
STAFFLINES

Monthly Newsletter of the Tidewater Music Teachers Forum



Meeting & Workshop: Friday, February 17, 2023

Presentation by Dr. Eric Ruple "Not your Undergraduate Music History"

Location: Jordan Kitt's Music: 5164 Virginia Beach Blvd.,
Virginia Beach, VA23462

9:30 Coffee - 10:00 Meeting & Workshop - 12:00 Lunch

Workshop description

When is the last time you looked at your notes from your undergraduate Music History class? (Hmm, they are around here somewhere, right?) When is the last time you even thought about the unchangeable truths about the four eras: Baroque; Classical; Romantic; Modern? What precipitated the changes from one era to the next? We will take a look at how world events over the past few years may be both ushering in a "new" musical era, and casting a new light on some of our old suppositions. This workshop should be a time for fun and creative ideas. Who says history is dead?!

Biography

Steinway Artist Eric Ruple joined the piano faculty at James Madison University in 1987. He enjoys an active career as a solo and chamber musician, including several performances at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC, Steinway Hall in New York, and he is also pianist for the Virginia Symphony Orchestra, including principal keyboard role in the ongoing "Harry Potter Live" concerts. He was also featured in Bernstein's "Prelude, Fugue and Riffs" with the VSO Jazz Ensemble. His recording "Musica Incognito" with hornist Ian Zook has earned unanimously positive reviews from several national and international publications. He is an active member of the American Liszt Society and is a regular adjudicator in Hong Kong. He received his doctoral degree from the University of Michigan.



PRESIDENT'S LETTER FEBRUARY 2023

Dear Fellow Music Teachers,

We just wrapped up the VMTA Theory Test on Saturday and it was a resounding success. It's been three years since we've been able to hold the test in person and I, for one, had missed the camaraderie of the volunteers and the feeling that we're part of something bigger than ourselves.

A big shout-out to Sally Copeland who took care of the room reservations and provided many volunteers from ODU, including the Phi Mu Alpha music fraternity who were the best runners ever. The listening was also administered by ODU volunteers and we had many positive comments from our teachers. We can't do a big event like this without volunteers, and I am grateful to everyone who helped.

So this is a challenge to you, my fellow music teachers. Start thinking about entering your students in the 2024 theory test now, so you can start preparing them. Everything you need is on the VMTA website: the syllabus and practice tests plus audio files. If you have questions, I'm happy to help. I have lots of tips for you.

Our February program promises to be one you won't want to miss. Dr. Eric Ruple from JMU is a perennial favorite and his presentation is called, "Not Your Undergraduate History". Find the details elsewhere in this newsletter.

See you there!

Musically yours,

Susan Atkins, NCTM
757-282-8220 (cell)
pianolearningcenter@gmail.com



Certification Zoom Meetings

As the TMTF Certification Chair, I want to help our members get certified through MTNA and make the process as easy as possible. Yes, it's daunting, but think how much easier it will be if we all do it together!

That's why I'm going to host monthly Zoom meetings for anyone interested in getting certified. No pressure, no commitment, just information and encouragement. You can bring your questions and I will try to answer them.

The next meeting is **Friday, February 24 at 11:00**. I'll send out the Zoom link reminder a few days before. It should last about an hour.

While you're thinking about certification, visit the MTNA Certification website: certification.mtna.org.

If you have not yet indicated interest, please send me an email or text.

Susan Atkins, NCTM
757-282-8220
pianolearningcenter@gmail.com



TMTF PLAY-A-THON

This is just a friendly reminder for teachers who participated in the Play-A-Thon to remind their students to finish collecting their pledge money so that it can be turned in by the deadline date of **March 1st**. This is a requirement to be able to participate in the David Carr Glover Scholarship Auditions and the Glen Mayberry Scholarship Auditions. Please be sure to include your "Studio Schedule and Pledge Validation Form" with the student's information filled in (name and pledge amount) when you send it to me. Also, please do not send me your student's Pledge Sheets.

Thank you!

Lynn Kleisler, NCTM
Play-A-Thon Chairman



GLOVER SCHOLARSHIP AUDITIONS

The deadline for the Glover Scholarship Auditions is right around the corner. The applications are due with the deadline postmark date of **April 1, 2023**. This event will take place at Monumental United Methodist Church in Portsmouth on Saturday, **April 22nd**. Eligibility and requirements to participate in this event can be found in the TMTF Yearbook. Please be aware that a teacher's studio participation in the 2022 TMTF Play-A-Thon is required to enter students in this event. The Play-A-Thon pledge money must also have been received by March 1st in order to participate in this year's auditions.

The "Scholarship Application" and the "Performance Evaluation Sheet" can be found in the TMTF Activity Book. If a student's application form has two sheets, please make sure that they are stapled together so that they do not get mixed up with other application forms. Also, please **do not** staple the applications to the judging sheets or fold them before mailing them in a large envelope.

Thank you!

Lynn Kleisler, NCTM
Glover Scholarship Chairman

TMTF CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 2023						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 Valentine's Day	15	16	17	18
19	20 President's Day	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	1	2	3	4

- 10 - TMTF Executive Board Meeting at Jordan Kitt's Music from 10am
- 12 - **Deadline:** Student Recital Norfolk
- 17 - TMTF Meeting, Clinician: Dr. Eric Ruple at Jordan Kitt's Music
- 19 - **Deadline** - Student Recital Portsmouth
- 21 - **Deadline** - Stafflines News
- 26 - Student Recital - Norfolk - Royster Memorial Presbyterian Church
- 26 - Student Recital - Portsmouth - West Side Christian Church

MARCH 2023						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	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	1

- 1 - **Deadline:** TMTF Play-A-Thon (Participation in scholarship events deadline)
- 4 - TMTF Levels of Progress - Portsmouth, Va Beach
- 5 - TMTF Levels of Progress - Va Beach, Norfolk
- 12 - TMTF Sight Reading/Keyboard Skills Tests at ODU Diehn Performing Arts Center
- 13 - **Deadline:** Registration form for Dr. Ben Corbin's Piano Master Class
- 17 - TMTF Meeting - Piano Master Class Clinician: Dr. Ben Corbin
- 17 - **Deadline:** TMTF Honors Recitals Auditions
- 21 - **Deadline:** Stafflines News
- 25-29 MTNA Conference at Reno, Nevada

Happy Birthday



February

- 3 Jane Gallatin
- 22 Alisa Bohon
- 25 Katherine Wright

March

- 1 Laura Cardin
- 18 Mary Ann Medlin
- 19 Walter Noona
- 22 Elizabeth Sjolund
- 24 Geraldine Sawyer
- 30 Cathy Bryan
- 30 Galina Epelman



TEACHING IDEAS FROM JANUARY MEETING

Susan Cusher

Books and games I use from [Teachpianotoday.com](https://www.teachpianotoday.com).

Books:

Fearless Fortissimo (1 & 2 in different levels)
How To Rock Your Next Recital
Improv- Alister & The Amadeus Anthems

Games:

Clip Clap Trap
[Cyclopstrich](#)
Dust In A Rush
Milky Way Mania
Polly Popper



Another site I use is [Teacherspayteachers.com](https://www.teacherspayteachers.com).

Composer Cash - I use this any time the students tell me they did something "extra" (learned a piece on their own, composed something, played for their friends, etc.) or just WOWED me with something. When they get the cash, we write a fact about the composer on the back and listen to something they composed. Every time the students have 5 pieces of composer cash, they can trade it in for something in the "treasure box" (bouncy balls, music pencils, key chains, etc.) You can find it at:

<https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/Composer-Cash-Music-Money-Dollars-Bucks-Class-Cash-for-Incentives-2797489?st=ae980e40d29d1d5dc4092a5f288f0075>

Laura Cardin

Books that are great for students who want a little something out of the ordinary are:

1. Wynn-Anne Rossi's books: [Jazzin' Americana](#), [Musica Latina](#), One of a Kind Solos
2. Catherine Rollin's Museum Masterpieces (Pieces composed, inspired by artwork. Pictures of the artwork are included in the book.)
3. Melody Bober's [Xtreme Solos](#)
4. Bruce Adolphe's Piano Puzzlers: As Heard on APM's "Performance Today" (These pieces are more for Intermediate-Late Intermediate students, providing a fun combination of pop/show tunes/folk songs in the style of a famous piano composer. The radio show/podcast is also worth the 10 minutes of your time each week, as they are fun for us teachers to guess the composer and song.)

Mary Ann Medlin

Websites I frequently use:

[Composecreate.com](https://composecreate.com)

[Music-for-music-teachers.com](https://music-for-music-teachers.com)

[Musictheory.net](https://musictheory.net)

[Tonesavvy.com](https://tonesavvy.com)

[Pianosongdownload.com](https://pianosongdownload.com)

[Gmajormusictheory.org](https://gmajormusictheory.org)

[Teoria.com](https://teoria.com)

[Teacherspayteachers.com](https://teacherspayteachers.com)

[Colorinmypiano.com](https://colorinmypiano.com)

[Musicteachingresources.com](https://musicteachingresources.com)



Cynthia Vaughn

I want to encourage teachers to let students sing occasionally at their piano lessons. They'll thank you when they are teens and can accompany themselves on pop songs. A great resource for kid friendly singing resources is fullvoicemusic.com. There are some free printable resources at this site which include solfege cards, rhythm cards, and recital compliment cards.

Rebekah Nieto

A great online resource with games that include note, key signature, interval, scale and chord identification and construction is musictheory.net. It also has ear training exercises as well as keyboard, note, interval, scale and chord identification exercises and more! If you scroll all the way to the bottom of the screen, you can see the tab where you can customize the exercises.

Lynn Kleisler

A great site with many teacher resources that include sheet music, music books, games, recital templates, business ideas and webinars is [ComposeCreate.com](https://composecreate.com). It was created by Wendy Stevens, who is the primary composer of the music and information found on this site.

Susan Grice

How Difficult Can This Be? The F.A.T. City Workshop by Richard Lavoie
This is a great video about teaching students with disabilities. It is worth watching for any teacher whether students have disabilities or not. There is a pdf transcript available online that can be printed for free.

Elizabeth Smith

I use this sheet as a fun resource to get students to practice with their metronome.

METRONOME MADNESS!

WEEK 1

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WEEK 2

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WEEK 3

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Directions:

Practice your piece selected at your lesson with the metronome at least 5 times per day.

Start with a comfortable setting that you can play absolutely smoothly without mistakes or stumbling.

If you play through well, move your metronome setting up a notch or two and try the music at that new setting.

Try to use at least three different speeds each day. You can try more than three!

Make a note of which speed you ended on at the end of your practice session, and then begin the next day's practice with the previous day's last speed.

If you begin to stumble, that's okay, just move the metronome back down a notch or two.

Watch how magically you'll be able to increase your speed over the week!
You must bring this chart with you to your lesson each week, having filled in the metronome speeds for each day of metronome practice in order to qualify for a prize. :)

Complete all three weeks, turn in your completed worksheet and you will be rewarded with a \$5.00 gift card to Tropical Smoothie!!



LET'S GET TICKING! :)

Looking for a fun and creative recital theme?

Susan Cusher's students are doing a "Back to the 80's" recital at Ewell Hall at William & Mary on Saturday, Feb. 4th 2023 at 2PM



Julia Connell.....*Neon Nights*,
 Connell
 Jayce Beaman.....*Neon Pain*,
 Beaman
 Mia K.....*Neon*
Hei Hei,
 Siyera Shah.....*Neon Stormy Day*,
 Shah
'80
 Ethan Ballard.....*The Imperial March, Williams (The Empire Strikes Back)*
 Lydia Grace Slade.....*Crazy Little Thing Called Love, Queen*
'81
 Rayden Snyder.....*Jessie's Girl, Rick Springfield*
 Emmalyn Snyder.....*Open Arms*,
 Journey
 Gabriel Cobb.....*Don't Stop Believin'*,
 Journey
 Presley Connell.....*I Love Rock & Roll, Joan Jett & the Black Hearts*
 Adele Larrieu.....*Head over Heels, ABBA*
 Zoey Cusher.....*Physical, Olivia Newton John*
'82
 Hazel Waite.....*Mad World, Tears For Fears*
 Olivia Millard.....*Thriller, Michael Jackson*
 Tabitha Blount.....*Beat It, Michael Jackson*
 Axel Cusher.....*Eye of the Tiger*,
 Survivor
 David Lang.....*Safety Dance, Men Without Hats*

'83
 Nurhayat Abacioglu.....*Girls Just Wanna Have Fun, Cindy Lauper*
 William Borer.....*Sweet Dreams (Are Made of This), Eurythmics*
 Hillary Opdyke.....*Billie Jean, Michael Jackson*
 Mia Migliore.....*Every Breath You Take, The Police*
 Mack Blount.....*I'm Still Standing, Elton John*

'86
 Lakelynn Oliver.....*I Just Called to Say I Love You, Stevie Wonder*
 James Hofman.....*Ghostbusters, Ray Parker Jr.*
 Rachel Lang.....*Purple Rain*,
 Prince
 Iris Waite.....*Careless Whisper*,
 Wham!

'85
 Eliot Larrieu.....*Like A Surgeon, Weird Al Yankovic*
 Andy Cochran.....*Take These Broken Wings, Mr. Mister*
 Audrey Hofman.....*Running Up That Hill, Kate Bush*

'86
 Elaine Sullivan.....*True Colors, Cindy Lauper*
 James Borer.....*Final Countdown*,
 Europe
 William Opdyke.....*Top Gun Anthem, Faltermeyer*
 Lyla Smith.....*Higher Love, Steve Winwood*
 Lydia Lynerd.....*My Little Buttercup, Randy Newman (The Three Amigos)*

'87
 Xavier Caver.....*I Wanna Dance With Somebody, Whitney Houston*
 Ruth Blount.....*I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For, U2*
 Michal Blount.....*With or Without You, U2*

'88
 Van Davenport.....*Bowser's Skyship, Koji Kondo (Mario Bros. 3)*
 Elise Caggiano.....*Every Rose Has it's Thorn, Poison*
 Miranda Ertsgaard.....*Sweet Child o' Mine, Guns & Roses*

'89
 Shailey Shah.....*Part of Your World, Menken (The Little Mermaid)*
 Elizabeth Davenport.....*Free Fallin', Tom Petty & the Heartbreakers*
 Carys Caggiano.....*Right Here Waiting, Richard Marx*

A musical thank you to the radical students and gnarly parents for making today totally tubular!

Susan & Violet Cusher



welcome New Member!

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Piano Master Class Registration

Dr. Ben Corbin

Masterclass **Friday, March 17, 2023, 10:00 am**
Location **Jordan Kitts Music, 5164 Virginia Beach Blvd, Virginia Beach**
Deadline **March 13, 2023**

Registration form must be received by this date via email or mail

Student's Name _____

Student's Age _____

Teacher's Name _____ Phone Number _____

Teacher's Email _____

Composition _____

Composer _____

Level (Intermediate or Advanced) _____ Performance time _____

Please note that space is limited. We have room for only 3 students and 1 alternate. There will be a limit of 1 student per teacher. Dr. Corbin will be working with each student for 20-25 minutes. Maximum playing time is 5 minutes. Please choose the piece accordingly. The repertoire list will be provided to Dr. Corbin and he will choose the performers. If the student is not selected to perform, the fee will be returned.

The Master Class fee is \$12.00 per student. Please make your check payable to TMTF.

Mail registration form and check to:

Susan C. Ha

Norfolk State University

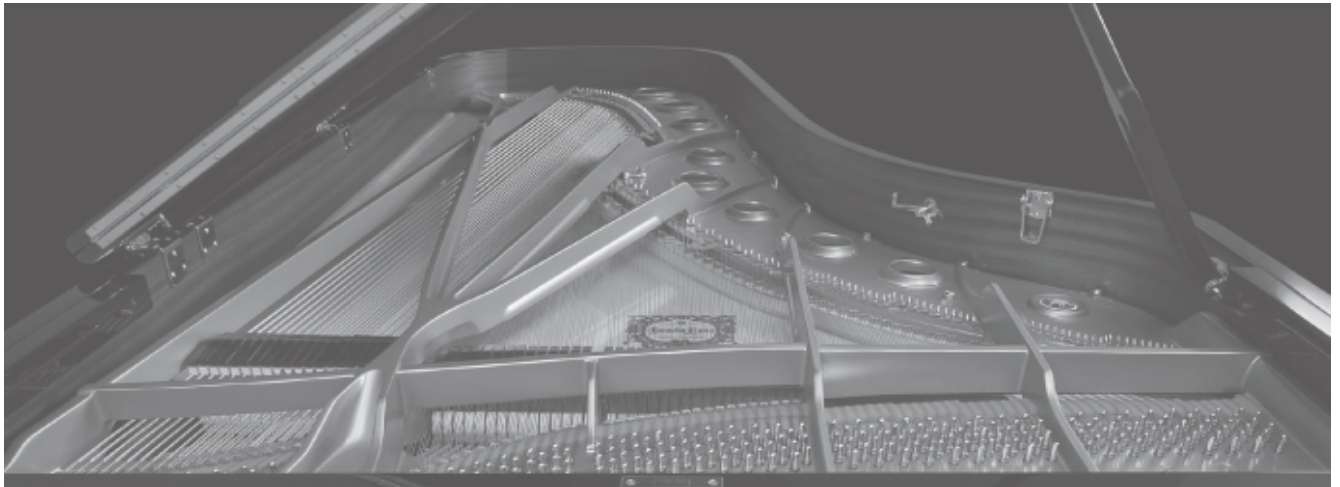
Department of Visual and Performing Arts

700 Park Avenue

Norfolk, VA 23504

Email: susanhapiano@gmail.com

Registration fee can be sent via mail, PayPal or Venmo



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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

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