



STAFFLINES



Monthly Newsletter of the Tidewater Music Teachers Forum

Chris Goldston

“Continuing the Legacy: The Music of Christopher and Margaret Golston”



Friday, February 20th, 2026

Location: Virtual Meeting - Zoom

10:00 Business Meeting & Workshop

Christopher Golston (b. 1972), nationally Certified Teacher of Music, holds a master of music degree in piano performance and pedagogy from Northwestern University and a bachelor of music degree in piano performance from the University of North Carolina-Greensboro. He has taught at Columbia College Chicago, Roosevelt University and Sherwood Conservatory of Music and currently maintains an independent studio in the historic Fine Arts Building in Chicago, in addition to teaching virtually. In 1991, Christopher received the National Federation of Music Clubs Lynn Freeman Olson Composition Award for his first composition, “Night Train.” Since then, he has written numerous pieces for piano, voice, and chamber ensemble, including his “Thesis for Wind Quintet,” which won the 1993 Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) Composition Contest for North Carolina. Christopher is published by Alfred Music and FJH Music Company, and in 2021, launched Golston Music, dedicated to publication and promotion of compositions by Christopher and Margaret Golston.

Christopher has been the national coordinator for the MTNA Composition Competition since 2010. He has also served as state and division coordinator for the competition. Christopher has been very active in the Chicago Area Music Teachers Association and has served in numerous roles, including president, and vice-president in charge of programs. He was member of the year in 2008. He also served as president for the Illinois State Music Teachers Association from 2018 to 2020. Christopher was named an MTNA Foundation Fellow in 2020, and recently served as MTNA National Secretary-Treasurer for the 2021-2023 biennium. MTNA commissioned Christopher to compose “Four Virtues” for oboe, violin, and piano, which premiered at the 2022 MTNA National Conference, as one of two final commissions for the Collaborative Music Commission Project.



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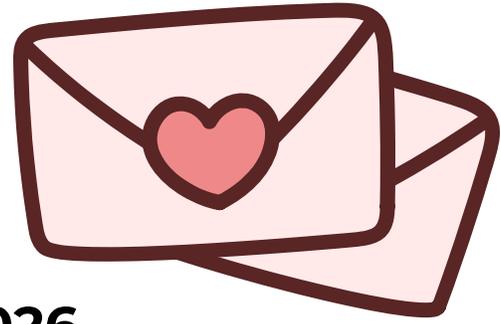


Friday, February 20th, 2026

Location: Virtual Meeting - Zoom

10:00 Business Meeting & Workshop

Workshop Description: Join us for an inspiring session celebrating the musical legacy of Christopher and Margaret Golston. Christopher will spotlight publications from Golston Music, as well as their publications with Alfred, FJH and Galaxy Music, featuring a wide range of repertoire suitable for students of all levels. This engaging workshop offers piano teachers a unique opportunity to discover the stories behind their compositions and learn how their pedagogical philosophy has shaped generations of students. Enjoy exclusive recordings of both Christopher and Margaret performing their own works, as well as curated YouTube performances by students. Discover the education impact of their music and gain fresh ideas for your studio. In addition to musical insights, the session includes a practical mini-segment on creating student performance videos and organizing virtual recitals--- perfect for teachers looking to bring performance opportunities into the digital age. Whether you're a longtime fan or new to their music, this session promises a dynamic blend of inspiration, education, and performance. Leave inspired, equipped with fresh repertoire ideas, and ready to make your students' music journeys even more meaningful through the Golstons' expressive, pedagogically rich music.



President's Letter February 2026

I was so glad to see so many of you in attendance at the January meeting! We had an interesting and fun presentation from Dr. Will Pearson of Old Dominion University on Neo-Riemannian harmonic analysis, syntactic/semantic lyric analysis, with even some hip hop analysis included. I will use this new knowledge when the old "tried and true" roman numerals don't fit- and I liked Will's ideas on how to begin to create compositions using a Tonetz chart.

During our announcements, Laura Cardin shared that she is becoming inspired and is closer to completing her certification goal. She has found a mentor who is assisting and giving her little goals that are manageable and to be completed each week. There is money available to be reimbursed to members who undergo this process as our national, state, and local organizations encourage certification. I was certified in the early 1990s and feel that these four letters, NCTM, have helped to elevate both my position and that of other MTNA teachers with prospective and current students and colleagues, in addition to the usual benefits that participation and membership that MTNA provides. Please do not hesitate to let us know if you are interested or considering this - we want you to succeed and are happy to assist.

The next two months will be busy with VMTA theory testing, skills, and sightreading, Levels of Progress, Student and Glover recitals. Consider volunteering to help with these big events- student enrollment has increased, and additional judges and helpers are always needed and welcome.

Our February Executive Board meeting and Membership Meeting will both be held virtually in part because of potential inclement weather for ourselves and out of town guests. Chris Goldston will be our February speaker. I am certain that you will enjoy his presentation. If you are unable to join virtually and would like to participate let me know.

I look forward to seeing you all in this busy 2026!

Musically yours,
Sally

2026 Sight-Reading and Skills Test

The VMTA Helen Parker Sight Reading will be administered with the VMTA Skills Tests on -

Sunday, February, 22, 2026
at Diehn Performing Arts Center
Old Dominion University

The registration DEADLINE is **January 16, 2026**. The POSTMARK date is the same as the DEADLINE date.

There will be no make-up dates.

Syllabus is available from the State Chairperson. Detail information and the application forms can be found in the TMTF Studio Companion 2025-2026.

Please encourage your students to participate in these tests as the preparation involved in preparing will definitely be education and rewarding for them.

Local Chairperson

Mun Lee Han
(757)-214-5439
munleehan@gmail.com

Skills Test State Chairperson

Lynn Kleisler
(757)-925-0248
lynnkleisler@yahoo.com

Sight Reading Test State Chairperson

Fay Barss
(804)-282-7725
faysmusic@gmail.com

MTNA Certification

Certification Meeting
Friday, February 13, 2026
10:00 - 11:30 am
Zoom



Please contact Susan Atkins to receive a Zoom invite to the meeting.

The MTNA Professional Certification Program exists to improve the level of professionalism in the field of music teaching. It benefits the members of the profession itself, as well as the public who interact with the professional. For the music teaching professional, certification provides prestige, recognition and the potential for student recruitment and increased earning power. For the public, certification helps readily identify competent music teachers in their communities.

Monthly local certification meetings are held via Zoom. Watch the Stafflines and your email inbox for the day and time of each meeting.

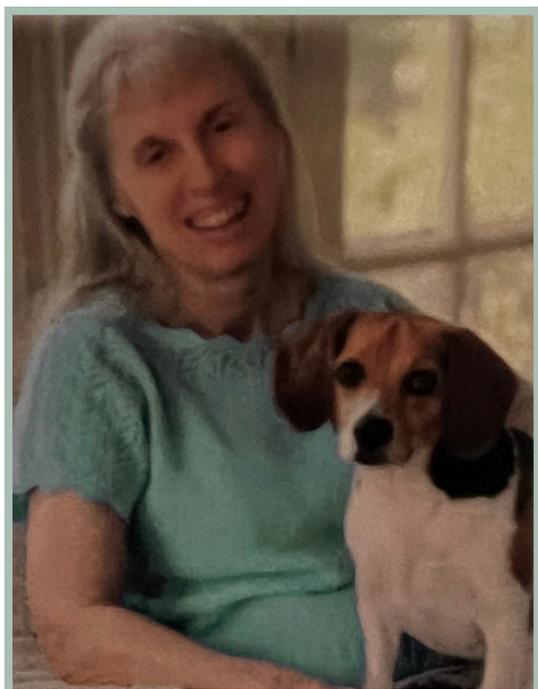
VMTA and TMTF are offering a \$100 reimbursement each (total \$200) to offset the cost of certification.

You too can be an NCTM (Nationally Certified Teacher of Music).

For more information, go to certification.mtna.org.

Susan Atkins, NCTM
pianolearningcenter@gmail.com
[757-282-8220](tel:757-282-8220)

In Loving Memory: **Romayne Adams Hardy**



Front Row: Frances Marsh, founder of Marsh School of Music. Patricia Kennedy, scholarship award winner.

Back Row: Marsh School instructors Josephine Jones, Romayne Hardy and scholarship recipients.

Levels of Progress 2026

Registration Deadline: January 16, 2026 (postmark)
Event Dates: March 7th and 8th (Details are in the Studio Companion)

Levels of Progress is a non-competitive opportunity for students of all levels to receive a performance evaluation on two contrasting pieces. Students may enter in piano, voice, organ, strings, guitar, or ensembles. Each student receives an evaluation sheet and a certificate of achievement. Judges are local teachers and members of TMTF.

Levels of Progress is also TMTF's major fundraising event for the year, so please make sure to encourage and prepare your students to participate! This allows us to continue to provide quality presenters for our meetings and additional opportunities for our teachers and students. Remember, Levels of Progress is a requirement to enter the Honors Recitals Auditions!

Please mail, email, or deliver registration forms to the event chair by the deadline:

Chairperson: Joshua Miller
Address: 9511 1st View Street #4
Norfolk, VA 23503
Email: tmtf.lop@gmail.com

Concert at King's Grant Presbyterian Church

Please put on your calendars Dr. Eric Ruple in Concert on Sunday, February 22th at 2:00pm. The program is outstanding!

About the program:

The Piano Recital for King's Grant Presbyterian Church will include two sonatas by Beethoven: the beloved Op. 13 "Pathetique" Sonata (a relatively early work) and one of his most forward-looking, late sonatas, the beautiful Op. 109.

In between the Beethoven sonatas will be the lyrical three "Petrarch Sonnets" by Franz Liszt, and a couple short works by modern women composers.

King's Grant Presbyterian Church
745 Little Neck Road
Va Beach, VA 23452

About the artist:

Steinway Artist Eric Ruple is on the piano faculty at James Madison University. He enjoys an active career as a solo and chamber musician, including several performances at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC and Steinway Hall in New York. For a number of years, he was pianist for the Virginia Symphony Orchestra, including several "Harry Potter Live" shows and pianist for Bernstein's "Prelude, Fugue and Riffs" with the VSO Jazz Ensemble. His recording "Musica Incognito" with hornist Ian Zook has earned unanimously positive review from several national and international publications. A second CD with violinist Brendon Elliott, both in Virginia and on WQXR: National Public Radio, New York City.

He is a member of the American Liszt Society and has been a regular adjudicator in Hong Kong. He twice served as Interim Director for the JMU School of music.

Get Involved in TMTF!

We have plenty of opportunities to get involved in by helping with events, such as judging, administering various tests, auditions and recitals. These are excellent opportunities to contribute your talent and connect with other music teachers.

Contact the event chairperson or president or president-elect for opportunities you are interested in helping out with.

We would greatly appreciate your presence!

TMTF EVENT CALENDAR

February 2026						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
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

- 1 DEADLINE - Student Recital - Norfolk
- 6 TMTF Executive Board Meeting (Zoom or Google Meet)
- 13 TMTF Certification Meeting
- 15 Student Recital - Norfolk - Royster Memorial Presbyterian Church
- ? Student Recital - Portsmouth
- 18 President's Day
- 20 TMTF Meeting/Workshop**
- 20 DEADLINE - Stafflines News
- 22 TMTF Sight Reading/Keyboard Skills Test - ODU

March 2026						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
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 DEADLINE - Play-A-Thon pledges to TMTF
- 2-6 Cape Henry Collegiate Spring Break
- 2-6 Norfolk Academy Spring Break
- 6 TMTF Certification Meeting
- 7 TMTF Levels of Progress - VA Beach and Portsmouth
- 8 TMTF Levels of Progress - VA Beach and Norfolk
- 8 Daylight Savings (move clocks ahead 1 hour)
- 13 TMTF Meeting/Workshop**
- 14 DEADLINE - TMTF Glover Scholarship Auditions
- 15-21 ODU Spring Break
- 21 DEADLINE - TMTF Honors Auditions
- 21 DEADLINE - Glen Mayberry Auditions
- 21 DEADLINE: Stafflines News
- 21 DEADLINE - VMTA Eastern District Auditions
- 21-25 MTNA Conferences - Chicago, IL

Happy Birthday



February

- 22 Alisa Bohon
- 25 Katherine Wright

March

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



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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 the Stafflines Editor

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pianoshowcaseva.com

Greenbrier Mall

J. Scott Bailey
President

KAWAI



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

Tidewater Music Teachers Forum

Local Chapter of the Virginia Music Teachers Association Affiliated with the Music Teachers National Association

Violet Cusher, Editor | 31 Sinton Road | Newport News, VA 23601