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# STAFFLINES

Monthly Newsletter of the Tidewater Music Teachers Forum

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**Meeting & Workshop: Friday, November 18, 2022**

**Presentation by Dr. Mark Tollefsen**

***“Ten fun (and not so fun) exercises  
to improve your students' reading skills”***

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

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

## **Workshop description**

Research has confirmed the effectiveness of teaching sight-reading at an early age. In light of this, Dr. Mark Tollefsen (UNC-Pembroke) presents “Ten fun (and not so fun) exercises to improve your students' reading skills.” The activities that he presents are meant for beginner and intermediate-level pianists but can be customized for advanced pianists as well. If unable to attend, contact Dr. Tollefsen at [mark.tollefsen@uncp.edu](mailto:mark.tollefsen@uncp.edu) for a PDF of his presentation.

## **Biography**

Since debuting with the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra at the age of fifteen, pianist Mark Tollefsen has fashioned an international career as both a soloist and chamber musician, performing in twelve European countries, South Korea, as well as across the United States. Recent highlights include recitals at Florida State University, UNC-Chapel Hill, Luther College, Temple University, and the Ghent Conservatory in Belgium. Praised for his “tremendously lucid and effortless performances” and as an “exciting discovery” by Fanfare Magazine, he has recorded eight discs for Ablaze Records, Blue Shore Music, Rick Sowash Publishing Co., and MARK Records. A native of Missouri and alum of the University of Cincinnati's College-Conservatory of Music, he is currently teaching at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke. For more information, visit his website at [www.marktollefsen.com](http://www.marktollefsen.com).



## PRESIDENT'S LETTER - NOVEMBER 2022

Dear Fellow Music Teachers,

Things are heating up in our fine Forum, just as the weather outside is cooling down.

What are you looking forward to this school year? Today my studio had a super fun Halloween recital and starting this week, we'll be getting ready for the Play-A-Thon, the first weekend of December. My students look forward to this worthwhile fundraiser because they get to play their Christmas music for a crowd.

Make sure you don't miss any deadlines - they're all in this newsletter.

So far, we've had two excellent presentations at our monthly meetings, and the November meeting promises to be worth your time also. Come see Dr. Mark Tollefsen on November 18 when his topic will be "Ten Fun (and Not So Fun) Exercises To Improve Your Students' Reading Skills". Details elsewhere in this newsletter.

I hope to see you there!

Musically yours,

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



## CERTIFICATION IS FOR EVERYONE!

As the TMTF Certification Chair, I want to help our members get certified through MTNA and make the process as easy as possible. Yes, it's daunting, but think how much easier it will be if we all do it together!

That's why starting next month (November), I'm going to start hosting Zoom meetings for anyone interested in getting certified. No pressure, no commitment, just information and encouragement. You can bring your questions and I will try to answer them.

But first things, first: we have to find a good day and time for everyone. Send me an email and tell me what days and times would work for you. I'm favoring Fridays, but other days in the morning could also work. (except not on Thursdays).

Now that you know my preferences, give me yours!

While you're thinking about certification, take a look at the MTNA website - <https://certification.mtna.org>





## TMTF Play-A-Thon



**This event is almost here!** The dates for the Play-A-Thon are December 2, 3 and 4, 2022. That gives you three days to choose from. It will be held at Greenbrier Mall in Chesapeake. The **deadline for registration is this month, which is November 11th.** Detailed Information about the event can be found in the 2022/2023 TMTF Yearbook and 2022/2023 TMTF Activity Book. Please use the current registration form when registering for this event. A letter has been included in the TMTF Activity Book 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.

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. **Keep in mind that pieces students prepare 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 your students that donations are tax deductible. If you have not participated before, we hope you will consider entering students in the event this year!

Chairman: Lynn Kleisler  
Co-Chairman: Elizabeth Smith




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### GOT YEARBOOK?

Did you know you can access the 2022-23 TMTF Yearbook and Activity Booklet online?

Just go to the TMTF.org website and click on the drop-down menu “More”. Click on “member” and you can enter with a password. It’s easy to set up your user name and password - just send a message to the webmaster, or faster - send an email to Mun Lee Han - munleehan@gmail.com.

You’ll find all sorts of useful things on our website. Check it out!

## THEORY EXAM

We are all set to administer our first in-person VMTA Theory Exam since 2020. Now is the time to plan for your students to take the exam. Everything you need is on the [VMTA website](#). You must have a user name and password to get into the member area which has sample tests and listening audio samples for every level. The theory syllabus is also available in the member area. If you prefer to use a paper syllabus, you can purchase one for \$21. Just send a check made out to TMTF and mail to Susan Atkins, 4537 Biscayne Drive, Virginia Beach, VA 23455.

**November 14:** Deadline for registration

**December 1:** Deadline for changes to registration

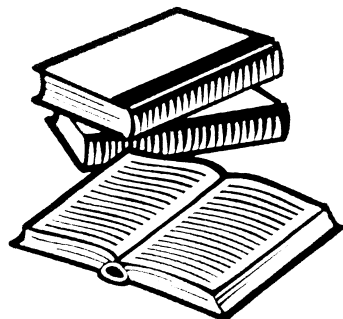
### Theory Test

**January 28, 2023**

Webb Center - Old Dominion University

Registration form and other information can be found in the 2022-23 Activity Booklet.

Got questions? Email Susan Atkins at [pianolearningcenter@gmail.com](mailto:pianolearningcenter@gmail.com).



## 2023 Sight-Reading and Skills Test

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

**Sunday, March 12, 2023**

at Diehn Performing Arts Center  
**Old Dominion University**

The registration DEADLINE is **January 10, 2023**.

The POSTMARK date is the same as the DEADLINE date.

**There will be no make-up dates.**

Syllabus is available from the State Chairperson. Detail 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 preparation involved in preparing will definitely be educational and rewarding for them.

### **Local Co-Chairperson**

Sarah Lantz 484-437-6327

[laurelinwen@gmail.com](mailto:laurelinwen@gmail.com)

Mun Lee Han 757-214-5439

[munleehan@gmail.com](mailto:munleehan@gmail.com)

### **Skills Test State Chairperson**

Lynn Kleisler 757-925-0248

[lynnkleisler@yahoo.com](mailto:lynnkleisler@yahoo.com)

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

Fay Barss 804-282-7725 [faysmusic@gmail.com](mailto:faysmusic@gmail.com)



## VIRGINIA BEACH STUDENT RECITAL

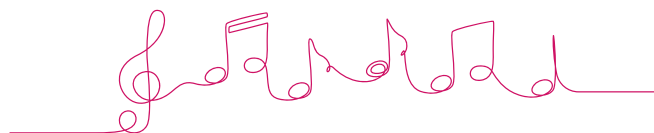
**Date:** **Saturday**, November 19th (The Yearbook is correct. - It is held on Saturday.)

**Time:** 2:30 PM

**Location:** Meyera E. Oberndorf Central Library  
4100 Virginia Beach Blvd, Virginia Beach, 23452

**Deadline:** November 5th via email or snail mail.

Jeanette Winsor  
JeaetteWinsor@cox.net



## LEVELS OF PROGRESS

Registration Deadline: January 10, 2023

Event Dates: March 4 and 5, 2023

(Details are in the Activity Booklet)

The TMTF Levels of Progress is not a competitive event, but rather an opportunity for all students - regardless of age, ability or length of study - to gain the experience of perfecting two pieces to perform for an outside examiner. Levels of Progress includes Primer Level through Level 12. Students may enter in piano, voice, organ, strings, guitar or ensembles. Teachers from within the Tidewater Music Teachers Forum serve as judges for Levels of Progress and complete evaluation sheets for each entrant. Students are judged on a standard of excellence and not against each other. Each student receives a certificate as an award for his/her effort and achievement.

If you are already a participating teacher in Levels of Progress, thank you! If you have not yet taken advantage of this opportunity, please make it a priority for 2023! This is the perfect way to allow students of all abilities to participate in a meaningful regional musical activity. Levels of Progress is also TMTF's major fund raising event for the year. Your participation will help us continue to provide quality presenters for our meetings and the best possible opportunities for our teachers and students.

Please note, LOP participation is a requirement in order to enter the Honors Recitals Auditions.

**LEVELS OF PROGRESS IS AN IMPORTANT EVENT FOR TEACHERS, STUDENTS and TMTF.  
PLEASE MAKE IT A PRIORITY!**

Mun Lee Han (2023 Levels of Progress Chairperson)  
(757) 214-5439 munleehan@gmail.com

# TMTF CALENDAR

## November 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			

- 1 - **Deadline:** Achievement Award Registration
- 5 - **Deadline:** TMTF Student Recital at Virginia Beach
- 11 - **Deadline:** TMTF Play-A-Thon Registration (Ref. P. 3)
- 12 - TMTF Sacred Music Festival
- 12 - **Deadline:** TMTF Student Recital at Portsmouth
- 14 - **Deadline:** VMTA Theory Test (Ref. P. 4)
- 18 - TMTF Meeting & Workshop
- 19 - Student Recital at Virginia Beach (Ref. P. 5)
- 20 - Student Recital at Portsmouth

## December 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

- 1 - **Deadline:** Theory Test registration changes
- 2~4 - TMTF Play-A-Thon at Greenbrier Mall, Chesapeake
- 21 - **Deadline:** Stafflines News



**November**

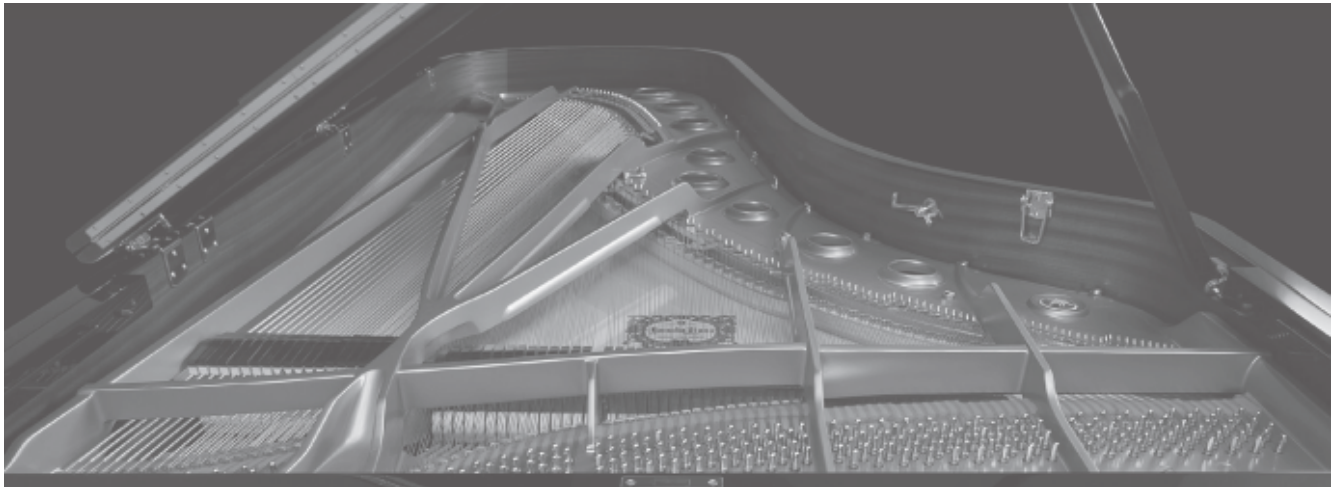
- 1 Carol Cooke
- 6 Lonell Riddick
- 10 Avelina Ibarra
- 30 Susie Keele

**December**

- 11 Myrenna Kickasola

**Happy Birthday**





YAMAHA

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Greenbrier Mall

**J. Scott Bailey**  
President

(757) 420-1130  
(757) 714-3307 Cell  
pianoshowcaseva@yahoo.com



## 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**