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# STAFFLINES

Monthly Newsletter of the Tidewater Music Teachers Forum

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## October Meeting: Friday 10/22/2021

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

### Amy Chaplin, Piano Pantry "Taming the Jungle"

9:30 Coffee  
10:00 Business Meeting  
Workshop  
12:00 Lunch

#### Session description

"Learn invaluable time-saving strategies for managing information and communication as a music teacher and professional. Increase your ability to cull, absorb, and retrieve your most valued content using tools such as Evernote, Feedly, and much more."

#### Biography

Amy Chaplin is a pianist, educator, entrepreneur, writer, and active presenter at the local, state, and national levels. She enjoys talking about all things piano teaching, studio business, organization, and good food-related. While combining these passions at PianoPantry.com, she also runs a highly successful independent piano studio in Northeast Indiana.

Chaplin holds a Master's degree in Piano Pedagogy and Performance from Ball State University, a Bachelor of Music in Choral Education K-12 from Huntington University, and a certification in Music Learning Theory (MLT) and its practical application for piano from the Gordon Institute for Music Learning (GIML).

Amy has been on the Indiana Music Teachers Association board for over ten years in various leadership roles, including state President. She has been a guest writer/speaker for several professional piano teacher outlets, including Piano Bench Magazine, Alfred Music Blog, Top Music Co., Vibrant Music Teachers, and Key Ideas podcast with Leila Viss. Her "Happy Birthday by Ear" product was featured on episode 28 of the Beyond Measure Podcast with Christina Whitlock.



## President's Letter

October 2021

Dear Fellow Music Teachers,

I've been thinking about scams. And today, I'm sharing my experiences with you to warn you to be careful.

Scam #1 - Have you heard about the free Yamaha grand piano? Yes, it's a scam. This scam has many variations. The email I received was from Chris Miche and went like this:

"Hello,

*I have a Baby grand piano to give away to someone that can cherish and take good care of it. Please let me know if you would be interested or refer someone to me.*

Regards,

Chris"

First red flag: Chris doesn't know my name. When I answered his email, he sent me photos and said his wife had died and wanted the piano to go to a good home. The problem was the piano was in Tennessee and would have to be shipped to Virginia.

This scam is all over the internet and has many variations. Some involve a widow who says her late husband wants the piano to go to a good home. These emails are targeting piano teachers. If you go for it, Chris will ask you to pay for shipping, up to \$1500, in cash. That's when you find out you're out the \$1500 and aren't getting the piano.

Scam #2 - I received a phone message which also sounded intriguing. The woman's voice said: "Hi, this is Joanie, from Thalia Elementary School and we're looking for music lessons to help out."

First red flag: She mispronounced Thalia. And the phone number she left for a call-back had an 844 area code. Not legit - definitely a scam.

Just remember: If it seems too good to be true, it probably isn't true.

Plan to attend our October 22 meeting at Jordan Kitts. More details elsewhere in this newsletter.

See you there!

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

## Workshops 2021-2022

November 19, 2021

Eric Ruple, DMA, James Madison University  
"Fun With Scales...Really"

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



## Virginia Music Teachers State Conference Announcement

Our VMTA State Conference will be held **November 4 – 6** at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in Williamsburg. It is a big and spacious hotel with many amenities, including 2 restaurants and a cafe. The auditorium where the workshops are going to be held can seat up to 500 people. There will also be vendors at the conference and plenty of space to hang out and connect with other teachers. Please note that the deadline for the **special hotel rate of \$109 plus tax** and the **early bird conference registration rate of \$95** is **October 4<sup>th</sup>**.

The guest artist for the conference is **Dr. Barbara Lister-Sink**, who is the Artistic Director of the School of Music and the Music Graduate Program at Salem College in North Carolina. You may have heard of her book, *“Freeing the Caged Bird”*. She will be presenting a recital, master class and a technique workshop. The guest clinician for the conference is **Lisa Bastien** from KJOS Music. She will be presenting three workshops, one of which will be on “The Bastien Family: A Tribute to Jane and Jim”, one on “Bastien’s New Traditions” and some of her family’s music, and one on “Successful Piano Teaching in a Rapidly Changing World”.

Dr. Barbara Lister–Sink’s Concert will be on Friday evening, which will be preceded by the banquet. The Concerto Winner’s/Commissioned Composer Concert is scheduled for Saturday evening. Both of these concerts will be held at William and Mary at Ewell Hall. There is still space for vendors at the conference and advertising in the Conference Program Book. **Did you know that you can also be a one line name supporter of VMTA in the Conference Book for only \$15?** I hope you will all consider it.

Registration for the conference, advertising sizes and rates, vendor/exhibitor information and other information about the conference can be found on the Virginia Music Teachers Association website, [virginiamta.org](http://virginiamta.org). Updates about the conference will be posted there too. Volunteers and help at the conference are welcomed and needed. Please contact me at [lynnkleisler@yahoo.com](mailto:lynnkleisler@yahoo.com) for any questions you may have or to let me know if you have **not** been receiving emails from VMTA through Constant Contact. I hope you will come join us at the conference for some fun, to learn some new things, shop and to network with your fellow teachers!

Best Regards,

Lynn Kleisler, NCTM  
VMTA President-Elect

ATTENTION **ALL MEMBERS:**

## SACRED MUSIC FESTIVAL

**Saturday, November 13, 2021**

**DEADLINE: October 8, 2021**



### **LOCATIONS**

Thalia Lynn Baptist Church  
4392 Virginia Beach Blvd., Virginia  
Beach, VA

Monumental United Methodist Church  
450 Dinwiddie Street  
Portsmouth, Va 23704

*Don't forget to register your students by October 8. The registration forms can be found on the website [TMTF.org](http://TMTF.org) and you can fill them out and email them to me. You can't get much easier than that.*

*Each student should play 2 pieces. Memorization is not required. One may be a Christmas piece. More details are listed in the Activity Book.*

*Teachers, remember, if we don't teach love of sacred music and give confidence in performing to our future church musicians, who will?*

*"Making melody in the heart to the Lord"*

*Donna Halleck, Chairperson*

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### **STUDENT RECITAL**

The TMTF Student VB Recital will be held at the Central Auditorium at Meyera E. Oberndorf Central Library, **Saturday, November 20th, 2021 at 2:30pm.** Our fingers are crossed that COVID numbers will permit us to do this recital. Closer to time, I will inform all the participants and their teachers of the library's COVID PPE policies so you are prepared.

Jeanette Winsor



## TMTF Play-A-Thon



**This student event is just around the corner again!** The dates for the Play-A-Thon are December 3, 4 and 5, 2021. It will be held at Greenbrier Mall in Chesapeake and we are also hoping for it to be held at Pembroke Mall in Virginia Beach. The **deadline for registration is November 12th**. Detailed Information about the event can be found in the 2021/2022 TMTF Yearbook and 2021/2022 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.

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

## TMTF Calendar

### OCTOBER 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	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	2	3	4	5	6

- 10/8 - TMTF Board Meeting  
**DEADLINE Sacred Music Festival (Ref. Page 4)**
- 10/21 - DEADLINE for November Stafflines
- 10/22 - TMTF Meeting/Workshop (Ref. page 1)
- TBA DEADLINE - Student Recital VB & Portsmouth



### 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-Virginia Beach (Ref. Page 4)
- 11/19 - TMTF Meeting/Workshop
- 11/20 - Student Recital Virginia Beach (Ref. Page 3)
- 11/21 - DEADLINE for December Stafflines



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY



### October

- 15 Mary Taylor
- 21 Elizabeth Smith
- 27 Elizabeth Baker

### November

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

## 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**

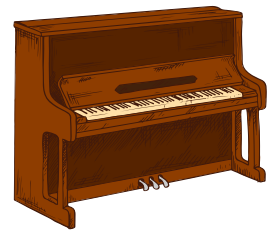
Mun Lee Han 757-214-5439 munleehan@gmail.com  
Sarah Lantz 484-437-6327 laurelinwen@gmail.com

### **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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## **Student achievement and award/National Guild Composition Contest**

Students of Elizabeth Sjolund

### **Honorable mention for the United States**

Michael Bengson  
Olivia Cordero  
Hannah Germain  
Reina Rodriguez  
Andrew Wu  
Efraim Blair (Student of Jeanette Winsor)

### **Finalist for the United States**

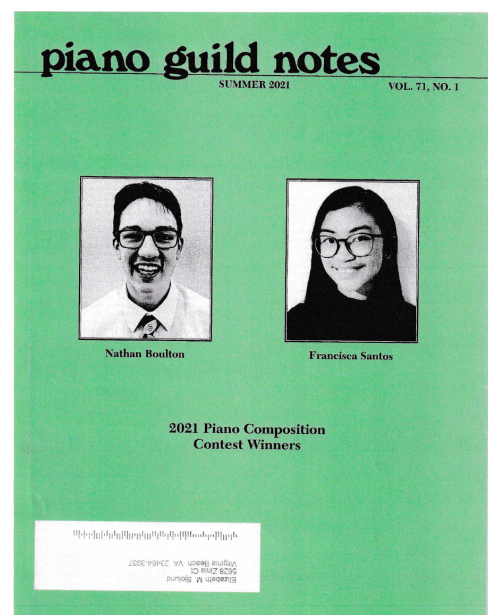
Chelsea Li

### **Cash Winner for the United States**

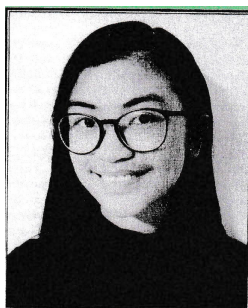
Elementary Division  
Scarlett Horner

### **Cash Winner for the United States**

Intermediate Division  
Francisca Santos







**Francisca Santos** has been studying with the Sjolund Piano Studio since she was four years old. She will be completing her 10-piece Guild program for the 10th year in a row to receive the Paderewski Award this year. In addition to Guild, she has performed for the Tidewater Music Teacher's Forum, playing for Levels of Progress as well as Honors Auditions and Recitals. She has also competed in Eastern District Auditions for the state of Virginia. She has also performed for the Scherzo Music Club, a division of the National Federation of Music Clubs. She has entered the Composition Contest every year since she was four, placing multiple honorable mentions and a couple as a finalist. She is an eighth grader at St. Matthew's Catholic School, has played for school masses, and has been consistent in being a straight "A" student. She was involved in the school plays, the Spanish Bowl, and Battle of the Books. She enjoys doing crafts, reading fantasy, playing Animal Crossing and badminton, and still enjoys watching movies and hiking with her family. Frankie will be starting high school in the IB Program this September.

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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](https://www.Certification.MTNA.org).

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