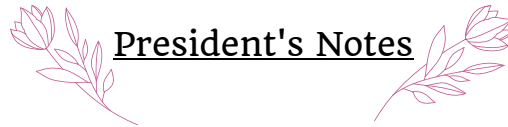




STAFFLINES

Monthly Newsletter of the Tidewater Music Teachers Forum



President's Notes

Dear TMTF members,

Happy Spring! As we are all enjoying the spring weather, we are also facing a global pandemic, losing our ability to teach face to face! Some of us have switched to online lessons, using platforms such as Zoom, Google Meet, Skype or FaceTime. Others are exchanging videos with their students. Please do share your ideas, tips and questions on our Facebook page,

www.facebook.com/tidewatermusicteachers While you're at it, check out these Facebook groups:

-Piano Teacher Central

-The Art of Piano Pedagogy

-Music Teachers

-Virtual Music Room

These are closed groups and require a request to get in. You'll enjoy interacting with other teachers all over the world who are experiencing the same situation you are.

Please note the revised TMTF events in this Stafflines' Calendar due to COVID-19. We also updated TMTF google calendar and website, www.tmtf.org under Bulletin Board. Though we've had to cancel some events, we won't cancel Stafflines. It's a good source of information for what is happening in the TMTF world.

Great news from MTNA! The 2020 MTNA Virtual Conference is underway. It's FREE to all members! It's their way of supporting the professional teaching community during this difficult and uncertain time. All videos sessions, articles handouts, resources, digital poster sessions, a virtual exhibit hall and showcases are viewable at your own pace, on your own time. Watch your email inbox for details or check out MTNA website, www.mtna.org in the coming weeks. Stay tuned!

Lastly, we've been witnesses to some amazing sacrifices made by our teachers, such as saving Levels of Progress. We finished the event, apart from some makeups. Thank you Beth Baker and Kelsey Jamerson (Levels of Progress Co-Chairs), all area coordinators, judges, teachers, helpers and those who worked behind the scene. Together, we make it happen!

Looking forward to see you all in person soon. Stay safe, stay healthy!

TMTF Co-Presidents

Mun Lee Han, NCTM & Donna Halleck

TMTF Vice President

Susan Atkins, NCTM



Suggestions and reports from TMTF members in the wake of the unexpected pandemic

by Mary Ann Medlin, NCTM

I sent this out to my students:

"To safeguard our health, limit any disruption in music lessons, and help students stay motivated, I will be teaching using FaceTime. Lesson assignments will be emailed after each lesson. I will contact each of you to schedule a convenient lesson time."

I start online teaching on March 23rd. My daughter, teaching violin, started last Friday, and said it went very well! I keep a list of students' technique, pieces, theory, etc. I have made a separate lesson sheet for each student with what we have been working on, and after each lesson, update it with that lesson date and email it to them. It is time consuming, but necessary, to attempt to have a copy of the music they are working on.

For extra pieces, "learn in a week" pieces, fun music, etc, I have used sites with free downloads such as Gmajormusictheory.com and will attach the sheet music to their lesson assignment email.

This is a wonderful website: tonesavvy.com exercises in theory and ear training
This is free through April 21; visit the website for details. I set up my Student Groups according to theory levels and will assign something every week to students. They will take tests, and you can see their scores. It will take a little time to set up, but I think it is an excellent website!

There are quite a few articles written to assist with online teaching: ComposeCreate.com

How to Switch to Online Piano Lessons

Others – just google "how to teach online music lessons"



by Yuko Farman, NCTM

Given unprecedented situation we are in with Covid-19 pandemic, I am sure we are finding ourselves at home with more time available to us. Although the crisis disrupts our normal teaching schedules and interactions with our students, it also provides an opportunity for us to continue our professional learning and explore new concepts. One concept that I have been studying for a while is the method that is taught in Russian piano school. I have learned a lot from this method and I would like to share resources with those who are interested.

Russian piano school teaches how to play the piano ergonomically from the very first lesson. Anyone who has a student who plays with tension in the arms, wrists or hands and you are looking for techniques to correct it, this method may be helpful.

I learned of Ilinca Vatic who started teaching online in 2012. She received her music education in Moldova while it was still part of the USSR. I have studied online with her for the last eight years.

Since August 2019, I work for her as an assistant, writing feedback to members who post their performances online.

Ilinca posts very informative free YouTube videos, describing ergonomic techniques. It is a good place to start exploring what the Russian piano school is all about.

YouTube channel: [PianoCareer](#)

Free Website: www.pianocareer.com

Paid online coaching: www.pianocareeracademy.com (it includes over 4,000 video and written tutorials)

Through Ilinca, I met Irina Gorin who created piano method books for children based on the Russian piano school's teaching; "Tales of a Musical Journey" (Book 1 & 2). Irina is from Ukraine and immigrated to the States over 20 years ago. I translated the method books into Japanese language and introduced them to Japanese piano teachers while I lived in Japan. Now, Yamaha is interested in publishing them under its name in Japan and I am currently working with them. Incidentally, I will present the method book at teacher's meeting in January 2021. Irina also has a YouTube channel where she provides the glimpse of her teaching. (Joy Morin who was the guest speaker at our November 2019 meeting, told me that it was her most favorite piano method book.)

YouTube channel: [Irina Gorin](#)

Website: www.irinagorin.com

If you have any questions regarding this teaching method, please feel free to contact me.



Excerpt from MTNA website

https://www.mtna.org/MTNA/Learn/COVID19_Resources.aspx

Resources for MTNA Members During the COVID-19 Pandemic

MTNA understands that music teachers are facing many unique personal and professional challenges during the COVID-19 health crisis. In order to save you time and effort, MTNA has compiled a curated list of some of the best and most helpful resources to support your teaching practice during this unprecedented time. The list will be updated regularly as additional resources become available, so check back frequently for the latest additions. We are continually on the lookout for the best resources, so please contact MTNA at mtnanet@mtna.org to make suggestions for the list. (The resource list is for informational purposes only and does not constitute an endorsement by MTNA.)

by Mun Lee Han, NCTM

Mun Lee Han's diary - COVID-19



- March 16** Schools are closed for at least two weeks. Should I offer remote lessons? Must be troublesome! Let's take two weeks off.
- March 17** Only teach a few students at Jordan Kitt's Music then went grocery shopping.
- March 18** Did remote lessons at Jordan Kitt's Music for three intermediate students today. Two students used Facebook Messenger and one used FaceTime. Managed to help them on fingering, rhythm, and correcting notes. Both platforms' video worked well except the audio system has room for improvement - Hands Balancing and Dynamic Contrast are difficult to hear from my side. Also, can't help on pedaling unless there is a helper to move the camera from showing the hands to the pedal. Talked to the parents after the lesson and have decided to give it another try next week.
- March 19** Off day. Did research online.
- March 20** Off day. Did research online.
- March 21** Decided not to take 2 weeks off. Will try Zoom apps. Re-arranged schedule. 30 minutes gap in between lessons. Asked students to send me pictures of their past week's theory homework, songs/pieces they are currently working on.
- March 22** Organize all pictures. Set up iPad on a stand as webcam at home and use laptop to view their music. No extra gadgets needed as I still believe this is only for temporary; hopefully we can go back to in person lesson soon.
- March 23** Announcement: Schools closed thru end of academic year and Jordan Kitt's Music closed until further notice. ☹️
 Taught a few lessons using Zoom at home.
 Good News: Zoom can touch up my appearance!
- March 24** Another day of using Zoom for remote lesson.
 Good News: This time, realized I could share screen with my students. Easier to teach theory and analyze new pieces.
- March 25** Long Day. 10am to 8pm. Taught ten 30 minutes lessons with breaks for lunch, afternoon tea and of course setup / pulling out the student's pictures in between lessons. New discovery - You can play Tic Tac Toe with the Zoom Share Screen feature! That makes teaching easier now. Also, feel more comfortable using Zoom and decided to have only 15 minutes break between lessons. 😊
 Good News: Last week's students decided to continue their remote lessons.
- March 26** Yay! Off Day! Trying to be more organized. Too many pictures sent by students. I think having duplicate books is a better idea. Contacted Faber to see if they have Digital or pdf copy of their Piano Adventures series. No Luck! Went to amazon.com bought a few digital ebooks, i.e. Junior Hanon, Chopin 14 Easiest Piano Selections, Martha Mier's Jazz, Rags & Blues etc. Instant download. Perfect! Good news! Received calls from 3 students, wanted to do remote lessons starting next week.
- March 27** Another Off Day! Yay! Started to like this lifestyle, PLUS the stimulus check is on it's way.

Stay home, stay safe!



TMTF Calendar

Dates	Events	Actions
April 4	TMTF Glover Scholarship Auditions	POSTPONED - Lynn Kleisler will contact those teachers involved
April 21	DEADLINE – Stafflines News	will be published as usual
April 24	TMTF Meeting/Workshop	CANCELLED
April 25-26	Honors Recitals Auditions	CANCELLED
May 1	DEADLINE – Achievement Award Documentation	no change
May 15	TMTF Meeting/Workshop/Luncheon	Now tentatively changed to a master class with Dr. Maria Yefimova
May 17	TMTF Honors Recitals and H.S. Seniors' Recital	CANCELLED
MAY 21	DEADLINE – Stafflines News	will be published as usual

April

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10 Good Friday	11
12 Easter Sunday	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		



May

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 Mother's day	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25 Memorial day	26	27	28	29	30
31						



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

April

- 4 Carol Noona
- 10 Joan Edwards
- 18 Brenda Watkins
- 29 Nicholas John Steltzer

May

- 11 Teresa Compos-Falk
- 16 Betty J. Atkinson
- 20 Betty Blasch
- 26 Susan Burke Cusher
- 28 Mun Lee Han





A letter from MTNA CEO regarding the changes that have been made for the 2020 National Conference.

Now, anybody can participate from home free-of-charge. Check your email often for updates.



Due to the spread of COVID-19 (the coronavirus), the 2020 MTNA National Conference in Chicago was cancelled. The personal health and safety of all our attendees were foremost in our minds in making this difficult decision. But the cancellation does not mean the benefits of the conference cannot be realized this year. And what's more, the benefits do not have to be limited to those who planned to attend.

On that note, I am excited to share that plans are now underway for the 2020 MTNA Virtual Conference.

The 2020 MTNA Virtual Conference is designed to provide an authentic conference experience for all members of MTNA. The 2020 conference presenters have been asked to make and submit video presentation of their sessions, master classes, poster sessions and performances. Plus, all exhibitors are also being asked to participate in the virtual Exhibit Hall and Showcases.

And best of all, it is free-of-charge to all MTNA members as our way of supporting the professional teaching community during this difficult and uncertain time.

Key features of the 2020 MTNA Virtual Conference

- FREE for all MTNA members
- Sessions viewable at your own pace, on your own schedule
- Content easily accessible through the MTNA website
- Video sessions, articles, handouts, and resources
- Digital Poster Sessions
- Virtual Exhibit Hall and Showcases

Release Schedule

Content will be published in a series of batches in the coming weeks. We will notify the MTNA membership by email when new content is available and how to access. Your member login to www.mtna.org is all you need to obtain access.

Please stay tuned, and very best wishes,

Gary L. Ingle
Executive Director & CEO

Stafflines Deadline

The deadline for submitting articles for Stafflines is the 21st of each month. The editor must receive the articles no later than this date.

Please submit all articles via email to
Yuko Farman
yukofarman@gmail.com

Alternatively, you may submit a printed article via U.S. Postal Service.

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

Yuko Farman
9052 River Crescent
Suffolk, VA 23433

Tidewater Music Teachers Forum
Local Chapter of the Virginia Music Teachers Association
Affiliated with the Music Teachers National Association
Yuko Farman, Editor | 9052 River Crescent | Suffolk, VA 23433