piano, chamber music and pedagogy at Washington DC's Levine School of Music for many years. Under her leadership as chair of Levine's Chamber Music Department, the number of adults and children studying chamber music at the school grew from around 40 to almost 400.

Nancy has written for American Music Teacher, Keyboard Companion and Clavier Magazine. Her publications have sold over 50,000 copies worldwide. They include The Piano Student's Guide to Effective Practicing, the Parents' Guide to Effective Practicing, Practicing the Piano, and a set of elementary piano trios from John Gay's The Beggars Opera, all published by Hal Leonard Corporation. She is active in three Music Teachers Associations, and enjoys frequent judging jobs at home and throughout the country.



## President's Letter - February 2022

Dear Fellow Music Teachers,

Grit. Wasn't that the name of a movie? I think it was True Grit. The original starred John Wayne and the remake, a worthy effort, starred Jeff Bridges.

Why am I thinking about grit? In recent years, teachers and child psychologists have been promoting the idea that children need to develop grit to successfully navigate their growing-up years and into adulthood. I can't disagree. You've heard of helicopter parents? Now there's such a thing as lawnmower parents. They do more than hover; they mow everything down ahead of the child to clear the way for them. We've all seen it, haven't we?

It got me thinking about my own grit. We're approaching the 2 year mark for the pandemic here in this country. I don't think any of us expected it to last this long. Sure, it's about managing expectations, but what if everything is out of your control? What if your expectations simply can't be managed because the future is impossible to predict?

This is where grit comes in. Yes, I pray. Yes, I educate myself on the fine details of the coronavirus. But, I also stop and think about my own attitudes which influence my words and actions. I choose to avoid complaining. I choose to be flexible and not hang on to expectations which turn out to be unrealistic. I choose to be positive and help others stay positive.

You may have received the email from MTNA announcing that the conference scheduled for March 26-30 is now being presented as an all-virtual conference. This is a disappointment for me as I was planning to go to Minneapolis for it, but it's a win for any of you who weren't planning to travel. Now you can see the entire conference from the comfort of your own home. Do register for it at [MTNA.org](http://MTNA.org) and prepare to be wowed.

Join us for our next meeting on February 18 with Nancy Breth. Details in this newsletter. Nancy is an excellent teacher, presenter and definitely knows her stuff.

Musically yours,

Susan Atkins, NCTM

757-282-8220 (cell)

[pianolearningcenter@gmail.com](mailto:pianolearningcenter@gmail.com)

## STUDENT RECITALS

Two student recitals will be held on **Sunday, February 27th at 3 pm** in the following locations.

**Deadline: February 18th** for both recitals.

- Royster Memorial Presbyterian Church  
6901 Newport Ave, Norfolk, VA 23505  
Jeanette Winsor, Norfolk Student Recitals Chairperson
- West Side Christian Church  
535 Cherokee Rd, Portsmouth, VA 23701

For the Portsmouth location, the piano is a Kawai Grand. Teachers may submit up to four students. Music is to be memorized and only one piece or movement is to be programmed per student. We will have only one recital and it will last for one hour- first come, first served.

This live recital may be cancelled if we think necessary. I am requesting on behalf of the church that masks are to be worn. Please park on the right side of the church in the paved parking lot and enter through the door that will be posted with a sign. You will enter at the closest exit to the sanctuary.

Sally Copland, Portsmouth Student Recitals Chairperson

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## PLAY-A-THON

The 2021 TMTF Play-A-Thon was held December 3-5 at Greenbrier Mall and Pembroke Mall. I would like to thank all of the teachers who participated in this event and helped it to be such a great success! Your dedication is greatly appreciated. A special thank you goes to Elizabeth Smith for being such a great Co-Chairman and running the Pembroke location so smoothly.

The deadline for turning in your student's pledge money is **March 1st**. Please make sure that you include the "Studio Schedule and Pledge Validation Form" when you send the money. I need it for my records and final report.

Thank you!

Lynn Kleisler, NCTM  
Play-A-Thon Chairman

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## HONORS RECITALS AUDITIONS

Do your students like a challenge? Consider participating in the Honors Recitals Auditions this year. Students are evaluated by levels on two memorized pieces. Performances receiving the highest numerical scores are selected for the Honors Recitals.

For more information see your TMTF Yearbook and TMTF Activity Book.  
Levels of Progress participation is a prerequisite.

Josephine Jones  
Honors Recitals Auditions Chairman  
757-427-1993

## The VMTA Theory Test 2022

### Teachers,

The pandemic has caused the following changes for this year.

- ❖ For this coming 2022 VMTA Theory Test, all teachers will administer the Theory Test to their students in their own private studios. **See the Deadline Dates below.**
- ❖ Scores will be submitted by the deadline to Marilyn Forman, TMTF Theory Chairman.
- ❖ The Theory Test will not be required for the Eastern District Auditions.
- ❖ However, the Theory Test will be offered this year, and the scores will be recorded.

Listed below are the deadline dates for the Theory Test.

- Registration Deadline: **February 1, 2022**
- VMTA Test mailed to teachers: **March 1, 2022**
- Deadline to submit scores: **April 20, 2022**



Students can take only one test per year. The fee is **\$14.00** for one test. **Mail the Registration Form and include one check reflecting the sum of the students entered and payable to TMTF.** Do not have students mail their registration to the Theory Chairman. Only the teachers should mail the Registration form and the one check totaling the registration sum amount of the students entered to Marilyn Forman, TMTF Theory Chair.

### Reminders:

- ◆ Students may enter the program at any level or skip levels at the discretion of their teacher.
- ◆ Students who previously failed a test can go to the next level provided the private teacher tests and approves the student to proceed.
- ◆ The knowledge required for the Theory Test is cumulative and may include questions based on materials required from previous levels. There are no retakes for failures in the same year.

Teachers can purchase a hard copy of the **2013 VMTA Sample Theory Syllabus**. This Sample Theory Syllabus can also be viewed online on the VMTA website, [www.music-usa.org/vmta](http://www.music-usa.org/vmta)

The 2013 VMTA Sample Theory Syllabus includes:

- Twelve levels of practice tests
- Corresponding Answer Keys
- Aural CDs for each level
- New Terms Glossary

Marilyn Forman, NCTM  
Theory Chairman  
37 Patton Drive  
Newport News, VA 23606-1744

The cost of the Sample Theory Syllabus including the aural CDs is \$21.00. Mail to Marilyn Forman your check for \$21.00 and made **payable to TMTF** with "Theory Tests" written in the memo field. This Sample Theory Syllabus can also be viewed online on the VMTA website, [www.music-usa.org/vmta](http://www.music-usa.org/vmta)

Have a Safe, Healthy, and Inspiring Year Teaching Music!

Musically Yours, Marilyn Forman

## TMTF Calendar

February 2022

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|
|        |        | 1       | 2         | 3        | 4      | 5        |
| 6      | 7      | 8       | 9         | 10       | 11     | 12       |
| 13     | 14     | 15      | 16        | 17       | 18     | 19       |
| 20     | 21     | 22      | 23        | 24       | 25     | 26       |
| 27     | 28     |         |           |          |        |          |

### 2/1 - DEADLINE VMTA Theory test registration

2/11 - TMTF Executive Board Meeting at Jordan Kitts Music

2/12-13 - VMTA Keyboard Skills/Sight Reading Test

2/18 - TMTF Meeting/Workshop at Jordan Kitt's Music  
Clinician: Nancy Breth

### 2/21 - DEADLINE Stafflines News

2/27 - Student Recitals (Refer to P. 3)

March 2022

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|
|        |        | 1       | 2         | 3        | 4      | 5        |
| 6      | 7      | 8       | 9         | 10       | 11     | 12       |
| 13     | 14     | 15      | 16        | 17       | 18     | 19       |
| 20     | 21     | 22      | 23        | 24       | 25     | 26       |
| 27     | 28     | 29      | 30        | 31       |        |          |

3/5- TMTF Levels of Progress - Portsmouth, Va Beach

3/6- TMTF Levels of Progress - Va Beach, Norfolk

### 3/11- DEADLINE - Glover Scholarship Auditions

### 3/18- DEADLINE - TMTF Honors Recitals Auditions

3/18- TMTF Meeting - Clinician: Dr. Ben Corbin  
"Piano Master Class" at Newton Piano, 3750 Va Beach Blvd.,  
Va Beach, VA 23452

### 2/21 - DEADLINE Stafflines News

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**



### February

- 3 Jane Gallatin
- 10 Destiny Koiman
- 22 Alisa Bohon
- 25 Katherine Wright

### March

- 1 Laura Cardin
- 4 John Presto
- 8 Stephen Kolb
- 11 Elena Schwartz
- 15 Rose Nelson
- 18 Mary Ann Medlin
- 19 Walter Noona
- 22 Elizabeth Sjolund
- 24 Geraldine Sawyer
- 30 Cathy Bryan
- 30 Galina Epelman
- 31 Zachary Bridges



## **UPDATE ON 2022 MTNA NATIONAL CONFERENCE IN MINNEAPOLIS**

On Monday, January 17, the MTNA Board of Directors made the very difficult decision that the in-person 2022 MTNA National Conference, scheduled to be held in Minneapolis March 26-30, will not take place as planned. Instead, MTNA will pivot to a virtual-only conference to be held on the same dates.

The decision to move ahead with the in-person conference in Minneapolis was made many months ago when confidence was high that the pandemic would abate and our members would be able to attend without jeopardizing their health and safety. Instead, the Omicron variant has increased infection rates to record levels. It is much more contagious than the Delta variant, and it even bypasses the antibodies produced by the vaccines and infects those who are vaccinated.

Unfortunately, the Omicron variant is currently raging out of control in the city of Minneapolis. On January 12, the mayor issued an emergency regulation, which takes effect on January 26 and continues indefinitely, that identifies indoor dining as a significant driver of the COVID-19 pandemic. The order establishes highly restrictive rules on places that sell or serve food and drink for on-site consumption, and the negative implications for access to and consumption of food by our attendees in and around the hotel and convention center are profound.

Given the uncertainty of the spread and impact of the virus over the next few weeks, along with the almost certain possibility of additional, unforeseen virus-related restrictions in Minneapolis, it became clear that MTNA had to take action to ensure the health, safety and well-being of MTNA members, presenters, artists, exhibitors and competitors who attend the in-person conference. Out of an abundance of caution, the Board made the wise decision to pivot to a virtual-only conference.

We know that many of you will have questions, and we are working to have more information available soon, which will be shared on the MTNA website, social media channels and email. Those who have already registered for the in-person conference will receive communication in the coming days on converting their registration to the virtual conference and receiving a refund on the difference, or receiving a full refund. Those who have already registered for the virtual conference do not need to do anything.

We all look forward to the time when an in-person conference may be held safely and responsibly. In the meantime, the MTNA Virtual Conference, to be held March 26-30, will provide the valuable and treasured professional development and networking event you have come to expect from MTNA.

On behalf of the MTNA Board of Directors and the 2022 Conference Planning Committee,

Dr. Gary L. Ingle  
Executive Director &  
Chief Executive Officer

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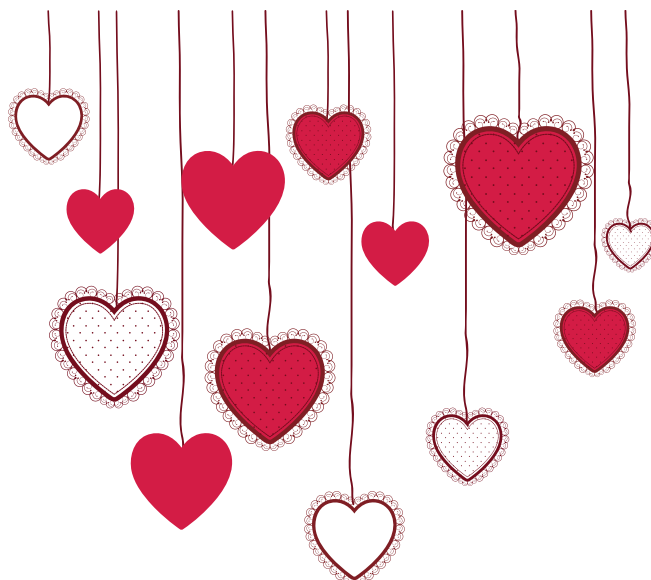
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Greenbrier Mall

J. Scott Bailey  
President

(757) 420-1130  
(757) 714-3307 Cell  
pianoshowcaseva@yahoo.com

**KAWAI**





## Stafflines Advertising Rates

The following advertising rates are for Stafflines news that is not related directly to TMTF activities.

Two to three line announcement such as a recital or job opening: No Fee

One half page (8.5" x 5.5"): \$10.00

Full page (8.5" x 11"): \$20.00

Make check payable to TMTF and send along with your ad to

Yuko Farman, NCTM

9052 River Crescent

Suffolk, VA 23433

## **Tidewater Music Teachers Forum**

Local Chapter of the Virginia Music Teachers Association

Affiliated with the Music Teachers National Association

**Yuko Farman, Editor | 9052 River Crescent | Suffolk, VA 23433**