
STAFFLINES

Monthly Newsletter of the Tidewater Music Teachers Forum



Meeting & Workshop: Friday, March 17, 2023

Dr. Ben Corbin Piano Masterclass

(Registration Form in February edition, P. 10)

Location: Jordan Kitt's Music: 5164 Virginia Beach Blvd.,
Virginia Beach, VA23462

9:30 Coffee - 10:00 Meeting & Workshop - 12:00 Lunch

Biography

Dr. Ben Corbin maintains an active schedule as a pianist, chamber musician, teacher, and lecturer. Competition prizes include top prize in the Phi Beta Music Competition, 1st place in the OMTA Piano Competition, and 2nd Place in the Coeur d'Alene Symphony Young Artists' Competition. He has been featured on classical radio KMFA in Austin, TX (2014) and has been described as an "incisive" pianist by the Colorado Springs Gazette (2013). Ben has had the privilege of performing at Taiwan's National Concert Hall and on the Dame Myra Hess International Concert Series, as well as a featured soloist with the Hampton Roads Philharmonic, the Chesapeake Bay Wind Ensemble, the Virginia Symphony Chamber Orchestra, the University of Oregon Symphony Orchestra, and the Christopher Newport University Wind Ensemble.

Dr. Corbin received the Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degrees in Piano Performance from the University of Oregon where he studied with Dean Kramer and David Riley. He also received a second Master of Music and the Doctorate in Musical Arts in Collaborative Piano from The University of Texas at Austin, studying with Anne Epperson. Ben has served as a member of the Collaborative Piano staff at the Meadowmount School of Music in upstate New York, the Second International Clarinet Festival of Panamá, and the Torggler Summer Vocal Institute. Dr. Corbin is currently Assistant Professor of Piano and Collaborative Arts at Christopher Newport University, where he also serves as the Director of Keyboard Studies.



PRESIDENT'S LETTER MARCH 2023

Dear Fellow Music Teachers,

Springtime is more than bluebirds and daffodils for me and I suspect you can relate. I'm thinking of all the many events, testing and competitions my students are preparing for. It's a lot. Do I have time to notice the bluebirds and the daffodils? Not really. I'm busy and so are you!

Stress levels have increased and sleep hours have decreased.

But here is where I'm going to give myself some advice and you can tag along if you like. Let's be kind to ourselves. I've come to accept that I'm not Superwoman and I don't have superpowers. We all need to engage in an activity that qualifies as self-care. It could be sitting in front of your TV and binge watching your favorite show. It could be going for a walk or a bike ride. Why not get a massage? The point is, we need to schedule these self-care moments otherwise they won't happen.

Speaking of self-care, I've got a great stress-free event for you to attend. Our next meeting is March 17 and Dr. Ben Corbin from CNU will be conducting a master class for our students. If you have not yet entered your student, the registration form is in the February Stafflines. It's best if you email Susan Ha with your registration form so it can get to her quickly.

Come to the meeting and be prepared to learn something you can pass on to your students.

See you there!

Musically yours,

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

MTNA CERTIFICATION JOIN THE CLUB!

We had a good meeting last Friday with a few members who are either interested in MTNA certification or who are currently working on it.

Because March is a very busy month for me, I won't be able to schedule a Friday meeting. But let me know if you want to talk and get your questions answered. I'll schedule some one-on-one time with you.

Our next Zoom Certification Meeting will be **Friday, April 28, 2023 at 11:00 am.**

Please let me know if you would like to join us so I can send you the Zoom invitation. In the meantime, check out the website: Certification.mtna.org. That should get you interested and maybe you'd like to explore the possibilities with us.

Susan Atkins, NCTM
757-282-8220
pianolearningcenter@gmail.com



GLOVER SCHOLARSHIP AUDITIONS

The deadline for the Glover Scholarship Auditions is right around the corner. The applications are due with the deadline postmark date of **April 1, 2023**. This event will take place at Monumental United Methodist Church in Portsmouth on Saturday, **April 22nd**. 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 2022 TMTF Play-A-Thon is required to enter students in this event. The Play-A-Thon pledge money must also have been received by March 1st in order to participate in this year's auditions.

The "Scholarship Application" and the "Performance Evaluation Sheet" can be found in the TMTF Activity Book. If a student's application form has two sheets, please make sure that they are stapled together so that they do not get mixed up with other application forms. Also, please **do not** staple the applications to the judging sheets or fold them before mailing them in a large envelope.

Thank you!

Lynn Kleisler, NCTM
Glover Scholarship Chairman

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J. Scott Bailey
President

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(757) 714-3307 Cell
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KAWAI



TMTF CALENDAR

MARCH 2023						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	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

- 1 - Deadline:** TMTF Play-A-Thon (Participation in scholarship events deadline)
- 4 - TMTF Levels of Progress - Portsmouth, Va Beach**
- 5 - TMTF Levels of Progress - Va Beach, Norfolk**
- 12 - TMTF Sight Reading/Keyboard Skills Tests at ODU Diehn Performing Arts Center**
- 13 - Deadline:** Registration form for Dr. Ben Corbin's Piano Master Class
- 17 - TMTF Meeting - Piano Master Class**
Clinician: Dr. Ben Corbin
- 17 - Deadline:** TMTF Honors Recitals Auditions
- 21 - Deadline:** Stafflines News
- 25-29 MTNA Conference at Reno, Nevada**

APRIL 2023						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Good Friday						
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	1	2	3	4	5	6

- 1 - Deadline:** Glover Scholarship Auditions
- 6 - Awadagin Pratt Concert at Wilder Performing Arts Center, NSU at 7:30PM (700 Park Ave., Norfolk, VA)**
- 7 - TMTF Meeting at 9AM; Masterclass by Awadagin Pratt at Jordan Kitt's Music at 10AM~12PM**
- 21 - Deadline - Stafflines News**
- 22 - TMTF Glover Scholarship Auditions at Monumental UMC, 450 Dinwiddie, St., Portsmouth, VA**
- 26-30 TMTF Honors Recitals Auditions at Marsh School of Music, 328 Office Square Ln. #102, VA Beach, VA**



March

April

- | | | | |
|----|--------------------|----|---------------------|
| 1 | Laura Cardin | 10 | Joan Edwards |
| 18 | Mary Ann Medlin | 18 | Brenda Watkins |
| 19 | Walter Noona | 24 | Anna Perkins Settle |
| 21 | Rebekah Ruth-Nieto | | |
| 22 | Elizabeth Sjolund | | |
| 30 | Cathy Bryan | | |
| 30 | Galina Epelman | | |

Piano Master Class Registration

Awadagin Pratt

Masterclass **Friday, April 7, 2023, 10:00 am**
Location **Jordan Kitts Music, 5164 Virginia Beach Blvd, Virginia Beach**
Deadline **March 24, 2023**

Registration form must be received by this date via email or mail

Student's Name _____

Student's Age _____

Teacher's Name _____ Phone Number _____

Teacher's Email _____

Composition _____

Composer _____

Level (Intermediate or Advanced) _____ Performance time _____

Please note that space is limited. We have room for only 3 students and 1 alternate. There will be a limit of 1 student per teacher. Mr. Pratt will be working with each student for 20-25 minutes. Maximum playing time is 5 minutes. Please choose the piece accordingly. The program will be chosen based on repertoire. If the student is not selected to perform, the fee will be returned.

The Master Class fee is \$12.00 per student. Please make your check payable to TMTF.

Mail registration form and check to:

Susan C. Ha

Norfolk State University

Department of Visual and Performing Arts

700 Park Avenue

Norfolk, VA 23504

Email: susanhapiano@gmail.com

Registration fee can be sent via mail, PayPal or Venmo

Obituary for Myrenna Ann Kickasola

Myrenna Ann (Moore) Kickasola entered into the eternal joy of her Savior on Sunday, February 5, 2023, after a long battle with scleroderma.



She was born December 11, 1941 in Pawtucket, Rhode Island, to Rev. Robert G. Moore and his wife Grace (McCallum). She joined her older brother Bobby in a family of modest means and enormous faith. Throughout her childhood in Bridgeport, Connecticut, where she grew up, her significant musical gifts became apparent, as she learned to play the piano at a very young age. She accompanied her father's church services, and literally thousands of services after. She never accepted any payment for a church service throughout her life, believing it was her tithe to the Lord for the gifts He had given her.

While studying music at Houghton College (from which she graduated magna cum laude in 1963), she met Joseph Kickasola. The two were married, and both embarked upon graduate level education in the Philadelphia area, he at Westminster Seminary and she at the University of Pennsylvania. There, while achieving her M.A. degree in musicology, she discovered her passion for music education. After moving to the Boston area, where her husband pursued his Ph.D. at Brandeis University, she taught music in various schools, as she would in several places throughout her life, and she eventually became a nationally renowned and much sought-after piano teacher.

Joe and Myrenna had three children: Joseph, Martha (Rusten), and Matthew. They lived in Ashland, Ohio from 1971 to 1985, and Virginia Beach, Virginia from 1985 until 2021.

During her time in Virginia, while her husband taught at Regent University, Myrenna actively served multiple churches in the Tidewater area, including New Covenant Presbyterian, New Life Presbyterian, Westminster Presbyterian, and Calvary Presbyterian. She was well known in the Tidewater music community as an active member and officer in both the Tidewater Music Teachers Forum and the Virginia Music Teachers Association. She was granted "Permanent Certification" by the National Music Teachers Association in 2018, based on her vaunted reputation and years of service to countless musicians over the years.

In 2021 they moved to Cape Girardeau, Missouri, to be near Martha and join the delightful community at Chateau Girardeau. Myrenna spoke often of her many new friends there, and delighted herself and others at the grand piano in the community room. She also found great friendship, meaning, and encouragement in the senior adult Sunday school class at Cape Bible Chapel.

She fiercely loved (and is survived by) her husband, each of her children, and her six grandchildren: Bronwyn and Matteo (from Joe and Linnea Leonard), Jackson and Henry (from Martha and Mark Rusten), and Andrew and Micah (from Matthew and Erin Farquhar). She was preceded in death by her mother, father, and brother.

Despite battling many health issues throughout the last few decades of her life, Myrenna was known to all as an unfailingly cheerful and kind soul. She credited her faith for her resilience, as articulated in her favorite Scripture verse, Deuteronomy 31:8:

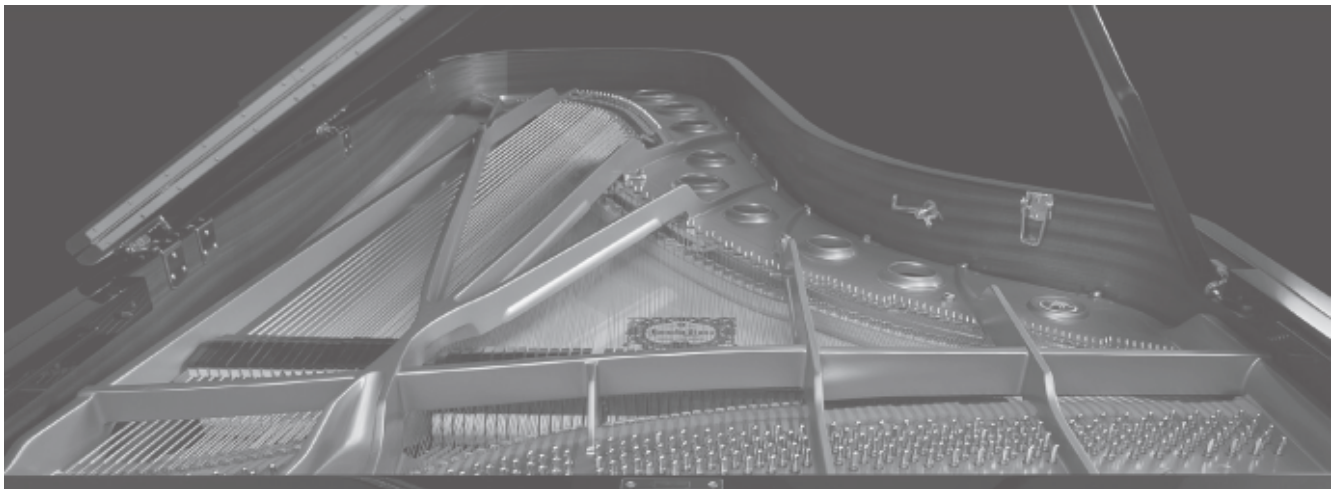
"It is the LORD who goes before you; he will be with you and will never fail you or forsake you. So do not fear or be dismayed."

In lieu of flowers, donations in Myrenna's honor may be sent to Covenant College (Lookout Mountain, Georgia, where all her children attended), Calvary Presbyterian Church (Norfolk, Virginia), and the Chateau Employee Christmas Fund at Chateau Girardeau.

Visitation will be 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm Tuesday, February 21, 2023 at Ford & Sons Mt. Auburn Chapel in Cape Girardeau. Funeral service will follow at 1:00 pm at the funeral home. Burial will be at Cape County Memorial Park Cemetery in Cape Girardeau.

Online condolences may be made at www.fordandsonsfuneralhome.com





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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 Yuko Farman, NCTM, 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