



# STAFFLINES



Monthly Newsletter of the Tidewater Music Teachers Forum

## Dr. Amy Miller

Colonial Music and Dance in Williamsburg, Virginia During Christmastide



## Friday, November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025

Location: ODU Diehn Center for the Performing Arts  
Chandler Recital Hall  
1339 West 49<sup>th</sup> Street, Norfolk VA 23529

10:00 Business Meeting & Workshop

12:00 Lunch

**Amy Edmondson Miller** received her Doctor of Music degree from Florida State University in 1989 in Flute Performance with an Early Music Certificate. Amy gave several recitals at Bruton Parish Church in Williamsburg and at Old Dominion University with Sally Copeland in the early 1990s. She taught applied flute as Flute Lecturer at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro 1991-1992. Dr. Miller free-lanced as a flutist in north Georgia and taught privately, as well as teaching as an adjunct instructor for Brenau University in Gainesville, Georgia. She came to Colonial Williamsburg Foundation in 1996, working Evening Programs, playing Baroque flute for Dance Our Dearest Diversion programs and Palace Concerts, and playing harpsichord in the Parlor of the George Wythe House for Echoes of Music Walking Tours. In 1998, she joined the Fifes and Drums of Colonial Williamsburg as the first female member of that organization and as fife instructor, later becoming a supervisor there. In 2016, she became Site Supervisor for Music, playing Baroque flute and recorders, keyboard, and singing with the Governor's Musick ensemble. She developed a Hennage presentation entitled, "Bird Fancier's Delight," which includes music for Baroque flute, sopranino recorder, alto recorder, and voice and highlights how man and bird taught music to each other in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and the modern relevance of this relationship.

### Workshop Description:

Nancy Geddy represents a prime example of the education of a young girl in Williamsburg in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. This presentation will begin with a discussion of traditions of domestic life and gender roles relating to musical instruments and their significance as elements of musical life. A poem published in the Virginia Gazette in December of 1768 by a secret admirer of Nancy will be contextualized and keyboard pieces by each composer mentioned in the poem will be performed by Dr. Miller. Her selections will also be based partially upon the types of music extant in Cuthbert Ogle's inventory, itemized posthumously by Peter Pelham before being sold at auction to Williamsburg residents in 1755. This music stayed in Williamsburg and could have been owned by someone like Nancy Geddy. The next portion of the presentation will highlight Christmas carols that are familiar to us today, but that had different melodies in the 18<sup>th</sup> century with performances by Amy accompanied by Sally Copeland. Broadside song sheets will be available for sing-along carols that we still know today. The presentation will conclude with some information on Virginians' love of dancing, especially during the Christmastide season. Audience volunteers will be taught some country dances that will then be danced with musical accompaniment.

**Our President at her first job as a student harpsichordist at Colonial Williamsburg!**



**Sally & Amy Miller at Bruton Parish before a candlelight concert**

## President's Letter November 2025

We had a great turnout for our October FJH Publisher's Workshop with Kevin Olson. It was great to see so many teachers present, enjoying the teaching tips and supplementary materials presented! Many thanks go to Emily for her hard work, to Kyle Hackinson of FJH Music Company for our wonderful gift bag of music, and to Mike Dameron of Music and Arts for hosting us.

November will be a busy month with deadlines for Achievement Awards, Student Recitals, Play-a-Thon, the VMTA Conference at George Mason on November 6-8, our Sacred Hymn Festival, fall Student Recital, and the ODU Protsman Competition.

Please consider seeking certification as well. Susan Atkins has said that there is funding awarded by the state and national organizations to encourage and assist new music teachers in receiving their certifications.

Our November 21, workshop will be festive interactive, and fun. It will feature Dr. Amy Miller on the topic of Colonial Music and Dance in Williamsburg, Virginia During Christmastide. You may remember meeting Dr. Miller at the workshop with Dr. Nancy Berry. We were all classmates at Florida State University together. Amy is a fantastic performer who specializes in Baroque and modern flute and recorder performance. She has been with Colonial Williamsburg since 1996, and during her time there has made history as the first female member of the fife and drum corps as an instructor and supervisor. She has been an accompanist for the Dance our Dearest and Evening Programs and Palace Concerts. Amy is now the Site Supervisor for Music, playing Baroque flute and recorder, harpsichord, and singing with the Governor's Musick Ensemble. We will also have special guests from the ODu Madrigal Singers. This workshop will be held in Chandler Recital Hall with parking in the VIP lot beside the music building. The meeting begins at 10 am. Hope to see you all there and feel free to bring a friend!

Musically Yours,  
Sally



# Catherine Rollin's Turkey Recipe for Thanksgiving!



In my first phone conversation with Catherine, we were discussing that as piano teachers, we don't have much time to cook and that we have specialty dishes. She mentioned her Turkey Recipes- I asked her to write it down for us to try.

Best,  
Sally

## Ingredients:

- 1 whole turkey or turkey breast with pop-up timer
- 1-2 cans of frozen orange juice (1 for breast, 1.5-2 for whole turkey), with about  $\frac{1}{3}$  cup reserved
- Onion, thinly sliced
- Chopped carrots and potatoes (if desired)
- Salt and garlic powder, to taste

## Instructions:

- Preheat oven to 325°F.
- Prepare the turkey by washing (if desired).
- Prepare thinly sliced onions and place into the cavity.
- Sprinkle the bird with salt and garlic powder to taste.
- Take spoonfuls of the frozen juice and scoop on top of the turkey. As it defrosts, smear the juice into the skin.
- Place some frozen juice inside the cavity of the bird. Most of the juice should be smeared on the outside. Be sure to reserve  $\frac{1}{3}$  cup for later!
- Top your turkey with more sliced onions.
- Add water to the bottom of the roasting pan - at least enough to cover the bottom surface, but not so much that it spills over the sides. This will create a gravy with the drippings while cooking.
- Around  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the way through cooking, add the rest of the frozen orange juice on top of the turkey and pierce the skin.
- Cook until the turkey timer pops up or reaches 165°F internal
- Carve and serve with the drippings gravy

\*Note - if serving with carrots or potatoes, add these to the bottom of the pan with your drippings. If you are using a smaller turkey or just the breast meat, you may want to pre-cook your vegetables before adding them to the roasting tray with everything else.



# TMTF Play-A-Thon 20<sup>th</sup> Year Celebration



**YES, THIS IS OUR 20<sup>th</sup> YEAR OF STUDENTS AND TEACHERS PERFORMING!!!**

The dates for the Play-A-Thon this year are December 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. It will be held at Greenbrier Mall in Chesapeake in front of Piano Showcase. **Registration is due by November 14<sup>th</sup>**. Please use the current registration form that can be found in the 2025 Studio Companion Book. Other Play-A-Thon forms can also be found there such as the Student Pledge Form, Letter to Parents, Teacher Guidelines, etc. Please take a moment to read through all of them as there has been some changes.

**Now** is the time to start handing the “Pledge Sheets” out to your student to give them plenty of time to secure pledges before the event. They have until January 31, 2026 to turn in their pledge money to be considered eligible for one of the monetary prizes. Often, the holidays are the best time for students to collect pledges from friends and families.

Students of all levels and any instrument are invited to share their love of music by performing at this fun event. Collaboration between students and/or between student and teacher are a joy to see and hear. Teachers may even perform and collect pledges themselves as I and other teachers have done in the past. All students will receive a token prize after they perform. Memorization is not required!!!

**Please note that it is a requirement for a teacher’s studio to participate in this event if entering students in the Glover Scholarship Auditions, Glen Mayberry Competition or receive money from the Louise Garrow Memorial Scholarship Fund this school year.** As well as helping our three scholarship funds, the students will have an opportunity to win cash prizes themselves if they bring in one of the three highest amounts of pledge money! Don’t forget to tell them. Often, this is an incentive for students to secure more pledges. Also, remember to tell students that donations are tax deductible.

Please consider entering some of your students and possibly performing in the event this year if you have not done so before! Let’s make our 20<sup>th</sup> year **BIG!**

Chairman: Lynn Kleisler, NCTM

Co-Chairman: Elizabeth Smith

# 2026 VMTA Theory Test

It's time to get ready for the 2026 VMTA Theory Test!

<b>Dates:</b>	January 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2026
<b>Registration Deadline:</b>	December 19 <sup>th</sup> , 2025
<b>Registration Fee:</b>	\$15.00
<b>Prerequisites or Post-requisites:</b>	Theory test completion required to participate in the VMTA District Auditions
<b>Requirements:</b>	Written exam, leveled 1-12, based on musical knowledge (not school grade).
<b>Chairperson:</b>	Susan Atkins, NCTM 4357 Biscayne Drive, Virginia Beach VA 23455 (757) 282-8220 <a href="mailto:pianolearningcenter@gmail.com">pianolearningcenter@gmail.com</a>
<b>Chairperson:</b>	Sally Copeland 116 Tyler Crescent, Portsmouth VA 23707 (757) 376-7348 <a href="mailto:srcopela@odu.edu">srcopela@odu.edu</a>
<b>Location:</b>	Old Dominion University Webb Center 1301 W 49 <sup>th</sup> St Norfolk, VA 23529

For detailed instructions and registration form, please see the Studio Companion for 2025-2026.

Thank you!  
Susan Atkins

# **2026 Sight-Reading and Skills Test**

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

Sunday, February, 22, 2026  
at Diehn Performing Arts Center  
**Old Dominion University**

The registration DEADLINE is **January 16, 2026**. 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 Studio Companion 2025-2026.

Please encourage your students to participate in these tests as the preparation involved in preparing will definitely be education and rewarding for them.

## **Local Chairperson**

Mun Lee Han  
(757)-214-5439  
munleehan@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



# MTNA Certification



Let's get certified!

The MTNA Professional Certification Program exists to improve the level of professionalism within the field of music teaching. It benefits the members of the profession itself, as well as the public who interacts with the professional. For the music teaching professional, certification provides prestige, recognition and the potential for student recruitment and increased earning power. For the public, certification helps readily identify competent music teachers in their communities.

Monthly local certification meetings are held via Zoom. Watch the Stafflines and your email inbox for the day and time of each meeting.

VMTA and TMTF are offering a \$100 reimbursement each (total \$200) to offset the cost of certification.

You too can be an NCTM (Nationally Certified Teacher of Music).

For more information, go to [certification.mtna.org](https://certification.mtna.org).

Certification meeting schedule:

September 19

October 10

**November 14**

January 9

February 13

March 6

April 10

May 8

10:00-11:30 am on Zoom

2025-2026 Local Chairperson:

Susan Atkins, NCTM

4357 Biscayne Drive

Virginia Beach, VA 23455

(757) 282-8220

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

## 2025 VMTA Conference

It is my pleasure to announce that our 2025 VMTA State Conference will be hosted in Northern Virginia at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia from November 6th to November 8th.

We hope you will set aside the time and make plans to join us!

Warm Regards,  
Christy Tallamy, NCTM  
VMTA President-Elect

## Get Involved in TMTF!

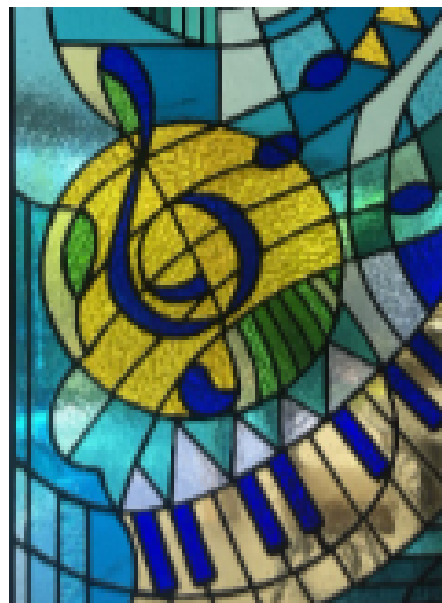
We have plenty of opportunities to get involved in by helping with events, such as judging, administering various tests, auditions and recitals. These are excellent opportunities to contribute your talent and connect with other music teachers.

Contact the event chairperson or president or president-elect for opportunities you are interested in helping out with.

We would greatly appreciate your presence!

## Sacred Music Festival

**It's our first TMTF event of the fall!**



This is the best opportunity for your students to prepare pieces for Play-A-Thon, Christmas Recitals, church offertories, preludes and specials without the pressure of memorization.

This event will be held at Thalia Lynn Baptist Church on Virginia Beach Blvd and at Monumental Methodist Church in Portsmouth on Saturday, November 15, 2025.

If you're searching for good music to use, I highly recommend Wendy Steven's ***Hymns I, II, and III*** ([www.Composecreate.com](http://www.Composecreate.com)) and ***Play Hymns*** - from [Alfred.com](http://Alfred.com).

Don't let this event pass you by! Get involved!

Donna Halleck  
Sacred Music Festival Chairperson



# TMTF EVENT CALENDAR

November 2025						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						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 Resignation  
 2 Daylight Savings (move clocks back 1 hour)  
 6-8 VMTA Conference at GMU  
 9 DEADLINE - TMTF Student Recital - VA Beach  
 14 TMTF Certification Meeting  
 14 DEADLINE - Play-A-Thon  
 15 Sacred Music Festival - Thalia Lynn Baptist Church, VA Beach  
 15 Sacred Music Festival - Portsmouth Chesapeake - Monumental UMC  
**21 TMTF Meeting/Workshop**  
 22 Harold Protsman Piano Competition at ODU  
 23 Student Recital - VA Beach - Coastal Unitarian/Universalists Church  
 TBD Student Recital - Portsmouth  
 27 Thanksgiving Day

December 2025						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	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			

5-7 TMTF Play-A-Thon  
 19 DEADLINE - VMTA Theory Test  
 21 DEADLINE: Stafflines News  
 24 Christmas Eve  
 25 Christmas Day

Happy  
Birthday



## November

1 Geraldine Pearson  
 1 Carol Cook  
 6 Lonell Riddick

## January

5 Hugh Middleton  
 7 Geraldine T. Boone  
 20 Susan Grice  
 27 Emily Denniston  
 28 Jeanette Winsor





YAMAHA

JORDAN [www.jordankitts.com](http://www.jordankitts.com)  
**Kitt's music**

*A proud supporter of the Tidewater Music Teachers Forum for over a half century!*

*Jordan Kitt's Music has been a partner of local music education for decades, and is Tidewater's home of the best piano values*

Area representatives of Yamaha,  
Bösendorfer, Cristofori, Roland & More...  
**Sales • Service • Tunings • Lessons • Rentals**

5164 Virginia Beach Boulevard  
Virginia Beach, VA 23462  
**(757) 497-8929**

### 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 the Stafflines Editor

**Piano Showcase**  
pianoshowcaseva.com  
Greenbrier Mall

**J. Scott Bailey**  
President

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

**KAWAI**



### Tidewater Music Teachers Forum

Local Chapter of the Virginia Music Teachers Association Affiliated  
with the Music Teachers National Association

**Violet Cusher, Editor | 31 Sinton Road | Newport News, VA 23601**