

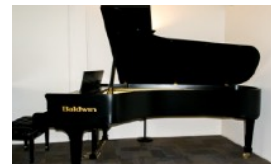
**A few highlights this month:**



**DEBORAH DE LA TORRE  
NEW BOARD MEMBER  
DIVERSITY & INCLUSION**



**DAMTA FALL COURSE  
ENGAGING WITH  
TECHNOLOGY**



**STUDENT MUSICALE  
NOVEMBER 15**



# LYRICS



## Diversity & Inclusion Board Chair

**PASS**



**Unanimous votes to approve board position and appoint!**

On behalf of DAMTA, it is our pleasure to formally welcome Deborah De La Torre as our newest board member, Board Chair of Diversity & Inclusion. We are thrilled to have Deborah join our team!

Over these past months, our board and membership have come together for an important and ongoing discussion: How is DAMTA's mission committed to diversity, inclusion and equity? One of the action steps determined was to build out a new board position committed to promoting the appreciation of diversity, inclusion and equity in DAMTA's study & performance of music, as well as programming & operations. We are thrilled to announce that this position's creation and Deborah's appointment passed unanimous votes of approval! Thank you, very sincerely, to all of our members who showed up to our meetings, discussed, and voted.

Deborah has a wealth of knowledge and resources, with a track record of fierce dedication to diversity, inclusion and equity. Deborah advocates for diverse & inclusive pedagogy, inspiring teachers to examine their own syllabi and to purposefully include the often removed history and contributions of BBIPOC composers (Black, Brown, Indigenous, People of Color). Among many other actions, Deborah has contacted music publishers regarding their inclusion of these composers, initiated a book club and shared relevant articles with colleagues to encourage intimate conversations, and has developed tools and presentations that focus on action steps towards becoming antiracist music educators.

During this historic moment for DAMTA, please join me in extending a warm welcome to Deborah. We look forward to the rich work ahead of us.

-Ben Raznick, Lyrics Editor



# President's Message

## The Chair of Diversity and Inclusion



Hello DAMTA!

I am quite proud that despite the insanity and disruption of 2020, DAMTA has started in a direction that I believe will enrich our teaching community in numerous ways for years to come!

In a unanimous vote of the DAMTA Board and Membership, we have created a new Board position:

### The Chair of Diversity and Inclusion

I would like to share with you the process that we went through to get to this point.

(Thanks to Ben Raznick for spearheading the idea and for assembling this description of the process.)

Our board's process:

1. Our DAMTA Board began an ongoing conversation about our organization's commitment to diversity, inclusion and equity in response to the global justice movement, Black Lives Matter.
2. Our Board supported the action plan to create a new Vice President voting position dedicated to diversity, inclusion and equity.
3. Ben Raznick, Deborah De La Torre & Kristin Jordheim wrote the new bylaws to build out the duties for this role.
4. Our Board passed a vote to approve bylaws and bring them to membership.
5. Our Board presented the updated bylaws to our membership, held a discussion, and sent in writing the updated bylaws that would be voted on.
6. **Membership passed the vote unanimously.**
7. Our Board passed a unanimous vote to appoint Deborah De La Torre to the position.

The events of this past year have highlighted the importance of all people having a seat at the table. As a music teaching community, I see nothing but benefits from opening our perspective to include music from people of all cultures and ethnicities. Bach, Mozart and Beethoven were great composers, but not all great composers were (or are) white Europeans. Of course, as a Jazz musician, many of my heroes have been Black and Latinx. I am sure there are whole genres of music I am unaware of. I am excited to see what new musical vistas await as we broaden our musical exposure.

I am especially excited and grateful that Deborah De La Torre has agreed to be the first person to occupy this important role. Deborah is an extremely talented pianist and composer herself. I can't wait to see what she has in store for DAMTA!

2020 may go down as one of the worst years in history, but I believe with this step DAMTA has done something to make the world a bit better!

Vince Madison  
DAMTA President

## Diversity & Inclusion

A Message From DAMTA's New Board Chair,  
Deborah De La Torre



Dear DAMTA:

I'd like to begin by expressing my appreciation to DAMTA Board Members Ben Raznick, Nazila Nekoerad, Kristen Jordheim, Marilyn Madsen, Evelyn Billberg, Megan Koegel, and Allyson Koplen, and especially Board President Vince for your visionary leadership in taking this first action step - the creation of a board position to address diversity and inclusion - which acknowledges and responds to the historic inequities in our profession. I also would like to thank DAMTA members Jan Romero and Karen Dubovoy-Paciuc along with the general DAMTA membership at large for their enthusiasm and support for this work during these last several months.

Thank you for inviting me to serve as your first Chairperson in this capacity, a role I am glad to accept. Let us begin this important work by coming together as a group! I would like to extend an invitation to the DAMTA membership in the formation of our first Diversity & Inclusion Committee! Please contact me at: [DLTDenver@yahoo.com](mailto:DLTDenver@yahoo.com) if you are interested in participating.

For starters, how much do we know about the history of Denver's African American musicians, teachers, and composers? The City of Denver was founded in 1858. Denver's Black American West Museum has photos featuring the Pie Mullins family, who were famous mandolin players who lived in Five Points during this time, and the Oxford Music Group from 1892. There are also photos of John Morris, a dancer who performed with his brother Theodore, also a pianist. William H. Morrison played the piano in his brother George's band, and Walter Pride, recorded as the first African American child born in Glenwood Springs, was the drummer.<sup>1</sup>

DAMTA is to be commended for recognizing the importance of supporting and providing for a more just and equitable musical future in our city. Together as DAMTA members, with our hearts full of the joy of music, we commit to learning, lifting up and supporting composers and performing artists of Black, Brown, Indigenous and People of Color (BBIPOC) diverse communities. May our vision for inclusive and equitable music education not only strengthen and empower our current and future students and colleagues, but build strong bridges of goodwill and shared resources into the future.

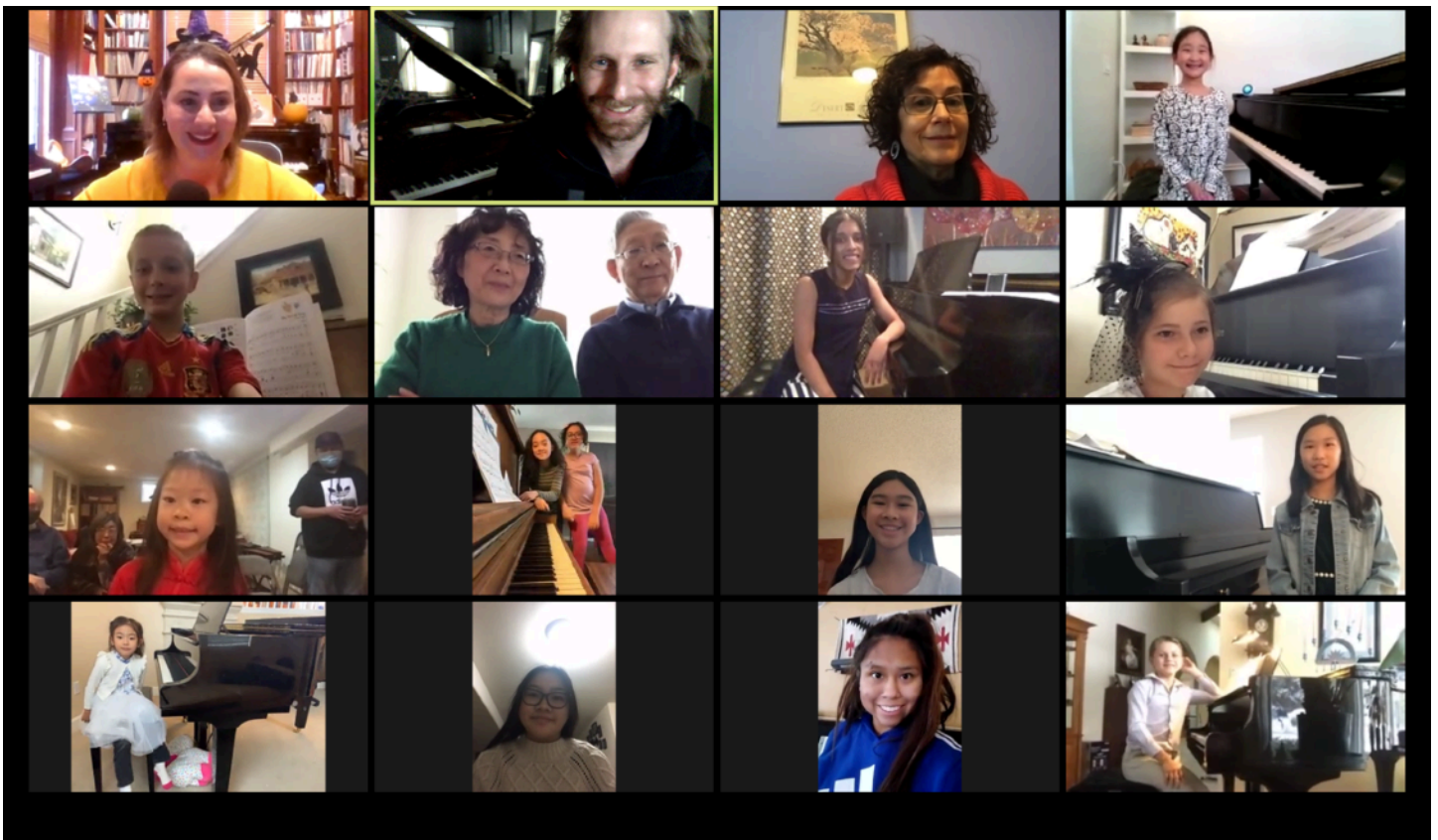
Sincerely,

Deborah De La Torre

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<sup>1</sup> Stephens, Ronald J., Ph.D., Larson, La Wanna M., and the Black American West Museum. African Americans of Denver ©2008 Arcadia Publishing

# DAMTA's Halloween Recital 2020



# DAMTA Fall Course 2020

## Engaging with Technology

The DAMTA Fall Course is a seven part series we present every year around a topic relevant to the teaching of music. This year it's especially relevant as we are all doing more online teaching than ever before. Detailed descriptions of the sessions can be found in the brochure below. Scroll down in the document to see more pages.

The course will be offered on the Zoom platform, so teachers everywhere are welcome to attend!

This year in recognition of the unusual hardships so many of us are facing, the Fall Course is half price: \$55 for all 7 sessions.

You can register and pay online at <https://denvermusicteacher.com/damta-2020-fall-course/>

**September 9:** Use Zoom Effectively for Teaching Classes Virtually

Joyce Feustel

**September 23:** A Library At Your Fingertips: using iPad apps to digitize your music catalog

Evan Mazunik

**October 14:** Web Design: Nothing to Fear

Jake Koplen

**October 28:** iReal Pro and Garage Band Using Virtual Accompaniment as a Teaching Tool

Vince Madison

**November 11:** Technology for This Moment: Tools for Teachers and Students

Shana Kirk

**November 18:** Using the Industry Standard Finale Notation Software as a Teaching Tool

Vince Madison

**December 9:** Moving Lamont Summer Academy Online: What I learned

Conrad Kehn

All courses run from 10:30am - 12pm

# Musicales 2020/2021

**We are going virtual!**

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!**

November 15 at 2:00

December 13 at 12:00 (featuring holiday music)

February 21 at 2:00 (featuring Black History Month)

March 21 at 2:00

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

May 16 at 12:00

The next musicale is November 15, and will be hosted by Nancy Harris. Please contact her at [nancy@thevoicebuilder.com](mailto:nancy@thevoicebuilder.com) if you'd like to participate in this musicale.

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](mailto:missmeganpiano@gmail.com).

## DAMTA's 2020/2021 Yearbook

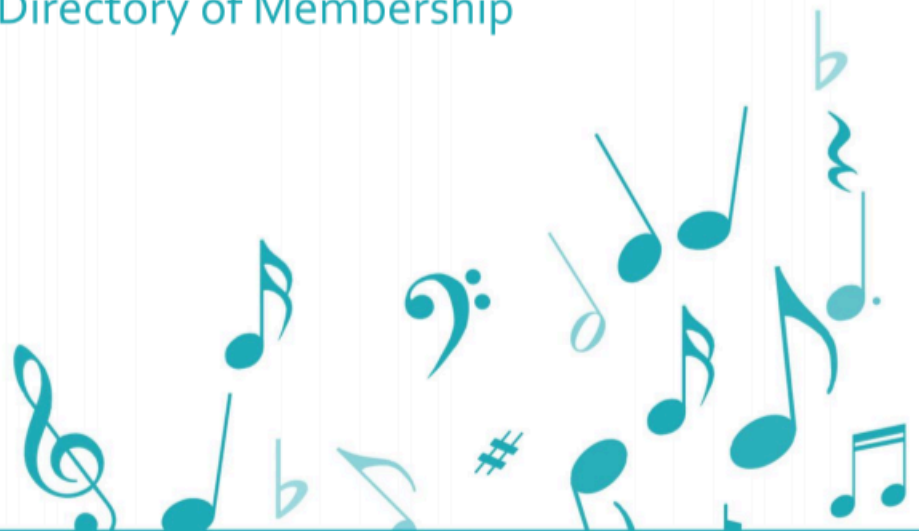
Access by logging into DAMTA's website membership area by clicking [here](#).

Thank you Evelyn Billberg.

# Denver Area Music Teachers Association

Yearbook – Directory of Membership

2020 - 2021



**damta**

DENVER AREA MUSIC TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Thank you **Kristin Jordheim**

# Leipzig Tourist Trap

## STARBACHS COFFEE





## **FESTIVAL FOR CREATIVE PIANISTS**

June 4 - 13, 2021

Help us celebrate our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The festival is open to all ages. No auditions are necessary

### **REGISTRATION AVAILABLE OCTOBER 15, 2020**

#### **MANY AWARDS**

- For repertory excellence, creativity and versatility (any style)

#### **SPECIAL AWARDS**

- Original Composition

#### **NEW AWARD CATEGORIES**

- Budding Pianist (up to age 12)
- Teen Pianist (age 13 to 19)
- Lifelong Learner (age 20+)

#### **WORKSHOPS AND MASTERCLASSES**

- For Teachers and Students

#### **CONTACT**

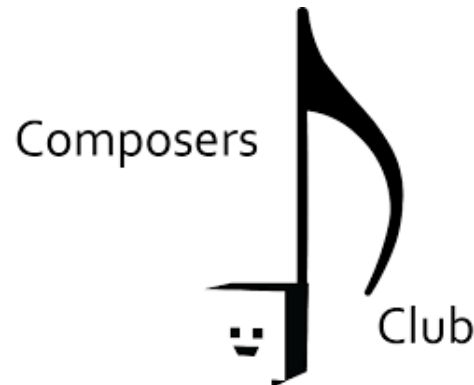
Evelyn Billberg, Program Director

[ev.billberg@gmail.com](mailto:ev.billberg@gmail.com)

303-629-9209

Sponsored by Abundant Silence

[www.abundantsilence.org/festival-homepage.html](http://www.abundantsilence.org/festival-homepage.html)



### SSMTA Composer Club 2020-2021

Chairperson: Pam Simpson

Committee Members: Leila Viss, Smita Rodrigues, Bonnie Kreutz

The objective of the Composer Club is to give students an opportunity to be creative and explore musical ideas and to share their ideas with other students.

The fee for the Composer Club is \$10 for the entire year (**\$15 for non-SSMTA members**) Register students through this Google Form:

<https://forms.gle/atjrQnrDc3ryu4C18>

The Composer Club is divided into four modules over the course of the year, and each module will last 2 months. Each module will have a theme chosen by a teacher who will introduce the theme on a video. Students can choose activities to work on within each module to earn points toward a music pin, which will be awarded in April. Ten points are required to earn the music pin.

The themes are:

September/October—The Eerie Sounds of Halloween led by Pam Simpson

November/December—Cookie Cutter Compositions led by Leila Viss

January/February—TBA by Smita Rodrigues

March/April—The Colors of Spring led by Bonnie Kreutz

To earn points within each module, students can choose to do the following (each activity is worth one point):

1. Make a video recording of their composition and post it to our Composer Club YouTube playlist.

a. <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLtSk5-U14d-AbVI-ndjb8dMjhDZ1ZBwJ6&jct=8yA5LljbA2XmMGONCJS9F4ELgfHTPA>

b. Upload video onto the appropriate playlist for the current theme.

2. Watch the recordings of four other students and write comments for each.

a. Comments can be made on YouTube or handwritten and given to their teacher

b. Positive comments only, please

3. Draw a picture of your composition and/or use non-traditional notation to visually demonstrate your piece.

4. Write down your piece on staff paper or use notation software.

## 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](mailto: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.