



STAFFLINES



Monthly Newsletter of the Tidewater Music Teachers Forum

Nancy Klein

"Common Vocal Issues: Hints and Helps for All Directors"



Friday, January 17, 2025

Location ODU Diehn Center for the Performing Arts
Diehn Composers Room (Rm. 192),
1339 West 49th Street, Norfolk, VA. 23529

10:00 Business Meeting & Workshop

12:00 Lunch

Dr. Nancy Kirkland Klein has directed the Choral Program at Old Dominion University since 1986. In her 38 years with the Diehn School of Music, Dr. Klein has seen the University Choir more than double in size, has established the F. Ludwig Diehn Chorale, began and developed the NASM accredited M.M.E. and the Graduate Performers Certificate, and moved the department into School of Music status. She has travelled world-wide as a conductor and choral clinician, conducting in the Cathedral of Notre, Dame, Paris; St. Mark's Basilica, Venice; St. Giles Cathedral, Scotland; Conservatoire de Musique in Luxembourg; and Avery Fisher Hall and Alice Tully Hall, New York. Dr. Klein has been a three-time keynote speaker for the European Music Educator's Association and is a regular presenter and guest conductor for the Virginia Music Educator's Association. She has conducted Master Classes in Choral Conducting from Rochester, New York to Baton Rouge Louisiana. She trains conductors for the U.S. Army, preparing them to work with instrumental and choral groups, and has trained many of the music educators in the region.

Dr. Klein has received numerous awards including the Joel S. Lewis Award for Mentoring, University Professor Designation for Excellence in Teaching, Robert Stern Award for Excellence in Teaching, 2011 ALLI Award for Lifetime Contributions to the Arts, and the Alfred Nelson Marquis Award for Lifetime Achievement. She has been nominated by ODU for U.S. Professor of the Year, and is listed in Who's Who in Education, Who's Who in America and Who's Who in Entertainment. Nancy Klein is the first female music professor to achieve the rank of Full Professor and is currently serving as Director/Chair for Diehn School of Music. Married to Robert Klein, she is the proud grandmother of three little girls.





President's Letter January 2025



Happy New Year to all! I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season! I hope you were able to relax, refresh, and spend some time with family, friends and neighbors. I know for me personally, I absolutely love my job and the work I do daily, but it is so refreshing and rewarding to have a little bit of down time also.

I will try to make this letter short and sweet and just send a reminder to look ahead in your yearbooks and activity books at the many evaluations, adjudication and performance opportunities that we have coming up in the winter and spring season. Contact Elizabeth Sjolund if you have a High School senior who would be able to perform for our H.S. Seniors' Recital - we would love to honor our senior students with a nice send-off. Also, let her know if you would like to perform for a TMTF Teachers Recital. Both of those performance opportunities are TBD based on participation.

Lastly, reminders for upcoming MTNA Events:

- MTNA National Conference: March 15-19, 2025 at the Hilton Minneapolis in Minneapolis, Minnesota
- TEMPO: A virtual conference April 25-26, 2025
- MTNA Collegiate Symposium: January 18-19, 2025 at the University of Oklahoma in Norman, Oklahoma

I hope to see you at our January workshop!

President
Laura Cardin

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

We have a new Stafflines Editor!

Violet Cusher will be joining MTNA, VMTA and TMTF this new year and has agreed to be our Stafflines Editor! Welcome and thank you, Violet!

Please send your Stafflines submissions to 26vjcusher@peninsulacatholic.org



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!

TMTF Play-A-Thon

The TMTF Play-A-Thon was a great success this past December 6-8. A big "Thank You" goes to all of the teachers and students who participated in this event. I would like to give our Co-Chairman, Elizabeth Smith, a special shout out and thanks for all of her extra help during the three-day event. If you were there, you would have also enjoyed her beautiful playing which helped to promote the Christmas spirit! I would also like to thank Scott Bailey at Piano Showcase for the use of the pianos and the store during our event.

Please remind your students to turn in their pledges to you as soon as possible. The pledge money (checks only) with a completed **"Teacher's Studio Schedule and Pledge Validation Form"** sheet should be mailed to me. This form can be found in the TMTF Activity Book.

Please **do not send** me your student's pledge sheets. I only need the "Teacher Studio Schedule and Pledge Validation Form" completed with the student names and money collected. This helps me to determine who receives one of the top three cash prizes. For students to qualify for one of these prizes, their pledge money has to be turned in to me by the deadline date of **January 31st**. The final deadline date for all pledge money should be turned in by March 1st.

Thanks again to all who helped make this event successful!

Lynn Kleisler, NCTM
Play-A-Thon Chairman



Levels of Progress 2025

Registration Deadline:

January 17, 2025 (postmark)

Event Dates:

March 8th and 9th, 2025

(Details are in the Activity Booklet)

Levels of Progress is a non-competitive opportunity for students of all levels to receive a performance evaluation on two contrasting pieces. Students may enter in piano, voice, organ, strings, guitar, or ensembles. Each student receives an evaluation sheet and a certificate of achievement. Judges are local teachers and members of TMTF.

Levels of Progress is also TMTF's major fundraising event for the year, so please make encourage and prepare your students to participate! This allows us to continue to provide quality presenters for our meetings and additional opportunities for our teachers and students.

Remember, Levels of Progress is a requirement to enter the Honors Recitals Auditions!

Please mail, email, or deliver registration forms to me by January 17th (I will be at the meeting that day!)

Emily Denniston (2025 Levels of Progress
Chairperson)
(248) 303-5828
emilydennistonpianostudio@gmail.com
3496 Landstown Court,
Virginia Beach VA 23453

2025 Sight-Reading and Skills Test

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

Sunday, February 23, 2025
at Diehn Performing Arts
Center

Old Dominion University

The registration DEADLINE is **January 17, 2025.**

The POSTMARK date is the same as the DEADLINE date.

There will be no make-up dates.

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 preparation involved in preparing will definitely be educational 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



Certification Meeting

Start the new year off right by coming to our monthly Certification Meeting.

Date: Friday, January 10, 2025

Time: 10:00 am - 11:30 am

Location: In-person at Susan Atkins' house - 4537 Biscayne Drive, Virginia Beach, VA 23455

RSVP to Susan Atkins, TMTF Certification Chair

pianolearningcenter@gmail.com
757-282-8220

Want to Zoom? - RSVP to receive the link.

Want more information? Visit
Certification.mtna.org

The MTNA certification program is an excellent way to boost your teaching skills and your income. Come to the meeting and find out more!

TMTF Student Recital - Norfolk

Norfolk Recital Date: Sunday, February 16, 2025
Time: 3:00 p.m.

Registration Deadline: February 2, 2025

Location: Royster Memorial Presbyterian Church, 6901 Newport Avenue, Norfolk, VA 23505

The student recitals are for students of all instruments, including voice. There may be one or more recitals at each location, depending on the number of applicants for performance. Any teacher may invite up to four students to participate for each date at a maximum of 15 minutes. A teacher may, however, add two students as alternates in case there is enough room in the time frame of the recital(s). Each student plays one piece or movement of a piece. Applications for the student recitals are in the TMTF Activity Book.

Jeanette Winsor -Norfolk Recital
(JeanetteWinsor@cox.net)

2025 VMTA Theory Test

Saturday, January 25, 2025
at Webb Center

The registration DEADLINE is **January 10, 2025.**

Old Dominion University

Each student can take only one test level per year.

Fee - \$15.00.

One check, made payable to TMTF, should be submitted to the local Theory Chairman, Susan Atkins.

See the TMTF Activity Book for the Registration Form required for this VMTA Theory Event.

The VMTA Theory test is required for participation in the VMTA District Auditions.

How to prepare your students for the test:

Sample tests are available on the VMTA website - <https://vmta-music.org/>

Try the Acalympics.com website. It's a website built and maintained by one of my students and designed to help students learn by playing games. Karstan is now a sophomore at Duke University and continues to maintain and add content to the website. He is up to level 9 but only level 9 terms. More to follow! Teachers should register their group/team with the webmaster (choose a name). Then play through all the levels in Music Theory (it is one of many different subjects offered). Once you've made it through all the levels, you can go to any level without starting over. Students should get a login from the webmaster so they can also play games without always having to start over. Ask Karstan questions if you have them, or ask me!

Local Co-Chairs

Susan Atkins, NCTM

4537 Biscayne Drive

Virginia Beach, VA 23455

Phone: (757) 282-8220

Email: pianolearningcenter@gmail.com

Sally Copeland

116 Tyler Crescent

Portsmouth VA 23707

Phone: (757) 376-7348

Email: srcopela@odu.edu

Responsibility Policy: Participating teachers must assist on January 25, 2025, and help administer one or two levels

of the Theory Test. The Theory Chair will assign and mail these assignments to all participating teachers.

A \$75

penalty fee will be charged if the studio teacher or the substitute is absent on the day of the Theory

Please check out the 2024-25 Yearbook and 2024-25 Activity Booklet to get more information and the Student Release Form.

Happy teaching!

**VMTA 2024 Auditions Winners
Virginia State University**

Level IA

First Place	#7 – Aiden Che	Teacher: Margarita Gramaticova
Second Place	#4 – Kaden Zhao	Teacher: Anna Showalter
Honorable Mention:	#5- Michael Yin	Teacher: Ruta Smedina-Starke
Honorable Mention:	#8 – Noah Chen	Teacher: Ruta Smedina-Starke

Level IB

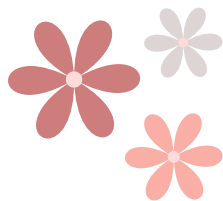
First Place	#12 – Stephen Chen	Teacher: Yinfei Wang
Second Place	#9 – Ethan Yang	Teacher: Margarita Gramaticova
Honorable Mention:	#13 – Emilia Yu	Teacher: Alisa Bohon

Level II

First Place	#19 – Megan Lai	Teacher: Nancy O'Neill Breth
Second Place	#17 – Lauren Kang	Teacher: Alisa Bohon
Honorable Mention:	#14 – Kevin Shen	Teacher: Silva Blazquez

Level III

First Place	#21 – Felix Xu	Teacher: Margarita Gramaticova
Second Place	#23 - Jessica Chen	Teacher: Lisa Emenheiser Sarratt
Honorable Mention:	#24- William He	Teacher: Yifei Sun



**For a list of MTNA
Competition
Winners, click
here:**

<https://files.constantcontact.com/81b27f3d601/34b6160e-67a7-42bc-9b91-d921b36029a3.pdf>

**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

January 2025

17 DEADLINE - TMTF Levels of Progress

17 DEADLINE - VMTA Keyboard Skills and Sight Reading Tests



17 10:00 a.m. TMTF Meeting/Workshop – Clinician: Nancy Klein, DMA
Old Dominion University's Diehn Center for the Performing Arts
 1339 West 49th Street, Norfolk, VA. 23529

21 DEADLINE - Stafflines News

25 VMTA Theory Test - *Webb Center, ODU*

31 DEADLINE - Play-A-Thon pledges (Student awards deadline)

February 2025

2 DEADLINE - TMTF Student Recital - Norfolk

2 DEADLINE - TMTF Student Recital - Portsmouth

14 10:00 a.m. TMTF Executive Board Meeting via Zoom



21 10:00 a.m. TMTF Meeting/Workshop - Clinician: Victoria Fischer Faw, DMA
Jordan Kitt's Music - 5164 Virginia Beach Blvd., VA 23462

18 Student Recital - Norfolk - *Royster Memorial Presbyterian Church*

TBD Student Recital - Portsmouth - TBD

21 DEADLINE - Stafflines News

23 VMTA Sight Reading/Keyboard Skills Tests – *Diehn Performing Arts Center, ODU*



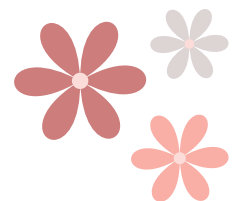
Happy
Birthday

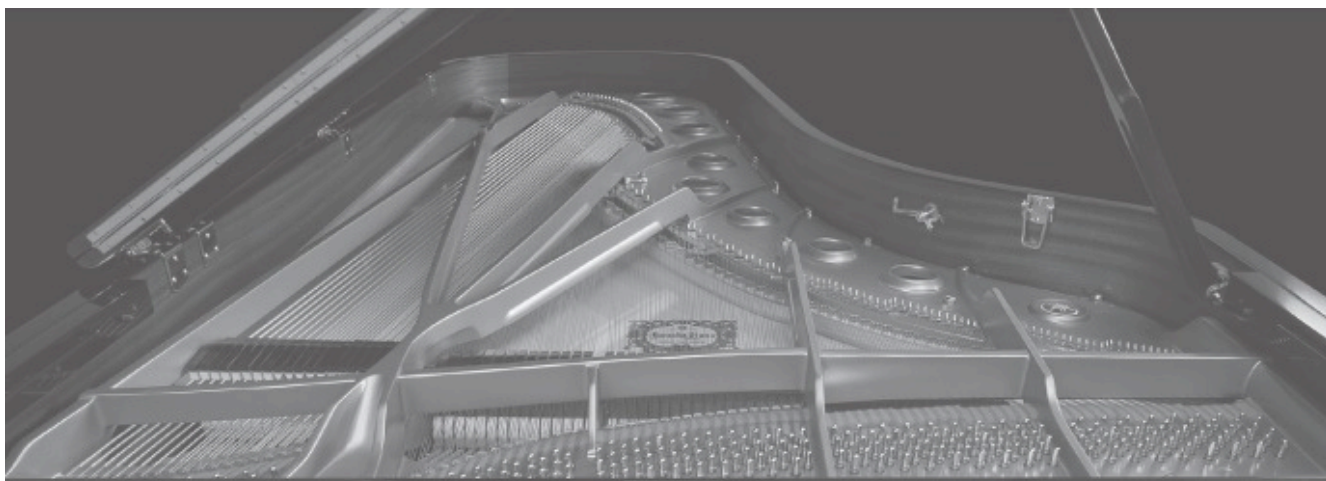
January

5 Hugh Middleton
 7 Geraldine T. Boone
 17 Agnes Han
 19 Lisa Chartier
 20 Susan Grice
 27 Emily Denniston
 28 Jeanette Winsor

February

22 Alisa Bohon
 25 Katherine Wright





Y A M A H A

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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



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