



STAFFLINES



Monthly Newsletter of the Tidewater Music Teachers Forum



President's Notes

Dear Fellow Music Teachers,

I hope everyone is having a healthy winter and getting ready for their crazy spring schedules.

We had great attendance for Dr. Susan Ha's Virtual Lecture Recital on February 19, 2021. I especially loved her Power Point presentation. It was well organized and clearly displayed her detailed explanations. How fortunate we are to have a means to continue learning and sharing the love of music through technology.

We are now heading into the busy spring season with many events, recitals and competitions coming up. Please keep in mind as you enter students in these events that you are required to assist if a chair assigns work. I know everyone is extremely busy, but it would not be possible to run these events without your help. I thank you in advance for your willingness to volunteer. I also want to remind you that many people work hard behind the scenes to make sure that events run smoothly. They give many hours of their lives and they receive no payment. The people behind the scenes do these things solely for the benefit of the students and the organization. Let's always remember to be patient and kind, and appreciate those who take on these tasks, as without these people, there would be no organization!

Mark your calendars for MTNA Virtual Conference March 13-17, 2021, and prepare for an unforgettable experience! There is a registration fee this year of \$245 to virtually attend. Registration is open through May 28, 2021. Conference recordings will be available until June 1, 2021.

I wish you all a happy, healthy and hopefully a "back to normal" spring.

Mun Lee Han, NCTM
TMTF President



Friday, March 26, 2021

Zoom Piano Master Class

Dr. Maria Yefimova, VCA Touring Artist

10:00 Business Meeting

10:15 Master Class

Zoom invite and link will be sent to all members via email

Program will be included in email



Internationally acclaimed pianist Dr. Maria Yefimova has performed in Italy, Spain, England, Slovakia, Croatia, Russia, and the United States. She appeared in such major venues as Carnegie Hall, Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatory Malii and Rachmaninoff Halls, Steinway Hall (NYC), Teatro Puccini di Merano (Italy), Lisinsky Hall (Zagreb), and Slovak Philharmonic Hall. Her performances have been described by critics as “brilliant” (Novosti, Russia), filled with “passion and energy” (America Oggi), “vitality and rhythmic swagger” (New York Concert Review), “highly artistic” (Virginia Gazette), and “truly outstanding” (Berkshire Review for the Arts). Maria is on a touring artists roster of the Virginia Commission for the Arts.

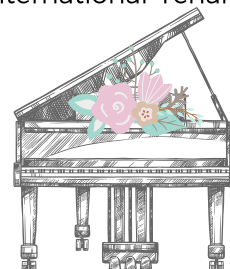
Dr. Yefimova has been featured on Bravo TV network, Tele Monte Orlando (Italy), Paradise Radio (USVI), Slovak National Television, WCVB public radio, as well as on major TV art networks in Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Venezuela, Mexico, and Chile. She is a featured artist in a film documentary Women of Music—a classical music series that presents performances and interviews with today’s top artists from around the world.

Dr. Yefimova’s festival appearances include Virginia Arts Festival, Meranofest and Vello Music Festivals in Italy, Rachmaninoff Festival in Russia, Water Island Music Festival in USVI, Chamber Music Institute in VA, and Lake George Music Festival in NY. As an orchestral soloist she performed with Slovak Philharmonic, Tambov Philharmonic, and William and Mary Symphony Orchestras, in concertos by Mozart, Liszt, Brahms, Rachmaninoff, and Prokofiev.

As an avid chamber musician, Maria has collaborated with such prominent artists as trumpet virtuoso Joe Burgstaller (Canadian Brass), violinist Dmitri Berlinsky (Paganini Gold medalist), cellist Eric Jacobsen (Brooklyn Rider Quartet, the Knights Orchestra), and world-renowned pianist and pedagogue Boris Slutsky. She is a founding member of the Atlantic Chamber Ensemble (ACE). Described in Chamber Music Magazine as “truly remarkable and innovative”, the group is rapidly gaining recognition for its creative approach in presenting concerts and finding new ways to engage audiences and the local community. ACE is a winner of the 2014 Chamber Music America and ASCAP’s adventurous programming award.

A native of Russia, Dr. Yefimova graduated with honors from Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatory. After receiving a full scholarship from the Manhattan School of Music, she moved to the US to pursue her Master and Doctor of Musical Arts Degrees. Maria’s principal teachers include Arkady Aronov, Yury Slesarev, Nina Dunaeva, and Yelena Tatulian.

Dr. Yefimova is on the piano faculty of the College of William and Mary and maintains a private studio at her home in Glen Allen, VA. She is the recipient of the “Best Teacher” Award from The X International Tchaikovsky Competition for Young Musicians (2017).



Glover Scholarship Auditions

The deadline for the Glover Scholarship Auditions is here! The applications are due with the deadline postmark date of **March 12, 2021**. This event will take place at Monumental United Methodist Church in Portsmouth on Saturday, **April 17th**. **Please note** that this date has been changed from what was printed in the TMTF Yearbook and TMTF Activity Book.

Eligibility and requirements to participate in this event can be found in the TMTF Yearbook. Please be aware that a teacher's studio participation in the 2020 TMTF Play-A-Thon is required to enter students in this audition. The Play-A-Thon pledge money must also be received by March 1st in order to participate in this year's auditions. The "Scholarship Application" form and "Performance Evaluation Sheet" can be found in the TMTF Activity Book. The "Performance Evaluation Sheet" must be **typed** and **two copies** must accompany each student's application. **Please do not fold these sheets.** Please also make sure that you use this year's application and review all requirements before mailing it in.



Lynn Kleisler, NCTM – Chairman
Joan Edwards – Co-Chairman

TMTF Play-A-Thon

The TMTF 2020 Play-A-Thon was a resounding success and the final amount of pledges that were collected is \$6,852. One hundred and seventeen students representing fifteen teachers participated in this event. It is an amazing amount of money that was collected considering the difficulties we have all had to face teaching and being able to have venues for our students to perform in this past year. We had fewer teachers register this year and over one hundred less students able to participate than in years past. All of your efforts to work with your students so that they could perform and contribute deserves an enormous "Thank You" and is greatly appreciated.

The students who won a monetary award for raising the most amount of money for this event are as follows:

First Place \$100 Award	Miley Austin for raising \$500	(teacher – Meghan Hutton)
Second Place \$75 Award	Meagan Springer for raising \$445	(teacher – Elizabeth Smith)
Third Place \$50 Award	Logan Kornegay for raising \$350	(teacher – Meghan Hutton)

Congratulations and a special thank you goes to Meghan Hutton's studio that raised \$1,526 and to Joan Edwards' studio that raised \$1,225! Studios who raised over \$500 are Susan Atkins (\$675), Mary Ann Medlin (\$625), Lynn Kleisler (\$550) and Elizabeth Smith (\$690). A special expression of gratitude goes to Elizabeth Smith, Co-Chairman, for all of her help and many thanks again to all of you who were a great support and helped this three day event be such a success!!

Lynn Kleisler, NCTM – Chairman

Honors Recital Auditions Piano, Instruments and Voice – Levels 4-12 Saturday, April 24 & Sunday, April 25, 2021 Marsh School of Music, Virginia Beach

Attention Teachers! The TMTF Honors Recitals Auditions registration deadline is very soon – March 12th!! Don't forget to return the "head count" form that was sent to you via email a few weeks ago (below). It is necessary for our planning to know the number of students entering and how many in each level. That information should be sent to Josephine Jones by March 1st.

The registration (due March 12) will have the names of your students with their level, repertoire and timing of pieces. Thanks to our Covid situation we must implement guidelines for social distancing and personal safety. You will receive all of those details in a mailing after you register. The auditions are "in person" (student and two judges). There is no zoom option for this event. We will follow the guidelines as listed in the Activity Book. Please remember that participating in 2021 Levels of Progress is a prerequisite. The Honors Recitals will be a virtual event that you may view and enjoy at your pleasure!

Myrenna Kickasola, NCTM,
Honors Recitals Audition Chairperson
Josephine Jones, NCTM
Honors Recitals Auditions Co-chairperson

Form to be received by **March 1st, 2021 for HRA**

Teacher's Name:	
2021 Honors Recitals Auditions	
Level	Number of Students
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	
11	
12	



SUNDAY, MARCH 21

Virtual Student Recital



3:00 PM Zoom Student Recital

Theme: Bach's Birthday Bash (students can choose any piece by Bach & Sons plus Anna Magdalena's Notebook)

Hosted by Susan Atkins

Sally Copeland, Coordinator

4:00 pm Zoom Student Recital

Theme: Anything Goes (please limit to Levels 4 and up)

Hosted and Coordinated by Jeanette Winsor

Deadline for registration: February 15 (PAST DUE)

Deadline for video submission: March 1

Please use registration forms found on p. 24 in the Activity Workbook

1. Each teacher may enter a total of 4 student videos – due no later than March 1. This deadline will be strictly adhered to. No more than a total of 20 students or 30 minutes (whichever we get to first) will be permitted.
2. Videos for the 3:00 recital submit to Sally and Susan.
3. Videos for the 4:00 recital submit to Jeanette and Susan.
4. Please choose shorter rather than longer pieces for the 4:00 Recital so more students may participate.
5. The student should dress in concert attire for the video.
6. Music must be memorized.
7. Teachers will be given the Zoom Meeting ID# & Pass Code for each recital once we know who is involved. It will be the teachers' responsibility to forward that information to their students involved.
8. Jeanette has the capability to record the Zoom meeting and is happy to send the link for it once it has processed to each teacher.

Jeanette Winsor, NCTM
6317 Brynmawr Lane
Virginia Beach VA 23464
jeanettewinsor@cox.net

Sally Copeland, NCTM
116 Tyler Crescent
Portsmouth VA 23707
srcopela@odu.edu

Susan Atkins, NCTM
4537 Biscayne Dr.
Virginia Beach, VA 23455
pianolearningcenter@gmail.com



Recital ideas during pandemic

We have all been affected by the pandemic in some way. Some teachers lost a lot of students since we were required to stop in-person lessons and switch to virtual lessons. No matter the situation, we continued to inspire students using our creativity, ingenuity, and common sense. The following teachers kindly share with us their recital ideas and experiences during this difficult time. - Thank you!



Jeanette Winsor, NCTM

Online students record their recital pieces at home on their phones, or I do it during their lesson for those taking in-person lessons. They announce their name and piece, and bow once finished. I always record a brief message (walking up the walk, into the studio and show an audience of seasonal stuffed animals and composers sitting in chairs, then turn to the piano with the lid up. That fades into the first performer. The videos are sent to my iPhone 5 days before the recital. I build iMovies (20-25 minutes in length) and send them to my PC. We watch them in a Screen-Shared Zoom meeting which I record, and then send the link to the recording to each family after. When I have enough recordings for 2 or 3 movies, I do a 10 minute intermission between during which time families are free to leave and enter. Once I start a movie, no one is permitted to leave as it causes a distracting ding.

Before starting the first movie, I disable the Waiting Room as allowing someone in during a Screen Share messes it up.

The day before the recital, I send out the Zoom invitation along with the student list and length of each movie, strict intermission times, and let them know they are welcome to stay all evening, or may only leave or jump in during the intermissions. Grandparents and friends from around the world are welcome as with the professional Zoom account, I can host up to 100. I do this once a month 6:00 Saturday evening. My families are used to monthly Saturday evening recitals so that seems normal. This has worked well for me, and does not take up that much time to organize. The students and families are enjoying them.

Jessica Tuttobene

I did my Spring Recital last year via Zoom, and I am planning for the same this spring so that all students can participate. What I noticed was especially nice about holding the recital via Zoom last year was that students' family and friends from all over were able to attend the performance and show their support no matter the distance or circumstance. I even had a couple of family members make signs to hold up to show their support. I took a Zoom photo of all students, then all in attendance. It was pretty cool, and everyone was so supportive. I also have certificates and programs made ahead of time to send to students prior to the recital. They were able to hold up their certificates in the picture. This year I am adding a component, trying to work with each home circumstance to have as many students as possible "accompanied" during their performance, depending on the musical situation at home. Some students have musical parents, siblings, or friends. I am working out arrangements so that they can play and practice together to keep that collaboration element of the performance. I am excited to see how it goes!

A part of the reason I chose to go with the Zoom recital is also because I am pregnant and due May 20th. I am planning my recital early this year too, at the end of April (usually the first weekend of June) so that I can hopefully hold the recital before the baby without any health risks. It would also be easier for someone else to host the online performance via Zoom if the baby comes unexpectedly early.

Recital ideas, continued



Lynn Kleisler, NCTM

This past year I decided that my end of year studio recital was going to be in real time via Zoom. I wasn't sure how it would work out nor what I was doing, but I was determined to do something! It turned out to be more than one recital as all of my students did not play at the same time. Some wanted their performance to be just for their family and others wanted to play with a small group. The "upside" to this was that my students were able to invite friends and family from other states that normally would not have ever been able to come and see them. We were also able to interact with each other. I was a bit surprised to see that everyone was really dressed up, including fancy hairdos, as if they were at an "in person" recital. I "virtually presented" my students with their awards, which included certificates, trophies and ribbons at the end of their performance. I was amazed at how excited they were to participate and "see" their awards.

A little bit of a "downside" was having to mail the awards to each student and that the recitals were stretched out over three days to accommodate parent schedules. I did have very positive feedback from the parents and my students. The students were very excited to receive their boxes in the mail containing their awards and treats. I was glad that I did it and think that this gave them a goal and a sense of accomplishment in light of the stress of the pandemic. I am still not sure what I am going to do this year, but I have been checking out ideas. I did see an interesting article at the Composecreate.com website about "Driveway Drive-by Recitals" that included a lot of details on how to set one up. I am hoping that the virtual MTNA National Conference later this month may have a few workshops with some other ideas to consider.

Katherine Wright, NCTM

I have done two recitals during the pandemic. One was on YouTube: parents and students sent me videos via email, text, or iMessage. I uploaded them to YouTube and posted them unlisted in an unlisted playlist, then emailed the link to the playlist to my families, along with a PDF program. To protect student privacy, I identified students by first name only on the PDF program, and did not list student names at all on YouTube. One perk of a YouTube recital is that students can forward the link to family and friends who live far away!

My other pandemic recital was an outdoor recital. I took my Clavinova outside to my front porch and plugged it in with an extension cord. Families brought blankets and lawn chairs, and we had a little concert on the front lawn. It was casual and enjoyable.

Sarah Lantz

I've held (and attended) two Zoom recitals. First of all, I made sure I had the level of zoom account that allowed for over 40 minutes. Then I sent out invitations using Word, using my usual invitation format, and included an e-mail with the zoom invite for that date and time. Families were allowed to invite a guest or two, since this level had such capacity. Once everyone gathered (I kept mics on), I told everyone that I'd mute them until a student had finished, then I am sure to unmute everyone so that they can applaud when a student finished. I encouraged them to stay until the end, so there were enough to form an audience for the last person. It turned out great! The students and parents were happy. I just miss the reception and piano accompaniment. (Zoom doesn't seem to appreciate two instruments at once, unless you have your own specialized microphone). Best of luck! Have fun!

Recital ideas, continued

Mary Ann Medlin, NCTM

Last summer, I created a private (password protected) website, TmsStudents.com, for recital videos, theory, games, practice tips, etc. On this website, students can share “showcase” pieces with family and friends: Nitty-Gritty (up to grade 5), Betwix & Between (grades 6-8), and State-of-the-Art (high school and beyond).

For video taping the December Recital of “showcase” pieces, my studio had a designated “recital” week when they wore recital attire and performed in front of a Christmas backdrop. I added a special section on the website’s home page to feature a former student’s improvisation on a Charlie Brown Christmas. After posting all students’ recital pieces, an invitation was sent to parents (with the password) to visit the website and share performances with family and friends.

For the Spring Recital, students’ performances will be divided into two sections according to composers’ timeline: On Stage with Contemporary Composers (1900 to present) and Notable Composers from the Classical and Romantic Periods (1750 - 1900). Backdrops will correspond to each group’s theme. Parents seem to appreciate the student performances which they can view and share at any time. If interested, visit the website, TmsStudents.com and use the password “studio 20”.



2021 Skills Test Report

Skills Test

8 Teachers Participated

91 Students Registered

86 Tests Taken

69 Superior, 17 Excellent

I would like to thank all those who participated in judging either in person or online via Zoom. Thank you so much for encourage your students in their musical endeavors. Special thanks to Lynn Kleisler and Kelsey Jamerson who volunteering their time to help up in judging.

Thank you again!

Mun Lee Han, NCTM
(Skills Test Local Chairperson)



MTNA Certification

Would you like to work towards a MTNA certification, which will benefit your professional teaching career?

Contact Susan Atkins, NCTM
pianolearningcenter@gmail.com
757-282-8220 (cell)

TMTF CALENDAR

MARCH 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	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	2	3

- 1st DEADLINE - Student Recital Video Submission
DEADLINE - TMTF Honors Recital Auditions (Ref. P.4)
DEADLINE - Play-A-Thon pledge money
- 6th TMTF Levels of Progress - Portsmouth, Virginia Beach
- 7th TMTF Levels of Progress -Virginia Beach (Norfolk cxld)
- 12th DEADLINE - Glover Scholarship Auditions Application
DEADLINE - TMTF Honors Recitals Auditions
DEADLINE - Registration for Piano Master class with Dr. Maria Yefimova
- 13th-17th MTNA National Virtual Conference
- 21st Virtual Student Recital (Ref. P. 5)
DEADLINE - Stafflines News
- 26th 10:00 TMTF Meeting - Clinician: Dr. Maria Yefimova
Piano Master Class via Zoom

APRIL 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	31	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

- 16th 10:00am TMTF Meeting/Workshop
Clinician Diane H.Blanchard, NCTM
- 17th TMTF Glover Scholarship Auditions (Ref. P. 4)
- 21st DEADLINE - Stafflines News
- 24-25th TMTF Honors Recitals Auditions (Ref. P. 5)
- 28th DEADLINE - Glen Maryberry Shoolarshipo Auditions
DEADLINE - VMTA Eastern District Auditions



March

- 1 Laura Cardin
- 4 John Presto
- 11 Elena Schwartz
- 18 Mary Ann Medlin
- 19 Walter Noona

- 22 Elizabeth Sjolund
- 24 Geraldine Sawyer
- 30 Cathy Bryan
- 30 Galina Epelman
- 31 Zachary Bridges

April

- 10 Joan Edwards
- 18 Brenda Watkins



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

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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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