

STAFFLINES

Monthly Newsletter of the Tidewater Music Teachers Forum

Philip Powell

Story Telling and Rhetoric:

Teaching and Understanding Musical Phrasing and Gesture from Burgmüller to Beethoven



Friday, April 25, 2025

Location Jordan Kitt's Music, 5164 Virginia Beach Blvd., VA 23462

10:00 Business Meeting & Workshop

12:00 Lunch

Dr. Philip M. Powell is a Professor of Music and has been a faculty member at Coastal Carolina University since 1988, teaching piano, piano pedagogy and music history. Since moving South Carolina, Dr. Powell has maintained an active performing schedule with concerts frequently heard on South Carolina Public Radio. In South Carolina, Dr. Powell has performed with the South Carolina Symphony Orchestra, the Jupiter Symphony and is a frequent soloist with the Long Bay Symphony, playing concerto repertoire ranging from Mozart to Gershwin. As collaborative pianist, Powell has appeared with artists such as Kennedy Center Honors recipient Martina Arroyo, soprano; Ignat Solzhenitsyn, piano; Sungwon Yang, cello; David Jolley, French horn; Grammy nominated Tine Thing Helseth, trumpet, Grammy nominated composer and flutist, Valarie Coleman, and most recently with composer and pianist Amanda Harberg.

He has served as President of the Coastal Concert Association, Music Director of the Festival of Music and Art at Pawley's Island, founding Director of the "Musicale de Geneve" series and a member of the Board of Directors of the Litchfield Dance Arts Academy and of the Long Bay Symphony. In 2021, Dr. Powell was inducted into the Steinway "Teacher Hall of Fame," which serves as a tribute to the many outstanding mentors with whom Dr. Powell had the privilege to work.

Dr. Powell holds the BMA from the University of Oklahoma, where he studied with Drs. Todd Welbourne and Edward Gates, and studied at the Aspen Summer Music Festival as a student of the late Edith Oppens. Dr. Powell holds a Masters of Music from Indiana University, where he was a student of both the late Karen Shaw, and Shigeo Neriki and the Doctorate of Music, also from Indiana University, where he was a student of the late Michel Block.

Workshop Description:

What is it that separates a good performance from a great one? How do we account for one performance that may be note perfect but leave the audience unmoved while another performance may have note inaccuracies but still inspires the audience to stand and cheer? The conventions of storytelling and rhetoric are largely incorporated into the fabric of Western art and speech in ways that are both surprising and oddly organic. This presentation will make parallels between the speech patterns of every conversation, as well as the broad rhetorical patterns of historic speeches and how they relate to the phrase structures of Western Art music. Special attention will be given to examples of standard repertoire ranging from didactic repertoire such as Burgmüller's 25 Easy and Progressive Studies, Op. 100 to concert repertoire including Beethoven Sonatas, and will offer practical ways of framing musical issues in ways that will inspire music students to explore the expressive possibilities of shaping a phrase and creating a dramatic narrative in their practice and performance.



President's Letter April 2025

Sally and I are back from the 2025 MTNA Conference in Minneapolis, MN and we have a lot of materials, software, ideas, things we learned, and more to share with you at our May meeting on Friday, the 16th. It was an invigorating trip, and I encourage you to attend a national conference if you have not done so already. I know! I probably have mentioned that in a previous letter, but they are worth it! So, after you have paid your national dues, and you are setting up your studio budget for the upcoming academic year, set aside some funds for registration, travel, books/materials and food. On the MTNA website, there are helpful tips on how to afford a national conference.

https://www.mtna.org/MTNA/Business_Resources/Career_Development/Development/Afford_Conference.aspx

Did you know that there are MANY other business resources that MTNA has available for us teachers to utilize and learn from? Check them out at:

https://www.mtna.org/MTNA/Business_Resources/MTNA/Business_Resources/Business_Resources.aspx?hkey=ad1787a2-5bb3-43ae-b7af-12b3bc767849

If you are curious about more insight into our conference experience, just ask and we would love to talk more about the trip on a personal and professional level. And make sure you come to the May meeting for fun and freebies!

President,
Laura Cardin

TMTF Slate of Officers for 2025 - 2027 Term

President : Sally Copeland

President-Elect : Emily Denniston

Recording Secretary : Bethany Jacob

Treasurer : Mun Lee Han

Associate Treasure : Laura Cardin

Immediate Past President : Laura Cardin

Members-At-Large

- Donna Halleck
- Mun Lee Han



Our officers will be installed at our meeting on Friday, May 16th. We will vote on the slate at our April meeting. If you are not able to vote at the meeting, please email TidewaterMTF@gmail.com by Saturday, April 26th.

I would like to thank the nominating committee for your hard work! Committee Members: Susan Atkins, Laura Cardin, Donna Halleck and Mary Ann Medlin.

Laura Cardin

MTNA's New Virtual Conference TEMPO: Teaching, Education, Music & Pedagogy

Online April 25-26, 2025

Music Teachers National Association's new, completely virtual event is for music educators, students, and industry professionals. The virtual conference will provide attendees the opportunities to hear from colleagues and pedagogues in the field covering a range of topics, including teaching techniques new research , the future of the profession, best business practice, lesser-known repertoire and much more.

Tempo Registration -

www.mtna.org/Tempo/Registration

	On or Before 3/26/25	After 3/26/25
Members	\$175	\$225
Collegiate Members	\$50	\$75
Nonmembers	\$200	\$250
Collegiate Nonmembers	\$85	\$100

2025 VMTA Conference

It is my pleasure to announce that our 2025 VMTA State Conference will be hosted in Northern Virginia at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia from November 6th to November 8th.

We hope you will set aside the time and make plans to join us!

Warm Regards,
Christy Tallamy, NCTM
VMTA President-Elect

TMTF High School Seniors' Recital

The TMTF High School Seniors' Recital was established in 2016 to provide graduating High School Seniors of all levels to have an opportunity to share their talents with the Tidewater Community. If there is a winner or winners of the Glen Mayberry Scholarship, they will also perform at this recital. The recital is open to the public. The Registration Form can be found in the TMTF Activity Book.

There must be a minimum of 5 seniors for the recital to be held. Teachers of the participating seniors are asked to assist. The Registration Form should be mailed by May 1, 2025 to the Senior Recital Chairperson, Elizabeth Sjolund. The recital will be held in May. The date and location are TBD based on participation, so please contact Elizabeth Sjolund if you or your students are interested and available to participate.

Elizabeth Sjolund
landk627@aol.com



Teachers' Soirée

The TMTF Teachers' Recital was established in 2006 to provide teachers an opportunity to showcase their talents with the Tidewater Community as well as an opportunity for professional growth. Newly renamed in 2024, we will offer one or more teacher soirées based on interested and availability. Please contact Elizabeth Sjolund if you are interested.

Elizabeth Sjolund
landk627@aol.com

Help Wanted: Hospitality Chair

We are looking for a new Hospitality Chair.
Duties include:

1. At monthly meetings, arrive prior to meeting. Arrange hospitality table with name badges, guest and member sign-in sheets, door prize tickets, and information for new members. Be a welcoming, friendly face to greet and check-in members and guests at meetings and workshops. Introduce new members to the New Member Mentor Chair(s) and/or Membership Chair. Have members sign-in, or sign them in digitally, and hand out name badges and door prize tickets. At the conclusion of the meeting, put items away and take the box with you or leave with someone to keep for the next meeting at the same location.
2. Assist with planning the luncheon after the first and last meetings of the year. Inquire with the Presidents, how you can help - ordering, assist with set-up, assist with delivery, etc.
3. Before the first meeting of the year, update name badges. Check and revise officer and chair titles.

VMTA Theory Report 2025

The 2025 VMTA Theory Test took place on January 25. Fourteen teachers participated in the test this year with a total of 157 students registered and 154 students who took the test

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

Superior: 76
Excellent: 45
Very Good: 24
Good: 5
Pass: 3
Not Pass: 1
Absent: 3



Congratulations to 23 students and their teachers for achieving a 100% or more on this year's VMTA Theory Test!

See the next page for the list of students.

Many thanks to the 14 teachers who participated and registered students in this year's VMTA Theory Test

Participating Teachers

Susan Atkins
Carol Noona
Adelaide Coles
Sally Copeland
Galina Epelman
Donna Halleck
Mun Lee Han



- 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 the details.
- Another very big thank you to Phi Mu Alpha, Phi Boota Rotta and the Community Music Division for providing volunteers.
- Next year's test will be in January 2026. Please consider registering your students for this important part of their musical education.

Congratulations

3B	Neva Hatfield	Donna Halleck
2B	Katherine Spaeth	Helen Heifetz
Primer	Alice Li Lin	Elizabeth Sjolund
2B	William Shi	Galina Epelman
2A	Caden Gambito	Josephine Jones
3A	Liam Guingab	Josephine Jones
3A	Kayla McCormick	Josephine Jones
3A	Aaron Tran	Josephine Jones
Primer	Sophia Zeng	Josephine Jones
2B	Kathryn Lin	Mun Lee Han
2B	Kevin Lin	Mun Lee Han
3A	Thomas Shi	Mun Lee Han
2B	Annie Sun	Mun Lee Han
3A	Kyan Yuan	Mun Lee Han
4	Clare Henzel	Sally Copeland
3B	Stephen Henzel	Sally Copeland
Primer	Fangli Yang	Sharon Palardy
Primer	Morris Beitinjaneh	Susan Atkins
1B	Emma Chow	Susan Atkins
2B	Axel Cusher	Susan Atkins
2A	Alexis Morales	Susan Atkins
3A	Ava Salib	Susan Atkins
4	Griffin Durant	Tonya Holland

MTNA Certification

Want to be a better music teacher? Consider the MTNA Certification Program. Imagine those 4 little letters after your name - NCTM, Nationally Certified Teacher of Music. Going through the process not only made me a better piano teacher but also gave me respect from my students, parents and peers. MTNA offers certification for any instrument including voice.

Attending our meetings are a way to find out about certification and be encouraged to complete the process. VMTA and TMTF both offer a \$100 reimbursement (total \$200) to offset the cost of certification.

Find out more at
www.certification.mtna.org.

Have questions? Ask me anything!



Friday, April 4, 2025
10-11:30 AM Zoom or in-person

Please RSVP to Susan Atkins, TMTF
 Certification Chair
pianolearningcenter@gmail.com

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!

Bring a Friend to Our TMTF Workshops and Earn Rewards!

Invite a fellow music teacher to join you at any of our TMTF Workshops! When you bring a friend, both of you will receive a \$10 Music & Arts gift card as a thank you.



Special Membership Incentive from MTNA - For New Members

Do you have friends and colleagues who want to invest in their professional development but aren't yet members of MTNA? There could not be a better time to join! From now through June 30, active members joining **for the first time** will receive a 50% discount on national membership dues. (Many state and local affiliates offer a discount too!)

Invite your colleagues to join online today by sharing the link below, or having them call us at (888) 512-5278, Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M.-4:00 P.M. Eastern Time.
[Join Online Today!](#)

Thank you for your support in growing and strengthening MTNA!
 ⚠️ This membership expires June 30, 2025, and will require full dues for the next membership year (beginning July 1) be paid at that time. Members will receive their statements for the 2025-2026 year in April.

TMTF CALENDAR

April 2025

- 5 TMTF Glover Scholarship Auditions
Monumental UMC, 450 Dinwiddie St, Portsmouth, VA 23704
- 11 **DEADLINE - VMTA Eastern District Auditions**
- 11 **DEADLINE - Glen Mayberry Scholarship Auditions**
- 21 **DEADLINE - Stafflines News**
- 25 10:00 a.m. TMTF Meeting/Workshop - Clinician: Philip Powell, DMA
Jordan Kitt's Music - 5164 Virginia Beach Blvd., VA 23462
- 26-27 TMTF Honors Recitals Auditions – *Marsh School of Music*
328 Office Square Ln #102, VA Beach, VA 23462

May 2025

- 1 **DEADLINE - TMTF Achievement Award Documentation**
- 1 **DEADLINE - High School Seniors' Recital**
- 9 10:00 a.m. TMTF Executive Board Meeting – *ODU Diehn Composers Seminar Room*
- 10 VMTA Eastern District Auditions – *Christopher Newport University*
- 10 Glen Mayberry Scholarship Auditions – *Christopher Newport University*
- 16 9:30 a.m. TMTF Meeting/Workshop/Luncheon – MTNA Conference Highlights
Old Dominion University's Diehn Center for the Performing Arts
1339 West 49th Street, Norfolk, VA. 23529

Please notice our earlier start time of 9:30 a.m. for Officer Installation and brief business meeting on Friday, May 16th. Please RSVP for the workshop AND please RSVP for the luncheon - RSVP by April 25th! We need to know how many people will be attending the workshop so we have enough handouts and freebies. We also need to know how many people to expect for the luncheon. Thank you in advance!

Happy
Birthday



April

3 Jessica Sammataro
10 Joan Edwards
24 Anna Perkins Settle

May

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





YAMAHA

JORDAN www.jordankitts.com
Kitt's music

A proud supporter of the Tidewater Music Teachers Forum for over a half century!

Jordan Kitt's Music has been a partner of local music education for decades, and is Tidewater's home of the best piano values

Area representatives of Yamaha,
Bösendorfer, Cristofori, Roland & More...
Sales • Service • Tunings • Lessons • Rentals

5164 Virginia Beach Boulevard
Virginia Beach, VA 23462
(757) 497-8929

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 the Stafflines Editor

Piano Showcase
pianoshowcaseva.com
Greenbrier Mall

J. Scott Bailey
President

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

KAWAI



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