

# Three Montana artists offer Jazz Piano Workshop

Three gifted teachers and musicians offer the Montana Jazz Piano Workshop, June 18-20 in Helena. Presented with support from Rich Hopkins M.D. and the Myrna Loy Center, and coordinated by Alexandra Swaney, the workshop will feature as teachers gifted pianist-composer-improvisers Phillip Aaberg, David Morgenroth and Ann Tappan.

The workshop presents a variety of jazz-related activities, including a private lesson for each enrolled student, master classes, sessions on particular topics of interest such as scales, blues, exercises, pedaling, theory and other elements designed to improve the students' playing and grasp of piano jazz.

It concludes with a concert given by the teachers Sunday afternoon, June 20, at the Myrna Loy Center.

The workshop is designed for intermediate-to-advanced students, but beginners and interested people may audit the classes and attend other activities. Full tuition is \$95, or \$60 for seniors and students and \$30 auditors. Scholarships are available.

Registration deadline is May 15. For further information call Rich Hopkins at 406-442-6808.

## Workshop Faculty

**Phillip Aaberg**, of Chester, is known worldwide for his compositions that evoke the spaciousness and beauty of the western landscape. A Harvard graduate, courtesy of a Leonard Bernstein Scholarship, he has performed with the Boston Pops, Peter Gabriel and

Elvin Bishop, and at the Marlboro Chamber Music Festival.

He has toured solo in Europe and Japan and released eight solo albums, including *Live From Montana*, which was nominated for a Grammy. He is also an Emmy nominee for "All-American Jazz" and for his score for "Class C: The Only Game in Town."

A recipient of a Montana Governor's Award for the Arts, he is host of the radio show, "Of the West: Creativity and Sense of Place." His latest CD with Eugene Friesen and Tracy Silverman is called *3-Part Invention: Improvisations on Bach*.

With his wife, Patty, he runs a nonprofit, Arts Without Boundaries, bringing national and international artists to schools. For information, see [www.ofthewest.net](http://www.ofthewest.net) and [www.sweetgrassmusic.com](http://www.sweetgrassmusic.com).

**David Morgenroth**, born in Missoula, is equally at home with jazz and classical piano. He has performed with such luminaries as Freddie Hubbard, Gary Peacock, Michael Brecker and Lionel Hampton and in venues in Canada, Europe and South America.

After freelancing in Dallas, Phoenix and San Francisco, he spent six years in New York, performing as a chamber musician and jazz pianist while studying with eminent teachers Sophia Rosoff and jazz pianist Fred Hersch.

Morgenroth recently toured Japan with Missoula jazz vocalist Eden Atwood. His recordings as leader include *Radiance* with Chris Potter and Drew

Gress, and *Alone with Duke*, solo piano, as well as his accompaniment on Atwood's recent quartet release, *Turn Me Loose*. For more info, see [www.davidmorgenroth.com](http://www.davidmorgenroth.com)

**Ann Tappan** grew up in Montclair, NJ. After two years in Europe, she returned to study jazz composition and arranging at the Berklee School of Music while also connecting with the mid-70s improvisational avant-garde left scene in New York City.

After moving to the West Coast to study with pianist Art Lande, she became part of his experimental jazz school, where she wrote and arranged for many live and recorded projects and performed with such giants as Joe Henderson.

Moving to Montana in 1993, she quickly became a busy performer, private educator, and teacher of the award-winning Bozeman High School Jazz Combo. She was the author and administrator of a 2001 Jazz Montana/NEA grant, a yearlong creative program linking national and local professional musicians to statewide audiences and K-12 students.

She has recorded eight CDs with the groups ThreeForm, Springhill and the Tappan/Robert/MI Williams Trio and Quartet. She toured the Czech Republic three times with Springhill and has been featured on the Montana PBS program Eleventh and Grant.

For more details, see [www.anntappan.com](http://www.anntappan.com).

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