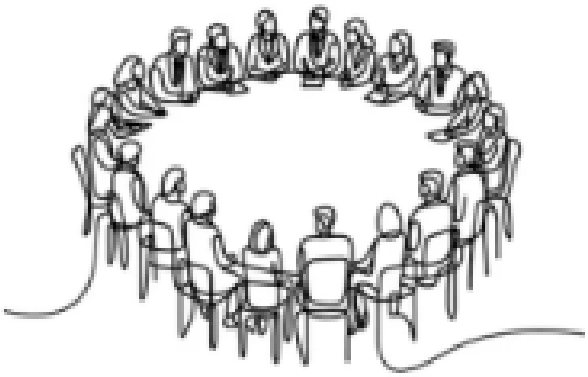
STAFFLINES

Monthly Newsletter of the Tidewater Music Teachers Forum

Teachers' Round Table Discussion

A Few of My Favorite Things



Friday, November 20th, 2026

Location: King's Grant Presbyterian Church
745 Little Neck Rd,
Virginia Beach, VA 23452
10:00 - Buisness Meeting and Workshop
12:00 - Lunch

Workshop Description: Behind every successful studio is a treasure trove of tried and true tricks, breakthrough moments, and indispensable resources. This month, we invite you to pull up a chair for "A Few of My Favorite Things," an interactive roundtable discussion designed by teachers, for teachers. Whether it's a game that finally made rhythm click, a favorite method book series, or a piece of studio policy advice that saved your sanity, we want to hear about it! Bring your favorite teaching tips, success stories, and pedagogical wins to share with the group, and prepare to walk away with a fresh notebook full of inspiration from your local colleagues.

Potluck Lunch!

Please bring a dish to share by Thursday, November 12th, 2026













President's Letter
November 2026

What a fantastic time I had at the VMTA Conference! It was wonderful to see so many friends from TMTF in attendance, and congratulations to our Eastern District student winners and their teachers, to our presenters, and to all who faithfully serve our organization. I have included several photos that I took and hope that you will enjoy them.

The campus at Liberty University (I did keep singing that commercial jingle in my head each time they would say it) was huge and looked so lovely with the fall foliage. They were very welcoming to us and great hosts. We will have many new ideas to share with you at the November meeting, and one of great importance as MTNA will be implementing new child safety procedures. Our VMTA President is working diligently to get our state in compliance by June of 2027. I will be speaking with our members and our board as to how we can assist her and feel that once procedures are in place statewide, it will be an asset to all involved.

Mom, Will, and I are in the process of moving out of our two houses and into the new home in Suffolk. We have had a few more delays that couldn't be helped, but fingers crossed will be in by November 19th. This is after Mom's 95th birthday but close to it. We appreciate all of the good thoughts and prayers from friends- people said that moving would be stressful and they are right! I had two full days of packing only piano music, etc. from our studio! We look forward to relocating and will be planning a celebration once settled.

Hope to see you in November at our next meeting!

Best,
Sally

Glover Scholarship Auditions

The Glover Scholarship Auditions were held on April 22, 2026 at Monumental United Methodist Church in Portsmouth. We had seven teachers enter students in the event this year. Twenty-eight students auditioned and fourteen won a monetary award within grades 5 through 8. These awards included a first place of $400, a second place of $350, and a third place of $300, and honorable mention awards of $200 in each school grade. A Joan Moore Memorial Award of $100 was also given to an eighth grader. Teachers who had student winners this year include Laura Cardin, Joan Edwards, Susan Grice, Mun Lee Han, Mary Ann Medlin and Josephine Jones.

We appreciate all of you who supported this event as well as the Play-A-Thon which continues to fund this scholarship. A very special "Thank You" to all of you who judged for us that day.

Chairman And Committee
Lynn Kleisler, NCTM (Chairman)
Joan Edwards (Co-Chairman)
Donna Halleck

Gratitude and Praises

November Piano Reflection
Dr Tonya Holland

Friday, November 13th at 1 PM

Join us for some music and meditation in
this Thanksgiving Season
Love Offering Collected to support
Meals On Wheels

King's Grant Presbyterial Church
745 Little Neck Road
Virginia Beach, VA 23452

TMTF: SACRED MUSIC FESTIVAL

Date: November 21st, 2026
Registration Deadline: October 16th, 2026
Registration Fee: $15 per entry (members), $20 per entry (non-members) by check or Venmo (@TMTF1964)
Prerequisities or Post-Requisites: None
Requirements: Prepare two sacred pieces and receive an evaluation from a judge.
Chairperson: Donna Halleck, 1353 Hillwell Road, Chesapeake VA 23322
Locations: Thalia Lynn Baptist Church, 4392 Virginia Beach Boulevard Virginia Beach, VA 23462
Monumental United Methodist Church, 450 Dinwiddie Street, Portsmouth, VA, 23704

Responsibility Policy: Teachers must assist on one day or provide a substitute. A $75 penalty fee will be charged if there is no provision for help by a participating teacher. Details of this policy are in the front of this book.

2027 VTMA Theory Test

It's time to get ready for the 2027 VTMA Theory Test!

Location: Old Dominion University
Webb Center
1301 W 49 St
Norfolk, VA 23529
Date: January 30, 2027
Registration Deadline: December 18, 2026
Registration Fee: $15.00

Co-Chair: Susan Atkins, NCTM
4357 Biscayne Drive, Virginia Beach VA 23455
(757) 282-8220
pianolearningcenter@gmail.com

Co-Chair: Sally Copeland
(757) 376-7348
srcopela@odu.edu

- Theory test completion is required to participate in the VMTA District Auditions
- Written exam and Listening, levels Primer-12, is based on musical knowledge (not
- school grade).
- For detailed instructions and registration form, please see the 2026-2027 Studio
- Companion

How To Prepare Your Students

The Theory Syllabus, sample tests, answer keys and audio files can be found on the VMTA website in the Member Area. Please let me know if you cannot access the website and/or need hard copies of these documents. Tell your student to try playing music theory games on Acalympics.com. The questions for each level match the VMTA Theory Syllabus. Students compete with other teams for the top three medals each week. Teachers sign up for a team. Students must pass each level before they can move up to the next level. There is content for up to Level 7 and it includes audio files for the listening questions.

Let me know if you have any questions!
Susan Atkins, NCTM

LETS GET CERTIFIED!

THERE ARE NOW 2 CERTIFICATION MEETINGS EVERY MONTH!

TMTF Certification Meeting
Friday, November 6, 2026
10:00-11:30 AM
Zoom
Please contact Susan Atkins to receive a Zoom invite to the meeting
pianolearningcenter@gmail.com

VMTA Certification Meeting
Monday, November 16, 2026
8:00-9:00 PM
Zoom
Contact Rene Johnson to receive a Zoom invite to the meeting
r@renej.us

The MTNA Professional Certification Program exists to improve the level of professionalism in the field of music teaching. It benefits the members of the profression itself, as well as the public who interact 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.

VMTA and TMTF are offering a $100 reimbursement each (total $200) to offset the cost of certification.
Questions? Visit certification.mtna.org for more information.
Susan Atkins, NCTM
TMTF Certification Chair

Need Students?
Want to refer students?

Look no further than the TMTF website:
www.tmtf.org
You can submit your contact information and teacher profile to our webmaster:
Mun Lee Han
munleehan@gmail.com
If you need to refer a student, simply give them the website

address: www.tmtf.org - it’s that easy

TMTF CALENDAR

November

1- DEADLINE - Achievement Award Registration
1- Daylight Savings (move clocks back 1 hour)
7- DEADLINE - TMTF Student Recital - VA Beach
6- TMTF Certification Meeting
13- DEADLINE - Play-A-Thon
20- TMTF Meeting/Workshop
21- Sacred Music Festicval - Thalia Lynn Baptist Church, VA Beach
21- Sacred Music Festival - Portsmouth Chesapeake - Monumental UMC
21- Harold Protsman Piano Competition at ODU
22- Student Recital - VA Beach - Coastal Unitarian/Universalists Church
TBD- Student Recital - Portsmouth
26- Thanksgiving Day

December

4-5-6- TMTF Play-A-Thon
18- DEADLINE - VMTA Theory Test
21- DEADLINE: Stafflines News
24- Christmas Eve
25- Christmas Day







Birthdays!

November

1 Geraldine Pearson
1 Carol Cook
6 Lonell Riddick

December

12 Maggie Garrett

January

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

TMTF Play-A-Thon

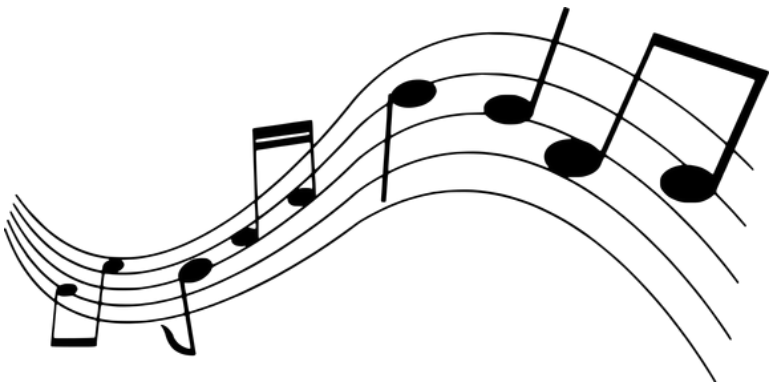
It's Our 21st Year!

The dates for the Play-A-Thon this year are December 4th, 5th, and 6th. It will be held at Greenbrier Mall in Chesapeake in front of Piano Showcase. Registration is due by November 13th. Please use te current registration form that can be found in the 2026 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 movement to read through all of them as there has been some changes. Now is time to start handing the "Pledge Sheets" out to your students 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 holiday 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, students will have an opportunity to win cash prizes themselves if they bring in one of the three highest amounts of pledge money! Don' 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 21st Year a success!

Chairman: Lynn Kleisler, NCTM
Co-Chairman: Elizabeth Smith







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(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



Tidewater Music Teachers Forum

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

Zooey Cusher, Editor | 31 Sinton Road | Newport News, VA 23601