University of Montana Professor Steven Hesla has performed both nationally and internationally as soloist and with the Montana Piano Trio.  With concerts and performances in Sweden, Germany, Switzerland and Austria, as well as recitals and workshops across the United States, Hesla was named a “Distinguished Professor of the Year” by the UM School of Fine Arts.  Hesla’s solo CD, *Music and Spirit*, features masterworks accessible to audiences of all ages, and his recording of Gershwin’s original two-piano version of Rhapsody in Blue with pianist Margery McDuffie Whatley was released on the ACA Digital Recording label in Atlanta, 2010, with highly favorable reviews in The American Record Guide and Fanfare Magazine.

His recording of David Maslanka’s Piano Concerto No. 2 on the Albany Records label, which was written for and dedicated to Hesla, joined three other world premiere releases on a double CD set. Commented the American Record Guide: “If you've somehow managed to miss the wonderful work of...David Maslanka, this two-disc set is a good way to get acquainted with his unique and uncompromising voice."

His presentation on pedaling, *Adventures in Piano “Pedal-gogy,”*at the MTNA National Conference in Atlanta, Georgia resulted in workshops for MTNA chapters and conferences across the northern United States, and subsequently became chapter 31 in the fourth edition of *Creative Piano Teaching*.

In 2016 and 2017 Prof. Hesla served as the coach for the Missoula Piano Trio, comprised of his piano student of six years, Adam Sears, plus Sarah (violin) and David (cello) Harmsworth. After winning the MTNA Northwest Divisional Competition in 2016, the trio went on to become one of the six national finalists in the MTNA Young Artist String Chamber Music Competition in San Antonio, TX, where they won third place.  With many award winning students advancing to prestigious graduate programs and notable careers in music throughout the years,  Prof. Hesla feels privileged to help young musicians develop their talents and aspire to greatness.