



Tidewater Music Teachers Forum Fall 2012 Report VMTA Fall Conference Shenandoah University

The beginning of the school year 2012 was a busy one for the members of the Tidewater Music Teachers Forum. The Teachers Recital took place on September 9 and was a unique and enjoyable showcase of our members' talents. TMTF's first meeting featured Tom Gerou from Alfred Publishing who gave an entertaining and informative presentation. Our second meeting featured a hammered dulcimer artist, Timothy Seaman, who is also a composer and arranger. The remainder of the year has six more meetings scheduled including "Performance Anxiety" with Lelia Sadlier from CNU, a hand therapist, guest artist and master class teacher (Jason Peterson), Joanne Haroutounian (Fourth Finger on B Flat) and a jazz pianist who will give a workshop on improvisation.

After two moves in the last two years, TMTF's monthly meetings have settled into a new home at Music & Arts Center in Chesapeake, VA. The store was recently renovated to open up a larger space for seating for our programs. It looks to be a good fit for all of us - centrally located, plenty of room, and the ability to shop for music before and after meetings.

Our student programs continue to enjoy strong participation but we unfortunately had to cancel the Monster Concert due to a scheduling conflict and the chairperson's decision to discontinue the program. TMTF continues to sponsor students programs such as the Hymn Festival, Student Recitals, Levels of Progress, the Play-A-Thon, VMTA testing and Eastern District Auditions. The Play-A-Thon raised over \$5000 last year which funds scholarships. Students are encouraged to participate in Honors Auditions for the Honors Recitals at the end of the year. TMTF's Achievement Program motivates student participation in all TMTF events.

Our budget outlook is greatly improved following the increase in membership dues and student entry fees. Our decision to accept non-member teacher entrants will hopefully encourage other instrumental and voice teachers who would not otherwise participate. A higher fee is charged for non-members.

The Forum continues to put a lot of effort in recruiting new members. Many phone calls were made over the summer which resulted in a positive response from members who were considering dropping out. We also hold a new member coffee every year in October to welcome new members and answer their questions. We have a New Member Chairperson whose job it is to assist new members in preparing their students for the many programs TMTF has to offer. TMTF printed a new pamphlet which was placed in local music stores and sent to college music departments.

TMTF strives to reach out to younger teachers by using technology and social media. New this year is our Facebook page which allows us to post photos of events quickly and easily for all friends to see. We also have a new website (www.tmtf.org) which is better connected to the Google search engine and features profiles of teachers who are looking for new students. Also new this year is our logo which was modernized to reflect a new century and a new generation of music teachers.

The legacy of TMTF's founding father, David Carr Glover continues into 2012 and beyond!

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Atkins, President
Tidewater Music Teachers Forum
November 9, 2012