

This event is sponsored by the MLA Local Arrangements Committee, who wishes to thank the following for their generous support.

American Music Research Center  
University Libraries, University of Colorado Boulder  
Harold B. Lee Library, Brigham Young University  
Music Department, Colorado College  
Seay Music Library, Colorado College  
Janet Bradford

---

A real locomotive plunged into the real Row River in 1926 during the climatic scene of *The General*. At the time, this scene cost producers \$42,000 (an equivalent of over \$500,000 in today's dollars) and was the most expensive scene shot up to that point in history. Below are screen shots from the famous crash scene.



# The General

with Buster Keaton

February 27, 2015 at 8:00 PM

Westin Hotel, Brown Room





In any list of the most beloved films from the silent film era, *The General* (1926) must occupy a top place. The film tells the story of Buster Keaton's endearing train engineer, Johnnie Gray, and his struggle to regain the love of his fiancée, Annabelle, after his attempts to enlist in the Confederate Army are rejected. Along the way, with the help of his trusty engine, *The General* (and several dangerous stunts, which Keaton performs himself), he finds unexpected ways to help both the Confederate cause and his own.

The score you are hearing this evening was compiled by Mont Alto Motion Picture Orchestra director Rodney Sauer, from music in use by silent film orchestras during the period. The scores reside in the University of Colorado's American Music Research Center, which houses one of the largest collections of silent film music in the country.



# The General

with Buster Keaton

## Welcome

Eric Harbeson, AMRC Curator

## Film Presentation

"The General" starring Buster Keaton

Featuring the Mont Alto Motion Picture Orchestra  
Directed by Rodney Sauer

**Violin:** Christine Short

**Cello:** David Short

**Clarinet:** April Johannesen

**Trumpet:** Andrew Bishop

**Piano:** Rodney Sauer

At the film's intermission break, AMRC director Tom Riis will honor the Center's founders, Karl Kroeger and Bill Kearns, during a brief presentation. The AMRC invites you to help us thank these two pioneers in the study of American music.

