

**A few  
highlights  
this month:**



**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**  
"SPREAD JOY"



**DAMTA FALL COURSE**  
ENGAGING WITH  
TECHNOLOGY



**STUDENT MUSICALE**  
SEPTEMBER 20TH



# LYRICS

## DAMTA President's Message September 2020

Ah, the joys of teaching music. Sitting in a recital while your star student performs flawlessly with perfect dynamics and articulation. The audience is enthralled and at the end erupts into thunderous... (this is where the sound effect of a record player arm being dragged out of its groove comes in!)

Let's face it. The above scene is rare, if it ever happens. Most of the time you're sitting in a lesson wondering how long it will be before Suzy finally can tell a D from an E or hearing how no practice this week because \_\_\_\_\_. That's because learning isn't a destination. It's a journey.

I want to talk a little today about enjoying the ride. Sometimes it can seem like an uphill battle. So many things compete for kids' time and attention that it can seem finding time for piano is last on the list. Kids show up for lessons unprepared and you wonder if some kids will ever "get it". But I have realized that there are many things that I cannot control. All I can do is provide a welcoming atmosphere in the lesson and push where I can for more skill and musicality. Sometimes it works. Sometimes it doesn't.

But there's always a kid (or adult) in front of you. And I think there's always a way to have a bit of fun with them. Make a joke. Say something ridiculous. Ask something ridiculous! Seriousness is way over-rated! Along the way, keep trying to make those light bulbs go off as often as you can. But the switch to those bulbs are not in your hands. All you can do is try to keep the power on!

We teach music! We are some of the fortunate few who make a living from an art form we love. So spread the joy to your students and their families. Every one of your students has some quality that is just wonderful. Seek it out and bask in it!

# 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/>

or by sending a check made out to DAMTA to:

Allyson Koplen/ DAMTA Treasurer

2719 W 32nd Ave

Denver, CO 80211

**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 dates!**

September 20 at 2:00

October 11 at 2:00 (featuring Hispanic Heritage)

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 first musicale is coming right up on September 20, and will be hosted by Allyson Koplen. Please contact her at [allysonkoplen@gmail.com](mailto:allysonkoplen@gmail.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). More details to come in the yearbook!

**Amended DAMTA Bylaw to Add 5th VP**

**DAMTA Board has approved this amendment on 7/29/2020.**

**Amendment submitted in writing 9/1/20. Will be read at Membership Meeting 9/9/20.**

**Membership Vote on 10/14/20.**

**Grey Highlight & Blue Text = amended section**

**Article V – LEADERSHIP**

**Section 6: Elected Officers**

The following elected officers are voting members of the Board of Directors, the Executive Committee and any committees they are responsible for:

- President
- 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice-President
- 4<sup>th</sup> Vice-President
- **5th Vice-President**
- Secretary
- Treasurer

**Article VI – DUTIES and COMMITTEES**

**Section 6**

**5<sup>th</sup> VP's Duties & Committees**

- 1. Promotion of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion - committed to promote the appreciation of diversity, equity and inclusion in DAMTA's study and performance of music.**
- 2. Increasing Awareness - As part of carrying out the programs and operations of DAMTA we will be mindful of the need to increase diversity, equity and inclusion.**

**Article VIII – ELECTIONS**

**Section 4:** Elections will be held at the March meeting in this manner:

Each position will be voted on separately in the following order:

- President
- 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President
- 4<sup>th</sup> Vice President
- **5th Vice-President**
- Secretary
- Treasurer

**Festival For Creative Pianists**

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Lifelong Learner (age 20 +)

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**CONTACT**

**Evelyn Billberg**, Program Director

Ev.billberg@gmail.com

**(303) 629-9209**

**DONATIONS NEEDED!**

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

**Brought to you by Elaine Geringer**

**A 92-Year-Old Piano Teacher Won't Let Students Miss Bach in the Pandemic**

Cornelia Vertenstein, a Holocaust survivor, is still teaching piano lessons over FaceTime from her Denver home.



**Brought to you by Deborah De La Torre**

**The Historical Legacy of Juneteenth**

Commemoration of the ending of slavery in the US



**Brought to you by Nancy Harris**

**National Association of Teachers of Singing**

Register for Replay of Virtual Conference



# Last Year At This Time

A memory from this same newsletter last year... before COVID-19



## DAMTA and SSMTA Presidents Party!

A beautiful evening of celebration at the Buell Mansion

**DAMTA presidents and years, front row L-R:**

Ruth O'Neal (1983-1985), Kathy Van Arsdale (SSMTA 1991-1992), Nancy Harris (2004-2006), Patricia Parraguez-Chen (1996-1999), Nazila Nekoerad (SSMTA 2019-2021), Vince Madison (2013-Present), Kristen Jordheim (2008-2011), Ann Markey (2006-2008), Valerie Mishek (1999-2002), Shana Kirk (2002-2004), Jan Spitzer (1987-1989)

**Additional presidents and years, back row L-R:**

Uri Ayn Rovner (President Elect CSMTA), Sheila Hamaker (SSMTA 2005-2006), Dr. Justin Krawitz (VP CSMTA)



Special thanks to **Patricia Parraguez-Chen** for conceiving this celebration idea, and **Nazila Nekoerad** for planning this potluck event. Everyone had a wonderful time in great company at the Buell Mansion!

## Online DAMTA Directory

### **DAMTA's directory for members**

Access by logging into members area of [damta.org](http://damta.org)

Click "Directory" on the Members only menu.

If you're already logged in, also access via this link:

<https://denvermusicteacher.com/membership-login/directory/>

If you want your photo in your listing, email a picture to Vince to upload. [mail@vincemadison.com](mailto:mail@vincemadison.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 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.