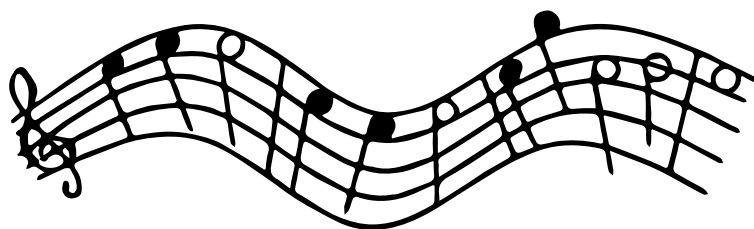


STAFFLINES

Monthly Newsletter of the Tidewater Music Teachers Forum



“The Magic of Imagery” With Catherine Rollin Saturday, September 20th, 2025



TMTF is excited to announce that our September clinician, **Catherine Rollin**, will be offering a masterclass following her workshop on **Saturday, September 20th**. We are seeking four students (plus two alternates) of different levels, late elementary and up, to perform music composed by Catherine Rollin. Wonderful repertoire can be found in her series *Pathways to Artistry* and *Museum Masterpieces*, but is not limited to these collections. The application deadline is **September 6th** and should be mailed to:

Emily Denniston
3496 Landstown Court
Virginia Beach, VA 23453

Please use the attached application for this event. The masterclass will take place at Chandler Recital Hall at Old Dominion University on their brand new **Steinway Model D Concert Grand!**

****Please note: this workshop and masterclass is taking place on **Saturday, September 20th**, which is not our usual meeting date. The workshop will take place at 10:00 AM in the Composer's room, followed by a catered lunch, and the masterclass will begin at 2:00 PM in Chandler Recital Hall.*

Catherine Rollin is a pianist, composer, clinician, author and teacher of prize-winning students. Her more than 400 published pedagogical compositions are recognized worldwide for their combination of musicality and “teachability.” As a clinician, Catherine has given over 300 workshops and masterclasses throughout the U.S., Canada, Japan and Taiwan. Her efforts as a composer, clinician and author are an outgrowth of her work as a teacher. Finding the answers to help her students develop artistic, relaxed and confident technical skills led Catherine to insights featured in her groundbreaking series, “Pathways to Artistry.” Catherine’s ASCAP award winning books, “Museum Masterpieces” feature her original piano works inspired by great art masterpieces from museums around the world. Catherine wrote this series after seeing how her students’ creativity was sparked by artwork imagery. She is also the co-author of the 2011 edition of the highly regarded college text, “Creative Piano Teaching.” All of the many facets of Catherine’s work emanate from her central passion for teaching.

Piano Master Class Registration Link **Catherine Rollin**

**Be one of the first to perform on ODU's new
Steinway Model D Concert Grand!**

Masterclass: Saturday, September 20th, 2025 at 2:00 PM

Location: Chandler Recital Hall, Old Dominion University

Deadline: September 6th, 2025

Student's Name: _____

Student's Age: _____

Teacher's Name: _____ Phone: _____

Teacher's Email: _____

Composition: _____

Composer: _____

Level (elementary and up): _____ Performance time: _____

Please note that space is limited. We have room for only 4 students and 2 alternates.

There will be a limit of 1 student per teacher. Ms. Rollin will be working with each student for a time appropriate for their level (less time for elementary levels, more time for intermediate and advanced.) Maximum playing time is 5 minutes. Please choose the piece accordingly. The repertoire list will be provided to Ms. Rollin and she will choose the performers.

The Master Class fee is \$15.00 per student. Registration form may be sent by mail or virtually, but a check is requested for the fee. Please make your check payable to TMTF. If the student is not selected to perform, the fee will be returned. Mail registration form and check to:

Emily Denniston
3496 Landstown Court
Virginia Beach, VA 23453
denniston.em@gmail.com



President's Letter September 2025



I have often wondered how it would be to not have to go "Back to School"...

I admit that I anticipate with some anxiety the many special events and holiday celebrations that are just around the corner.

BUT I am always excited to welcome my pupils again! Many have grown or changed in just the few short weeks since last lessons. I look forward to teaching them new things: repertoire, further developing their technique, and curiosity to know more. And of course sharing the love of music that lasts a lifetime.

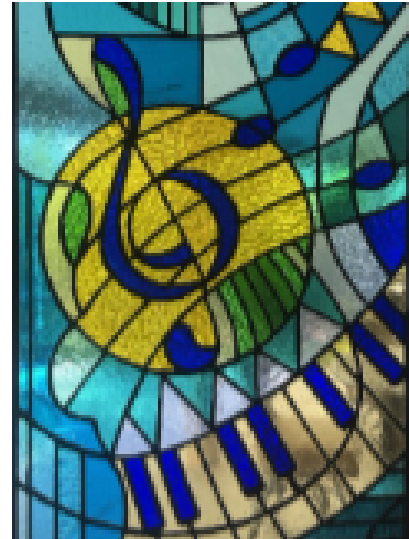
I look forward to the many opportunities that TMTF, VMTA, and MTNA will offer to me this academic year. Workshops and conferences are times of renewed friendships and inspire personal growth as an educator and musician.

I hope that you will plan to join us in this year's adventures, starting with the September 20th Catherine Rollin workshop and masterclass day. It is one that you will not want to miss!

Musically yours,
Sally

Sacred Music Festival

It's our first TMTF event
of the fall!



This is the best opportunity for your students to prepare pieces for Play-A-Thon, Christmas Recitals, church offertories, preludes and specials without the pressure of memorization.

This event will be held at Thalia Lynn Baptist Church on Virginia Beach Blvd and at Monumental Methodist Church in Portsmouth on Saturday, November 15, 2025.

You can find the instructions and Registration form in our new TMTF Studio Companion Book. The deadline for **registration is October 17, 2024.**

If you're searching for good music to use, I highly recommend Wendy Steven's **Hymns I, II, and III** (www.Composecreate.com) and **Play Hymns** - from Alfred.com.

Don't let this event pass you by! Get involved!

Donna Halleck
Sacred Music Festival Chairperson



Catherine Rollin workshop has been expanded and is not to be missed!



In addition to “The Magic of Imagery” session, Catherine will be adding an additional topic, “Through the Eyes of the Composer: Finding the Spark”. This is a brand new session created by Catherine. “Magic of Imagery” will last about an hour, followed by a 15 minute break and then the second session.

Reminder to RSVP promptly if attending the TMTF teachers lunch.

This masterclass will be held in Chandler Recital Hall at 2 pm and will be open to student attendance as space provides.

We are so very excited for this event and hope that you will all make time in your schedule to attend!

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!

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

2026 VMTA Theory Test

It's time to get ready for the 2026 VMTA Theory Test!

Dates:	January 31 st , 2026
Registration Deadline:	December 19 th , 2025
Registration Fee:	\$15.00
Prerequisites or Post-requisites:	Theory test completion required to participate in the VMTA District Auditions
Requirements:	Written exam, leveled 1-12, based on musical knowledge (not school grade).
Chairperson:	Susan Atkins, NCTM 4357 Biscayne Drive, Virginia Beach VA 23455 (757) 282-8220 pianolearningcenter@gmail.com
Chairperson:	Sally Copeland 116 Tyler Crescent, Portsmouth VA 23707 (757) 376-7348 srcopela@odu.edu
Location:	Old Dominion University Webb Center 1301 W 49 th St Norfolk, VA 23529

For detailed instructions and registration form, please see the Studio Companion for 2025-2026.

Thank you!
Susan Atkins

MTNA Certification



Let's get certified!

The MTNA Professional Certification Program exists to improve the level of professionalism within the field of music teaching. It benefits the members of the profession itself, as well as the public who interacts 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.

Certification meeting schedule:

September 19

October 10

November 14

January 9

February 13

March 6

April 10

May 8

10:00-11:30 am on Zoom

2025-2026 Local Chairperson:

Susan Atkins, NCTM

4357 Biscayne Drive

Virginia Beach, VA 23455

(757) 282-8220

pianolearningcenter@gmail.com

TMTF EVENT CALENDAR

September 2025						
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				

1 Labor Day

2 Chesapeake Public Schools - Firsts Day of School

20 TMTF Meeting/Workshop/Luncheon - ODU at 10AM

20 Catherine Rollin Masterclass - Chandler Recital Hall at 2PM

21 DEADLINE: Stafflines News

October 2025						
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	

3 TMTF Executive Board Meeting (Zoom or Google Meet) 10AM

10-11 NC State Conference at App. State U.

13 Columbus Day

17? TMTF Meeting/Workshop - Location TBD

17 DEADLINE - Sacred Music Festival

21 DEADLINE - Stafflines News

31 Halloween

Happy Birthday



September

2 Josephine Jones
11 Patricia Kennedy
16 Sharon Alston
20 Tonya Holland
30 Vernon McCart





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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