

President's Letter

Dear BAMTA Members,

Happy April to all! We had a wonderful teacher program in March, with one of our most dedicated and successful teachers, Carol Wickham-Revier, treating us to many of the empowering ideas she has honed through years of teaching and attending conventions at the state and national levels. It was a generous and welcome inspiration to all of us!

Come to our next program April 20th (see below), featuring Kate Smailer on succeeding with your adult students. Knowing how easily daunted many adult students can feel when starting a new instrument, I'm excited to learn new ways to keep them inspired and invested in learning! Hope to see you there!

Warm Regards,
Emily Miller
BAMTA President

Retirement Sale and Party

All teachers are invited to a cheap music sale and gathering at Laura Boniek's studio (2222-14th St. In Boulder-entrance is on the south side from the alley). There will be munchies and Margaritas!

It will be Saturday, April 16th

I will be there from 2:00-8:00 and hope you can join me. I have lots of new music!

Please call if you can't come and would like to arrange a different time

BAMTA Program in April

"Success With Your Adult Piano Students"

Kate Smailer has maintained a very successful piano studio in Boulder for many years. She has a very active adult group and I am so excited to hear her ideas for keeping that alive!

OUTSTANDING HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR AWARD

Submit your letter of recommendation and your student's resume to Richard Capp by **April 20, 2016** (revised date). Send by email (cappri@gmail.com), regular mail (3350 Loyola Ct., Boulder, 80305), or bring to the April 20 BAMTA meeting.

BAMTA Programs

If you are interest in giving a presentation at one of the BAMTA meetings next year on a subject in which you have some expertise and other BAMTA members would benefit from, or if you have a contact or ideas on what you would like to see presented please contact Maria Jyllian, higherground1234@gmail.com by May 30th, or call at 720-838-8685.

Festival for Creative Pianists
April 2016

The Festival for Creative Pianists will be held in Denver at the Wash Park Center for Music and Arts, 400 S Williams St in Denver on June 9-11. Complete information is online at www.pianofestival.org; applications are now being accepted.

We are looking forward to seeing new faces this year. We are working with Luke Rackers, Executive Director of [Abundant Silence](#), in a collaboration that will continually enhance the musical experience for your students as well as teachers.

We have an exciting panel of judges this year. [John Salmon](#), our perennial judge, is a professor at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. He has distinguished himself on both sides of the Atlantic as both a classical and jazz artist. [Kevin Olson](#) is an active pianist, composer, and member of the piano faculty at Utah State University, where he teaches piano literature, pedagogy, and accompanying courses. Kevin maintains a large piano studio, teaching students of a variety of ages and abilities. Many of the needs of his own piano students have inspired more than 100 books and solos published by the FJH Music Company, which he joined as a writer in 1994. [Luke Gillespie](#) is on the faculty of the Jacob School of Music at Indiana University, Bloomington and is an active performer of jazz and classical piano music. He adjudicated for the 2014 festival; we are delighted to have him return.

This festival offers a broad and dynamic learning experience for students. Each student plays piano repertoire of their choosing (any style) up to 15 minutes, memorization not required. Students are encouraged to play music from the enchanting and challenging classical eras and/or music from the 20th and 21st centuries, including jazz, improvisation, and original composition. The festival's inspiring judges then provide a 15-minute adjudication and coaching session with the students, as well as written comments for their later perusal. The festival also provides special workshops along with three evening concerts. On Thursday evening, the judges perform the finalists' original written compositions, one of which will be nominated for publication (this is a [separate and optional prize category](#)). Friday evening is a concert given by the judges and festival director. Saturday is the culminating student recital. All students play their best piece at this concert. The exciting closing portion of the festival is the awarding of approximately 15 First Prize Awards generally in the value of \$100 each, with a special \$200 award for the best student performance of an original composition.

Students and teachers who have participated in this unique festival experience find it to be very exciting, stimulating, and packed with musical memories of a lifetime.

We hope you will enroll your students in the festival and join us for another year of exciting musical memories. Understand that the monetary awards are just the topping. Most importantly, what your students will get from being a part of this festival will be very rewarding and will enhance their musicianship greatly. Contact: Evelyn Billberg, Project Director, ev.billberg@gmail.com or 303-629-9209.

[Aster Women's Chamber Choir](#) will be presenting a piece by Grace Asquith.