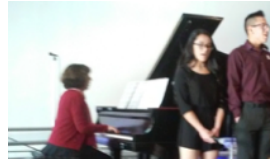


**A few highlights this month:**



**UPBEAT COLORADO'S COMMUNITY CONCERT**  
FREE MUSIC & FOOD



**FESTIVAL FOR CREATIVE PIANISTS**  
ENROLLMENT FOR 2022



**YOUTH SHOWCASE AUDITION!**  
NOVEMBER 12 & 14



# LYRICS

*Fall Course 2021 - DAMTA Presents*

## Meet Your Neighbors: Conversations with Local Artists

**October 13<sup>th</sup> - Sirvan Manhoobi**



### Iranian Classical Music

**Description:** Radif is a collection of many old melodic figures preserved through many generations by oral tradition. The Radif contains seven different Dastgahs which are distinguished

from each other by their relationship of note intervals and the form of the movement of the melodies within them.

Dastgah consists of some short melodies called Gousheh. Each Dastgah made by two or three different Tetrachords. A Dastgah may contain approximately from 10 to 30 Goushehs (short melodies).

In this workshop I talk about structure of Iranian classical music and how these Tetrachords build the Dastgah.

**Bio:** Sirvan, an award winner of the best soloist from various music festivals, started his musical journey at thirteen. He has played and performed with many amazing musicians, and maestros of Iranian music. Since his migration to the United States in 2015, he has been teaching and performing Iranian, and Kurdish classical music. He has cooperated and performed with various bands, such as Masala Festival, at University of Oklahoma, Stanford Middle Eastern Ensemble, Peace Bridge, Let Her Sing, a celebration of female voices, and many more. He has also had several workshops about Iranian music in Oklahoma University, University of Arkansas, ICCNC in Oakland and Borna Institute in Walnut Creek.

**Register now at**  
[damta.org](http://damta.org)

All events will be held in-person and virtually via Zoom  
 Wednesdays from 10:30am-11:30am.  
 Q&A until noon



**Page 1, 2**

Fall Course 2021

**Page 3**

President's Message

**Page 4**

Editor's Note

**Page 5**

Upbeat Colorado's Community Concert at Metro Caring

**Page 6**

Festival for Creative Pianists - 2022

**Page 7**

Wild Beautiful Orchestra Youth Showcase Audition - Nov. 12 &amp; 14

**Page 8**

Virtual Musicales

**Page 10**

In Memoriam: John Melvin Harris

**Page 11**

Sponsors

Member Information

**Save These Dates:****October 1**

10:30-12:00 a.m. - Fall Course with Sirvan Manhoobi: "Iranian Classical Music"

**October 16**

2:00 p.m. - Upbeat Colorado's Community Concert at Metro Caring

**October 24**

2:00 p.m. - Virtual Musicales

**October 27**

10:30-12:00 a.m. - Fall Course with Lorenzo Trujillo: "Music of Colorado's Mexican and Chicano populations"

**2021/2022 Board Members:**

Ben Raznick	President
Marilyn Madsen	Vice President (Programs)
David House	Vice President (Newsletter)
Sonya Clark	Vice President (Membership)
Megan Koegel	Vice President (Student Musicales)
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Nazila Nekoerad	Secretary
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Kristin Jordheim	Parliamentarian
Jan Romero	Historian
Vince Madison	Past President

**October 27<sup>th</sup> - Lorenzo Trujillo****Music as a Symbol of Culture Among Mexican and Chicano Populations in Colorado**

**Description:** In this short course, I will speak about culture and society as

represented by Southwest (Colorado and New Mexico) and Mariachi Music. I will review the origins and current presentations in Colorado that directly tie our students to the past and the present through music and songs that tell our story. Included will be sample demonstrations of the various genre of music as preserved and new music written by the culture bearers of our society.

**Bio:** Dr. Trujillo is a professor, musician and attorney. I love my work as an educator in the arts (music and traditional dance), attorney practicing to make the arts more accessible to diverse populations through advocacy, program development (Hilos Culturales, Mariachi los Correcaminos at MSU Denver, Asociación Nacional de Grupos Folklóricos, Chicano Arts and Humanities Council (CHAC), Colorado Youth Mariachi Program, among others.

I am passionate about this work because I believe in using my gifts so that our youth and Latino Community may have a strong and positive sense of self-worth and identity because of understanding who we are as a people. Chicanos, Hispanos, Latinos and Native Americans all have a rich past of contributions to American Society. We have suffered from institutional racism and prejudice that treats us as second-class citizens. It is only through education and understanding of who we are will we be able to achieve and progress.

I have spent the past 50 years of my life working for our people through the arts so that we can prevail in spite of overt prejudice.

In the past 5 years, I have been establishing a premier mariachi program at Metropolitan State University. This program provides students with the opportunity to feel a part of the mainstream of academia and recognizes the unique contributions that are made by Chicanos and Mexicanos.

It has been an uphill battle to gain acceptance and recognition of the contributions to the culture of Americana that are provided by people of Hispano/Indio backgrounds. The programs that are seen as valuable are western European based and do not include the contributions of the Americas. I have worked to get our students on the main stage with the Colorado Symphony and in major concert halls like the Paramount Theater and the King Concert Hall.

**Newsletter Submissions**

- Submit all flyers, announcements, or news items as an email attachment to our editor, David House, at [davidhouse1@comcast.net](mailto:davidhouse1@comcast.net) no later than the 20th of each month. Please give emails the heading "Lyrics Submission".
- DAMTA issues the Lyrics Newsletter monthly from September through May, with a double edition in December/January.

# President's Message



Dear DAMTA,

This week I have been practicing Solace by Scott Joplin. I was first introduced to this piece by my childhood piano teacher, Judy Lambert. The first time I heard Solace, I was enchanted and have loved it ever since. This piece reminds me of the many years I would enter Judy's home for our weekly piano lessons. I would usually wait upstairs until it was my turn and then head down to meet a smiling and energetic Judy. I knew I could always count on Judy to be there, encouraging me, challenging me, and cheering me on each week as I progressed to new and more difficult pieces.

The reason I am practicing Solace is because I will perform this piece on October 16th for Judy's Memorial Service. This past spring, Judy passed away peacefully in her own home surrounded by her family and online by all of her colleagues and friends via updates on [CaringBridge.org](https://www.CaringBridge.org).



My piano partner, Laura Kruegel and myself with Judy celebrating our achievement at Boulder's Federation of Music



Judy came to my Bar Mitzvah. Behind us is a photo puzzle, each piece representing a piece of me. Judy was one of the pieces.

As I grew up, Judy was still present in my life. I made a decision in May, 2015 to transition my career from teaching Spanish in Denver Public Schools to following my most honest passion for music. Serendipitously, on my last day of work as I cleaned out my classroom, Judy called me. I knew as soon as I heard her voice that Judy would be the same encouraging spirit she had always been. I remember looking out the second floor windows as we spoke. The afternoon sun was shining into my classroom. I hung up the phone smiling, feeling at peace, and confident I was making the right decision for my life. Soon after, I recorded my composition album, *Memory Maze*, and opened my own piano teaching studio.

Continued on page 9



# Editor's Note



In early September, I and three members of a local string quartet played for a wedding at the top of Keystone Mountain. An hour and a half before the gig, we loaded ourselves, three music stands, a cello, two violins, and a viola onto a gondola and began the twenty minute ride up to the venue. Clouds graced a bright, more or less smoke-free sky. The view: Colorado sublime.

Once settled into our plexiglass bubble humming under the cables, I asked the cellist to tell me again about the piano I'd be playing, and how it was getting up the mountain. She said it was the bride's grandmother's baby grand, and that it was her heart's desire that it be played at her wedding. Piano movers would be hauling it up a winding dirt service road, a bumpy fifty-minute drive.

"Have they hired a technician to adjust it when it gets to the top?"

"Yes. I put it in the contract."

"Have they considered the possibility of rain?"

"It's in our contract that we require adequate cover."

"Cover", it turned out, consisted of two weighted umbrellas, somewhat short of adequate for the string players. Piano and pianist were left completely exposed to the elements. The movers, bless them, had wheeled the black Young Chang onto a piece of plywood and braced it with towels to prevent it from rolling. Nothing to do about the tilt of the keyboard. Nor about the sun that would shine directly in my eyes, nor the wind. I touched the keys, and turned to one of the movers. "Is the piano tuner here?"

"They said he did the job yesterday."

"I see." Clouds gathered and began to drift our way. "What if it rains?"

"We've got a tarp. But the sun may be just as big a problem."

Rain arrived half way through the bridal party procession. We cut short the requested "All You Need Is Love". The string players quickly hid away their instruments. I closed the piano lid and helped the movers maneuver the tarp into place. The bridal party finished processing, in the rain, sans music. Admittedly, it was only a light rain, but it needs a lot more than love to save a wet piano! One of the bridesmaids shouted to us, "It's my piano. It doesn't matter." I gaped at her like she'd just said something in a foreign language. Had we been fed a line about the piano belonging to the bride's grandmother?

The rain let up. We readied our instruments and began the processional, requested from the *Twilight* soundtrack. The bride made it almost the whole long way down from the lodge to the alter when suddenly there was a curfuffle. An elderly attendee had passed out, a victim of the altitude. At this point, the bride hiked up her dress and high-heeled it back up the hill to try it all again. She'd not have her entrance upstaged. Instagram was watching. We, the musicians, filled the gap.

In the end, vows were exchanged, rings, a kiss, cheers, and the married couple recessed.

On the ride down the mountain, we spoke of the unconsciousness of the extremely wealthy. These people had shelled out a staggering sum just to have a grand piano carted up a mountain, All in all, a minor expense. Neither the wellbeing of the piano, nor of the musicians, had ever been a consideration. I said, "I'll bet the bride saw a *Piano Guys* video on YouTube and thought, 'I want my wedding to look like that!'"

"All I can say is we didn't charge nearly enough." said the first violinist, glumest among us.

How maddening to work in the arts. And how marvelous. Imagine it: a grand piano being played on a mountain top. An absurd vision, and beautiful. Artists live ever proximate to such visions. We are called upon to have them, to realize them, and are deemed, quite rightly, blessed by them. Too often, we encounter an attitude of entitlement, dumbly demanding that we bless in turn, taking no measure of aptness, cost, or consequence. Such an attitude, rarely overtly malevolent, is a symptom of deep malaise, a darkness wanting light, a pain that wants soothing. So, back to that vision someone had of a piano pouring forth music on a mountain: such visions come from a place of hope, and a yearning after beauty. It is our job as music teachers to explain to our students, in whatever terms they will understand, that in our studios they are learning to be keepers of hope and beauty. This makes them/us instrumental in the most important intervention of our age. Some will value what they/we do. Many will not. We must.

Happy Fall!

- David House

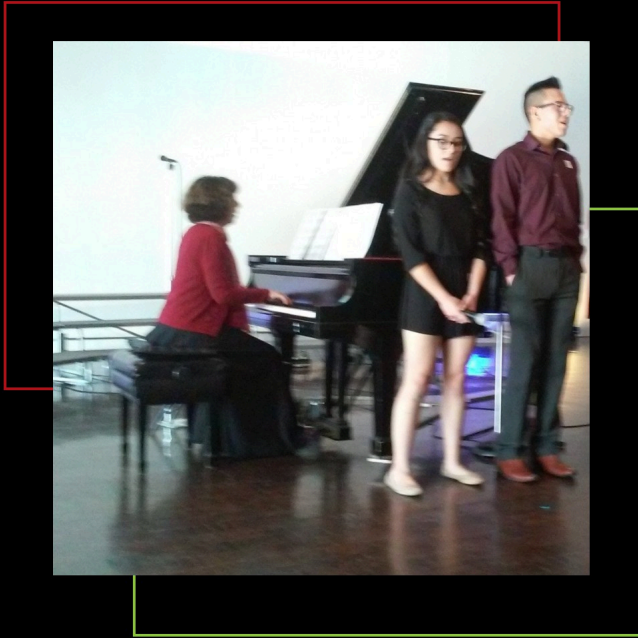
# Upbeat Colorado and Metro Caring present a Free Community Concert

*Upbeat Colorado, a Denver based non profit, will be offering a free and open to the public community concert, made possible in part by a Community Engagement grant from the Music Teachers National Association, and in partnership with Metro Caring.*

The program will feature Denver area music students and professional guest artists, in performances of Mariachi, tap dance, and percussion.

Metro Caring will be serving a free community meal starting at 1:15pm, to enjoy during the concert.

To sign up for the meal:



When: Saturday, October 16th, 2021 at 2 pm.

Where: Metro Caring, 1100 East 18th Avenue, Denver 80218 - in their outdoor parking lot.

Masks are required and will also be provided as needed.

Seating will be provided. However, we encourage you to bring your own folding chair if at all convenient!

Learn more about Upbeat Colorado and Metro Caring at [www.upbeatcolorado.org](http://www.upbeatcolorado.org) and [www.metrocaring.org](http://www.metrocaring.org)



Upbeat Colorado  
MUSIC ELEVATES

# FESTIVAL FOR CREATIVE PIANISTS – 2022

*Submitted by Evelyn Billberg*



During this challenging past year it has been difficult to hold Festivals, Summer Camps and Special Events. This past year we developed the Festival for Creative Pianist as an on-line, interactive learning experience. We were delighted to have students join the festival from across the US: California to North Carolina. We enjoyed participation from Canada, Australia and Russia.

With the experience of this past festival we have enhanced the offerings and are excited to announce that the Festival will run from January 2022 to December 2022. Introductory Festival activities will be available to early registrants in October. The initial Open Learning activity will be “Getting Started.” This interactive module will introduce the students to how the festival modules will be presented and how to interact with the Teaching Artists. The second module will be “Developing Your Creativity” and will be available the end of November. Early modules are available to help students understand how the Festival is set up in OpenLearning.

Students and teachers are invited to go into our Abundant Silence registration which is now available at: <https://www.abundantsilence.org/festival-enrollment-information.html>.

The fee for this exciting year-long Festival will be \$500. When the application is completed the registration system will send the applicant a Payment Invoice. Payments may be set up monthly, quarterly or a lump sum.

Abundant Silence is setting up a Scholarship Fund for students who need assistance in paying the fee. The scholarship application form is available at: <https://www.abundantsilence.org/festival-scholarship-application.html>. With an enrollment fee of \$500 the scholarships are up to \$400 (the request form indicates \$100, \$250, or \$400). Applications will be reviewed by an Abundant Silence Committee. Scholarships up to \$400 will be awarded to students whose applications are approved.

Teachers are invited to engage with students in this dynamic on-line learning experience. If there are any questions contact:

Evelyn Billberg, Program Director

Festival for Creative Pianists, Abundant Silence Sponsor

“Evelyn Billberg” <[ev.billberg@gmail.com](mailto:ev.billberg@gmail.com)>

Tel: (303) 629-9209

More festival info: <https://www.abundantsilence.org/festival-homepage.html>

# Wild Beautiful Orchestra

presents a **Youth Showcase**

*Submitted by Nazila Nekooraad  
and Kristen Celusniak*

Do you have a student who would LOVE to perform on a big concert, backed by an orchestra? We would love to hear them! The WBO is a new chamber orchestra with a mission to perform the most exciting music from all genres, show up in new places, and forge lasting connections with new audiences. In a spirit of collaboration, we are putting the Denver area's young talent FRONT AND CENTER.

At the concert, each young musician will sing or play a short solo accompanied by the orchestra. All the young musicians will join the orchestra for two full group numbers: Stevie Wonder's "Sir Duke" and the theme from *The Mandalorian*.

Vocalists and instrumentalists age 5-18 are invited to audition. Orchestral and non-orchestral instruments are welcome, except that **we can't include pianists** (sorry!). The audition fee is \$15; scholarships are available upon request. The judges will select performers in different age categories based on musicianship, creativity, and stage presence.

Musicians should audition with the same song/piece that they would like to perform at the concert. **Vocalists:** choose from recent musicals, Disney shows, arias or artsongs (no pop/rock songs, please). **Instrumentalists:** pieces for solo instrument with any type of accompaniment. Each piece on the concert will be 2-6 minutes long; excerpts from larger works are acceptable. The WBO staff will purchase or write orchestral arrangements for each piece on the concert.

To audition: first, email [wbo.showcase@gmail.com](mailto:wbo.showcase@gmail.com) to ask for more details. We will send you the info about how to sign up, how to pay the audition fee, and where to upload your sheet music for our accompanist at the auditions.

**Nov 1:** Deadline to sign up for an audition time.

**Nov. 12 and Nov. 14:** Auditions at St. Philip Lutheran Church, 7531 S. Kendall Blvd, Littleton CO 80128. Live accompanist will be provided!

**Jan. 9:** Dress Rehearsal (required), 2-4pm at St. Philip.

**Jan. 16:** Concert, 2-4pm at St. Philip. The event will be free, with donations appreciated.

We look forward to collaborating with these bright young musicians!

**YOUTH SHOWCASE**

Vocalists and Instrumentalists age 5-18

Selected musicians will sing or play a solo accompanied by the Wild Beautiful Orchestra on a concert Jan 16th, 2022!

1) Email [wbo.showcase@gmail.com](mailto:wbo.showcase@gmail.com) for full details.  
Any instrument is welcome except the piano; sorry!

2) Send in your \$15 application fee; some scholarships are available.

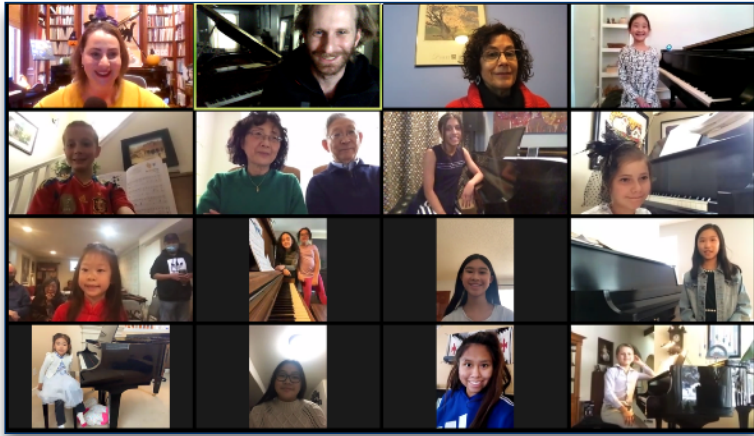
3) Sign up for your audition time slot!

**Auditions: Friday Nov 12th & Sunday Nov 14th, 2021**  
at St. Philip Lutheran Church, 7531 S. Kendall Blvd, Littleton 80128

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK:  
**WILD BEAUTIFUL ORCHESTRA**

~Chappell Kingsland, Executive Director of the Wild Beautiful Orchestra





# Virtual Musicales 2021-22

Because our musicales include so many young people who do not yet have the opportunity to get vaccinated, the board has decided to keep musicales online at least for the rest of 2021. We are hoping it will make sense to return to Classic Pianos for musicales beginning in February of 2022.

## Guidelines

- \* 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 performance creativity can be encouraged; this can include staging, family members joining in the performance, or whatever the students come up with!

## Save these dates!

October 24 at 2:00

November 14 at 2:00

December 12 at 2:00

February 13 at 2:00

March 13 at 2:00

April 10 at 2:00

May 15 at 2:00

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

October Host: Nazila Nekoerad [nekooradnazila@gmail.com](mailto:nekooradnazila@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](mailto:missmeganpiano@gmail.com).



Proceeds from Musicales fund the DAMTA Scholarship Fund. To help support families through Covid-19, we are currently not charging for participation. However, we do appreciate donations from families, and have added this QR Code to our Musicales template.



Continued from page 3



Judy visited my home in Denver, September 2019.

Years later in September, 2019, I had been on a quest to get Judy to visit my home in Denver. We finally found a date that worked, and I picked up Judy in Boulder and brought her over. I was preparing to record the first half of my next album just a month later at Denver University. How perfect! I could perform for Judy to prepare, just like when I was a kid. Before festivals and performances, Judy would take me upstairs to practice on her beautiful Mason & Hamlin grand piano and I would receive her final critique. I really cherished Judy's visit that day, thinking as I performed about how far I'd come since my first piano lesson at ten years old. I'm not sure who enjoyed this experience more, Judy or myself.

After years of hard work, I was ready to share my album entitled *Birds of a Feather*. In October, 2019, I launched a Kickstarter to raise the production costs for my project, and Judy and her daughter Jen purchased the top tier: 2 tickets to my Premiere Show, scheduled for May of 2020! Alas, only months before my Premiere, we all had to come to terms with a startling reality: a very dangerous virus, Covid-19, was traveling across the world, and all of our theaters would be shut down indefinitely. While I hoped to postpone my show, I ultimately canceled it and instead spent the entirety of the following year transitioning my Premiere Show into a Premiere Film. Unfortunately, by the time I released my *Birds of a Feather* Film, Judy had passed away and was not able to enjoy this momentous musical achievement in my life.

October 16th will be especially meaningful for me. Not only will I play to honor Judy's life, but also to perform for her like I would've been able to had my Premiere Show gone as planned a year ago. I know Judy will be looking down shining her love, maybe even tapping her toes.

On October 14th, my birthday, the audio of my album *Birds of a Feather* will become available on all streaming platforms. I hope you will take a moment to join me in honoring Judy's life and listen to *Solace*, track 8, of my album.

As we say in Judaism,  
"May Judy's memory be for a blessing."

*Ben Raznick*

Ben Raznick  
DAMTA President



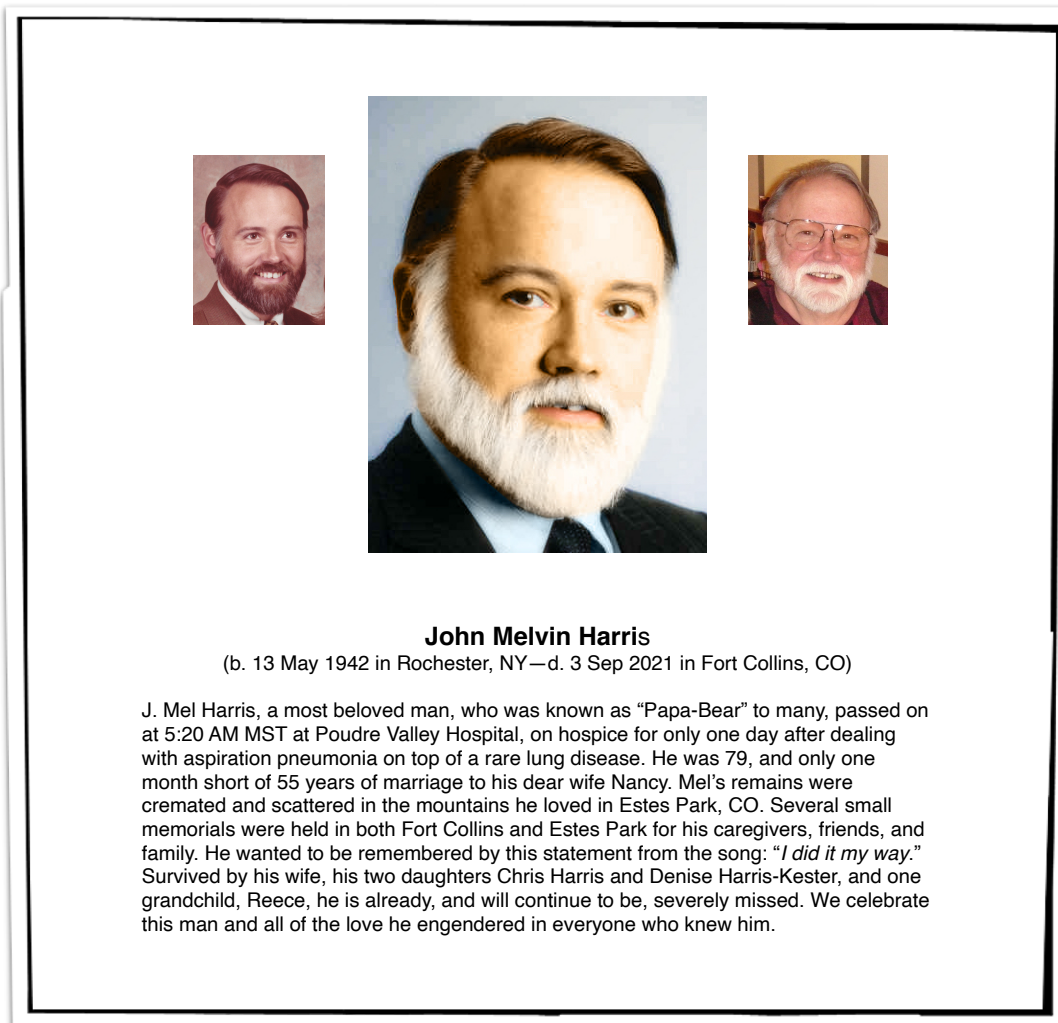
*Birds of a Feather* will be available on all streaming platforms on October 14th. I will be performing *Solace*, track 8, for Judy's Memorial Service on October 16th.

# IN MEMORIAM

In early September, long-time DAMTA member, Nancy Harris, lost her husband of fifty five years, John Harris, known affectionally to many as Papa-Bear. He was, among many things, renowned for giving great hugs.

Nancy would like to thank DAMTA for sending her a lovely Colorado wild flower arrangement. Nancy says, "They were much appreciated!"

We offer Nancy our deepest condolences, and the heartfelt wish that music continue.



If you would like to contribute to the funds from which we drew for the gift of flowers, you may donate by scanning this QR Code:



## Our Generous Sponsors!



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<https://www.flesherhinton.com>

## 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 DAMTA members have access. The default option is to receive emails as they come in. You can 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>