



# STAFFLINES



Monthly Newsletter of the Tidewater Music Teachers Forum

Join us as Laura Cardin and Sally R. Copeland present the workshop highlights and give handouts, music and other materials from the MTNA 2025 National Conference.



**Friday, May 16, 2025**

## **MTNA 2025 National Conference Highlights**

**Location** ODU Diehn Center for the Performing Arts  
Rm 2119,  
1339 West 49th Street, Norfolk, VA. 23529

**9:30** Meeting  
**10:00** Workshop  
**12:00** Lunch

This year's conference was held in Minneapolis, Minnesota from March 15-19, 2025



## President's Letter May 2025

This is the last President's Letter for my 2023-2025 term. It has been a good yet difficult last two years as I did not expect to lose my amazing Co-President and friend, Yuko Farman. I appreciate all of the love and support you gave to her and myself as Co-Presidents, and for the additional help as I had to take on the position as the sole President starting this past fall.

Thank you to all the members for believing in me and for trusting me to be your President for the past two years. Many thanks to the officers and chairpersons for all your arduous work. I appreciate your extra time and effort you spend on the Forum and all you do. These events and this forum cannot run without those who volunteer to keep things going!

I want to give an extra thanks for my President-Elect, Sally Copeland! You have been a pleasure to work with and I know you will be an amazing President these next two years!!

I look forward to serving as your Immediate Past-President and seeing what the future holds for our lovely group of excellent music teachers.

Thanks again!

Laura Cardin  
TMTF President

## TMTF Slate of Officers for 2025 - 2027 Term

**President** : Sally Copeland

**President-Elect** : Emily Denniston

**Recording Secretary** : Bethany Jacob

**Treasurer** : Mun Lee Han

**Associate Treasure** : Laura Cardin

**Immediate Past President** : Laura Cardin

### Members-At-Large

- Donna Halleck
- Cynthia Vaughn



Our officers will be installed at our meeting on Friday, May 16th.

**A change in officer from the previous slate is Member-At-Large, Mun Lee Han will be replaced with Cynthia Vaughn. We need your votes for this change. Please email [TidewaterMTF@gmail.com](mailto:TidewaterMTF@gmail.com) or call me at 757-762-3061.**

I would like to thank the nominating committee for your hard work!  
Committee Members: Susan Atkins, Laura Cardin, Donna Halleck and Mary Ann Medlin.

Laura Cardin

## TMTF High School Seniors' Recital

The TMTF High School Seniors' Recital was established in 2016 to provide graduating High School Seniors of all levels to have an opportunity to share their talents with the Tidewater Community.

The TMTF High School Seniors' Recital will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, right after the Honors Recitals. If there is a winner or winners of the Glen Mayberry Scholarship, they will also perform at this recital. The recital is open to the public.

Please come out to the many recitals happening on Sunday May, 18<sup>th</sup> at Old Dominion University in the Chandler Recital Hall of the Diehn Fine and Performing Arts Building.

**Elizabeth Sjolund, Chair**

[landk627@aol.com](mailto:landk627@aol.com)

757-420-7059



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## Teachers' Soirée

The TMTF Teachers' Recital was established in 2006 to provide teachers an opportunity to showcase their talents with the Tidewater Community as well as an opportunity for professional growth. Newly renamed in 2024, we will offer one or more teacher soirées based on interested and availability. Please contact Elizabeth Sjolund if you are interested.

**Elizabeth Sjolund**

[landk627@aol.com](mailto:landk627@aol.com)

[757-420-7059](tel:757-420-7059)

## Janet S. Phelps Music Education Scholarship

The Janet S. Phelps Music Education Scholarship application is now active with at May 15, 2025 deadline.

Information on the scholarship is as follows:

### **Purpose:**

This scholarship is in honor of the dedication and leadership of Janet S. Phelps of the Music Ministry at King's Grant Presbyterian Church. The Scholarship is established to encourage men and women to prepare for and/or continue with music-related vocation and/or to further education opportunities for students of music performance, teaching, and related music expenses.

### **Award:**

- Up to five (5) scholarship may be awarded.
- The minimum amount of an individual scholarship is \$1,000.00.
- The scholarships awarded shall be applied to the tuition expense of a college, university, or other accredited institutions of higher learning, or applied to other related expenses.

### **Eligibility:**

- Applicants shall be either:
- Current and former members of Kings Grant Presbyterian Church and their immediate family (children and grandchildren)
- City of Virginia Beach Resident
- Current and former students of the Virginia's Governor's School for the Arts

The link to the online application is:

<https://kgpc.org/janet-s-phelps-music-education-scholarship/>

## 2025 Levels of Progress

Thank you to everyone who participated in this event!

Special thanks to the area coordinators - Josephine Jones, Mun Lee Han, Mary Ann Medlin, and Joan Edwards!

This year, we had:

- 174 students registered for Levels of Progress from 18 teachers.
- 155 student performers.
- 17 teachers judging or assisting
- 4 area coordinators

Thank you again for a successful year!

Emily Denniston  
2025 Levels of Progress Chair

## 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



## ***BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP***

Connect and share professional insight with over 100 local music teachers and musicians at networking events

- Continue and enhance your education through relevant industry workshops and seminars throughout the year
- Enjoy countless performance, skills test, and scholarship opportunities for your students
- Become eligible to apply for the national MTNA teacher certification or enrichment grants for teacher study
- Gain national access to professional support services such as insurance and legal consultation, recommendations and referrals for studio resources, and new technology resources
- Receive MTNA exclusive publications to keep you up-to-date with current trends in the music teaching industry
- Network with thousands of colleagues state and nationwide at the VMTA and MTNA conferences at discounted rates
- Participate in the annual TMTF Teacher Recital and collaborate with other like-minded musicians
- **Collegiate and Senior discounts available.**

***To Join use this link to go to the TMTF membership page.*** <https://TMTF.org/become-a-member>

Sincerely,

Donna Halleck, Membership Chair

## MTNA Certification

Want to be a better music teacher? Consider the MTNA Certification Program. Imagine those 4 little letters after your name - NCTM, Nationally Certified Teacher of Music. Going through the process not only made me a better piano teacher but also gave me respect from my students, parents and peers. MTNA offers certification for any instrument including voice.

Attending our meetings are a way to find out about certification and be encouraged to complete the process. VMTA and TMTF both offer a \$100 reimbursement (total \$200) to offset the cost of certification.

Find out more at  
[www.certification.mtna.org](http://www.certification.mtna.org).

Have questions? Ask me anything!



**Friday, May 2, 2025**  
**10-11:30 AM Zoom or in-person**

Please RSVP to Susan Atkins, TMTF  
 Certification Chair  
[pianolearningcenter@gmail.com](mailto:pianolearningcenter@gmail.com)

## 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!

## Bring a Friend to Our TMTF Workshops and Earn Rewards!

Invite a fellow music teacher to join you at any of our TMTF Workshops! When you bring a friend, both of you will receive a \$10 Music & Arts gift card as a thank you.



## Special Membership Incentive from MTNA - For New Members

Do you have friends and colleagues who want to invest in their professional development but aren't yet members of MTNA? There could not be a better time to join! From now through June 30, active members joining **for the first time** will receive a 50% discount on national membership dues. (Many state and local affiliates offer a discount too!)

Invite your colleagues to join online today by sharing the link below, or having them call us at (888) 512-5278, Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M.-4:00 P.M. Eastern Time.  
[Join Online Today!](#)

Thank you for your support in growing and strengthening MTNA!  
 ⚠️ This membership expires June 30, 2025, and will require full dues for the next membership year (beginning July 1) be paid at that time. Members will receive their statements for the 2025-2026 year in April.

# TMTF CALENDAR

## May 2025

1		<b>DEADLINE - TMTF Achievement Award Documentation</b>
1		<b>DEADLINE - High School Seniors' Recital</b>
9	10:00 a.m.	TMTF Executive Board Meeting – <i>ODU Diehn Composers Seminar Room</i>
10		VMTA Eastern District Auditions – <i>Christopher Newport University</i>
10		Glen Mayberry Scholarship Auditions – <i>Christopher Newport University</i>
16	<u>9:30 a.m.</u>	TMTF Meeting/Workshop/Luncheon – MTNA Conference Highlights <i>Old Dominion University's Diehn Center for the Performing Arts</i> <i>1339 West 49th Street, Norfolk, VA. 23529</i>

**Please notice our earlier start time of 9:30 a.m. for Officer Installation and brief business meeting on Friday, May 16th. Please RSVP for the workshop AND please RSVP for the luncheon - RSVP by April 25th!**

We need to know how many people will be attending the workshop so we have enough handouts and freebies. We also need to know how many people to expect for the luncheon. Thank you in advance!

**PS - If you did not RSVP by April 25<sup>th</sup>, please still get in your RSVP ASAP. There will be extra special giveaways for the first 15 people who sign up to attend.**

17		TMTF Honors Recitals Rehearsals - <i>Chandler Recital Hall, ODU</i>
18	3 & 5 p.m.	TMTF Honors Recitals - <i>Chandler Recital Hall, ODU</i>
18	7:00 p.m.	H.S. Seniors' Recital – <i>Chandler Recital Hall, ODU</i>
TBD		TMTF Teachers' Soirée – Location TBD

## July 2025

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### **DEADLINE - Stafflines News**

Happy  
Birthday



### **May**

4 Carol Noona  
4 Lauren Towers  
11 Teresa Compos-Falk  
18 Sharon Palardy  
26 Susan Cusher  
28 Mun Lee Han

### **June**

12 Helen Heifetz  
18 Cynthia Vaughn





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### 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**