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# STAFFLINES

Monthly Newsletter of the Tidewater Music Teachers Forum

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## November Meeting: Friday 11/19/2021

Jordan Kitts Music  
5164 Virginia Beach Blvd, Virginia Beach, VA 23462

### Eric Ruple, DMA “Fun With Scales...Really”

9:30 Coffee

10:00 Business Meeting  
Workshop

12:00 Lunch

### Session description

This workshop is all about the teaching and playing of scales. Is scale practice a daily routine for yourself and your students? Or is it more akin to pulling teeth, a “lost cause” or a Sisyphusian exercise in futility? We will review and explore why they are important, take a fresh look at how we teach them (yes, folks, much of this this WILL be controversial), and show some ways to help you to never get bored playing or teaching them ever again!

### Biography

Steinway Artist Eric Ruple is on the piano faculty at James Madison University. He enjoys an active career as a solo and chamber musician, including several performances at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC and Steinway Hall in New York. He is also a pianist for the Virginia Symphony Orchestra, including principal keyboard role in the ongoing “Harry Potter Live” concerts. He was also featured in Bernstein’s “Prelude, Fugue and Riffs” with the VSO Jazz Ensemble. His recording “Musica Incognito” with hornist Ian Zook has earned unanimously positive reviews from several national and international publications.

He is president of the Shenandoah Valley/JMU Chapter of the American Liszt Society and is a regular adjudicator in Hong Kong. In 2019-2020, he served as Interim Director for the JMU School of Music. He received his doctoral degree from the University of Michigan.

## President's Letter

November 2021



Dear Fellow Music Teachers,

What do you need most right now? A good night's sleep? More students? More motivation to accomplish all the things you'd like to do?

You can find all this and more when you connect with your fellow music teachers at TMTF meetings. Well, maybe not the good night's sleep. But, you've already taken the first step by joining (or renewing) MTNA, VMTA and TMTF. Getting three-in-one is a bonus to becoming a member. Last month, our guest speaker was Amy Chaplin who gave us valuable information about how to organize our studios, and by extension, our lives.

Don't miss our November 19 meeting at Jordan Kitts. Our guest will be Eric Ruple, DMA from James Madison University. His topic is "Fun With Scales...Really". Eric is always an entertaining speaker and he promises that this will be a "hands on" workshop, but no shaming.

See you there!

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

P.S.: If you can't come, you can join us via Zoom. Watch your email inbox for the invitation.





## TMTF Play-A-Thon



**The deadline for this event is almost here!** The **registration is due by November 12th**. The dates for the Play-A-Thon are December 3, 4 and 5, 2021. It will be held at Greenbrier Mall in Chesapeake and at Pembroke Mall in Virginia Beach. The forms you will need for this event were emailed on October 22nd by our President, Susan Atkins. Please use the current registration form when registering for this event. A letter has been included to help students when working to obtain pledges as well as a letter to give to parents. **Please also note** that there is a change to the “Teacher Responsibility Policy” that is on the registration form.

Proper protocol **will still be** utilized at this event due to the pandemic. Students will be asked to wear a mask and wash/sanitize their hands before playing. The keys will be cleaned after each student performs. Teachers will also be asked to have smaller groups there at a time during their *time block* if they have a large amount of students participating.

Students of all levels and any instrument are invited to share their love of music by performing at this fun event. All students will receive a little prize after they perform. They can play seasonal, hymn, classical, duets, popular, or ensemble music, etc. **Pieces that students prepared for the Sacred Music Festival could also be used for this event.** Memorization is not required!!!

**It is a requirement to participate in this event if you are going to enter students in the Glover Scholarship Auditions or Glen Mayberry Competition.** As well as helping our three scholarship funds, students will also have an opportunity to win cash prizes themselves! Remember to tell students that donations are tax deductible. We are grateful to say that the performances at the mall went very smoothly last year. If you have not participated before, we hope you will consider entering some students in this event this year!

Chairman: Lynn Kleisler  
Co-Chairman: Elizabeth Smith



## VMTA 2021 Virtual State Conference

The launch of the VMTA 2021 Virtual State Conference will be on Saturday, November 6th. Our MTNA President, Karen Thickstun, is going to do two workshops. They are entitled, “An Entrepreneurial Mindset in a Disrupted World” and “MTNA Resource Gems”. Dr. Fred Karpoff, a professor from Syracuse University in New York and Artistic Producer of Entrada Piano, will do a presentation on technique entitled, “Practice Pointers for Perplexing Passages – Plus Effortless Trills and Tremolos. We will also have our General Meeting that day, which everyone is invited to. All of the presentations and the meeting will be via Zoom. I hope you will be able to attend.

There will be video workshops added to the website in the coming weeks as well as winner recitals from our Concerto Competition, State Auditions Competition and the MTNA Competitions. A video of the Commissioned Composer Premiere will be added online as well. More details about the conference will be forthcoming via email. Please be sure to keep an “eye” on your email box!

Lynn Kleisler, NCTM  
VMTA President Elect

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### Workshops 2021-2022

January 21, 2022

Teacher's Round Table - Practice Tips  
led by Katharine Wright

February 18, 2022

Nancy Breth  
“The Practice Triangle”

March 18, 2022

Master Class  
Dr. Ben Corbin, Christopher Newport University

April 22, 2022

Hai Jin  
“Comparing Toru Takemitsu's Musical Language to Messiaen and Debussy”

May 20, 2022

MTNA Conference Highlights

## TMTF Calendar

### NOVEMBER 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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	2	3	4

11/1 - **DEADLINE - Achievement Award Registration**

11/4~6 - VMTA Fall Conference

11/12 - **DEADLINE - TMTF Play-A-Thon**

11/13 - Sacred Music Festival

- Thalia Lynn Baptist Church  
4392 Virginia Beach Blvd., Virginia Beach
- Monumental United Methodist Church  
450 Dinwiddie St., Portsmouth



11/19 - TMTF Meeting/Workshop

11/20 - Student Recital Virginia Beach

- Central Auditorium at Meyera E. Oberndorf Central Library at 2:30pm

### DECEMBER 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	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

12/3~4 TMTF Play-A-Thon

Chesapeake and Virginia Beach (Ref. Page 3)

12/21 - **DEADLINE** for December Stafflines



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY



### November

- 1 Carol Cook
- 3 Adrienne Gaines
- 30 Susie Keele

### December

- 11 Myrenna Kickasola

## VMTA THEORY NOTICE

### Teachers,

The Tidewater Music Teachers Forum (TMTF) will administer the VMTA Theory Test on **Saturday, January 29, 2022 at the Webb Center, Old Dominion University, Norfolk, Virginia.**

\*Due to the pandemic and the present situation with the different virus variants, the location and date of this event might change. Look in the TMTF Stafflines each month for any changes to this VMTA Theory Event.

- |   |          |               |   |
|---|----------|---------------|---|
| ➤ | 9:00 AM  | Levels 4 – 12 | <b>Registration Deadline:</b> Wednesday, December 22, 2021. |
| ➤ | 10:30 AM | Primer – 3B   | ➤ Registration Fee: \$14.00/Student                         |
|   |          |               | ➤ Students can take only one test per year.                 |

The **Registration Form** and the **Student Release Form\*** are in the TMTF Activity Book.

\*Please make copies of the *Student Release Form* for your students to bring on the VMTA Theory Test day. Do not mail the *Student Release Forms* to the Theory Chairman.



There is a \$14.00 fee for taking the Theory Test. Teachers should include with the Registration Form one check, payable to TMTF, for his/her students, sent to the TMTF Theory Chairman, Marilyn Forman.

### Reminders:

- ◆ Students can only take one test per year.
- ◆ Students may enter the program at any level or skip levels at the discretion of their teacher.
- ◆ Students who previously failed a test can go to the next level provided the private teacher tests and approves the student to proceed.
- ◆ An oral test can be given if requested.
- ◆ Include this request on the Registration Form.
- ◆ The knowledge required for the Theory Test is cumulative, and may include questions based on materials required from previous levels.
- ◆ There are no retakes for failures in the same year, and there are no make-ups for tests not taken.
- ◆ Students who are absent the day of the Theory Test will receive a test but not receive VMTA credit for the test.

- ❖ Teachers can purchase a copy of the 2013 VMTA Sample Theory Syllabus from Marilyn Forman, TMTF Theory Chairman

The VMTA Sample Theory Syllabus includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Twelve levels of practice tests</li> <li>➤ Corresponding Answer Keys</li> <li>➤ Aural CDs for each level</li> <li>➤ New Terms Glossary</li> </ul>	Marilyn Forman, NCTM Theory Chairman 37 Patton Drive Newport News, VA 23606-1744
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The cost of the Sample Theory Syllabus including the aural CDs is \$21.00. Send Marilyn a check made payable to TMTF with “Theory Tests” written in the memo field.

The Sample 2013 Theory Syllabus is also on the VMTA Website: [www.music-usa.org/vmta](http://www.music-usa.org/vmta)

*Participating teachers for this Theory Event must assist on the day of the Theory Test; or must inform the TMTF Theory Chairman of their qualified substitute.*

Last year 153 students registered for this Event and 11 teachers participated. Let’s encourage all of our students to participate in this excellent State Event this year!

We hope to see you and your students on Saturday, January 29, 2022!

—Marilyn Forman & Kristi Harriman, Theory Chairmen

## **2022 Sight-Reading and Skills Test**

The VMTA Helen Parker Sight Reading and Skills Test will be administered with the VMTA Skills Tests  
on-

Sunday, February 13, 2022  
at **Old Dominion University**

The registration DEADLINE is **January 10, 2022**. The POSTMARK date is the same as the DEADLINE date.

The Syllabus is available from the State Chairperson. Detailed information and the application forms can be found in the TMTF Yearbook and the Student Activity Booklet.

Please encourage your students to participate in these tests, as the process of preparation will definitely be educational and rewarding for them.

### **Local Co-Chairperson**

Mun Lee Han 757-214-5439 munleehan@gmail.com  
Sarah Lantz 484-437-6327 laurelinwen@gmail.com

### **Skills Test State Chairperson**

Lynn Kleisler 757-925-0248 lynnkleisler@yahoo.com

### **Sight Reading Test State Chairperson**

Fay Barss 804-282-7725 faysmusic@gmail.com

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## **MTNA Certification - Is it right for you?**

My first thought is: it's right for everyone! Wait a minute – maybe not for everyone.

- Do you want to be a better music teacher? Then, certification is for you.
- Do you want to gain additional respect of your colleagues, students and their parents? Then, certification is for you.
- Do you want to have more confidence in your teaching? Then certification is for you.

However, if none of the above appeals to you, maybe certification isn't for you.

But I'm confident you're at least a little bit interested in exploring certification and what it can do for you.

Send me an email or text, and we can set up a private meeting, whether in person or on Zoom. I'm eager to explore MTNA certification with you and willing to help. Let me know if you have questions. But first, explore the website: [Certification.MTNA.org](http://Certification.MTNA.org).

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



## TMTF SCHOLARSHIP ACCOUNTS: 1ST QUARTER 2021-2022

### TMTF SCHOLARSHIP CHECKING ACCT. 7/1/21 thru 9/30/21

<b>Opening Balance:</b>		<b>\$ 3,639.01</b>
<b>Income:</b>		
Transfer from Glover for Glover Helper	\$ 35.00	
<b>Total Income:</b>	<b>\$ 35.00</b>	
<b>Expenses:</b>		
Transfer to Glover for VA Baptist Foundation check	\$ 2,098.00	
Glover Scholarships 2020	\$ 200.00	
Glover Scholarships 2021	\$ 900.00	
<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>\$ 3,198.00</b>	
<b>Closing Balance:</b>		<b>\$ 476.01</b>
<b>Outstanding checks: (To reflect actual account balance)</b>	<b>\$ 125.00</b>	<b>\$ 351.01</b>

### GARROW SCHOLARSHIP SAVINGS ACCT. 7/1/21 thru 9/30/21

<b>Opening Balance:</b>		<b>\$ 1,362.24</b>
<b>Income:</b>		
Account interest	\$ 0.03	
<b>Total Income:</b>	<b>\$ 0.03</b>	
<b>Expenses:</b>		
<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	
<b>Closing Balance:</b>		<b>\$ 1,362.27</b>

### GLOVER SCHOLARSHIP SAVINGS ACCT. 7/1/21 thru 9/30/21

<b>Opening Balance:</b>		<b>\$ 4,813.76</b>
<b>Income:</b>		
Transfer for VA Baptist Foundation	\$ 2,098.00	
Account interest	\$ 0.13	
<b>Total Income:</b>	<b>\$ 2,098.13</b>	
<b>Expenses:</b>		
Transfer for Glover Helper 2021	\$ 35.00	
<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>\$ 35.00</b>	
<b>Closing Balance:</b>		<b>\$ 6,876.89</b>

### MAYBERRY SCHOLARSHIP SAVINGS ACCT. 7/1/21 thru 9/30/21

<b>Opening Balance:</b>		<b>\$11,343.85</b>
<b>Income:</b>		
Account interest	\$ 0.29	
<b>Total Income:</b>	<b>\$ 0.29</b>	
<b>Expenses:</b>		
<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	
<b>Closing Balance:</b>		<b>\$11,344.14</b>

## 2021 VMTA STATE AUDITIONS RESULTS

### Piano IA First Prize:

Entrant #1 – Karissa Lin (Mihyang Joo, teacher)

### Piano IA Second Prize:

Entrant #4 – Stephen Chen (Ruta Smedina-Starke, teacher)

### Piano IA Honorable Mentions:

Entrant #7 – Anne Tang (Margarita Gramaticova, teacher)

Entrant #3 – Chelsea Li (Elizabeth Sjolund, teacher)

*(There were seven entrants in the Piano IA competition.)*

### Piano IB First Prize:

Entrant #12 – Charles Zhao (Marjorie Lee, teacher)

### Piano IB Second Prize:

Entrant #9 – Emery Que (Margarita Gramaticova, teacher)

### Piano IB Honorable Mention:

Entrant #11 – Lauren Kang (Alisa Bohon, teacher)

*(There were five entrants in the Piano IB competition.)*

### Piano II First Prize:

Entrant #17 – Felix Xu (Margarita Gramaticova, teacher)

### Piano II Second Prize:

Entrant #15 – Sophia Lin (Marjorie Lee, teacher)

### Piano II Honorable Mention:

Entrant #16– Maria Neal (Maria Yefimova, teacher)

*(There were six entrants in the Piano II competition.)*

### Piano III First Prize:

Entrant #21– Ethan Zhou (Margarita Gramaticova, teacher)

### Piano III Second Prize:

Entrant #24– Harrison Benford (Nancy O’Neill Breth, teacher)

### Piano III Honorable Mention:

Entrant #20 – Maxyn Hallare (Jolanta Szewczyk, teacher)

*(There were five entrants in the Piano III competition.)*

### Violin III First Prize:

Entrant #26– Donovan Williams (Hope Erb, teacher)

*(There was one entrant in the Violin III competition.)*

### Piano Judges

Dr. Lise Keiter

Dr. Timothy Smith

Dr. Woori Kim Smith

### Violin Judge

Dr. Yevgeniy Dovgalyuk



## 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**