

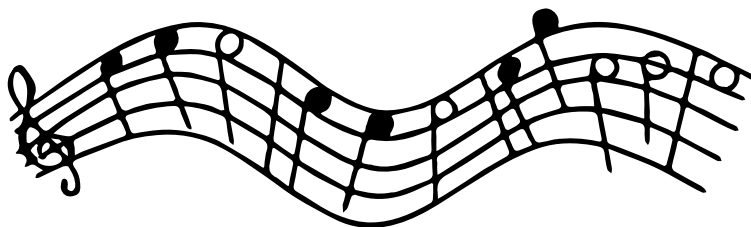
STAFFLINES

Monthly Newsletter of the Tidewater Music Teachers Forum



“The Magic of Imagery” With Catherine Rollin

Saturday, September 20th, 2025



We are planning a wonderful day with composer and clinician, Catherine Rollin, for our opening workshop on Saturday, September 20th.

Catherine Rollin is a pianist, composer, clinician, author and teacher of prize-winning students. Her more than 400 published pedagogical compositions are recognized worldwide for their combination of musicality and “teachability.” As a clinician, Catherine has given over 300 workshops and masterclasses throughout the U.S., Canada, Japan and Taiwan. Her efforts as a composer, clinician and author are an outgrowth of her work as a teacher. Finding the answers to help her students develop artistic, relaxed and confident technical skills led Catherine to insights featured in her groundbreaking series, “Pathways to Artistry.” Catherine’s ASCAP award winning books, “Museum Masterpieces” feature her original piano works inspired by great art masterpieces from museums around the world. Catherine wrote this series after seeing how her students’ creativity was sparked by artwork imagery. She is also the co-author of the 2011 edition of the highly regarded college text, “Creative Piano Teaching.” All of the many facets of Catherine’s work emanate from her central passion for teaching.

She will present on the topic: “The Magic of Imagery”. In this session, Catherine will explore many different forms of imagery, including song, dance storytelling and artwork imagery.

She will play a wide variety of examples from Beethoven, Chopin, Debussy, Mozart, and Rollin. Through using musical examples, she will demonstrate how to inspire our students to create beautifully using phrases, music that dances with rhythmic energy, and performances that shine with interpretive confidence.

TMTF Members will enjoy a light lunch with the clinician.

A masterclass will be held following the luncheon. We would like to have four students in levels from elementary through advanced to perform music by Catherine Rollin during the masterclass.

Please keep this in mind and look for further announcements and information in the next newsletter.



Laura Cardin and Sally Copeland at the MTNA 2025 Conference. Thanks, Laura, for your encouragement and support!

President's Letter June/July 2025



This is my first President's Note for my 2025-2027 term. When I was first approached by Mary Ann Medlin to serve, I could think of many reasons why I might say "No, I can't- I have so much going on..." I hold a full-time position at Old Dominion University, run a small private studio in the evenings, and am sole caretaker for my 93-year-old mother. But the reason that I accepted the position outweighed any of the negatives. My mother, Betty, was an active member of TMTF for many years and I participated in the same activities that we are offering to our students today. I was well prepared in performance, theory, aural skills, and church work when I auditioned for college, receiving scholarships for my Bachelor's Degrees in Piano Performance and Piano Pedagogy with an emphasis in Early Music from Florida State University. I am certain that the many experiences that I had as a student helped to influence my career choice and love of teaching. I have looked up to our area piano instructors for their dedication and expertise in their field and have aspired to do my best with my own studio. So after some hesitation and consideration, I said "Yes" to Mary Ann and hope that I can inspire future members as much as many of you have done for me.

I also would like to challenge you to not only join but to participate as much as possible in this year's upcoming activities. We offer a warm and welcoming atmosphere and invite you to join us for meetings. I hope that you will find this year's workshops inspiring, and they provide wonderful opportunities to bond with and share ideas with other local instructors. I encourage you to select and enter your pupils in some of the many activities that are offered - they will appreciate the extra work that you put into preparation and will become better musicians for the opportunities that you have given them.

Lastly, volunteer organizations depend on each member to survive. We hope that you will consider helping as you can with our variety of needs, from making phone calls, working to update information on computers, contacting advertisers for our yearbooks, marketing, inviting others to join, and supporting and assisting chairmen with events.

We are happy to have you with us and hope that this organization will enrich the lives of you, your students, and our community. I look forward to serving as your President and am excited for the upcoming year.

Best,
Sally Copeland
TMTF President

2025 TMTF Achievement Awards

Ninety-seven students from four TMTF teachers were enrolled in the 2024-2025 Achievement Awards program.

Twenty 2025 TMTF Achievement Awards will be presented to twenty students of TMTF teachers Susan Atkins, Donna Halleck, Mun Lee Han and Josephine Jones. These students have accumulated either 60, 45, 30 or 15 points from participation in TMTF, VMTA and MTNA events.

| | | |
|---------------------|---|--|
| Fourth Trophy Award | Matthew Chow Austin Jones River McSpadden | |
| Third Trophy Award | Spoorthi Chekuri Nicholas Huang | |
| Second Trophy Award | Neva Hatfield Sherlene Song Zachary Song Stella Zhu | |
| First Trophy Award | Emma Chow Katelyn Crowder Liam Guingab Fred Holmes Angela Lin Adrian Lumba | Owen Lumba Sunny McNulty Katie Wang Makayla Zhang Adam Zhu |

Please consider enrolling your students in this program next year. It is a great way to encourage participation in TMTF and VMTA events and to give your students recognition for their piano study.

Josephine Jones, TMTF Achievement Award Chairman

2025 TMTF Honors Recitals Auditions and Honors Recitals

The 2025 TMTF Honors Recitals Auditions were held on April 26 and 27, 2025. Fifty-nine students from nine TMTF teachers registered for this event. Fifty-seven students auditioned. Thank you to the teachers who served as judges, monitors and tabulators for the auditions: Zachary Deak, Emily Denniston, Mary Ann Medlin, Susan Grice, Susan Atkins, Pat Kennedy, Carol Noona, Cathy Bryan, Elizabeth Sjolund, Joshua Miller, Donna Halleck, Sharon Palardy, Mun Lee Han and Josephine Jones.

The 2025 TMTF Honors Recitals were held in Chandler Hall at Old Dominion University on May 18, 2025. Thirty-seven students from seven teachers performed at the two recitals. Congratulations to the talented students and their teachers.

Josephine Jones, Honors Recitals Auditions Chairman
Mun Lee Han, Honors Recitals Chairman



3pm Recital



5pm Recital

Glover Scholarship Auditions

The Glover Scholarship Auditions were held on April 5, 2025 at Monumental United Methodist Church in Portsmouth. We had six teachers enter students in the event this year. Twenty four students auditioned and eighteen won a monetary award within grades 5 through 8. These awards included a first place of \$400, a second place \$350, and a third place \$300 in each school grade. A total of six honorable mention awards of \$200 were also given. Teachers who had student winners this year include Laura Cardin, Joan Edwards, Susan Grice, Mun Lee Han, Mary Ann Medlin Josephine Jones.

We appreciate all of you who supported this event. We would like to give 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
Carol Cook

Glen Mayberry Scholarship

The auditions for the Glen Mayberry Scholarship were held on Saturday, May 10, 2025 at the Sjolund Piano Studio.

The judge, who I wish to thank, for this event was Christopher Kypros, Music Director at St. Patrick's Catholic School.

The winner of the Music Major Scholarship is Neva Hatfield, student of Donna Halleck. Neva has been accepted as a Music major into the Batten Honors College at Virginia Wesleyan University.

The award for the scholarship was presented to Neva at the Senior Recital, for which she played, held on May 18, 2025 at Chandler Hall, Diehn Fine Arts, ODU.

Congratulations to Neva, her teacher, Donna Halleck, and to her family and friends, who supported her.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth M. Sjolund



Donna Haleck, Neva Hatfield, E. Sjolund

Senior Recital

The Senior Recital, held to honor those seniors who continued their music study to graduation, was given on Sunday, May 18, 2025 at Chandler Hall, Diehn Fine Arts, Old Dominion University.

At this recital, the Glen Mayberry Award was presented to neva Hatfield, student of Donna Halleck, and all students were honored with regionition certificates. Their teachers were also recognized and honored.

This year six teachers were honored, representing nine seniors. Students and teachers are listed, with stars next to students who performed for the recital.

Student:

Teacher:

Madison Bivins***
Clare Henzel

Sally Copeland
“

Neva Hatfield***(Glen Mayberry award)

Donna Halleck

Will iang***

Mun Lee Han

Jacey Li

Josephine Jones

Josh Bogan

Mary Ann Medlin

Maggie Tu***

Elizabeth M. Sjolund

Andrew Wu***

“

Vanessa Jenkins

“

Congratulations to all students, teachers, and family and friends.



Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth M. Sjolund

Senior Recital, Donna Mun Lee, Liz,
Andrew, Will, Maggie, Neva,
Madison, Sally



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

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!

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 Play-A-Thon

The TMTF 2024 Play-A-Thon was a great success this past December. The final amount of pledge money collected was \$5,715.00. One hundred and one students representing thirteen teachers participated in this event. All of our efforts to work with your students that enabled them to perform and contribute deserves an enormous "Thank You". This money is used to keep our three TMTF scholarship program solvent.

The students who on a monetary award for raising the most amount of pledge money for this event are from Joan Edwards' studio (first and second place) and Mary Ann Medlin's studio. First place students are awarded \$100, second place \$75, and third place \$50.

Congratulations and a special thank you to the teachers whose students raised over \$800. They are Mary Ann Medline (\$1,203), Joan Edwards (\$1,085), Susan Atkins (\$1,000) and Josephine Jones (\$855). I would like to give a special "shout out" to Elizabeth Smith, the Co-Chairman, for her wonderful help. Many thanks again to all of you who supported this three day event and helped it to be a success!!

Lynn Kleisler, NCTM
Chairman

TMTF CALENDAR

June
NO EVENTS

July
NO STAFFLINES

21 DEADLINE - August Stafflines

August

16 TMTF Board Meeting

21 DEADLINE - September Stafflines

September

21 DEADLINE - October Stafflines

Happy
Birthday

June

12 Helen Heifetz

18 Cynthia Vaughn



July

2 Lynn Kleisler

7 Adelaide Coles

9 Wanda Hall

16 Donna Halleck

18 Sally Copeland

20 Barbara Poindexter

28 Sarah Lantz





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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

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KAWAI



Tidewater Music Teachers Forum

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

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