



February 1, 2026

Dear Colleagues,

Reminder that the jazz/pops recital is February 15<sup>th</sup> with a registration deadline of February 8<sup>th</sup>. So far only 6 students are registered. 45 minutes of performance time are needed for the event to happen. We'll decide that evening and you will be notified immediately either way.

### **IN OTHER NEWS....**

The email and text phishing scams seem to be ramping up. The latest one with Dorinne's name on it. If you get any messages asking to purchase anything on behalf of the recipient, just delete. Too bad there's really nothing else we can do.

The 35<sup>th</sup> annual BERKS JAZZ FEST will soon be here March 19 through 29, 2026! This year the event is expanded to include Jazz Appreciation Month Celebration in April, concluding on April 30, 2026, International Jazz Day. Jazz Appreciation Month was established by the Smithsonian National Museum of American History in 2001 to honor and celebrate the rich legacy of jazz in this country. [CLICK HERE](#) for a complete press release.

Two events in particular you might put on your 'to-do list':

- April 22: pianist Emmet Cohen Quintet, 3:00 pm at the Miller Center.
- April 28: Berks Sinfonietta: Gershwin Comes Alive, featuring pianist Lars Potteiger performing Rhapsody in Blue, 6pm at the Miller Center. The opening act is Berks County Jazz Band

The annual GETJAZZED educational events which my husband and I manage will include (at the DoubleTree):

- March 23, 7:00 pm Student Jazz Jam at the DoubleTree; free. Always a fun evening!
- March 24 & 25, 8:30am to 6:30pm: Jazz Horizons Festival featuring middle school and high school jazz bands from around the tri-state area. Eight bands attend each day for performance adjudication, educational workshops and open jam sessions. Also free and open to the public.

**"PARTNERS IN MUSIC"**: Remember, we're featuring our commissioned pieces from over the years. **If you have a duo interested in performing one of the selections, please let me know ASAP.** These are all duets; but since we have two pianos, we could accommodate two teams per selection. If you are interested, please let me know and I'll email copies if you need them. The selections are:

- Midnight Horseman (Eben) – late elementary
- Blue Parrot Rag (Mier)– early intermediate
- Spirals (Vandall)– intermediate
- OUR NEW COMMISSION!! Reading Rag (Keveren) (We have one duo committed. Another one welcome.)

### **IN RETROSPECT:**

- *From the Minutes, November 5, 1981: Pearl Kahler read a letter she had received asking for attendance of RMTA members, families and friends at a meeting. The purpose being to receive*

*information on the plan to build a civic center for the benefit of Berks County. It was decided that this was of interest to us, and we would give possible dates for such a meeting.*

- *From the Minutes, January 1965: After a meeting with Mr. Charles Keller of the Reading School District Music Department and Dr. Ralph Geigel, superintendent of schools, Mrs. Julia Elmer reported that music credits will be given in the high schools for private music study. The credits will be a recognition by the school and not a Carnegie credit.*

**FOR YOUR LISTENING PLEASURE (or not...):**

- Mozart's Rondo a la turk taken up a notch: <https://youtu.be/vZXqtQ8zBoE?si=9-obbX0uZNR0mPxn>
- Pianist Victor Borge in a serious moment. [CLICK HERE.](#)
- If you're my age you might remember Leonard Bernstein's Young Peoples Concerts first televised in 1958 from Carnegie Hall and continuing through 1972 on CBS. My parents always had the family gather in front of our television to watch these together. A favorite was his lecture on [Richard Strauss' "Also sprach Zarathustra"](#). You can read more on the [Carnegie Hall website](#).
- [La Campanella](#) on accordion.

Stay warm!

Millie

***UPCOMING EVENTS...***

**"A Touch of Jazz"**

Sunday, February 15, 2026, 3:00 pm

Online registration deadline: February 8, 2026

**"Partners in Music"**

Sunday, April 26, 2026, 3:00 pm

Registration:

First call: March 1, 2026

Online registration deadline: April 10, 2026