

# **BAMTA Beat - December 2023**

## **Letter from the President**

Dear Teachers,

### **BAMTA Needs Your Help!**

The hands down greatest privilege of my life was getting to be a mom. Pretty sure most of you who have shared this parenting journey with me feel the same way. But the SECOND greatest privilege has been having a job that, even after 52 years, brings me joy every day! And that would never have happened without the friendship and support I've enjoyed for over five decades from my colleagues in BAMTA. So why am I telling you this? The BAMTA Board needs your help. Our long-time membership chair, Shieko Uno, needs to focus on rebuilding her house (and her life) after the Marshall fire that destroyed everything she owned except her car, and SOMEBODY needs to step up. If you've always wondered how you can help or whether you've got the "chops" to make a difference in our organization, now is the time to find out. With several of your present board members already filling more than one position, it's time for you to step up. 'Nuff said.

### **The 2023 MULTIPLE PIANO FESTIVAL Was Another Grand Success!**

If you were there, you certainly know that, after hours and hours (and hours and hours) of hard work on the part of steering committee members Amy Watt, Marianna Caron, Maria Hart, Karen Ziegler, Lizzie French, me AND especially our fearless leader Shari Griswold, this year's 38<sup>th</sup> version of BAMTA's Multiple Piano Festival was nearly flawless! AND, we almost broke even! Thankfully, a generous \$500 contribution was made to our scholarship fund by the Bobby Niebauer Trust so, even though no additional money can be added this year from MPF, we can still offer scholarships in 2024!

## **William Westney to Zoom in During our January Meeting**

Can't begin to thank Anne Laird enough for choosing William Westney's book, *The Perfect Wrong Note* to discuss at our January meeting. He's not just all over our newest edition of *American Music Teacher*, he's also all over Youtube, so anything you can do to get to know him a little better *might* make our brief time with him, when he joins us via Zoom during our book discussion, more enjoyable and meaningful. FUN FACTS: While I've met him several times and attended both his lectures and his workshops, Anne Laird has actually studied with him! And the book is dedicated to "the spirit of Eloise (Ristad)" who was Toby Tenenbaum's childhood teacher.

The following is an excerpt from the book which will hopefully give you a peek into the way he thinks and, consequentially, teaches.

*During the early years of study, correctness is often the focus, pleasing the judge is important, and in some cases little more is asked of the student. Sometimes signs of originality and spirit, such as experimentation and improvisation, are sternly suppressed by teachers, as countless adults have told me from their own frustrated memories. The theory seems to be that everyone ought to master the "basics" first; and later, the good stuff – personal connection to the notes, spontaneous feeling, imagination – can be added, like icing on a cake. ... When the day finally arrives that we've mastered enough basics, will the spark of vitality still be there?*

*-William Westney, The Perfect Wrong Note*

### **BAMTA Dues Increase**

Since BAMTA has not increased its member dues in many years, and with inflation as it is, the board has approved this motion to increase membership dues for the fiscal year 2024-2025. In accordance with the BAMTA bylaws, this motion will be voted on by the membership at the brunch on December 15.

*Motion that the BAMTA yearly membership dues be increased from \$30 to \$35 per member, and the collegiate member dues be increased from \$12.50 to \$15. This will take effect in the fiscal year 2024-2025.*

## **BAMTA Directory Is Now Ready**

Here is the link to the 2023-24 BAMTA Directory.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1gmWV0G0uvkcUoQ2GHN7Vd7EMIMvekycmBONxYL56AL0/edit?usp=sharing>

Please note that the locations of the February and March meetings have changed from what was originally published. Also, if your name is not included, it's probably because you didn't get your dues in on time. We will try to publish an addendum after the first of the year.

Have a simply wonderful holiday, and PLEASE JOIN US on December 15<sup>th</sup> at Amy's house! See details below.

Carol Wickham-Revier, NCTM 2022-24 BAMTA President

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### BAMTA Book Discussion

Are you looking for new ideas in your teaching? As the weather cools, does it sound enticing to curl up with a good book? Get ready to join our BAMTA book discussion! It will take place at our January meeting (Friday, January 19) at the home of Anne Laird. We will be reading *The Perfect Wrong Note: Learning to Trust your Musical Self*, by William Westney. This book is chock full of creative ideas for deepening both your teaching and practicing. It is about 200 pages and the engaging writing and outside-the-box ideas will carry you right along. Pick up a copy or put it on your holiday wish list today.

The book is available on Amazon or as an e-book at Barnes and Noble. There is also a copy at each of the Longmont and Boulder public libraries, and it is available through Hoopla. Happy reading!

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## *BAMTA Holiday Brunch*

Date: Friday, December 15, 2023

Time: 9:00am

Place: Home of Amy Watt

Invitation link for details: [https://www.evite.com/event/028B2EFJCJLGNMFIQEPOR7E2DYYBRI?gid=0395G5CYF6RBQQIQAEPUSCHA2TGHMY&show=5030915093495808&emhm5=6fe92cf1d02a2bff1ad35d6dbefc714e&emhs1=5d5a67e6a293b1ec87738aee8effd4a71fa8c582&emhs2=8f41b8d4f8e2606ca44b3d5388068cbd9e8d001403c097384dca3cd6eeca3f45&utm\\_campaign=view\\_invitation\\_bt&utm\\_content=&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=FEED\\_LIKE](https://www.evite.com/event/028B2EFJCJLGNMFIQEPOR7E2DYYBRI?gid=0395G5CYF6RBQQIQAEPUSCHA2TGHMY&show=5030915093495808&emhm5=6fe92cf1d02a2bff1ad35d6dbefc714e&emhs1=5d5a67e6a293b1ec87738aee8effd4a71fa8c582&emhs2=8f41b8d4f8e2606ca44b3d5388068cbd9e8d001403c097384dca3cd6eeca3f45&utm_campaign=view_invitation_bt&utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_source=FEED_LIKE)

Contact Amy Watt at [amy@amywattpiano.com](mailto:amy@amywattpiano.com)

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## **BAMTA Beat — December 2023 ( add on)**

### **12 Students that Need Teachers- Interested?**

Steph Fairbanks has 12 children graduating from her Let's Play Music program in May who are looking for private piano teachers they can start with upon graduation or at the end of the summer. These students live in Boulder (north, south, and east), Louisville, Superior, Lafayette, Erie, and Longmont, and Steph would like try to pair each with a teacher who lives near them so that travel won't be an ongoing issue. She would especially like to pass these students on to teachers who participate in MPF as she has found great value in the experience for her own children and has talked to her students and their parents about it for all three years they've been with her.

These kids are all well versed in the importance of regular practice and most habitually practice five days a week, plus do a theory assignment. Their parents are all committed and respond to emails and texts, and while most are not pianists themselves, they do not hesitate to reach out

with questions or for clarification on things Steph has asked their children to practice during the week. These students will come to their new teacher with a solid beginning knowledge of chord theory (including hearing I-IV-V chord progressions), musical terms, ABA form, sight reading skills, an understanding of proper hand and body position (though this will always need more reinforcement), can self-accompany while they sing, recital/ performance experience, and will even have composed a piece of music they'll play in their final recital in May. Their piano skills vary, but are generally between Levels 1-2. All of these children are between 7-9 years old at the time of graduation, and they will have materials for their new teacher to help with the transition from Let's Play Music to your private lessons.

As Steph has been teaching these kids for three years, she knows them well and can talk to prospective teachers about each family's wishes and needs. Let's Play Music is an active class, so these kids are used to lots of games and activities to teach concepts. But they work hard, too, and cram a lot of learning into 55 minutes of class. If you've got openings in your studio and would like to possibly take any of these students, please reach out to Steph at [stephfairbanks@letsplaymusicsite.com](mailto:stephfairbanks@letsplaymusicsite.com) or (720)550-2968. You're also welcome to come attend a Let's Play Music class at Steph's Broomfield studio to see what it is these kids are doing and if transitioning them to your style of teaching would work for you.

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## MPF 2023 Video and Teacher's Picture

The MPF 2023 video is live on YouTube! Be sure to check it out and share the link with family, friends and of course be sure to share it with your students that participated.

Many thanks to Luke Griswold, Shari Griswold's son, for doing a great job with the videography and editing. To view the video, just click the link below.

<https://youtu.be/UL0gRJGGZtM>

Congratulations to all the teachers that participated for a job well done! See the teacher picture from the night of the performance below.

