



Letter from the President

Hello BAMTA teachers,

The holiday season has officially started with Halloween on the 31st, and this means BAMTA activities are now in full swing. For our **2nd annual Costumes in Concert** recital on October 27, we had 87 students participating. The costumes and music were delightful and the recitals were so successful we will likely be offering 3 recital times next year! If you did not participate this year, we hope you will consider joining us next year. A big thank you to Amy Watt and Mitzi Babb for organizing these recitals. Also, thank you Mitzi for creating the program and thank you Amy for recording the event and making it available to all of us to share with our studio families. Click on the link below to view the video and scroll to the end of the newsletter to see the pictures from the Halloween Recitals.

<https://youtu.be/9U2Hq2VbpUk>

Coming soon, on Saturday, November 9, **MPF auditions** will take place at various locations in Boulder County. With 24 teachers participating this year, 165 students will be auditioning.

The **MPF performance will be Saturday, November 23**, at 7:00 pm at Niwot High School Auditorium. All members are invited to attend and please encourage your students to attend this inspiring concert as well. Watch for an email we will send out to all members later in November that will include a poster that you can share with your students. I have lost count, but believe this will be my 14th or 15th festival as a participating teacher. Year after year, it is still one of my favorite concerts of the year. I hope to see you there!

On Friday, October 25, we gathered at Huckleberry's for our general meeting and ordered brunch afterwards. First we celebrated receiving the Outstanding Local Association for Colorado in 2024 award from CSMTA. Congratulations to everyone! Keep up the outstanding work of making the world a more musical place and inspiring more teachers to join our chapter to do the same. I have attached the letter we received from CSMTA regarding this honor below.

Also at our recent meeting we discussed the opportunity to share teaching tips with the CU collegiate chapter on Friday, December 6 at 1:00 pm at CU. Several teachers said they will plan to attend and I am hoping some more of us might be able to attend as well. This will be an informal discussion and an opportunity to pay it forward - so to speak. As seasoned teachers we have wisdom and tricks

that we have developed that the CU students would love to learn from. **Please email me if you would like to participate.** shmstudio1@gmail.com

After all of the work involved in our activities listed above we have **a fun holiday gathering planned for December 13** at Carol Wickham-Revier's house. Be sure to save the date on your calendar. At the party we will have an ornament exchange so keep an eye out for an ornament to buy when shopping for the holidays this month. Please note this meeting will be held on the 2nd Friday of the month instead of our typical 3rd Friday of the month, and we will not have a Zoom option for this gathering due to the social nature of the event.

One final note, we will not have a meeting in November and hope to see you instead at the Multiple Piano Festival on November 23, and at Carol's house on December 13th.

Warm regards,
Shari Griswold

BAMTA Local Association of the Year!

I am so honored to announce the Boulder Area Music Teachers Association (BAMTA) as the winner of the 2024 Local Association of the Year. This prestigious recognition highlights BAMTA's outstanding commitment to music education and community outreach.

A special thanks goes to Phylis Pieffer, NCTM, and Dr. Grace Asquith, NCTM, for their dedication in this nomination.

BAMTA, with its 66 members, offers an array of enriching events for both students and teachers. These include Achievement Day, Student Recitals, Scholarships, and the cherished and unique Multiple Piano Festival which was established in 1984 and has become a signature event that not only serves as a major community outreach effort but also plays a crucial role in teacher recruitment for the group.

Last year's festival was a resounding success, with 147 students and 25 teachers participating. Students and alumni from all over Boulder County auditioned in four to five studios two weeks prior to the final

performance. During this time, 18-20 pre-selected piano duets were chosen, final lists were compiled, and rehearsals began. As the concert date approached, the workload intensified, including ticket distribution, poster and program cover contests, the coordination of student announcers for each piece, and stage decoration.

Nearly 150 pianists came together in the auditorium of Niwot High School for the final walk-through and preparation for the much-anticipated Saturday evening performance. The 90-minute concert featured on nine grand pianos, drawing an audience of approximately 350-400 parents and community members.

BAMTA reaches out to graduates from CU Boulder and non-piano instrumental teachers. Recruitment is largely driven by word-of-mouth through student activities, and three new members have already become actively involved. They have sponsored a collaborative masterclass with the CU Collegiate chapter of MTNA in April, 2024 which they hope it will turn into an annual event.

In addition to local activities, BAMTA is engaged at the state level, with several members holding key leadership positions in the Colorado State Music Teachers Association (CSMTA) Such as Dr. Andrew Cooperstock NCTM, the current CSMTA president, Jill Ice NCTM, CSMTA's chair for Student Activities Amy Watt, the State Achievement Day Chair and Harumi Shirashi who served as the Rising Stars Chair for several years.

To foster a more welcoming and personal atmosphere, BAMTA has transitioned to holding meetings in members' homes. This shift has strengthened the sense of community within the group. BAMTA remains dedicated to professional development, supporting music education through its partnerships, and encouraging teachers to pursue MTNA certification.

Once again, congratulations to BAMTA on this remarkable achievement!

BAMTA members are invited to attend this special presentation at CU on Friday, November 15 from 1 - 2 pm

Hi Shari, Amy and BAMTA members,

We're excited to announce a new guest speaker - Christopher Madden, Associate Professor of Piano Pedagogy at the UMKC Conservatory, will be giving a 30-40 minute presentation to the collegiate chapter over Zoom on Friday, November 15th from 1-2pm. It is titled *Technique through Repertoire*, based on a series of excerpt books Prof. Madden published with the Frances Clark Center, providing practical tips and ideas for teaching technique as well as ways to incorporate excerpts into one's teaching. Then, we will transition to a more open discussion with any other career or project related questions people might have.

Any and all BAMTA members are invited! We would absolutely love to have you join us :)

If possible, please let me know how many BAMTA members are planning on coming. This guest speaker meeting will be held at the Imig Music Building on the CU Boulder Campus. As I confirm the attendance size and numbers, I will book an appropriately sized room (in the Imig Music Building) and keep you informed as I do so. Please let me know if you have any questions!

Best, Sharon and Ethan

BAMTA Book Group

Call your local bookstore to order your copy of Every Good Boy Does Fine, by Jeremy Denk, our BAMTA book choice for 2025. This is an engaging memoir about Denk's formation and life as a pianist. Along the way there are lots of musings and insights about music as well as about specific repertoire. There is an annotated playlist at the end of the book and a correlating playlist on Spotify. The book is also available on Amazon and Audible.

We will discuss the book following our general meeting on January 17. It will be at Anne Laird's house, 1916 S. Coffman St. in Longmont. See you there!

Masterclass Opportunity

Our program on February 21 will consist of CU students leading a masterclass for students of BAMTA teachers. The class will be from 9:40-11:00 at Harvest Church. It is on a Friday, so students will need to be homeschooled or able to miss school. The CU teachers have requested that participating students be at an early intermediate level and above. If you have a student who might like to participate, please email Anne Laird at alaird25@comcast.net with their name, age, level, and piece they would like to play. There will only be room for four students.

BAMTA Meetings Program List 2024/25:

December 13: Holiday Brunch, a member potluck

Host: Carol Wickham-Revier

Location: 2502 Blue Heron Circle, Lafayette

(please note the altered date)

January 17: *Book discussion, book TBD*, moderated by Anne Laird

Host: Anne Laird

Location: 1916 S. Coffman St., Longmont

February 21: *Masterclass for BAMTA students*, presented by CU chapter members

Location: Harvest Church, 7493 Old Mill Trail, Boulder

March 14: *Incorporating Dalcroze Pedagogy into the Private Lesson*, presented by Katie Couch

Location: Harvest Church, 7493 Old Mill Trail, Boulder

(please note the altered date)

April 11: *MTNA Certification*, presented by Mitzi Babb and Jill Ice

Host: Mitzi Babb

Location: 7248 Petursdale Ct, Boulder

(please note the altered date)

May 16: *Presentation of MPF Repertoire*, presented by Karen Ziegler and Carol

Wickham-Revier

Photos from Costumes in Concert - October 27, 2024









