

## BAMTA BEAT

[www.bamta.org](http://www.bamta.org)

Carol Boyd, Editor  
[carol4harmony@aol.com](mailto:carol4harmony@aol.com)

### President's Letter

Someone mentioned during lunch at Federated Festival last week that there are still a healthy number of students from my studio who participate in Multiple Piano Festival each year (I entered 25 in '13, 27 in '12, 25 in both '11 and '10) even though I no longer teach students in pairs. In case this might be something you're aspiring to, I decided to explain my system for making this happen. (Incidentally, Karen Ziegler and possibly Heather Hall had even more students participate from their studios than I did, so they *really* should be writing this column.)

First, I offer (and STRONGLY encourage ALL of my students to register for) class lessons during the summer. The scheduling, of course, is a nightmare, but so far, still worth the effort. I teach for a total of 8 weeks and those who make themselves available for classes are promised 8 1-hour classes with students of a similar age and ability level, often, but not always, the same students for all eight weeks. During the first meeting, I perform ALL the pieces from ONE level of MPF music for each class, either by playing the primo with my own recordings of the secondo parts (yes, learning all the secondo parts well enough to record them, straight through, on one "take" takes me a LOT of time at the B2 and C levels, but gives me a great incentive to learn the music) or by using the recordings shared with all of us by other teachers, YouTube, etc. Each student rates each piece from 1 to 10, I record the ratings they assign, then EVERYBODY starts working on at least one duet. I attempt to keep equal numbers of primos and secondos in mind but don't really know who'll eventually pair up with whom until fall. Students usually receive a copy of their part of at least one duet by their second summer class and have a pretty healthy start on 2 duets and a good idea of who else is playing "their" duets by the end of the summer. Fall lessons then become a matter of sorting things out. I'm pretty sure it's my belief in the value of collaborative experiences like MPF plus my "class lesson" format that *most* contribute to my high numbers in this event.

Speaking of "class lessons," I think most of us, by now, recognize the value of going to the trouble to organize class lessons for our students. I'd like to share something that happened in a class lesson last week that re-confirmed this for me.

My last chance to see my students before Federated Festival on Saturday, March 1 was in a class format, so on the Wednesday night before Festival, I had 5 high schoolers (3 males, 2 females) in my studio together, 4 of them *major* athletes. As I have come to expect because they come from different schools, the "sharing" time at the beginning of their class centered on

their sports. Not being much of a sports enthusiast myself but recognizing that finding commonality at *something* is the key to establishing lifelong friendships, I allowed the sports theme to take center stage because, even though on the field, sports pit us against one another, talking about it seemed to be bringing the group together. We finally got around to sharing our music, and in this particular class, two of the male members, Izzy and Brooks, had chosen to learn the same piece - the first movement of Beethoven's Pathetique. As both were planning to perform it 3 days later for a judge, both felt they needed to play it in its entirety that night. The playing began, in typical "sports" rhetoric, with each timing the other to see whose was faster. OK, not the best way to assess musicality, but not so surprising given the context of our gathering. What happened next was, for me, why I teach music. After Brooks heard Izzy play (and, incidentally, finish in 15 fewer seconds), Brooks asked *me* how Izzy got his left hand to play *that* fast and *that* clean. I, of course, deferred to Izzy who watched what Brooks' left hand was doing and showed Brooks a better way. A student teaching another student - so they could each play Beethoven a little better! I went to bed that night not as concerned about all the things we haven't yet conquered in that big set of challenges Beethoven presented to us with his "Pathetique" as I was grateful to have been there to witness that beautiful little moment of sharing. Is it any wonder that I really love my work!

Speaking of SHARING, please come SHARE your time, your talents and your expertise with us at our next meeting at Harvest Baptist Church on Wednesday morning, March 19, 2014. As always, we will try to begin the meeting promptly at 9:00. Then at 10:00, Betty Metzger will show us some "Student Savers". Hope to see you there!

*Carol Wickham-Revier, NCTM  
BAMTA President*

### February BAMTA Meeting

Wednesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2014, 9 AM. (3<sup>rd</sup> week of each month)

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

**9 AM** BAMTA Membership Meeting

**10 AM** PROGRAM : "Hero Music" by Betty Metzger

A few years ago, a somewhat socially awkward middle school student told me this story: "Mrs. Metzger," he said, "I'm not one of the popular kids. Sometimes they make fun of me. Before our school talent show, one guy I knew, was teasing me. He was playing his piano solo just before me, and he said that I shouldn't even bother to play, he's so much better than I am. Well, when he got up to play, he just didn't do a very good job. So I was next, and I was really REALLY nervous. But GUESS WHAT!?!? Before

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I had even finished, the whole audience was on their feet, cheering and clapping and stomping!"

True story. This boy went on to have a similar experience when he played for his middle-school graduation. Music made an unexpected hero of him, and created some experiences he'll never forget. At your program, we will be exploring music we could call "Hero Music" (or "Student Savers," or even better, "Teacher Savers.") It's music that students love to play, and that people love to hear. It's music that is often (but not always) less difficult than it sounds. It is "dessert" after the classics that are, rightfully so, our main course. And it's music that often leads to a smile, a laugh, a moved heart, or tapping toes.

Betty Metzger has Bachelor's and Master's degrees in piano performance, and further study with Storm Bull at CU. While living in Colorado, she was a member of CSMTA, Suburban Northwest MTA and South Suburban Denver MTA. She and husband Chris live in the Sierra Foothills near Sacramento, California.

Information from : [Meredith Mihm](#)

### [Scholarship Committee](#)

Volunteers are needed to serve on the 2014 scholarship committee. The time commitment is 2 - 3 hours in June. Please let Mitzi Babb know ([mitzi@thebabbs.com](mailto:mitzi@thebabbs.com)) if you are interested.

### [BAMTA Community "Spring Recital" : Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup> 2 -4 PM](#)

Come and join us for the BAMTA Community Spring Recital will be on Sunday, May 4, from 2-4pm, at Harvest Church. Your student's name, age, piece, composer and time it takes to play, will be given to Dr. Heidi Lenzer-Camilli. ([Drheidicamilli@AOI.com](mailto:Drheidicamilli@AOI.com).)

This information is due on *Sunday, April 20*. Each student is to bring something good, neat and even healthy to snack on! No dips, no crumbs, nothing messy! The church is very busy that day! We need to leave and be totally cleaned up by 4:00, for the next recital!

You may also call Heidi at 303-601-0443. When you communicate, please include your telephone number. Thanks!

*Looking for a Good Piano Teacher?*

Cheryl Scherer; piano teacher in the Gunbarrel area, is now accepting new students. Call Cheryl at: 303-264-7977 or email her: [cherylscherer@msn.com](mailto:cherylscherer@msn.com). Thank you.

Lacey Wheeler and Harmony MusicTree studios are looking for referrals for students in the North Boulder area. Home-schooled or adult students who can have mid-day lessons would be especially helpful. Website: [www.harmonymusictree.com](http://www.harmonymusictree.com). Email: [lacey@harmonymusicree.com](mailto:lacey@harmonymusicree.com). Phone: 303 775 6412. Thank you!

*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](mailto:carol4harmony@aol.com) to let her know you have an interest in being part of this meaningful organization. Thank You.

