



BAMTA Beat - April 2023

FROM THE PRESIDENT

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HUGE thanks to Brenna Berman for her delightful, informative, and user-friendly presentation on the Taubman Technique at our March meeting. As many of you may know, something went wrong with the video equipment being used on the day of the meeting, so she GENEROUSLY offered a re-do, in her studio, for those who were unable to attend. Thank you, Brenna!!!

Since that meeting in March, I had the opportunity to attend four-and-a-half days of the first in-person Music Teachers National Conference in Reno, Nevada since 2019 where I availed myself of a chance to “reconnect with old friends, refresh my teaching and rejuvenate my spirit.” I hope I can give you a taste of a few of the highlights from that conference that might entice you to make plans now to attend the next one.

Even though the “main” performance venue was often uncomfortably cold (we came to refer to it as the “meat locker”), the Cann Sisters Piano Duo, who performed at the opening session, were ELECTRIFYING.

For years, I’ve been struggling with how to teach/interpret Chopin Mazurkas. And even though I heard a session on this topic several years ago, Wojciech Kocyan’s lecture, **How to Play a Mazurka**, managed to give me more information IN TWENTY MINUTES about the challenges associated with interpreting these pesky little “folk” dances than I’ve ever heard. Also, when I set my backpack down to save myself a seat near the front of the room then left to use the restroom, imagine my delight when I came back to find Dennis Alexander seated right next to my backpack! He even let me take a selfie with him!

Since the conference 9-ish years ago in Las Vegas, I’ve been aware of a former DMA student from my graduate school years at the U. of Colo. by the name of Lois Svard. Lois has become a leading expert on music and the brain and has just published **The Musical Brain – What Students, Teachers, and Performers Need to Know**. I’ve ordered the book and will let you know if her writing is as engaging as her lectures. (Her lecture at last year’s MTNA Conference actually brought me to tears!)

I first met William Westney, who wrote *The Perfect Wrong Note*, when he performed on the Chris Finger Pianos Recital Series back in the 1980’s. His presentation this year, *The Perils of Pianissimo*, was riveting, and I can’t wait to get my hands on his new book, *Eros at the Piano: The Life-energy of Classical Music*, out in July. (Yes, another “selfie” is in my phone.)

Master Classes, for me, can be anything from B O R I N G to “edge-of-your-seat” experiences, and the advanced piano master class by Angela Cheng and Alvin Chow was a beautiful example of two amazing pianists/teachers in a respectful and loving marriage who, with good-natured humor and grace, demonstrated how to make a difference in someone’s playing, with only a few choice suggestions, in this very difficult medium. Inspirational!

Everywhere you look at a national conference, you see the “heavy hitters” in our profession. Melody Bober, Stecher and Horowitz, Kevin Olson, Dennis Alexander, Peter Mack, Karen Thickstun, Ingrid Jacobson Clarfield, Gary Ingle - the list is a bit overwhelming. Of course, there’s no way to hear everyone, but, as I must remind myself daily, life isn’t over yet. I sincerely hope you’ll consider attending next years’ conference in Atlanta, Georgia.

And finally, please make plans now to attend our next BAMTA meeting in the home and studio of Martha Thompson, 545 S. Manorwood Lane, Louisville, 80027 where Anne Laird will lead us in a round table discussion of how we each use “group teaching” in our studios. The meeting is at 9:00 am and the program begins around 10:00 am. Hope to see you all there!!!

**Carol Wickham-Revier, NCTM
2022-23 BAMTA President**

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GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR AWARD

It is time to nominate your high school seniors for this BAMTA award. The award includes a \$200 stipend, and a framed award certificate. To apply, the teacher must submit a letter of recommendation, and the student must submit a resume of their musical activities, experiences, honors, performance opportunities, and any other things musical.

The deadline is Friday, April 21, 2023, the day of our meeting. Email the teacher’s recommendation and the student resume to

Richard Capp, capprij@gmail.com. If you choose to send via USPS, send Richard an email saying you have mailed the documents. Achievement Day 2023

Student Scholarships

BAMTA will again be accepting applications for student scholarships this year. However, because of the decreased profits from Multiple Piano Festival, funds available to disperse to students is limited to a total of \$500 this year.

If you have a student that you would like to be considered for a scholarship:

- Request a student code from Mitzi (mitzi@thebabbs.com)
- Complete the TEACHER RECOMMENDATION for SCHOLARSHIP form found on the BAMTA website (For Teachers)
- Have your student's parent/guardian complete the PARENT FINANCIAL STATEMENT found on the BAMTA website (For Students and Parents)
- Submit the Teacher recommendation, Parent financial statement and recording of the student's performance to: Mitzi Babb, 7248 Petursdale Ct., Boulder, CO 80301 or mitzi@thebabbs.com. Electronically submitted (via email) recordings are encouraged.

Please see the Student Scholarships area of the BAMTA website (For Teachers) for more information.

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For Important information, please see links below.

BAMTA website:

www.BAMTA.org

BAMTA Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/Boulder-Area-Music-Teachers-Association-193704743992202>

Multiple Piano Festival:

<https://bamta.org/teachers/multiple-piano-festival//>

Achievement Day:

<https://bamta.org/achievement-day/>

Student Recitals church rental:

<https://bamta.org/students/student-recitals/>

Monthly Meetings:

<https://bamta.org/monthly-meetings/>

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