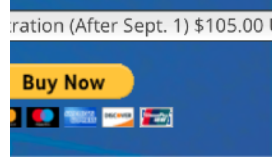


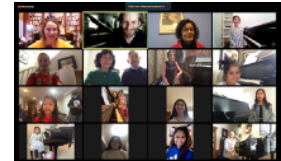
A few highlights this month:



SUMMER BOARD MEETING - UNITED!
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



FALL COURSE - REGISTER NOW
PLEASE JOIN US!



SEPTEMBER 19TH VIRTUAL MUSICALE



LYRICS

Register Now at damta.org!

All Events Will Be Held In-Person & Virtually over Zoom

Wednesdays from 10:30am-11:30am. Q&A until noon.

More information on last page.

Fall Course 2021 - DAMTA Presents Meet Your Neighbors: Conversations with Local Artists



September 8th - Grace Christus



Chinese Music Past and Present

Description: Grace Christus will be exploring an overview of Chinese music from ancient dynasties to the present blossoming of composers and genres. A look and listen to some of the distinctive instruments that color the Chinese classical orchestra as well as the influence of Western music on the direction of modern day Chinese genres. In addition, she will cover some of the many current publications available to music teachers who wish to explore the music of this ever-evolving and enigmatic nation.

Bio: Daughter of Chinese immigrants, Grace Christus has degrees in Piano Performance from the George Peabody College for Teachers in Nashville, TN, the Juilliard School and the Manhattan School of Music in NY. She has been teaching piano privately at Calliope Music Studios and from her home in Aurora, CO since 1990. As a composer, she has written music at many levels for piano, voice, and choir. For the last 10 years, she has taken delight in arranging folk songs from all over the world for piano and shares them on her Facebook page "Sign Me a Song of Your People". They can also be purchased at sheetmusicplus.com/Gracechristus. On May 30 she was featured as a participant on the webinar of "Sing For Your Life" discussing the difference between cultural appreciation and cultural appropriation.

September 22nd - Joslyn Ford Keel



JoFoKe Presents

Bio: JoFoKe is a multi-genre singer-songwriter with Grammy nominations and a Dove Award win to her name as a contributing vocalist. A Denver native, she earned her Bachelor's of Arts in Music: Technical Voice from Fisk University,

a historically Black college in Music City USA: Nashville, TN. JoFoKe (pron: Joh-Foh-Kee) can be found performing as a solo artist, with her band "aNem (and them)" and duo project with Solomon Chapman, "Same Cloth". In addition to the aforementioned projects, JoFoKe is a highly sought after session vocalist, writer, vocal producer, director, clinician and performer.

When performing, JoFoKe uses her platform to advocate for suicide prevention and to #RemoveTheStigma attached to mental illness. A mental illness battler and suicide attempt survivor herself, she proclaims that, every time she lifts her voice, she is singing for her life! Her forthcoming debut single, "Count (Joy)" has become an anthem for audience members. As a result, she and her sister, Stacie Alexander founded the 'Count Joy Network'. CJN works to raise awareness about mental health issues and connect and expand access to treatment primarily in the Black community. JoFoKe and her network are committed to connecting each fighter to the resources they need to live, love, fight & count joy FOR THEIR LIVES.

Page 1

Fall Course 2021

Page 2

Photos by Lan Vo

Page 3

President's Message

Page 4

Editor's Note

Page 5

DEI News

Page 6

William Chapman Nyaho,
MTNA's First VP of DEI

Page 7

Virtual Musicale

Page 8

Covid-19 Guidelines: "The
DPS5"

Page 11

Sponsors
Member Information

Save These Dates:

September 8

9:30-10:15 a.m. - Business
Meeting

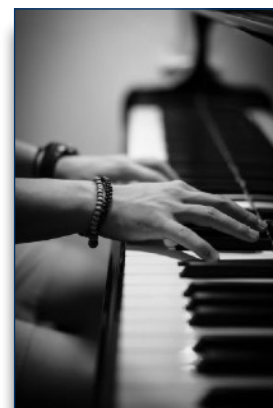
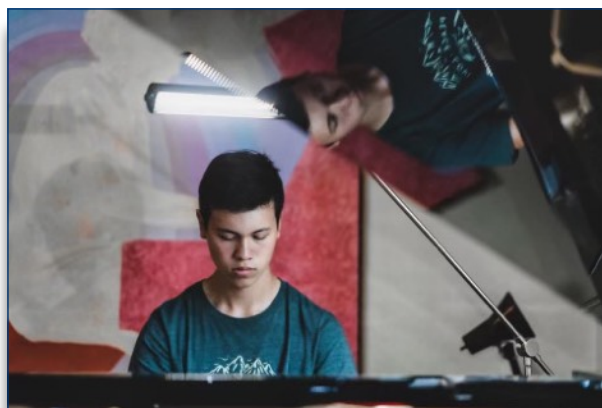
10:30-12:00 a.m. - Fall Course
with Grace Christus: "Chinese
Music Past and Present"

September 19

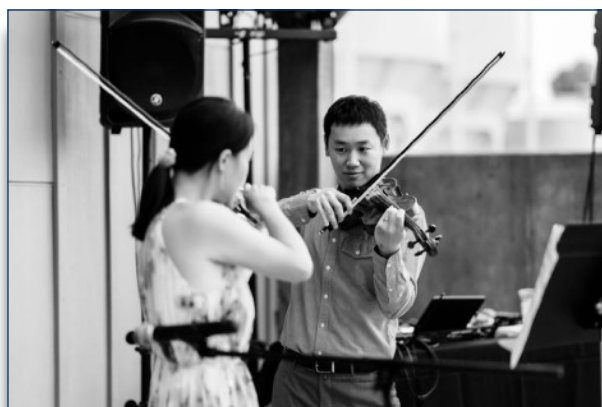
2:00 p.m. - Virtual Musicale

September 22

9:30-10:15 a.m. - Board Meeting
10:30-12:00 a.m. - Fall Course
with Joslyn Ford Keel: "JoFoKe
Presents"



Lan Vo is a local
photographer dedicated to
serving musicians, music
teachers, artists, and
people working in the arts.
He has graciously offered
DAMTA access to his
collection of photos of
local musicians to use on
our website.



We look forward to
including his photos on
damta.org soon. He
welcomes inquiries from
DAMTA members and
students.

<http://www.lanvophotography.com>

2021/2022 Board Members:

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Ben Raznick | President |
| Marilyn Madsen | Vice President (Programs) |
| David House | Vice President (Newsletter) |
| Sonia Clark | Vice President (Membership) |
| Megan Koegel | Vice President (Student Musicales) |
| Deborah De La Torre | Vice President (Diversity Equity & Inclusion) |
| Nazila Nekoerad | Secretary |
| Carolyn Angelier | Treasurer |
| Kristin Jordheim | Parliamentarian |
| Jan Romero | Historian |
| Vince Madison | Past President |

Newsletter Submissions

- Submit all flyers, announcements, or news items as an email attachment to our editor, David House, at 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,

I'm honored to step into the role as your President. Thank you all for your support during this transition and I'm so thrilled to share this chapter of our journey together!

Before I begin, a few enormous Thank Yous:

I first would like to thank Vince Madison for his 8 years of service as President, and am appreciative that he will remain on the Board as our Past President and continue to lead us forward as the developer and manager of our website, www.DAMTA.org. Vince Madison, Kristin Jordheim, Shana Kirk and myself are also now heading a Technology Committee, a much needed group to discuss and address all topics related to technology (and truthfully, what isn't tech-related anymore!?)

Next I would like to thank all of our Board Members, past and present. We are an Association founded in 1942! To think our Board Members have been leading our teaching community with loyalty and dedication for coming on 80 years makes the honor to serve as President that much greater. At our final Business Meeting of our 2020/21 school year, our Board honored Vince Madison and Evelyn Billberg with a Service Award for their 8 years in leadership, and in that moment I began to understand deeper the value of all of our time and energy invested in DAMTA, carrying forward a legacy of passionate music education in our community, and guiding our members towards achieving this successfully as a livelihood.



Vince Madison



Evelyn Billberg

And that leads me to my final thank you. Thank YOU reader and DAMTA member for contributing, educating, and entrusting our Board to lead you in your music teaching endeavors. Our organization would not be in existence without our devoted membership and your hard work developing each new generation of students. We all know that music has profound effects on our lives well beyond playing an instrument. It is unlikely that you will ever find out every impact you have on your students lives- and I ensure you, they are plentiful and your hard work is valued by our community!



Continued on page 9

Editor's Note

Two weeks ago my student Clayton had his final lesson before beginning collage. He'll be studying film at C.U. Denver. He wants to be a director. Aronofsky, Tarantino, and Kubrick are his heroes. He's a tall, shy young man, as passionate with a tennis racket as with a Brahms Rhapsody. One of the pleasures of teaching him has been watching him surprise himself almost weekly. I hope he'll keep the taste for such surprises. They show no sign of slackening. He loves the piano and plans to continue taking lessons, but the new demands on his time and energy will dictate the feasibility of that.

This week my student Emily will have her final lesson before commencing a European gap year. Her first stop, Madrid. She has a keen interest in art history and restoration, making the call of the Old World a veritable siren song. For her, it was either find a room with a view in Europe or jump into an environmental studies program with an emphasis in international relations at Whitman College in Washington. A difficult choice even without factoring in the vicissitudes of a pandemic. But it's a choice she's now made. I could have told her what it would be, knowing her as I do.

I've taught Clayton and Emily since their feet could barely reach the phone books I'd stack in front of the piano pedals. I wrote out their first pieces in big bubble letters on colored construction paper. Today they're in musical conversation with Mozart, Rachmaninoff, Debussy, Bach, Ginastera.

But there is so much, too much, that I haven't gotten to with them yet. We've not adequately covered scales in thirds and sixths. They've done very little improvisation. They need more ensemble playing experience, and, I realize only now, I've done precious little to expose them to female and minority composers. As they depart, I can't help wondering if I've been wise enough, astute enough, humble enough, to help them transcend my own limitations as a pianist and musician; nothing so disconcerts as seeing one's own weaknesses manifest in one's students. I wish I could teach them for just one more year.

Emily and Clayton are now discovering that beginnings entail endings. As am I. Supposedly I already knew that, but it turns out to be one of life's favorite lessons and I still come at it as a beginner. My studio is losing two cherished students, and I stand blinking at the gap they leave, not in my schedule, but in my days, like some essential item - a tree, an old rattan chair, a loved face - gone missing from a house replete with memories.

But endings always hold the door for beginnings. I'm entering a new phase as a teacher. My students, current and future, will have a teacher who is better at what he does for having taught Emily and Clayton. I wish they could now have the teacher that teaching them has helped me become.

Just one more year. Is that too much to ask?

Perhaps it has been preparing to say goodbye to these two students, perhaps it is the pandemic, or the unrest in the world, perhaps it is watching my husband begin an exciting new career, or my parents grow older, or myself grow older, but something in me is craving beginnings. In 2018 I joined CSMTA. Re-joined, rather, after a decades-long hiatus. I tend to be wary of joining things. My usual way is to go it on my own. But working as a private piano teacher can feel isolating and I found I wanted the support of an organization purporting to know the business. I decided to take a chance on it. The choice has born fruit; at the 2018 CSMTA convention I met Ben Raznick. I immediately perceived a vibrant man, forward-thinking, passionate about music and the teaching of it. Last Fall, as he was considering taking on the DAMTA presidency, he asked me if I would be interested in joining the board and assuming editorship of this newsletter. I was, as ever I am, reluctant. I've never been on a board. I didn't feel especially qualified. But mainly I was reluctant to acknowledge that my heart had already said yes the moment the words were out of his mouth. It was just the kind of beginning I'd been looking for.

It's September - for teachers, a month of beginnings. I hope each of you is able to give a blessing to your own Claytons and Emilys, and welcome all the beginnings awaiting you.

- David House



DAMTA's *Diversity, Equity & Inclusion* Committee News

Reflections on Moving Forward

DAMTA's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) committee approached the summer of 2021 with great hope and energy as we all looked forward to some much needed rest and recreation. Without a doubt, the increase in vaccinations through the spring and into summer led so many of us to believe that the pandemic would finally cease its heavy devastation from earlier in the year. Most of our committee members were able to attend our new Board President's Strategic Planning Meeting, which Ben Raznick so graciously hosted at his home. Over a delicious brunch followed by a large home-cooked feast, we greatly enjoyed spending a beautiful time together in person once again, reflecting and visioning for the coming year.

Now as the summer draws to a close and we approach a new school year, we are facing challenges to the plans we so enthusiastically envisioned. Due to the emerging Delta variant strain of Covid-19 many people have been falling ill and uncertainty is once again impacting our schools. It will be important to adapt and be flexible, to be nimble and yet mindful of the importance of self care as we take care of our family, friends, colleagues and loved ones.


Self care also pertains to our work, so it will be good to reflect on what we have accomplished thus far. Our beautiful upcoming Fall Course featuring our gifted and talented musical neighbors is sure to bring great joy, cultural knowledge, recognition of histories, and opportunities to reimagine how and what we have been teaching in our studios. It will be important to reflect upon the reasons this year's Fall Course came into being, and to reflect on what it means to "do DAMTA" with equity and justice. How has doing this work impacted us? How has our work impacted you, the reader? Let's all take some quality time to ponder and discuss these things, particularly as we seek and strive toward justice and equity in our studios and in our communities.

Sincerely,
Deborah De La Torre
Vice President, DEI
DAMTA

William Chapman Nyaho Becomes First Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion


The Denver Area Music Teacher's Association (DAMTA) sends its formal greeting, congratulations and recognition of the distinguished **William Chapman Nyaho**, in his new role as MTNA's Vice President of Diversity Equity and Inclusion. Professor Nyaho's role will be to serve on the MTNA Board of Directors as a key member of MTNA leadership. DAMTA is proud of MTNA taking this step of culturally responsive action. Please take a moment to visit Professor Nyaho's website to learn more about his accomplishments: <https://www.nyaho.com>--

Here is the official MTNA announcement:



Music Teachers National Association Announces Vice President of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

MTNA announces the appointment of **William Chapman Nyaho** as its first *Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion*. In this newly created position, Chapman Nyaho will serve on the MTNA Board of Directors as a key member of the MTNA leadership. He will also chair a newly created *MTNA Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee*, which is charged with advocating the values of diversity, equity and inclusion throughout the entire association—national, state and local.

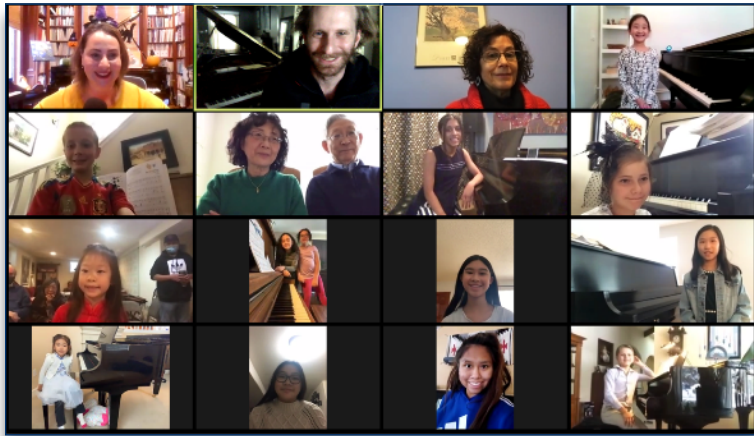


"I am absolutely delighted, honored and humbled to be taking on this important position of Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion," said Chapman Nyaho. "MTNA is a dynamic organization committed to diversifying its membership and creating more equitable opportunities for diverse groups involved in teaching and performing music." He added, "It is my sincere hope that I can help steer us towards realizing this vision where we can have great discoveries, be inquisitive, be open minded, have arms wide open to celebrate, validate our peers at all levels of the organization and be a great role model to the world of music."

MTNA President Karen Thickstun welcomed Chapman Nyaho: "I am thrilled that Chapman Nyaho is joining the MTNA leadership team. I look forward to the insight, wisdom and grace that I know he will bring to this new role as MTNA continues to broaden and deepen its commitment to a more musical tomorrow— for *all* students, teachers and communities."

Executive Director & CEO Gary Ingle noted, "The Board of Directors is to be commended for taking this culturally responsive action, granted to it by the MTNA Bylaws, to achieve greater diversity in MTNA's governance structure. Chapman Nyaho is the perfect choice for this position, as he is a long-time member of MTNA, a devoted leader and advocate, and a highly-regarded music teacher and scholar. I am confident he will establish this new position as one that is indispensable to MTNA and its future."

The appointment of Chapman Nyaho is effective immediately and will continue through the 2023 MTNA National Conference in Reno, Nevada.



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.

Guidlines

- * 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!

September 19 at 2:00

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.

September Host: Valerie Mishek mishekconcerts@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.

Moving Forward In A Time of Covid-19

Denver Public Schools has released a five-point list for Covid-19 health and safety guidance. The suggestions are good, and merit consideration as we plan for the health and well being of our studios in the coming months.



THE DPS 5: I PROTECT YOU; YOU PROTECT ME

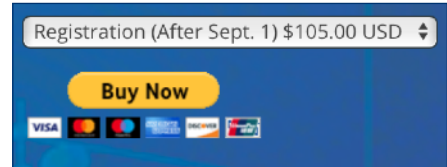
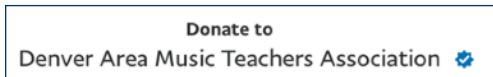
Updated Health and Safety Guidance for Educators

- 1 SELF-MONITOR FOR SYMPTOMS OF ILLNESS.**
Please stay home if you're sick. COVID tests are still recommended, even if you're vaccinated.
- 2 WEAR A MASK.**
Masks are required for students, staff and visitors while in all DPS schools and buildings, regardless of vaccination status.
- 3 MAINTAIN PHYSICAL DISTANCE WHEN POSSIBLE.**
Keep additional space between you and others when you can.
- 4 BE THOUGHTFUL WHEN PLANNING MEETINGS.**
Continue to leverage opportunities to meet virtually as it makes sense. Masks are required for everyone, regardless of vaccination status, for all in-person meetings
- 5 PRACTICE GOOD HYGIENE.**
Cover coughs and sneezes, and avoid touching your face. Wash your hands or use hand sanitizer.

Continued from page 3

So, what have we been up to?! Let’s begin with our Fall Course, “Get To Know Your Neighbors: Conversations With Local Artists,” beginning September 7th. Prior to announcing this outstanding line up, a small group of our Board worked together in a Fall Course Strategic Planning Session. This allowed us to dive into deep conversation about how our Fall Course serves our community, and how can we ensure our presentations are diverse and inclusive to represent the growing city we live in. The result of these discussions is our 2021 brochure, and I urge you to join us and support our presenters with your attendance, either in person at Classic Pianos, or online as we host the event simultaneously via Zoom. **Register now here!**

DAMTA was also just recently approved by PayPal as a blue check verified non-profit, which means when you purchase our Fall Course, even more of your money comes directly to us due to smaller transaction fees.



Over the summer I hosted my first Board Meeting as President, welcoming the Board to my home. Here I presented my President’s Vision, encompassed by these five words:

- Intentional**
- Efficient**
- Relevant**
- Collaborative**
- Energized**



Our Board enjoyed an outdoor meeting, and did a color dot group activity to demonstrate our roles and working together.



I look forward to sharing my motivation and determination behind these five words in my upcoming President’s Messages and how they apply to the work we are doing in DAMTA.

I would like to introduce you to our 2021/22 slate of Board Members: **Ben, Carolyn, David, Deborah, Jan, Kristin, Marilyn, Megan, Nazila, Sonya, Vince.** Please see page 2 of this newsletter for their full names and positions.

Among this group are four new names! Carolyn as our Treasurer has already begun the hefty project of digitizing our records. Carolyn has also setup Zelle through our bank, began the development of our online storage system and built a Finance Committee to navigate our budget. Sonya as our Membership Vice President has already developed a new Welcome Letter for incoming members, reached out to our Sponsors and is developing our 2021/22 Yearbook. Sonya is also the bright mind behind our fancy new QR Code! David House joins our team as the Vice President editor of our Lyrics Newsletter, and as you can see how beautiful this September edition looks, he is going to be a fantastic editor, as I proudly mentor him myself to take over this position that Betsy Johnson handed over to me three years ago. Last but not least, one of our most knowledgeable DAMTA members, Jan Romero, has taken on the role of Historian. Jan and I look forward to hosting a field trip to the Denver Public Library to immerse ourselves in our own archives, to better understand the origins and history of DAMTA over all these years.

What is a QR Code?

A QR Code is a machine-scannable image that can instantly be read using a Smartphone camera. Every QR code consists of a number of black squares and dots which represent certain pieces of information. Point your camera at this QR Code, and tap the pop-up notification!



Megan has already organized our entire year of Musicales, a great opportunity for our students to unite and listen to the varying levels and styles of music performance, as well as share these moments with fellow members and celebrate their students’ successes. Megan is now on a search for our members to host each Musicale, and I hope you will consider signing up, as I can attest from personal experience, it sure is a lot of fun, and a great way to hear new pieces to introduce to your students!

In just one year of our Board building out a new DEI Vice President position in response to the Black Lives Matter movement, Deborah De La Torre began leading DAMTA in this role and developed a DEI Committee, which became a working group that reads and discusses relevant articles. The Committee met weekly and then delivered important content at our monthly DAMTA DEI Coffee Conversation. Also, after attending MTNA’s 2021 Virtual Conference, I got in touch with presenters from Ann Arbor Piano Teachers Guild Anti-Racism Taskforce. Our DEI Committee had the pleasure to meet over Zoom with this Taskforce to unite in conversation with shared experiences toward deeper discussions, and we hope to make connections with more groups and individuals about this important work.

Typically you will find out much of this information in our Business Meetings, but I’m so proud of all of the work we’ve already been doing, that I couldn’t help but share these items in my first message. While I would love to share so much more, I hope instead you’ll return to read my next message in our October Lyrics and until then, stay engaged in our association by attending our monthly Business Meetings and Fall Course. We look forward to seeing you!

Have a fantastic start to 2021/22, DAMTA!

Ben Raznick
Ben Raznick, President

Our Generous Sponsors!



WOODS & SON PIANO COMPANY



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>