



JANUARY 2018

Susan Atkins, Editor

www.tmtf.org



JANUARY MEETING

Richard McGrath

“Financial Services for the Self-employed”

Friday, January 18, 2019

Music & Arts

1412 Greenbrier Pkwy, #126
Virginia Beach, VA 23320
9:30 Coffee and Shopping
10:00 Business Meeting and Workshop
12:00 Lunch

Membership Drive
Any member who brings a
“teacher friend”
will receive a \$10 gift card
from Music & Arts

Richard McGrath is the Founder and Chief Executive officer of Dominion Financial Solutions. Running this business in Hampton Roads has been his passion for over 25 years. Richard’s community ties run deep and are seeded in local businesses, governments and our military. The product of a military/civil service family, Richard attended Norview High School and graduated with honors. He then attended Old Dominion University for both his undergraduate and graduate degrees. Richard entered the financial services industry with a desire to help others and holds insurance licenses in multiple states across the country.

Mr. McGrath’s presentation will focus on the Do’s and Don’ts of Pre and Post Retirement Planning and Estate Planning. This presentation will cover a wide variety of topics so as to appeal to a very diverse audience. It will include such topics of discussion as the financial literacy needed to make decisions regarding your financial health and well-being. It will also encompass the purchase of a home, education of your children, planning income in retirement, and creating a legacy.

Mr. McGrath serves on the Board of Directors for *Chartway Federal Credit Union* and the *We Promise Foundation*. He also serves on the Board of Trustees for *Old Dominion Athletic Foundation*. His firm focuses on retirement income and distribution, estate planning concepts, wealth preservation, business succession and employee benefit services.

Don’t miss this wonderful workshop!

Mun Lee Han Donna Halleck
Co-President-Elects



President's Notes

by Lynn Kleisler

Greetings & Happy New Year!!!

I hope you all had a wonderful holiday and some relaxing time for yourself.

We had a great time at our second "Christmas Get Together" on December 8th at Sushi King in Norfolk. Many thanks go to Mun Lee Han for setting it up. It was so nice to get together, eat, play games and just have fun and fellowship with our forum friends.

It seems like the music school year is flying by! Besides three extraordinary meetings this school year, we have already had three events for our students which include the Sacred Music Festival, Student Recitals and the Play-A-Thon. If you weren't able to participate, I hope that you consider it for next year. There are many more great events coming up for our students in the next couple of months that I hope you will consider putting some students in. They include the VMTA Theory Test, VMTA Keyboard/Sight Reading Tests and the TMTF Levels of Progress. If you are not able to participate, I hope you may consider judging at one or all of these events. Besides being a great help to



the chairman, it is a way to become familiar with the event for yourself and your students in the future.

We have an exciting meeting coming up on January 18th with Richard McGrath. He is the owner and founder of Dominion Financial Solutions. He will be covering a variety of financial topics. This is a different topic than what we usually cover at our regular meetings, but it is something we can all glean some helpful information from for our financial well being. For more detailed information, please check your yearbook.

I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting!

Most Sincerely,
Lynn Kleisler, NCTM
TMTF President
lynnkleisler@yahoo.com

"Change your thoughts and you change your world."
– Norman Vincent Peale

ARE YOU ON FACEBOOK?

Join the groups:
**Music Teachers National
Association**

**Virginia Music Teachers
Association**

Tidewater Music Teachers Forum

**Post photos, announce your
events, make connections**

TMTF CALENDAR

January

- 5** **DEADLINE – VMTA Theory Test Registration**
- 11** **DEADLINE - VMTA Skills Test/Sight Reading Test**
- 18** **DEADLINE - TMTF Levels of Progress**
- 18** TMTF Meeting/Workshop - Richard McGrath - Music & Arts, Greenbrier, Chesapeake
- 21** **DEADLINE - TMTF Stafflines**
- 26** VMTA Theory Test at ODU Webb Center
- 28** **DEADLINE - TMTF Student Recital - Norfolk**

February

- 8** TMTF Executive Board Meeting, Oak Grove United Methodist Church, Chesapeake, VA @ 10:00 a.m.
 - 10** VMTA Keyboard Skills Tests & Sight Reading Tests Old Dominion University, Norfolk, VA
 - 11** **DEADLINE – Student Recital – Portsmouth**
 - 15** TMTF Meeting/Workshop – TMTF Meeting/Workshop – Dr. Agnes Wan@ 10:00 a.m.
 - 17** TMTF Student Recital, Norfolk - Second Presbyterian Church @ 3:00 p.m.
 - 17** TMTF Student Recital - Portsmouth - Zion Baptist Church @ 2:30 p.m.
 - 21** **DEADLINE – Stafflines News**
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2019 Sight-Reading and Skills Test

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

Sunday, February 10, 2019 at **Old Dominion University**

The registration **DEADLINE** is **January 11, 2019**. The **POSTMARK** date is the same as the **DEADLINE** date.

Syllabus is available from the State Chairperson. Detail information and the application forms can be found in the TMTF Yearbook and the Student Activity Booklet.

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

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

Lynn Kleisler (Skills Test State Chairperson)
757-925-0248 lynnkleisler@outlook.com

Fay Barss (Sight Reading Test State Chairperson)
804-282-7725 faysmusic@gmail.com



TIDEWATER MUSIC TEACHER'S FORUM
10/21/18 thru 12/20/18

ASSETS	
Savings Account	\$3,003.08
Checking Account	\$11,094.41
TOTAL	\$14,097.49

SAVINGS ACCOUNT	
Opening Balance	\$3,002.93
Interest for Oct and Nov	\$0.15
CLOSING BALANCE	\$3,003.08

CHECKING ACCOUNT	
Opening Balance	\$11,101.51
Hymn Festival	\$648.00
Ex. Programs	-\$499.79
Ex. Hymn Festival	-\$155.31
Closing Balance	\$11,094.41

Check out our new and improved website!

www.tmtf.org

List your teacher profile
with our new webmaster
Mun Lee Han
munleehan@gmail.com

Honors Recitals Auditions Early Reminder!!

Planning ahead is good!!!! TMTF teachers should mark their calendars for the **Honors Recitals Auditions** on Saturday, April 27th and Sunday, April 28th of 2019! Location is the Marsh School of Music.

Please remember that participation in Levels of Progress is a Prerequisite! That registration deadline is January 18, 2019! If you are not sure how Levels of Progress works, I'm happy to help!! Honors Recitals Auditions registration deadline is March 15th, 2019.

Honors Recitals Auditions are for Levels 4 through 12 and are a wonderful opportunity for students who enjoy performing and competitive opportunities. Details are in the Activity Book and I am always ready and happy to answer questions and encourage teachers to participate. Voice and instruments other than piano are welcome to audition.

I hope to hear from you!

Myrenna A. Kickasola,
Honors Recitals Auditions Chairman
757-420-6938 or joekick@regent.edu



LEVELS OF PROGRESS 2019

Happy New Year, everyone! With the new year comes the registration deadline for Levels of Progress on January 18. Please review page 19 of your 2018-2019 Yearbook and pages 37-48 of your Activity Book for the current forms and information; forms from previous years will have outdated information and should not be used.

Registration forms are available as an Excel file. You can type in the information on your computer and then send in your registrations by email, or print them out and mail them. Then be sure to mail your check to cover the student registration fees, postmarked by January 18. Of course, you are welcome to fill in the registration forms by hand if you prefer. Regardless, the postmark/email date for the registration forms is Friday, January 18! Excel registration forms may be requested by emailing me at bethanyjacobbpiano@yahoo.com.

Remember, memorization of pieces is now optional. TMTF still highly encourages memorization, but we also realize that this is not always possible. Levels of Progress is intended for students of ALL ages and abilities, so we want to be sure all students are able to participate. If a student DOES NOT memorize one or both pieces, the student will play from the original copy of the music. A photocopy of the music must be brought for the judge to use. The judge will keep the photocopy, and it will be destroyed following Levels of Progress. This policy is in accordance with the rules and regulations of MTNA and VMTA and is also used for other TMTF events.

Levels of Progress began in 1969 and has served as a model for some of our sister chapters who also wished to have a fund raiser that would benefit the students, teachers and organization. Your participation will help us continue to provide quality presenters for our meetings and the best possible opportunities for our teachers and students. Thank you!

Bethany Jacob
2019 Levels of Progress Chair
bethanyjacobbpiano@yahoo.com
701-866-2857

MTNA CERTIFICATION

Becoming a NCTM will change your life!

Perhaps a small exaggeration, but consider this an opportunity to become a better teacher and to put another 4 letters following your name.

We on the TMTF board who have been certified, including our Certification Chair, Jeanette Winsor, would like to invite you to meet with us so we can answer your questions, match you up with a mentor, and motivate you to get started on the road to MTNA certification. Wondering about the cost of certification? VMTA and TMTF are offering a \$100 reimbursement each (total \$200) to offset the cost of certification.

Consider your schedule and when you'd be able to meet with us in January or February, and email Susan Atkins at pianolearningcenter@gmail.com.

Friday morning
Saturday morning or afternoon
Sunday afternoon or evening

From there, we'll schedule a meeting in a central location and let you know so you can come.

Susan Atkins (757-282-8220 - cell)



January

- 1 Frank Elliott
- 5 Hugh Middleton
- 7 Geraldine Boone
- 12 Romayne Hardy
- 12 Nancy Whitfield
- 15 Camille White
- 17 Jiyon Agnes Han
- 18 Vesta Griffin
- 20 Susan Grice
- 28 Jeanette Winsor

February

- 2 Gail Hinton-Copeland
- 3 Jane Gallatin
- 4 Beverly Manry
- 18 Gracie Wilson
- 19 Jeanette Wallace
- 22 Alisa Bohon

Need Students? Want to refer students?

Look no further than the TMTF website:
www.tmtf.org

You can submit your contact information and
teacher profile to our webmaster:

Mun Lee Han
munleehan@gmail.com

If you need to refer a student, simply give
them the website address: www.tmtf.org -
it's that easy!

TMTF Play-A-Thon

Please remind your students to collect and turn in their pledge money to you as soon as possible. For a student to qualify for one of the monetary rewards, the money has to be turned in by January 31st. Be sure to include your completed "Studio Schedule and Pledge Validation Form" when you send your student's money to me. I need this for my records as well as to determine who will receive one of the monetary awards. The form can be found in the TMTF Activity Book as well as on our website (tmtf.org).

Thank you!
Lynn Kleisler
Play-A-Thon Chairman

PIANO & ORGAN WAREHOUSE

5164 Virginia Beach Blvd., Virginia Beach, VA 23462



INVENTORY

CLEARANCE SALE

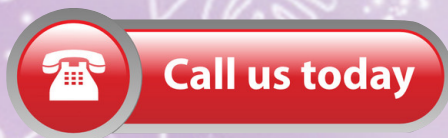
FINANCING AVAILABLE

BIG SAVINGS

AS 2019 PIANO MODELS ARRIVE!

CLEARING OUT

ALL IN STOCK PIANOS!



(757)497-8929

(757)869-8513

January Workshops at NancSpiration™ Studios

Whitfield Music LLC | 920 Ventures Way, Suite 1, Chesapeake, VA 23320 | 757-620-2475

Mic Technique Workshop

A hands-on opportunity to learn about good mic technique for singers!

Saturday, January 12, 2019
10 a.m.
\$35.00 per person

Evening of Piano Improv

Bring a picture or object as inspiration for a song to be improvised by Nancy, followed by a discussion of the musical techniques used!

Saturday, January 19, 2019
7 p.m.
\$5.00 per person

Singer/Songwriter Workshop

Bring your original song to perform & receive feedback!

Saturday, January 19, 2019
2 p.m.
\$35.00 per person

Audition Prep Workshop

How to prepare for a musical theatre audition for vocalists!

Saturday, January 26, 2019
3 p.m.
\$35.00 per person

“Sing & See” Workshop

See a visual representation of your singing voice and pitch through technology!

Saturday, January 26, 2019
6 p.m.
\$50.00 per person

Participants must sign a participation agreement to attend. Seating is limited.

See details of each session and registration links at:
www.whitfieldmusic.com/events

TMTF Members — Email Nancy at nancy@whitfieldmusic.com for a **discount code** for workshops!

The **SACRED MUSIC FESTIVAL** for 2018 was held at 2 locations this year! It was a big help to those teachers in the Suffolk area to travel closer to home for this event. A big thank you to **Cecelia Robinson** for hosting this event at East End Baptist Church in their beautiful *new* church building!

Thalia Lynn Baptist Church was gracious in allowing us to use their excellent facilities for the second year! They even welcomed us with their electronic marquis out front on Virginia Beach Blvd. Thanks to Brett Woodall for making us feel so welcome. Each student had access to a *grand piano* for their performance!

We had 8 teachers that sent in 54 students for this event. Thanks to all the teachers and judges who made this year's Sacred Music Festival a great success! I look forward to seeing you back next year, and I would love to see more of you come and join us as well!

Donna Halleck, Chairman

SACRED MUSIC FESTIVAL

The Reflection of Joy

Creating joy — it's one of the most important facets of my calling to teach music. Granted, learning often requires some effort and work; however, the end result should be the ability to make music that brings happiness and fulfillment.

It was on a particularly blustery evening that I arrived to work with one of my students — my hair disheveled from the winter wind, my feet cold and damp, and my mind dragging from a long day of obligations.

As I worked with my student on a particularly challenging section, I noticed her eyes consistently darting toward one side of the piano. I wondered what was distracting her. After several minutes of her attempting to work through the difficult passage and of my trying to offer assistance by coaching her through various strategies toward success, the realization hit me like a ton of bricks.

She was watching me.

In that moment of revelation, I wondered what my reflection in the glossy ebony piano conveyed to her. Did it embody encouragement? Was it smiling? Was it showing the joy that I want music to create? Or was it reflecting something else — my tiredness from a long day, a furrowed brow as I listened to her struggle through attempt after attempt of the troublesome passage, or maybe even a look of frustration?

It was in that dramatic moment that the student became my teacher. No more would I ever believe that, just because I was sitting behind students, they could not see what my face was reflecting. I decided that, from that day forward, my face would show at all times what I wanted every student to see — encouragement, patience, belief that they can succeed, pride in their efforts, and most of all, JOY!

The next time you've had a rough day, are working with a struggling student, or are consumed by any number of competing thoughts, consider this question: "What does the reflection my student sees say to them?" Believe it or not, they may see when we least think they can.

Dr. Nancy Whitfield is a writer, speaker, and piano/voice teacher who left a successful business career to pursue her passion for music as a profession later in life. Her motto is: "Transforming lives through the JOY of music."™ www.whitfieldmusic.com NancSpiration™ Studios

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VMTA THEORY NOTICE

Hello Music Teachers,

This is a reminder that on Saturday, January 26, 2019, the Tidewater Music Teachers Forum (TMTF) will administer the VMTA Theory Test. This Event will be held at the Student Webb Center at Old Dominion University, Norfolk, Virginia. The Registration Deadline is Saturday, January 5, 2019.

Levels 4 - 12 begin at 9:00 a.m.

Levels Pri - 3B begin at 10:30 a.m.

I encourage everyone to participate. Teachers who are not members of TMTF can also participate. Contact Marilyn Forman, TMTF Theory Chair, if you are a non-member and interested to participate.

The phone number and email address for Marilyn Forman is at the bottom of this page.

The *Registration Form* and the *Student Release Form* are in the TMTF Activity Book.

Please make copies of the *Student Release Form*, which is found in the TMTF Activity Book, for your students. Please note that each student should have their own form. Do not combine siblings on one form. Have your students bring this form with them on the day of the Theory Test. Also, please help them fill-out the form. Do not mail your *Student Release Forms* to the Theory Chairman. Along with the *Student Release Form*, please also have your students bring two pencils for their use.



Students can take only one test per year. The fee is \$14.00 for one test. Mail the Registration Form, and also 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 the TMTF Theory Chairman, Marilyn Forman. This also applies to a teacher entering one student. The teacher should mail the Registration form and check.

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.
- ◆ An oral test can be given if requested on the Registration Form.
- ◆ 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, and there are no make-up dates for the Theory Test should students be absent on the Theory Test day. Students who are absent the day of the Theory Test will receive their test but not receive VMTA credit for the test.

Teachers can purchase a hard copy of the 2013 VMTA Sample Theory Syllabus

<p>The VMTA Sample Theory Syllabus includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Twelve levels of practice tests ➤ Corresponding Answer Keys ➤ Aural CDs for each level ➤ New Terms Glossary 	<p>Marilyn Forman, NCTM Theory Chairman 37 Patton Drive Newport News, VA 23606-1744</p>
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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.

Note: This Sample Theory Syllabus can also be viewed online on the VMTA website.

Teachers are expected to come help administer and grade the Theory Tests on the Theory Test Day, Saturday, January 26th. Teacher assignments will be given to all teachers entering students in this Event.

All the Best,

Marilyn Forman, Theory Chairman

Tel: (757) 930-8560

Email: mforman@odu.edu

Stafflines Deadline

The deadline for submitting articles for *Stafflines* is the 21st of each month. The editor must receive the articles no later than this date.

Please submit all articles via email to:

Susan Atkins

pianolearningcenter@gmail.com

Alternatively, you may submit a printed article via U.S. Postal Service.

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
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One half page (8.5" x 5.5")	\$10.00
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Full page (8.5" x 11")	\$20.00
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Make check payable to TMTF and send along with your ad to:

Susan Atkins, Editor
4537 Biscayne Drive
Virginia Beach, VA 23434



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

Susan Atkins, Editor
4537 Biscayne Drive
Virginia Beach, VA 23455

January 2019

TMTF is the 2008 MTNA Local Association of the Year