

BAMTA BEAT

www.bamta.org

Carol Boyd, Editor
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President's Letter

At the state board meeting last month we chapter presidents were asked to spend a moment at each of our monthly meetings for the rest of our term asking a certified teacher in our group to tell a "What Certification Has Meant to Me" story. I decided to use my letter to you this month to tell you a couple of mine, one good (for me) and one VERY embarrassing! I guess I'll start with the embarrassing one.

One part of my meeting with the certification committee back in the '70's was to sight-read a random piece of music they'd selected. I was given a piece by Mozart marked "Adagio", looked it over, played the notes, etc. more-or-less as written but at a tempo closer to Allegro than to Adagio. I really hate to admit it, but this was *after* I had completed my undergraduate degree so, by then, I should have learned the difference between those tempo words that start with "A". You know, **Adagio**, **Andante**, **Andantino**, **Allegretto**, **Allegro**. The committee was kind with their verbal comments and said I'd sight read accurately enough, but that my performance would have sounded more like Mozart if I'd played it **Adagio** rather than **Allegro**. Embarrassed? You better believe it! Anyway, I vowed right then to never allow that same thing to happen to my students and now teach Italian tempo words in the first year of lessons!

Another part of my initial certification ordeal was to write a "philosophy of teaching" statement. I'm pretty sure this requirement is still a part of the process and is, in my mind, probably the most important. I didn't save a copy, but I know what mine included because I remind myself of it nearly every day that I teach. It's simply this. My job as an educator is, in this order, to 1) help my students find reasons to like themselves; 2) help my students learn to problem solve; and 3) hopefully, help **them** learn how to create beauty from this great instrument that binds us together, the piano. Would I have had the same set of experiences in my studio these last 40+ years if I hadn't gone through the certification process and been required to put my "priorities" on paper? Who knows? What I am certain of is that when a student wants to attempt a piece that's probably beyond his capabilities, or another isn't making much progress because there simply are not enough hours in the day to do all the

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things she's scheduled for herself AND practice the piano, or another is taking lessons only because her mother wants her to, would really rather be learning ballet and NEEDS TO QUIT, or another didn't get his concerto memorized in time to perform it at Federated Festival, I can more easily guide them, guilt free, to a reasonable decision. I love my job. Yes, after over 40 years of teaching, I LOVE MY JOB. I love the problem solving, the interaction, the confirmation every day that I may have made a difference in a student's self concept, in his/her ability to tackle and solve new challenges. And maybe it's because of the CERTIFICATION PROCESS. I STRONGLY urge you to consider becoming certified!

I also STRONGLY urge you to attend this month's meeting where our program will be "*Video Game Music for the Pianist*" presented by Debbie Turnbull. I attended a recital by students of my wonderful friend Robin Katz less than a year ago which included ONLY music that two of her students had downloaded off the internet, all from video games, and it was FABULOUS. This body of music may be just the ticket to get that middle school or high school student of yours to start practicing again. Come join us and find out! I sincerely look forward to seeing you all on Feb. 19th at 9:00 a.m. at Harvest Baptist Church.

February BAMTA Meeting

Wednesday, February 19th, 2014, 9 AM. (3rd week of each month)

Where : Harvest Church, 7493 Old Mill Trail, Boulder, CO 80301
(corner of 75th & Old Mill Trail, just north of Jay Road)

9 AM BAMTA Member Meeting

10 AM PROGRAM :

Please join us for the February 19 presentation on 'Video Game Music for Piano'. You are sure to find this helpful for some of your students! The presenter is Deborah Turnbull and her daughter from the Elizabeth and Parker area. She received her M.M. degree from the University of Northern Colorado. Deborahs' interest in Japanese Game Music was inspired by her daughter's and high school student's. With their help, a wealth of new teaching materials was discovered.

Information from : Cheryl Scherer

Music Information: Taubman Approach

**Innovative Fingering Solutions (and More!)
For Any Score**

I am asked quite often about good fingering and other technical solutions that are provided within the work of the Taubman Approach. I have decided to offer a service where I can provide such fingerings and/or other hand choreography information at an hourly rate for time invested. Scores can be scanned and emailed, or sent as hard copies. If you are interested in getting such information for scores for either you or your students, please feel free to contact me (Brenna) at brennaberman@gmail.com, or visit EffortlessArtistry.com.

Group Pedagogy Lessons for Teachers interested in the Taubman Approach

In 2014, I will begin offering pedagogy and technique clinics to small groups of interested teachers. The Taubman Approach embraces the fact that all students are unique and learn in different ways. Those interested in the Taubman Approach benefit greatly from observing a multitude of students and problems. Teachers can feel free to participate, observe, bring students, and bring questions. My own private students who are teachers can participate at a discounted rate. Classes will take place on Friday and/or Saturday mornings. If you are interested in these classes, email me (Brenna) at brennaberman@gmail.com. If you're curious about the Taubman Approach, visit EffortlessArtistry.com and click on "Taubman Approach."

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Brenna Berman, M.A.  
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Taubman Approach Certified

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Substitute Teacher Needed

Dear fellow piano teachers,
Got a call from a piano teacher named Dena: {(303) 834-5612}, <bodaubay@hotmail.com> who teaches Piano at the Alexander Dawson School weekdays from 3;30 - 5;30. That's right in the middle of my teaching schedule, as I imagine it is in your's, as well. She needs a substitute from now through March 10. If there is anyone who can do it, please call or email her. Also, if you know someone who I did not include on this email list, please forward to him/her.

Thank you so much! Marilyn Penn marimusic9@gmail.com

Piano for Sale

Baldwin Hamilton Upright Studio Piano, Walnut,
around 1985, regularly tuned. \$1,300
Contact Lynne (LiCalsi) 303-552-6180
(Teaches Latin at Fairview H.School.)

*Volunteer to Help your BAMTA Community find a New Editor
alongside the role of keeping the Membership e-mail List updated*

Enjoy the inspiring role of *BAMTA NEWSLETTER EDITOR*.
E-mail Carol Boyd: carol4harmony@aol.com to let her know you
have a great interest in being part of this meaningful organization.