



STAFFLINES



Monthly Newsletter of the Tidewater Music Teachers Forum

Friday, April 22, 2022

Jordan Kitt's Music

5164 Virginia Beach Blvd., Virginia Beach, VA 23462

Hai Jin

**“Comparing Toru Takemitsu’s Musical Language to
Messiaen and Debussy”**

9:30 Coffee

10:00 Business Meeting/Workshop

12:00 Lunch



Biography

Hai Jin has performed over 200 recitals throughout United States and Asia. She has received numerous awards and prizes in competitions, including the Liszt competition in the 2013 Art of Piano festival in Cincinnati, and the Cincinnati Concerto Competition in 2014. She has appeared as a soloist throughout China and has been engaged with several Chinese orchestras such as China Conservatory orchestra, Shanxi string Chamber orchestra and Yanbian symphony orchestra. She made her United States debut in 2010 upon the invitation of Boston University. She has recorded and collaborated with violinist Haoli Lin on his debut CD Romantic Journey, and previously recorded with Violinist Yabing Tan on her CD Yabing Tan published by Great Wall Classics. Jin has also appeared as faculty in Music festivals such as Great wall Music Academy and Cleveland International Music Festival, giving master classes at Norfolk State University, Nanjing Xiaozhuang University, China Conservatory of Music, participating as Jury at Washington Universal Piano competition, Water Cube Competition and Talent CCTV Competition. She has worked with renowned artists such as Rohan De Silva, Hiram Diaz, Erinn Frechette, Heather Verbeck Harrison, Gao Can, Yi li etc. She is a D.M.A. candidate at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music in Piano Performance with cognate area in Orchestral Conducting. At the same institution, her A.D. and M.M. in Piano Performance were completed under guidance of pianists Awadagin Pratt and James Tocco. Her B.M. in Piano Performance is from China Conservatory. She has worked at the Preparatory Department of University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, and as Assistant Professor in Minzu University (Beijing, China), Assistant Conductor at the Maryland Lyric Opera. Currently, she appears mostly in the DC area as a solo pianist. (Continue to the next page.)

This lecture recital examines how Toru Takemitsu's musical language in his piano music shows influence from Messiaen and Debussy. Takemitsu has acknowledged that Messiaen and Debussy have both influenced his music, but the full extent of his influence has not been examined in detail. Through analysis of pitch, rhythm, and texture, I will highlight connections between Takemitsu, Messiaen, and Debussy.

I will compare Takemitsu and Messiaen's music, focusing on Takemitsu's Rain Tree Sketches I & II, dedicated to Messiaen, Messiaen's "Première Communion de la Vierge" from *Vingt regards sur L'Enfant-Jésus*, and Debussy's "Ondine," from *Preludes, Book 2*. The three composers' musical language and how it makes use of the octatonic collection, rhythmic patterns and ostinato, contrasting textural patterns, and formal structure to explore how Takemitsu absorbed Messiaen's and Debussy's musical styles. The study not only observes similarities in musical language between Messiaen and Debussy, but also shows how Takemitsu draws on the language of these composers to create his own style.



President's Letter - April 2022

Dear Fellow Music Teachers,

I know we're all in the thick of it with our music studios - VMTA testing, auditions, competitions, recitals and more. It keeps us busy this time of year. May I suggest a time-out for all of us to take a step back, take a breath and get inspired? The MTNA National Conference was March 26-30 and because it was a virtual conference, all the sessions and recitals were recorded. That means we can watch them at our convenience for months to come. I encourage you

to register for the conference and start watching. It's worth every penny for the insights, inspiration and motivation to improve our teaching skills.

In this issue of Stafflines is the announcement that our long-time and beloved member, Gerry Sawyer passed away in March. You can read her obit and you'll learn why I add my tribute to the others for this wonderful teacher and TMTF member.

Don't miss our April meeting and you can read about it on page 1. We welcome Hai Jin who will be presenting: "Comparing Toru Takemitsu's Musical Language to Messiaen and Debussy" on Friday, April 22, 2022 at Jordan Kitt's Music. Do check out Toru Takemitsu's music on YouTube. I wasn't familiar with this composer but now find myself wanting to learn more.

Susan Atkins, NCTM
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Play-A-Thon Total Update

More money has come in since the final report last month. Our official total now is \$7,491. Many thanks to all of you who participated!

Lynn Kleisler, NCTM
Play-A-Thon Chairman



April

- 10 Joan Edwards
- 18 Brenda Watkins

May

- 4 Carol Noona
- 4 Megan Stuart
- 4 Megan Zimmerman
- 11 Teresa Compos-Falk
- 16 Betty J. Atkinson
- 26 Susan Burke Cusher
- 28 Mun Lee Han

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TMTF Calendar

April 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					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

4/9 - TMTF Glover Scholarship Auditions
 Monumental United Methodist Church
 450 Dinwiddie St, Portsmouth, VA 23704

4/15 - DEADLINE - Glen Mayberry Scholarship Auditions
DEADLINE - VMTA Eastern District Auditions

4/21 - DEADLINE Stafflines News

4/22 - TMTF Meeting/Workshop - Clinician: Hai Jin
 Jordan Kitt's Music, 5164 VA Beach Blvd.,
 Virginia Beach, VA23462

4/23-24 TMTF Honors Recitals Auditions
 Marsha School of Music, 328 Office Square Ln #102
 Virginia Beach, VA 23462

May 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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				

5/1 DEADLINE TMTF Achievement Award Documentation
DEADLINE High School Seniors' Recital

5/13 - TMTF Executive Board Meeting (Jordan Kitt's Music, 5164
 VA Beach Blvd, Virginia Beach VA 23462)

5/14 - VMTA Eastern District Auditions at Ewell Hall, William &
 Mary

5/14 - Glen Mayberry Scholarship Auditions at Christopher
 Newport University, Newport News, VA 23606

5/14 - TMTF Honors Recitals Rehearsals at Chandler Recital Hall,
 Old Dominion University

5/15 - TMTF Honors Recitals & Seniors' Recital at Chandler
 Recital Hall, Old Dominion University

5/20 - TMTF Meeting/Workshop/Luncheon at Holiday Inn
 Virginia Beach/Norfolk, 5655 Greenwich Rd, Virginia Beach, VA
 23462

2/21 - DEADLINE Stafflines News



In Memorium: Geraldine Sawyer

Geraldine Burfoot Sawyer of Chesapeake went home to be with her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on Tuesday, March 16, 2022. She was born in Norfolk, Virginia to Reginald Vanderbilt Burfoot and Thelma Pugh Burfoot on March 24, 1931. She graduated Salutatorian from Maury High School in 1949 and attended the Norfolk Division of VPI and William and Mary where she earned a Music Diploma, Magna Cum Laude. She studied piano for 14 years under Eugenia Folliard, two years with Elizabeth Pappas, and studied organ for three years under Dr. Charles Vogan.

Music was always of the utmost importance to her, and she dedicated her talent to the Glory of God, the One who gave us music in His glorious creation. She was a church organist for over 45 years at Willow Wood Presbyterian, Campostella Methodist, St Paul's Methodist, Indian River Baptist, and Great Bridge Baptist. After retirement she attended Great Hope Baptist Church in Great Bridge. Additionally, she taught piano for nearly 70 years up to the age of 88 and had a major impact on the lives of many piano pupils and colleagues in the area.

She received numerous awards as a piano student including achieving superior ratings for 15 consecutive years on the National honor roll in the National Guild of Piano Teachers Auditions, earning the High School Diploma, Senior Collegiate Diploma, Young Artist Diploma, and the Paderewski Gold Medal Award.

She was guest performer numerous times with the Feldman Chamber Music Society and performed at several Virginia Federated State Conventions. She appeared as guest pianist for Warner Twyford's Concert television program, and accompanied for local school Broadway musical productions, school choral festivals, and church and community choral concerts. She was a member of the Scherzo Music Club, the Tidewater Music Teachers Forum, and the National Guild. She served as judge for Classical Period Piano competitions at Old Dominion University, Virginia Federated Music Club auditions, Chesapeake Fine Arts Scholarship competitions, and the Tidewater Music Teachers Forum auditions.

Survivors include a son, Fletcher Lee Sawyer, III and wife Debbie; a daughter, Elizabeth Sawyer Harris, and a brother-in-law, Willard Hall Sawyer and wife Carol. She also leaves five grandsons of whom she was very proud: Vann Harris and wife Lauren, Braden Sawyer, Blake Sawyer, Nathan Harris, and Brett Sawyer. She is also survived by three great-grandchildren: Sydney Harris, Fletcher Harris, and Averly Harris, as well as a number of cousins, nieces and nephews. She will be remembered as a wonderful and loving wife to the late Fletcher Lee Sawyer, Jr, as well as a mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, aunt and friend. Mrs. Sawyer was also predeceased by a son-in-law, Fletcher A. Harris.

The funeral service will be conducted at 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 22, 2022 at the Great Bridge Chapel of Oman Funeral Home & Crematory, 653 Cedar Road, Chesapeake, VA. Pastor John W Godfrey, Jr. will officiate. The interment will follow in Chesapeake Memorial Gardens. A visitation will be on Monday with the family receiving friends from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the funeral home. Memorial contributions may be made to the Scherzo Music Club or to the charity of your choice.





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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

Yuko Farman, NCTM

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Suffolk, VA 23433

Tidewater Music Teachers Forum

Local Chapter of the Virginia Music Teachers Association

Affiliated with the Music Teachers National Association

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