



STAFFLINES



Monthly Newsletter of the Tidewater Music Teachers Forum

Dr. Victoria Fischer-Faw

Eating Bonbons and Watching Soap Operas? A Music Teacher's Reflections on Retirement



Friday, April 17th, 2026

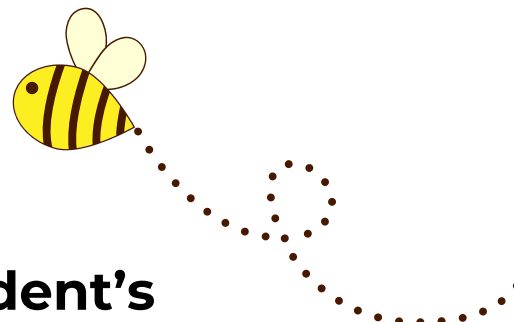
Location: Jordan Kitt's Music
5164 Virginia Beach Blvd, VA 23462

10:00 Business Meeting & Workshop

12:00 Lunch

Victoria Fischer-Faw, DMA, NCTM, Professor Emerita Elon University. Dr. Fischer's passions include exploring the full range of piano repertoire and teaching young teachers to teach piano. She enjoys a busy schedule of performance and teaching, masterclasses, adjudication, and scholarly and pedagogical presentations for music teachers and students. During her term as President, North Carolina MTA was named State Affiliate of the Year. She is co-creator of MTNA's first virtual Local Affiliate, the VLMTA of Western-NC. She was named 2021 NCMTA Teacher of the Year, MTNA 2022 National Teacher of the Year, and 2022 MTNA Foundation Fellow. She currently serves as MTNA Southern Division Director-elect. Her scholarship and performance activities include a specialty in the music of Béla Bartók, first prize at the 1990 Bartók-Kabalevsky International Piano Competition, publications in scholarly journals, and lecture-recitals for local, state, and national audiences. Vicky studied at Centenary College of Louisiana, UNC-Chapel Hill, UT Austin, and the Vienna Conservatory. Her teachers include Constance Knox Carroll, Danielle Martin, David Renner, Amanda Vick Lethco, Martha Hilley and Elliott Antokoletz. She lives on a Christmas tree farm in the mountains of North Carolina with her husband Steve and Rufus the dog.

Workshops Description: What does retirement mean for a music teacher? Who am I as a "civilian?" How do I find a new life balance? How do I find purpose and satisfaction? Is it ok to simply step away from teaching? How to continue to serve? I know more now than I ever did, so what do I do with that? Dr. Fischer will reflect on her work as a university professor, mentor, scholar, pianist, and teacher and what comes next. Gleaned from interviews with a wide range of fellow music teachers as well as her own experience, this workshop will explore these questions and share creative ideas and resources for pursuing a meaningful musical life after "retirement."



President's Letter April 2026

The MTNA Conference in Chicago was fantastic and I am so excited about the TMTF May meeting! Joshua Miller, Susan Atkins, and Mun Lee Han were our other TMTF conference attendees, and we have many exciting and fun ideas to share with you. We will be celebrating the 150th year of MTNA and our presentation will be very interactive- we are bringing Chicago home to you!

There will be a catered lunch and many give-a-ways so please RSVP to the Tidewater MTF email if you will be attending **by May 1**. There will be swag bags made for 20 of our TMTF members- to get one of these, you will need to send in your reservations early as first come, first served. There are also drawings for prizes that any attendees and guests are eligible for. Guests are always welcome to meetings and workshops and are encouraged as we work to build our membership. The May meeting and lunch will be held at ODU in the Diehn Composers Room with free parking across the street at the Methodist Wesley Center.

The April meeting will be held at Jordan Kitts with TMTF favorite Vicky Fisher-Faw. She is excited to be with us in person this year- if you remember last year her February presentation was virtual due to a sudden and unexpected snow. She will be available to go to lunch with us at the conclusion of the presentation. I hope to see you there!

Musically yours,
Sally



VMTA friends had a nice family style meal together- thanks Mun Lee for organizing this for us!



TMTF at the opening ceremony.



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.

MTNA CERTIFICATION MEETING FOR APRIL CANCELLED

The certification meeting scheduled for April 10 has been cancelled due to Spring Break.

See you on May 8!



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

April 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		

- 5 Easter
- 6-10 Chesapeake & Virginia Beach Public Schools Spring Break
- 6-10 Norfolk Public Schools Spring Break
- 6-10 Suffolk Public Schools Spring Break
- 10 TMTF Certification Meeting
- 17 TMTF Meeting/Workshop**
- 18 TMTF Glover Scholarship Auditions
- 21 DEADLINE: Stafflines News
- 25-26 TMTF Honors Recitals Auditions

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

Happy Birthday



April

- 3 Jessica Sammataro
- 6 Lisa Powell Carter
- 10 Joan Edwards

May

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



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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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Tidewater Music Teachers Forum

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

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