

FCMTA Monthly Meeting Schedule 2026-2027

Sept. 8: **Business Meeting:** 10:00 AM, Trust Meeting Room, C. Burr Artz Library, Frederick

Oct. 13: **Music Ornamentation, Jay DeWire** 10:00 Middletown Methodist Church, 7108 Fern Court, Middletown. Come learn about Music Ornamentation as it applies to the categories of Baroque ornaments and talk about ornaments and rhythm. Then we'll look at one or two examples of pieces where we have evidence of how a composer embellished the written score.

Nov. 10: **Internet Cafe, Revisited, Bobbie Rastall.** 10:00 Location: TBD.

Let's cruise the internet once again! Bring your iPads or laptops to do your surfing. Bobbie has a list of sites that might be of interest. Music Theory is not the only thing available. We'll look at teaching Music History and lead sheets too. We will also look at a few music handling apps so you can use your iPad to store your digital music and perform from. Bobbie will have her page turning pedal so teachers can take a look. Bring your own suggestions and favorites!

Dec. 8: **Holiday Gathering** host ~ **Tatjana Podjaski-Desler**, 10:00 - 12:00.

Location: 6960 Snead Court, Middletown. Come gather for holiday singing and sweet treats! Bring cookies or other sweet treats to share and your holiday music. .

Jan. 12: **Business Meeting** 10:00. Location: TBD

Feb. 9: **Unwinding the Upper Body: A Practical Approach to Tension Relief , Dr. Stacy Benner.**

This practical workshop is designed specifically for performing artists who carry the weight of their craft in the neck, shoulders, jaw, and upper back. Participants will explore why tension accumulates in these areas, how posture, breath, and repetitive movement patterns contribute, and simple strategies to interrupt the cycle. Stacy blends clinical insight with accessible movement to help artists release strain and restore ease. The workshop concludes with a calming chair-based yoga practice to integrate the concepts and support long-term upper-body comfort.

Mar. 9: **Jazz Piano Like a Pro, Quentin Walston.** 10:00 Location TBD

Quentin has a new book called "Jazz Piano Like a Pro" that is an intermediate repertoire book which aims to give students the stylistic nuances of different types of jazz. He'll play from the book and explain the subtle articulation and stylistic differences of jazz piano.

*April 13: **Beyond the Ink: From Lead Sheet to Masterpiece - the Prequel!** Nick IntVeldt*

Location: 20612 Beaver Creek Road, Hagerstown. 10:00. Having focused in his last three presentations on Lead Sheet realization and improvisation (including teaching of the fundamentals as well as solo and duet experimentation), Nick now time warps to the actual beginning of the process: Composition of the Lead Sheet itself. This presentation will cover rudimentary composition techniques for students, resulting in Lead Sheets that can then be realized and improvised according to the methods described in his prior three seminars. Simple elements of musical form, melodic line, harmonization, and chord progression will be covered, which, when properly taught to students, should give them the basis for creation of a Lead Sheet. When then combined with techniques for improvisation, students should then be able to turn their composition into the Masterpiece we all want to hear. The presentation will begin with a quick review of the manner in which Nick teaches improvisation of Lead Sheets.

*May 10: **Business Meeting and Election of Officers.** Location: TBD*

*June 8: **Duets et al** 10:00*

We plan to hold the duet gathering at UUCF again. Ample parking, no steps. This is an opportunity for us to gather, perform, and enjoy making music together. Duets ask us to reach out to another member, to get out of our cocoon and work together to bring a piece of music to life. It's an opportunity to get to know another member of FCMTA in a different setting. Piano duets, piano and violin, flute and oboe, whatever combination you can muster. It's also an opportunity to swap music, bring books you no longer use and swap for some music that's new to you. And of course, socialize!