

STAFFLINES

Monthly Newsletter of the Tidewater Music Teachers Forum

Victoria Fischer Faw

"Arranging Their Success": The Piano Pedagogy of Amanda Vick Lethco



Friday, February 21, 2025

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

10:00 Business Meeting & Workshop

12:00 Lunch

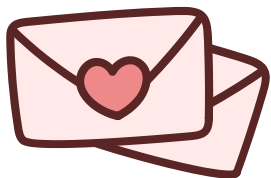
VICTORIA FISCHER FAW, DMA, NCTM, Professor Emerita, Elon University, is a pianist, teacher, and scholar whose musical passions include exploring the full range of piano repertoire and teaching young teachers to teach piano. She has served NCMTA in many roles, including President when North Carolina received the National State Affiliate of the Year Award in 2021. 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 MTNA Foundation Fellow. Her scholarship and performance activity includes 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 currently serves as Southern Division MTNA Director-Elect. She lives on a Christmas tree farm in the mountains of North Carolina with her husband Steve and Rufus the dog.

Workshop Description:

Amanda Vick Lethco, a pioneer of American piano pedagogy, is perhaps best known for the innovative method series Alfred's Basic Piano Library, co-authored with Willard Palmer and Morty Manus. Her workshops across the US and around the world attracted admiring teachers year after year. Though she's no longer with us, her powerful influence is present today through the many students in her pedagogy classes whose teaching is informed by her kind and effective philosophy of "arranging success" through an incremental approach to mastering complex skills and concepts. With contributions gathered from fellow AVL students, this session will analyze the pedagogy underpinning the development of her publications and teaching, and reflect upon its continued influence in the teaching of AVL's students. The workshop will include demonstrations of some of Dr. Fischer's favorite AVL teaching tools, with a focus on "Steps to Scales," an incremental approach to teaching the theory and technical mastery of scales



President's Letter February 2024



NCTM (Nationally Certified Teacher of Music) - Do you have these letters next to your name?

Many of us encourage our students to participate in events for evaluation and assessment and in a way, going through the certification process does the same thing for us in our music teaching profession. I have been going through the steps to get there myself. It is a great way to assess myself and my teaching and to really think about what I'm doing for my students, how I can improve my teaching, how I am relaying information to my students and their caregivers, and so much more. I know when I finish it will be all worth it and I look forward to having those four letters next to my name in the very near future.

If you are thinking about it, don't know anything about it, are starting the process, are almost finished, or have recently finished the process, please join the Zoom chat with Susan Atkins, NCTM (details in another spot in Stafflines and an email will be sent out to RSVP).

There is a registration fee for the certification application. Did you know that when you are complete, Tidewater Music Teachers Forum will reimburse half of your registration fee? Did you know that Virginia Music Teachers Association will also reimburse half of your registration fee? What does that mean? Your registration will be totally reimbursed! So, what are you waiting for? Go online to [Get MTNA Certified](#) and check out the information and requirements listed on the MTNA website, and join Susan Atkins, NCTM and other music teachers who are striving to get their certification.

President
Laura Cardin

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, November 22, 2024
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!

MTNA 2025 National Conference

March 15-19, 2025
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Registration is Open for the 2025 National Conference - You Belong at MTNA! - [Register Here](#)

Don't Miss Out on Your Conference Discount

Register for the 2025 National Conference by **February 5 at 11:59 P.M. Eastern Time**---after that, both the member and non-member rates increase \$50.

Mark your calendars and register now for the **2025 MTNA National Conference, March 15-19**, at the Hilton Minneapolis.

The MTNA National Conference has long been the premier gathering for **professionals and leaders in the music teaching profession**. As an attendee, you will have the unique opportunity to:

- Connect with new and established peers
- Learn about the latest trends and topics in the profession
- See the newest offerings from more than 100 exhibitors
- Come away inspired and refreshed in your practice

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 Coming Soon -

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

Play-A-Thon

This is a friendly reminder for teachers who participated in the 2024 Play-A-Thon to remind their students to finish collecting their pledge money so that it can be turned in by the deadline date of **March 1st**. This is a TMTF requirement to be able to participate in the David Carr Glover Scholarship Auditions and the Glen Mayberry Scholarship Auditions. It is also a requirement to be eligible for a Louise Garrow Memorial Scholarship. Please be sure to include your "Studio Schedule and Pledge Validation Form" with the student's information filled in (name and pledge amount) when you send it to me. Also, please do not send me your student's Pledge Sheets.

Thank you!

Lynn Kleisler, NCTM

Play-A-Thon Chairman

Zoom Recital

Susan Cusher will be doing a "Zoom Recital" of her Royal Conservatory of Toronto ARCT program every Monday in February at 11am. Anyone is welcome to virtually "attend" with the zoom link.

Please reach out to Susan at bluebirdmusicstudios@gmail.com for the link.

Recital Program:

Chopin's Etude in A flat major, Op. 25, No. 1 ("Harp Etude")
 Bach's Prelude and Fugue in b flat minor XXII (BWV 867)
 Beethoven's Sonata in E flat Major, Op. 81a ("Les adieux")
 Brahms' Rhapsody in g minor, Op. 70, No. 2
 Barber's Excursions, movements I and II
 Debussy's L'isle Joyeuse

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

February 2025

♪	2	DEADLINE - TMTF Student Recital - Norfolk
	2	DEADLINE - TMTF Student Recital - Portsmouth
	14	10:00 a.m. TMTF Executive Board Meeting via Zoom
	21	10:00 a.m. TMTF Meeting/Workshop - Clinician: Victoria Fischer Faw, DMA <i>Jordan Kitt's Music - 5164 Virginia Beach Blvd., VA 23462</i>
	16	Student Recital - Norfolk - <i>Royster Memorial Presbyterian Church</i>
	TBD	Student Recital - Portsmouth - TBD
	21	DEADLINE - Stafflines News
	23	VMTA Sight Reading/Keyboard Skills Tests – <i>Diehn Performing Arts Center, ODU</i>

March 2025

♪	1	DEADLINE - TMTF Play-A-Thon (participation in scholarship events deadline)
	8	TMTF Levels of Progress - <i>Portsmouth, Virginia Beach</i>
	9	TMTF Levels of Progress - <i>Virginia Beach, Norfolk</i>
	15	DEADLINE - TMTF Glover Scholarship Auditions
	15	DEADLINE - TMTF Honors Recitals Auditions
	15-19	MTNA Conference – <i>Minneapolis, MN</i>
	21	DEADLINE - Stafflines News
	28	10:00 a.m. TMTF Meeting/Workshop - Clinician: Bradley Sowash <i>Old Dominion University's Diehn Center for the Performing Arts 1339 West 49th Street, Norfolk, VA. 23529</i>

Happy
Birthday



February

22 Alisa Bohon
25 Katherine
Wright

March

1 Laura Cardin
18 Mary Ann Medlin
19 Walter Noona
22 Elizabeth Sjolund
30 Cathy Bryan
30 Galina Epelman





YAMAHA

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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