

# Liberties taken here: Pianist to put creative touches on Bach, Beethoven at college

An internationally renowned classical and jazz pianist will take some creative liberties with the music of Bach and Beethoven in a concert to begin the 2011 Festival for Creative Pianists set for April 7-9 at Mesa State College.

The concert featuring John Salmon and the John Salmon Trio from the University of North Carolina-Greensboro will be at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 7, in the Recital Hall of Mesa State's Moss Performing Arts Center.

On Friday and Saturday, April 8-9, the spotlight will shine on pianists ages 19 and younger as they compete in the festival.

"Students will play up to 15 minutes of repertory of their choice in any style ... and qualify for almost \$2,000 worth of prizes for demonstrations of repertory excellence and/or creativity," according to a news release. One student will be given a \$500 prize for the best performance of an original composition.

Judges for the festival are Salmon, Monte Atkinson of Mesa State and Jonathan Mann, a faculty member of SUNY-Fredonia, New York.

The students' adjudications throughout the two days in the Recital Hall will be open to the public for a fee of \$5 per

## Keep an ear out

A new Yamaha AvantGrand piano will be used during the 2011 Festival for Creative Pianists at Mesa State College thanks to J.B. Hart Music Co. of Grand Junction.

"The AvantGrand is, in the opinion of many concert pianists, the first digital piano to truly simulate the full-bodied sound of a genuine acoustic grand piano," according to a news release from Mesa State.

adjudication or a flat fee of \$20 for all adjudications.

At 7:30 both evenings there will be concerts, also open to the public, in the Recital Hall.

A Judges and Director Program will be Friday, April 8, with classical and jazz piano selections and a Winners Recital and Awards Ceremony will be Saturday, April 9.

Tickets for each of the three evening concerts cost \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors and \$5 for students and are available from the Mesa State Box Office (248-1604).

Festival information can be found at [www.pianofestival.org](http://www.pianofestival.org).

—Compiled by Tammy Gemaehlich



UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA-GREENSBORO/Special to the Sentinel

**CLASSICAL AND JAZZ** pianist John Salmon and the John Salmon Trio will perform as part of the 2011 Festival for Creative Pianists on April 7-9 at Mesa State College. The concert will be at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 7, in the Recital Hall of Mesa State's Moss Performing Arts Center. Salmon, right, who also is one of the judges for the festival, will perform Bach and Beethoven with some creative license during the first half of the concert, according to a news release. Salmon will be joined by bassist Steve Haines, center, and drummer Thomas Taylor for the second half of the concert.