



STAFFLINES



Monthly Newsletter of the Tidewater Music Teachers Forum

MTNA National Conference Highlights

Join us as our President and President-Elect present the workshop highlights and give handouts, music, and other materials from the MTNA 2026 National Conference

Friday, May 15th, 2026



MTNA 2026 National Conference Highlights

- Location: Old Dominion University - Composers Library
1339 West 49th Street, Norfolk, VA 23529
- 10:00 Business Meeting & Workshop
- 12:00 Lunch

This year's conference will be held in Chicago, Illinois from March 21st - 25th, 2026



President's Letter May 2026

My first year as TMTF President has flown by, and it will soon be time for our May meeting. I hope to see you on May 15th as we share highlights from the 150th MTNA conference in Chicago. What a wonderful experience and fantastic opportunity to share ideas with studio teachers and musicians from across the country. We saw many of our favorite educators and publishers, and have exciting workshops planned for you in 2026-27.

A special thank you to our Board and to the many TMTF members who have assisted and participated with workshops and activities that our chapter has sponsored throughout the year. Our recitals and student activities have been motivational to our pupils and well attended. We have had varied topics from guests and clinicians that have been inspiring and enriching.

May activities will include our annual board meeting, which plans for next year's season, Easter District competitions, and Honors and High School Senior Recitals.

Best wishes to you all for a wonderful remainder of the year!

Sally





Request a grant for free VMTA Conference Registration

TMTF has been awarded two “Golden Tickets” which will pay for the conference registration fee for two of our chapter members. (Recipients will be responsible for travel and hotel.)

To apply for these grants, email TMTF President Sally Copeland tidewatermtf@gmail.com

- Name
- Contact info
- Why you would like to attend this year’s VMTA conference?
- Is this your first VMTA conference?

Application deadline July 1, 2026

Recipients will be announced in August.

VMTA THEORY TEST REPORT 2026

The 2026 VMTA Theory Test took place on January 31. Thirteen teachers participated in the test this year, with a total of 170 students registered and 168 students who took the test.

Here's the breakdown of the scores and number of students for each.

Superior	81
Excellent	55
Very Good	23
Good	5
Pass	3
Not Pass	1
Absent	2

Congratulations to the 18 students and their teachers for achieving a 100% of higher on this year's VMTA Theory Test!

Many thanks to the 13 teachers and their students who participated in this year's VMTA Theory Test.

PARTICIPATING TEACHERS

Susan Atkins	Tonya Holland
Adelaide Coles	Josephine Jones
Sally Copeland	Joshua Miller
Galina Epelman	Sharon Palardy
Donna Halleck	Uma Sharipova
Mun Lee Han	Elizabeth Sjolund
Elen Heifetz	

- A very big thank you to ODU, who provided the venue for the test.
- Another very big thank you to Theory Co-Chair Sally Copeland, who helped with room reservations, catering, volunteers, and numerous attention to details.

VMTA THEORY TEST REPORT

2026 Continued

- Another very big thank you to Phi Mu Alpha and the Community Music Division for providing volunteers.
- Another very big thank you to the professors of music and graduate students for helping grade tests, administer the listening portion, and wrangle students.
- Next year's test will be on January 20, 2027. Please consider registering your students for this important part of their musical education.

VMTA Theory Test Co-Chairs
Sally Copeland, NCTM
Susan Atkins NCTM

TMTF Honors Recitals

Auditions and Honors Recitals

The 2026 TMTF Honors Recitals Auditions were held on April 25 and 26. Fifty-seven students from ten TMTF teachers registered for this event, and fifty-six students auditioned. Thank you to the judges, monitors, and tabulators for the auditions: Zachary Deak, Jeanette Winsor, Tonya Holland, Elizabeth Sjolund, Susan Grice, Susan Atkins, Mary Ann Medlin, Emily Denniston, Mun Lee Han, Donna Halleck, Sharon Palardy, and Josephine Jones.

Forty-two students from ten teachers were selected to perform in the two TMTF Honors Recitals to be held on Sunday, May 17, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. in the Chandler Recital Hall at the Diehn Fine and Performing Arts Center, Old Dominion University. Come and enjoy the performances by these talented young musicians.

Josephine Jones, Honors Recitals Auditions Chairman
Mun Lee Han, Honors Recitals Chairman

RECITAL NO. 1

Mists of KillimanjaroAllred
Anderson Dong

Sonatina in C Major, Op. 36 No.1 (Allegro)Clementi
Marica Yamani

Bonsai TreeOlson
Arantxa Mendoza

Sonatina in C Major, Op. 57, No. 1 (Allegro)Biehl
Ava Salib

Sonatina in C Major, Op. 36 No.1 (Vivace).....Clementi
Emma Lin

The Wild Horseman, Op.68, No. 8Schumann
Ethan Zhang

New Orleans Blues.....Glover
Jack Anthony

Run And HideSifford
Kevin Lin

Thunderstorm!.....Bober
Eason Lin

To a Hummingbird.....MacDowell
Emma Chow

Song Of The Lark, Op. 39, No. 22.....Tchaikovsky
Iris Huang

Invention No. 8 in F MajorBach
Angela Lin

Warrior's Song, Op. 45, No. 15Heller
Ethan Breedan

TarantellaPieczonka
Liam Gungab

Hunting Song, Op. 19, No. 3Mendelssohn
Kyan Yuan

Fair Winds.....Bober
Stella Zhu

Plainte, Op. 17, No. 1Carreno
Katie Wang

Wonderful Grace.....Lillenas - Garlock
Adrian Orozco

Dubnova Preludia, Op. 13, No. 2.....Kaprálová
Andrew Chow

The Seasons - July (Song Of The Reaper).....Tchaikovsky
Anisha Warusavitharana

Feux d'artifice (Fireworks)Debussy
Matthew Chow

The performers on this program are students of the following teachers:

Susan Atkins, NCTM
Heekyung Lee
Donna Halleck
Mun Lee Han, NCTM
Josephine Jones, NCTM
Sharon Palardy
Jeanette Winsor

RECITAL NO. 2

The Great Smoky Mountains.....Glover
Meridian Polly

The Wild Horseman, Op.68, No. 8Schumann
Bolin Su

Soular BearGlover
Eva McCormick

Sonatina in C Major, Op. 57, No. 1 (Allegro)Biehl
Sabrina Brouillard

Fountain of DianaGillock
Logan Mosley

Sonatina in C Major, Op. 36 No.1 (Vivace).....Clementi
Caden Gambito

Carnival in RioGillock
Thomas Shi

Summer BalladRollin
Marley Clarke

Sonatina, Op. 88 No.3 (Allegro burlesco).....Kuhlau
Kayla McCormick

Prelude No. 5 in A MinorBrown
Spoorthi Chekuri

Solfeggietto in C Minor, H220Bach
Owen Lumba

Thunderstorm!.....Bober
Makayla Zhang

Sonatina Op. 13, No. 1 (Allegro assai)Kabalevsky
Abby Mugaisi

Sonata in C Major, K.545 (Allegro)Mozart
Annamarie Mosley

Fantasia Nègre No. 2 in G MinorPrice
Leela Unnikrishnan

Danzas Argentinas No. 2Ginastera
Nora Unnikrishnan

Wizard FantasyLeaf
Kaden Leuer

Gymnopédie No. 1Satie
William Chen

The Cat and the MouseCopland
Nicholas Huang

Invention in B Minor, BWV 786Bach
Chelsea Li

Nocturne in A-flat Major, Op. 32 No. 2Chopin
River McSpadden

The performers on this program are students of the following teachers:

Susan Atkins, NCTM
Susan Grice
Mun Lee Han, NCTM
Josephine Jones, NCTM
Mary Ann Medlin, NCTM
Elizabeth Sjolund

MTNA CERTIFICATION MEETING

What is stopping you from pursuing MTNA Certification?

You don't have time? Schedule chunks of time each week to work on it.

You don't have the money? If you can pay the \$200 fee upfront, when you complete the process, TMTF and VMTA will refund the fee. (Ask me about for details)

You don't know where to start? Come to the meeting in May - it's on Zoom!

Friday, May 8, 2026 - 10:00-11:30

On Zoom

Please RSVP to receive a Zoom invite from me

Questions?

Contact Susan Atkins at pianolearningcenter@gmail.com



For more information, go to [Certification.mtna.org](https://www.certification.mtna.org)

Susan Atkins, NCTM

Certification Chair

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

May 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 - Achievement Award Documentation
- 1 DEADLINE - TMTF High Schools Seniors' Recital
- 1 TMTF Executive Board Meeting
- 2 VMTA District Auditions
- 2 TMTF Glen Mayberry Auditions
- 8 TMTF Certification Meeting
- 10 Mother's Day
- 15 TMTF Meeting/Workshop/Luncheon - Conference Highlights**
- 16 TMTF Honors Recitals Rehearsals - 3PM
- 17 TMTF Honors Recitals and H.S. Seniors' Recitals
- 21 DEADLINE - Stafflines News
- 25 Memorial Day

June 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				

- 21 Father's Day
- 30 DEADLINE - MTNA Membership Dues

Happy Birthday



May

- 4 Carol Noona
- 4 Lauren Towers
- 11 Teresa Compos-Falk
- 18 Sharon Palardy
- 24 Violet Cusher
- 26 Susan Burke Cusher
- 28 Mun Lee Han

June

- 6 Meghan Hutton
- 12 Helen Heifetz
- 18 Cynthia Vaughn





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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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KAWAI



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Tidewater Music Teachers Forum

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

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