



# STAFFLINES



Monthly Newsletter of the Tidewater Music Teachers Forum



## September Meeting: Friday 9/24/2021

At Holiday Inn and Conference Center  
5655 Greenwich Rd. Virginia Beach, VA 23455

### Kevin T. Chance, DMA

## "Shattering the Studio Ceiling: Teaching Gems by Under-Represented Composers"

9:00 Coffee 9:45 Workshop 11:30 Business Meeting  
12:00 Lunch on site - Box lunches

**\*RSVP required**

Information on page 2

Kevin Chance serves as Assistant Professor of Piano at the University of Alabama where he coordinates the Gloria Narramore Moody Piano Area. As soloist and collaborator, Kevin has performed throughout the United States and abroad, and recent orchestral appearances have included Bernstein's Age of Anxiety, Rachmaninoff's Rhapsody on a Theme by Paganini, Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue, Beethoven's Choral Fantasy, and Saint-Saëns's Le Carnaval des animaux. Performing regularly as a chamber musician, Kevin has been a member of the Semplice Duo with flutist Cristina Ballatori for the past 20 years, and their performances have included world premiers at the National Flute Association Conference as well as recitals in Wisconsin, Texas, Colorado, Virginia, Alabama, New York, and Europe.

Kevin has recently received a number of accolades for his teaching. Most recently, he was named a 2020-2022 Leadership Board Faculty Fellow for the University of Alabama College of Arts and Sciences, which recognizing excellence in teaching and research. In 2019, he was inducted into the inaugural class of the Steinway and Sons Music Teacher Hall of Fame in New York City and

was named 2019 Music Educator of the Year by the Arts Council of Tuscaloosa. Additionally, he was named the 2015-2017 Teacher of the Year by the Alabama Music Teachers Association. Kevin maintains an award-winning studio of college and pre-college students, and his students have garnered awards at the state, regional, and national levels. In demand as a clinician and adjudicator, he frequently presents at the MTNA National Conference as well as state and local music teacher organizations throughout the country. In January 2021, Kevin served as the headliner clinician for the University of Georgia Piano Symposium, and each summer, he serves on the faculty of the New Orleans Piano Institute each summer.

Kevin holds degrees from the Eastman School of Music, Louisiana State University, and Birmingham-Southern College, and his former teachers include Barry Snyder, Constance Knox Carroll, Anne Koscielny, Ann Schein, William DeVan, and Betty Sue Shepherd. Kevin currently serves as President of the American Matthay Association for Piano and recently finished his term as Vice President of MTNA.



## President's Letter

September 2021

Dear Fellow Music Teachers,

Looking for inspiration for your teaching? Feeling stuck in a rut? Yeah, me too. So in this letter I'd like to share some resources that have helped me along the way.

I'm a procrastinator. There, I said it. Sometimes I feel paralyzed and stuck. So when that happens, I put on some happy music which calms my nerves and inspires me to get with it. Whether it's answering emails, paying bills or doing some housework, I like to put on some Haydn, Mozart, or even Beethoven. I use iTunes but you could use any number of streaming services or even your favorite CDs.

Tired of the same old method books? Me too. I've found some real gems lately in the Bastien New Traditions All In One books. In addition, KJOS publishes some great little theory workbooks called Theory Boosters. My students love them. Here's something brand new: Piano Safari Friends is a new series intended to prepare students for Piano Safari Level 1. I'm excited to try this with my young beginner students. Yuko Farman's presentation on Russian piano method last year inspired me to watch some YouTube videos and I'm already using some of these concepts in my teaching.

Watching piano competitions online has been very inspiring for me. I can recommend a streaming service called medici.tv which has classical, jazz, opera and dance concerts in addition to competitions, master classes and documentaries.

Lastly, but most important, do attend our TMTF meetings to learn new teaching concepts, repertoire and get motivated and inspired. Our VMTA and MTNA conferences will both be in person this year and I intend to attend, not only to learn but to network with other teachers.

Plan to attend our September 24 meeting at the Holiday Inn on Greenwich Road. More details elsewhere in this newsletter.

See you there!

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

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### **SEPTEMBER MEETING**

**Join us for our first meeting of the year!**

**\*RSVP** to Susan Atkins by September 14  
email: pianolearningcenter@gmail.com  
text: 757-282-8220

Box Lunches - Choose 1:

- Veggie Wrap
- Turkey Bacon Ranch
- Overstuffed Deli Club
- Chicken Caesar Wrap

All sandwiches come with fruit, chocolate chip cookie, bottled water or soft drink, potato chips.

You may take your box lunch with you if you aren't staying

**DOOR PRIZES - NOT TO BE MISSED!**

Unvaccinated participants are encouraged to wear masks.

## HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MTNA MEMBERSHIP?

You may have already received reminders to renew your membership via email or snail mail. Don't wait, don't procrastinate - Do it today!

**Tip #1:** Check your renewal form carefully and update anything that has changed in the last year. Now is the time to remove your email address from the form if you don't check your email regularly. This helps us to know the best way to contact you.

**Tip #2:** RENEW NOW! For ease in joining, you may go to: [Http://www.mtna.org/membership-information/](http://www.mtna.org/membership-information/) and renew online.

Membership with MTNA does more than simply complement your career as a music professional - it supports, supplements and shapes it. It empowers music teachers nationwide to become better educators through networking, leadership, mentoring and educational opportunities. MTNA Membership Delivers!

Questions about membership?  
Contact Donna Halleck, Membership Chair  
757 681-7782  
[donnahalleck@gmail.com](mailto:donnahalleck@gmail.com)  
Invite a teacher friend to join! For more benefits of membership, visit: [www.mtna.org](http://www.mtna.org)

## THE SACRED MUSIC FESTIVAL



**Saturday, Nov. 13, 2021**

(Registration Deadline is October 15)

Are you interested in giving your students a well-rounded music education? Yes? Then encourage them to enter the Sacred Music Festival this fall.

There are many sacred books of all levels available to get them started. Memorization is not required and it only takes a few minutes of their Saturday to participate. The details will be listed in the TMTF yearbook. This event parallels our Levels of Progress opportunity by using sacred music to help prepare them for using their talents in churches.

Most of our students will not become concert pianists, however, we want them to continue to use their piano skills throughout their lives. Be thinking and starting to prepare those students entrusted to you ahead of time. I know you will be glad you did!

Contact Donna Halleck, Chairman for more information.  
[donnahalleck@gmail.com](mailto:donnahalleck@gmail.com)  
757-681-7782

## 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

## VMTA THEORY NOTICE

### Teachers,

### It is time to begin planning your list of students for the VMTA Theory Test.

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 Covid-19 and Delta variant pandemic, the location and date of the 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<br>➤ 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

# TMTF Calendar

## SEPTEMBER 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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	2

9/21 - DEADLINE Stafflines

9/24 - TMTF Meeting/Workshop Ref. P.1



## 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

10/15 - DEADLINE - Sacred Music Festival

10/21 - DEADLINE - Stafflines

10/22 - TMTF Meeting/Workshop (Ref. page 6)

TBA DEADLINE - Student Recital VB & Portsmouth



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY



### September

- 2 Josephine Jones
- 6 Elizabeth Edler
- 16 Sharon Alston
- 17 Jessica Tuttobene
- 25 Debra Newton
- 28 Christine Ward
- 30 Vernon McCart

### October

- 15 Mary Taylor
- 15 Joshua Miller
- 21 Elizabeth Smith
- 27 Elizabeth Baker
- 29 Kelsey Jamerson



## **Workshops 2021-2022**

September 24, 2021

Kevin Chance

“Teaching Repertoire by Under-represented Composers”

October 22, 2021

Amy Chaplin, Piano Pantry

“Taming the Jungle”

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

## 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**