

President's Letter

Dear BAMTA members,

Spring is upon us, and we all survived one of the snowier Februarys in recent memory! Last month's presentation on group lessons was inspiring and informative---thank you to Martha Thompson, Carol Wickham-Revier and Karen Ziegler for sharing your expertise and experience.

Please plan to come at 9 o'clock on March 18 to the Harvest Church to participate in a participatory presentation called 'Let's Build a Studio Policy.' This will be a wonderful opportunity to find out how your fellow teachers have navigated the sometimes tricky and complex waters of finances, parents, adolescent students, helicopter moms and how to set up a rummage-proof waiting area (you'll have to come to the meeting to find out just what that one means!)

On a personal note, I wanted to thank you all for supporting me with some financial help for my upcoming trip to Las Vegas for the MTNA conference. I'm excited to be attending my first conference, and plan to bring back lots of new ideas and enthusiasm to share with y'all!

Happy Spring and hope to see you on March 18!

Toby Tenenbaum

Thank You Note from Jeanne Zukowski

Dear BAMTA,

Thank you so much for the bowl of "goodies" that I received after my shoulder surgery - all gluten free! :)

The surgery went well and I am now in intense rehab and PT to regain full range of motion, a slow but sure process. I hope to be able to be at the April meeting with a report on A-Day progress as registrations come in to me.

See you then.

Jeanne Z.

BAMTA Community Recital, May 3, 2:00 pm at Harvest Church

Students from BAMTA teacher studios are invited to participate. There will be a short reception following the recital. Students will be asked to bring a neat/finger food snack to share. If there is a large response, a second recital will be added at 3:30. Students will be allowed to play up to 2 pieces. Student's name, pieces (name, composer, and approx. time) should be sent to Mitzi Babb by Sunday, April 26. More information will be available in April.

Scholarship Committee

Volunteers needed to serve on the 2015 scholarship committee. The time commitment is 2 - 3 hours in June. Please let Mitzi Babb know (mitzi@thebabbs.com) if you are interested.

Achievement Day Registration Deadline: April 12, 2015

BAMTA's Achievement Day, scheduled for Saturday, May 9 at the CU Imig Music Building, is coming up very quickly! If you haven't participated in the past, please consider it this year. It is a valuable experience for all students.

Registration forms, plus one check for all of your students, payable to BAMTA, must be received by April 12, 2015. Please send them to: **Jeanne Zukowski, NCTM, 620 Ponderosa Ave., Estes Park, CO 80517.**

All forms are available on the BAMTA website.

Registration/Scheduling Concerns or Questions?

Contact Jeanne Zukowski at jzukowski01@msn.com or 970-577-1344.

BAMTA Program March 18

Kirsten Farnsworth & Pamela Hatton

Business of Piano Teaching

Studio Policies

How many times have you explained that, no, there will be no make-up lesson because you accidentally forgot you had to attend that after school birthday party during your regular lesson time and you totally forgot to show up? Or how many parents have tried to negotiate with you on your rates, ask for discounts, or simply express shock at how much you make hourly and you don't feel you have a good justification ready, let alone a way to explain why you will raise those rates again in the fall? We all already have "studio policies," whether they appear online, in paper format, or in our heads. The decisions we make on a daily basis about cancellations and make-ups, scheduling and payments, expectations and practice, setting and raising rates become our "policies." However, the more definitively you can establish and clearly communicate your stance on these and other issues, the more powerful a tool you will have for attracting and retaining the best possible students and providing yourself with a professional teaching experience. In this month's workshop we want to brainstorm with you to come up with or work to refine a functional and enforceable set of policies for your private studio that will save you time, allow you to establish appropriate boundaries, help your business run smoothly, and maximize your effectiveness as a teacher and professional. Join us for an active exchange of tips and ideas with your fellow teachers!