

A few highlights this month:



BENEFIT CONCERT FOR FOOD BANK OF THE ROCKIES



ANTIRACIST MUSIC STUDIO APRIL 14TH



DAMTA SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE APRIL 30TH



LYRICS

MUSICIANS UNITED FOR CHANGE
PRESENTS
**THE YOUNG ARTISTS
BENEFIT CONCERT**
FEATURING THE TOP YOUNG MUSICIANS IN COLORADO
AN EVENT BENEFITTING THE FOOD BANK OF THE ROCKIES

APRIL 3 – APRIL 6, 2021

VIEW ON:
COLORADO STATE MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION FACEBOOK PAGE
[HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/CSMTA1921/](https://www.facebook.com/CSMTA1921/)

DONATIONS ARE ENCOURAGED AND APPRECIATED

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Member Information

Congratulations to our Board Members Elect!
Sonya Clark
David House

April Dates to Remember:
April 7 & 28
9:30am - DEI Coffee Conversation
April 8, 15, 22, 29
2pm - DEI Committee
April 14
9:30am - Business Meeting
10:30am - Spring Program with
Deborah De La Torre &
Ben Raznick
April 18
2pm - Virtual Musicale

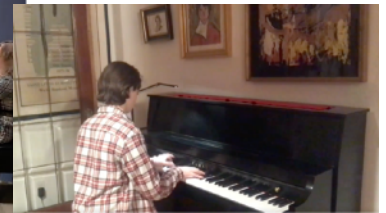
2020/2021 Board Members:

Vince Madison	President
Marilyn Madsen	Vice President (Programs)
Ben Raznick	Vice President (Newsletter)
Evelyn Billberg	Vice President (Membership)
Megan Koegel	Vice President (Student Musicales)
Deborah De La Torre	Vice President (Diversity Equity & Inclusion)
Nazila Nekoerad	Secretary
Allyson Koplen	Treasurer
Jan Spitzer	Social Chair
Kristin Jordheim	Parliamentarian

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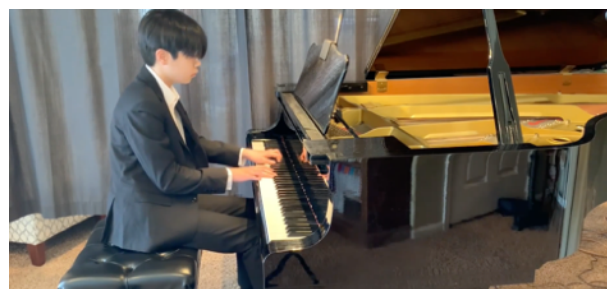
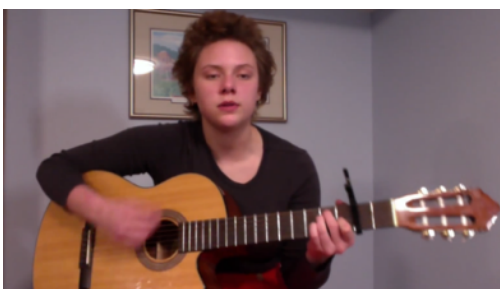


The Young Artists Benefit Concert is undertaken by Jan Romero's student, Garrett.

Here is more information from Jan:

Garrett is an unusually civic minded 14-year-old who wanted to do something in response to the hardships felt by so many people due to the pandemic. He looked inward at the two activities in his life that bring him joy: competitive swimming and music study. His passion for the piano led him to the creation of this virtual benefit concert. He has done all the work on his own! (My only contribution was connecting him with CSMTA, at his request.)

The concert features 10 pianists, 3 guitarists, 1 singer, 1 violinist, and 1 flutist. Each of the student performers was asked to choose a piece that makes them feel hopeful. A direct donation link to Food Bank of the Rockies will be embedded in the concert for contributions. I hope the virtual concert will be enjoyed by many! Please spread the word!



DAMTA Spring Program 2021



April 14 - Deborah De La Torre & Ben Raznick -- “Action Steps Toward Becoming Anti-Racist in the Private Music Studio”

We are witnessing protests across the world fighting for systemic changes and accountability for the way people of color are disenfranchised in our communities. We see this too in our music communities, whether we take a look at the amount of students of color each teacher has, the

diversity we have within the membership and leadership of our organization, or the amount of composers of color we include in our curriculum. We don't realize how our private music teaching contributes to systemic racism. Repertoire lists without pieces by composers of color means students will lack awareness of them. This is how “cultural erasure” works. Composers and their works that are continuously absent from catalogues and competitions lead to the assumption that such music simply does not exist. We believe this important work can be addressed through intentional action steps.

Bio: Deborah De La Torre has an award-winning music career as a pianist, composer/arranger, educator, Latina/o art festival founder, documentary film producer and recording artist/producer. She received her Bachelor's degree in Music from the University of Miami, Florida, and her MBA in Business Administration from Regis University in Denver. She is passionate about Caribbean, Latin American and Spanish/Iberian musicology, performing as "La Cocodrila" (the lady crocodile) on account of her fierce playing style.

Bio: Ben Raznick is a pianist, composer, recording artist and teacher from Colorado. He has trained with piano professors in the US, Argentina, Brazil and Spain. Raznick was selected as a 2x semi-finalist of The American Prize in 2019. He is a recipient of Steinway & Sons prestigious Top Music Teacher Award in 2017, 2018 & 2019, and affiliate faculty at MSU. Raznick's solo piano classical album, *Birds of a Feather*, features a professionally edited video performance of each work.

May 12 -- DAMTA Teacher's Musicale

Join DAMTA teachers as they showcase their talents in this awesome Musicale.



DEI Committee

The DEI Committee is working on three things.

- We are crafting a Mission Statement for its own internal guidance and operations.
- We are preparing a draft of a DAMTA Diversity Statement to present at the Coffee Conversation, to then present to the Board.
- We are working on a Statement of Condemnation and Anti-Violence Against the AAPI Community to be released following the general Diversity Statement.

DAMTA's DEI Coffee Conversations are from 9:30am-10:30am on the last Wednesday of each month. The DEI Committee meets on Thursdays from 2-3pm.

The DEI Committee would like to extend an ongoing invitation to the DAMTA membership to join! Please contact our VP of DEI, Deborah De La Torre at: DLTDenver@yahoo.com if you are interested in participating.



DAMTA Scholarship

DAMTA Members

It is time to think about students you may wish to recommend for a scholarship. Our funds are more limited this year, but we will be able to give out some scholarships.

- Scholarships may be used for Summer Camps, Festivals, Master student/teacher lessons, teachers for advanced work.
- Deadline for applications is April 30th and should be submitted to the Chair, Evelyn Billberg. The form is on the next page.
- The scholarships will be awarded at the May meeting.

DAMTA SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

- Scholarship Chair is the 3rd Vice President
- Review Standing Rules on the website before applying for this scholarship.
- Scholarships will be announced at the May meeting. The decision of the committee is final.

Student Name _____

Instrument _____ Grade _____ School _____

- Activity or developmental program (and date) for which these funds are being requested:

- Explain why this activity was chosen and why this student/teacher is deserving of this scholarship. (Attach additional sheet if needed.)

- Amount Requested _____ (\$200.00 maximum request)

Date _____

Teacher's Name _____

Phone _____ e-mail _____

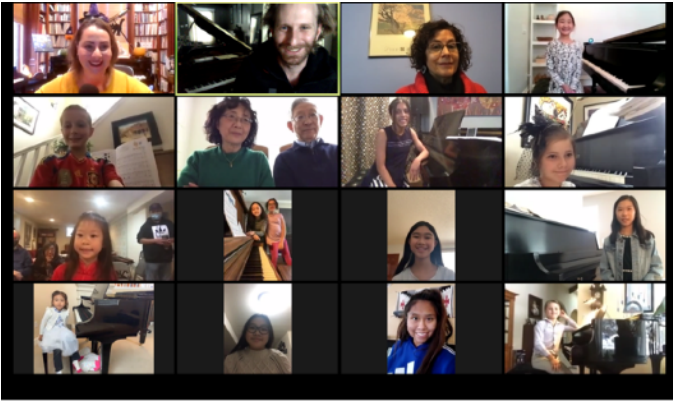
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Committee Review and Recommendations

Amount Awarded: \$ _____ Date _____

Committee Members _____

Virtual Musicales 2021



Even though we can't get together for the time being, musicales will still take place every month on Zoom for the time being! Please note the following changes for musicales this year:

- * Online musicales will be limited to 45 minutes.
- * There will be no fee to perform in musicales, however donations to our scholarship fund will be encouraged.

* Some musicales will have designated themes, but any performer is encouraged to participate even if their piece is not related to the theme.

- * As long as musicales are online, more creativity can be encouraged for performances; this can include staging, including family members in the performance or whatever the students can come up with!

Save these upcoming dates!

April 18 at 2:00 (feature duets and ensemble music)

May 16 at 12:00

If you have a student(s) who would like to participate, please send our April host with the following information: performer's name, musical selection and approximate length of performance.

April Host: June Haun junehuan@gmail.com

If you have any questions about this year's changes or anything else about musicales, you may contact the musicale chair Megan Koegel at missmeganpiano@gmail.com.

Submitted by Ben Raznick

**HOW TO BE AN
ANTI-RACIST
ORGANIZATION**

A monthly conversation
with Dwinita & Tariana

Dwinita Mosby Tyler
Equity Project LLC

Tariana Navas-Nieves
Denver Arts & Venues

DENVER
ARTS & VENUES

**How to Be an Anti-Racist Organization Series
with Dwinita & Tariana**

Monday, April 12, 2021 at 1:00 PM

Free Registration [here](#)

As part of our Equity, Diversity & Inclusion work, we present a discussion on integrating anti-racism into your organizational structure

Please join Denver Arts & Venues for the sixth installment in our Speaker Series events. We continue to discuss the necessary work organizations must commit to in order to be anti-racist with a focus on tactical and actionable steps.

This virtual, moderated discussion with Tariana Navas-Nieves – Denver Arts & Venues, Director, Cultural Affairs and Dwinita (Nita) Mosby-Tyler – Chief Catalyst, The Equity Project LLC, will be hosted on Zoom - a link will be provided to participants upon registration.

Submitted by Evelyn Billberg

International Festival for Creative Pianists

The 2021 Festival is totally virtual this year...and we now have International involvement and enrollment. Martha Hill Duncan, our Clinician coaching composition is from Canada. We currently have 14 students enrolled from around the US, and more to come. A student in North Carolina studies via Skype with a teacher in Russia.

A Special Gift to Teachers: Teachers with one or more students enrolled in the Festival will be automatically enrolled as a LifeLong Learner. As an enrolled student of the Festival it will be possible to participate in all activities of the Festival, including submission of a composition.

Three Age Categories: Budding Pianists (12 & under), Teen Pianists (13-19), Lifelong Learners (20+)

Since we are totally virtual we are using tools which increase the learning activities and opportunity for personal involvement with our Judges and Clinicians. We have expanded this pool to include 15 talented and very exciting educators.

We are managing the enrollment in MyMusicStaff and will launch online learning activities in OpenLearning starting April 1st. There will be Workshops, Group Coaching, Private Coaching, and Written Composition coaching and submittal.

Dates to Remember:

April 1 the Open Learning feature will be made available.

April 28 – Deadline for registering

Submit a list of repertoire - **Due May 18th**

Submit performance videos - **Due June 3rd**

Upload an optional written composition for feedback - **Due June 27th**

Record best work (determined by teaching artist) - **Due July 12th**

Website Pages

Home Page: <https://www.abundantsilence.org/festival-homepage.html>

Judges and Clinicians: <https://www.abundantsilence.org/judges-and-clinicians.html>

Awards: <https://www.abundantsilence.org/festival-awards.html>

DAMTA-Passalongs

DAMTA's closed Google group for members

- Notices in addition to official DAMTA business.
- Announcements and passalong emails that may be of interest to DAMTA members.
- News of teachers workshops, competitions, special sales, instruments for sale privately, auditions, concerts, recitals etc.

All current year DAMTA members have access. The default option is to receive emails as they come in. You change your setting to receive a digest email or no emails at all. If you choose no emails you can view DAMTA-Passalongs at <https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/damta-passalongs>

Newsletter Submissions

- Submit all Flyers/Announcements as an email attachment to benraznickmusic@gmail.com no later than the 20th of each month.
- DAMTA issues the Lyrics Newsletter as a monthly edition from September-May, with a double edition in December/January.