

Alison S. Barr Music Associates

ALISON BARR'S early musical training was under John Markarian, Music Director of the Westwood, Massachusetts, Public Schools and in the Extension Program of New England Conservatory of Music in Boston. In those two venues, she studied piano, flute, music theory, choral singing, accompanying and ensemble playing. A graduate of The University of Maine at Orono with Highest Honors and Highest Distinction (BS, Music Education with a concentration in Piano Performance, 1976) and Boston University (MM in Piano Performance, 1983,) her primary teachers were Anthony DiBonaventura, Kathryn Ann Foley, Richard Roberts and Alexandra Jaskolski.



Ms. Barr owns and operates an independent studio in Hanover, Massachusetts, where she teaches over forty students of all ages and levels. She is proud to have been named “**2013 Teacher of the Year**” by the Massachusetts Music Teachers Association. Her teaching specializations include middle school, high school and avocational adult students. For 24 years, she maintained a multi-teacher studio in Brookline, Mass. She holds the Music Teachers National Association National Certificate in piano and is currently MTNA’s Eastern Division Certification Commissioner and Secretary/Newsletter Editor for the Massachusetts Music Teachers Association

Ms. Barr’s article, “Reversing the Pyramid -- Maintaining High School Students in the Independent Studio,” appeared in fall, 2007 “American Music Teacher” and was subsequently named Article of the Year. Other publications include a book, “Successful Studio Teaching,” and numerous articles in “Clavier,” “American Music Teacher,” “Keyboard Companion,”

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and “Massachusetts Music News.” Ms. Barr is a frequent lecturer, adjudicator and accompanist for festival and high school choruses.

Her professional appointments include State President for both the Maine and Massachusetts Music Teachers Associations and Independent Music Teachers Forum Chairperson for Music Teachers National Association. Ms. Barr has developed a series of humorous and engaging lectures in music appreciation entitled, “Joyful Listening!” which she has taught not only in the Boston area and but also at the Avocational Adult Piano Workshop held in Kromeriz, Czech Republic in August, 2002 and 2003. Ms. Barr also originated the “Midsummer Adult Piano Retreat,” which began in July 2006, and continues to serve as a faculty member for the workshop every summer at Williams College in the Berkshire region of Massachusetts.

Ms. Barr’s community and social action work includes active volunteering for DOVE in Quincy, as a Big Sister, on the South Shore YMCA’s Capital Campaign Committee. She is also an active volunteer for the James Library Center for the Arts in Norwell, Mass.

Ms. Barr’s passions include gardening, swimming, traveling, weightlifting, writing, and tennis. Her son, Ben, graduated from the University of Hartford in 2008 and currently works for VE Interactive in Boston. Her husband, Brad, works for the U.S.’s National Marine Sanctuary Program. She lives and teaches in her 1774 home in Hanover, with her husband and cats, Zoey and Rory.