

Multiple Piano Festival Information for BAMTA Piano Teachers

Saturday November 22, 2025

Niwot High School, 8989 Niwot Rd, Niwot, CO 80503

What is MPF?

Held the Saturday before Thanksgiving, MPF is an exciting festival of duets performed on 9 to 12 grand pianos simultaneously, with as many as 24 students playing a piece in unison led by a conductor. It truly is an amazing opportunity for students, and one of the only festivals of its kind in the entire state.

What are the dates?

Specific audition times and rehearsal schedules are organized following auditions in November. Students only need to be at the rehearsals for the pieces they are playing, not the entire rehearsal block. Here are the dates, approximate rehearsal time blocks, and locations:

- **October 20, 2025:** Teacher's deadline for online registration and fees (money IN the hands of BAMTA on this date)
- **November 8, 2025:** Auditions at various locations (time and place TBD)
- 1st Rehearsal (Boulder Piano Gallery):
November 14, Friday, 4:30–7:30 p.m.
Or
November 15, Saturday, 10:00 a.m.– 3:30 p.m.
- 2nd Rehearsal (Niwot High School):
November 21, Friday, 4:30–8:30 p.m.
- 3rd Rehearsal (Niwot High School):
November 22, Saturday, 9:00 a.m.–1:30 p.m.
- Final Run Through (Niwot High School):
November 22, Saturday, 1:30–4:00 p.m.
- Multiple Piano Festival Concert – **Saturday, November 22, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.**

Registration Fees and Ticket Prices

- **Registration is completed using Google Drive.** Participating teachers fill out the online form, <https://forms.gle/FwXkzbJxTF52e3gZ8> after which they will be emailed a link to the MPF 2025 folder in Google Drive. Within the spreadsheets of the folder, open the level and enter each student's name and information on both the Master List and each piece and part for which they are auditioning.
- **Registration Fee: \$35.00 per student**, including adult participants (**\$45.00 for students of non-CSMTA member teachers**)
- **Submit fees (Payable to BAMTA: \$35.00 per participant)**
Mail check to Jill Ice, 6320 Spring Gulch Street, Frederick, CO 80516.
Or pay electronically via Zelle – treasurer@bamta.org
All registration on Google drive and fees must be completed and **received by October 20, 2025.**
- Concert **ticket prices** for all non-participants: **\$18.00 each, \$20 if paying with credit card.**

Participating Teacher Instructions and Obligations:

1. Read this document including the detailed registration information
2. Complete the "2025 Multiple Piano Festival Participating Teachers" online Google Form, <https://forms.gle/FwXkzbJxTF52e3gZ8> A Google Drive invitation to MPF 2025 will be emailed to you.
4. Select music for each of your students according to their age and ability levels and begin preparing (*"Multiple Piano Festival Repertoire list and conductor notes", as well as practice recordings are found on bamta.org*)
5. Enter all your participating students in the Google Drive registration pages for their songs
6. Add, edit, or delete your students from the Google Drive registration pages immediately as changes arise
7. Perform due diligence to find partners for your single students. If possible match students in your studio, or find partners from other teacher's students.
8. Distribute the "MPF Information for Students and Parents" letter to your students
9. Attend MPF-related (BAMTA) meetings (September–October)
10. Sign up for your teacher jobs: Details to follow
11. Tend to all emails and messages regarding MPF updates
12. Finalize registration forms (Google Drive sheets) and pay fees by October 20, 2025
13. Make sure your students are well-prepared for auditions with updated tempo changes, cuts, etc. – check conductor notes regularly for changes and information for each piece, and have your students practice with the practice recordings. Conductor notes and practice recordings are found on the BAMTA website, bamta.org.
14. Work your audition day teacher job (to be assigned: keep November 8, 2025 open)
15. Make sure your students play from purchased sheet music, no photocopies permitted
16. After receiving audition results via email, notify your participating students immediately
17. At lessons following auditions, share audition feedback and work with your students on trouble spots and necessary fixes indicated by judges, to ensure they are prepared for rehearsals and performance
18. Distribute the "Final Rehearsal Schedule/Performers' Information" document to your students
19. If any of your students are selected to be student announcers, assist their preparation
20. Work your other MPF jobs: Details to come
21. Enjoy the fruits of all your labors at the Multiple Piano Festival concert! ☺

Participating Student and Parental Obligations

- Use **original copies of all music** (no photocopies are allowed except for page turning purposes) Printed sheet music of digital downloads need to be placed in a black binder.
- Pay registration fee **\$35.00 per student, including participating adults** (paid to teacher who then forwards all monies to BAMTA).
- Come prepared to audition with sheet music and a pencil.
- Make any needed corrections to pieces as indicated on audition judges forms, prior to rehearsals.
- Attend all rehearsals for their pieces – attendance will be taken.
- All parental communications regarding the festival must be directed to teachers and then passed to the steering team. **Parents cannot contact the steering team or conductors directly.**
- By students participating in this event, parents are giving consent to being video recorded. The video will be shared on Youtube and any other media platforms of MPF's choosing.

Audition Expectations

- Auditions for groups A1, A2, A3, B1, and B2 are performed on 2 side-by-side pianos with 2 students at each piano and the conductor directing the piece.
- Auditions for Group C are 2 performers on one piano.
- All students should be prepared to play their pieces with the metronome (see the Repertoire List for the tempo markings)
- All students should know their music well enough that they can **start at any measure** and **keep an eye on the conductor**. Following the conductor is especially important at the beginning of the piece and at cadences or changes of tempo.
- Every attempt will be made to **accept as many students** as possible, but if there are too many students for a specific piece, your student might not be able to perform all of the pieces they audition—even if they are very good. Please remember, there are no guarantees that your student will be chosen. It is recommended for students to audition on more than one piece.
- **Audition results** and judge's feedback will be sent via email to teachers by the end of November 9, 2025. Teachers are requested to **honor all audition result decisions** and **parents are NOT to contact the steering team to contest audition results** or for any other reason.
- There are no auditions for the Adult/Alums group, but teachers are expected to ensure their preparation.

Student Announcer Roles

Each piece on the program will have one or two of the performing students tell the audience about that piece in a 30-second introduction. This could be information about the composer, the mood or style of the piece, or just the student's impression of that piece, etc. If you have students who are confident public speakers and would like to add extra cheer to the festival, encourage them to prepare some information about one or more of their pieces. There will be a place on the audition form to indicate which students are interested in announcing. The final list of chosen announcers will be indicated with the audition results.

Student Art Contest

If you have students who are good artists, we encourage them to make a musical drawing on a **8 ½ " x 11" white paper (vertical) with black ink**. All the art will be displayed at the concert and the winning drawing will be used for the cover of the concert program. Art should be in **black pen or marker on white paper—no color**. The artist should **sign his/her work**.

Artwork is due on the audition day.

Miscellaneous Information & FAQ's

- Students must **be at least 6 years of age to participate in Group A1** and must be **at least 13 years of age to participate in Group C**. There are no other age restrictions. Students may try out for any or all pieces within a level, but **may not audition in more than one level**. Adult students (and group C—in a pinch) may play with their teacher as a partner, but students A1 through B2 should play with other students.
- If your student cannot be paired with another student in your studio, please make *every effort* to **match your student with a student of other participating teachers who also need a partner**. As all participating teachers enter their students in Google Drive, you will be able to see where "singles" are per piece. Partner matches are arranged by the teachers involved and should be indicated on the appropriate Google Docs page. Sometimes difficult cuts need to be made on audition day and singles are at a disadvantage, therefore teachers should find partners for their single students.
- **Attendance policy:** Students who **miss more than one rehearsal** or the **final run-through** will not be allowed to play in the concert.
- **Concert attire:** Any combination of dressy black and white with touches of red. Black or white dress shirts/ black or white dresses (modest length, please). Black pants and black dress shoes. Red color accents may be added if desired.
- **Students do not need to buy a ticket to the concert**, but **all other family and friends** will need a ticket at \$18 each, \$20 with credit card.

Practice Recordings are available at BAMTA.org. Thank you to all the teachers who made this wonderful resource available. Please have your students practice with the recordings, as it is expected at auditions that they have done so.

Let your students know that they can adjust the playback speed on the recordings. Click on the three dots to the right of the recording bar, then click on "playback speed". The .5 x playback speed is available on tablets and phones, however the .75 x playback speed is only available on windows supported devices, such as laptops, chromebooks, and desktops.

Questions regarding tempo markings or other musical nuances should be referred to the **conductors:**

- A1: Martha Thompson
- A2: Mitzi Babb
- A3: Shari Griswold
- B1: Amy Watt
- B2: Karen Ziegler
- Adults: Steph Fairbanks
- C: Laura Boniek
- Teachers: Richard Capp

Students who are not available to play on Audition Day: Teachers need to check with the conductor of your student's level to explain the absence and if he/she is willing to allow a video-taped recording of your student.

Mandatory Teacher Jobs

- **Every** teacher participating in MPF is **required** to work on Audition Day. The auditions coordinator will assign where/when you work. If there is a conflict or you have questions about Audition Day, 11/8/2025, please contact Amy Watt at amy@amywattpiano.com
- **Every** teacher must accept at least two additional jobs, with some choice available based on their particular area of expertise. There will be a sign-up at the fall BAMTA meetings and the Teacher Job Scheduler will work directly with the teachers.
- **I was assigned a job for MPF that I have never had before and have no idea how to do it. Please help!** We will try our best to assign jobs to people who have had them in the past so that they are familiar with how it's done. We will be posting online instructions for all of the quirky MPF jobs, like cashier, rehearsal monitor/manager etc. We will also be putting experienced BAMTA members in charge of each specific job group. Please look online for instructions or ask the coordinator of your specific job's group for help.

Thank you for all your efforts to make MPF 2025 a success!

The Steering Team: Marianna Caron, Shari Griswold,
Karen Ziegler