

A few highlights this month:



**BLACK HISTORY MONTH
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
AND DEI COMMITTEE**



**FESTIVAL FOR
CREATIVE PIANISTS
GET THE DETAILS!**



**CSMTA DISASTER
RELIEF FUND
HOW YOU CAN HELP**



LYRICS

All Events Will Be Held Virtually over Zoom and In-Person When Possible.

2nd Wednesday of the Month:
Business Meeting 9:30am-10:30am
Spring Program 10:30am-11:30am.
Q&A until noon.



Spring Programs 2022

February 9th - Sonya Clark & Katrina Hedrick

Building Student Artistry Through Culturally Responsive Teaching

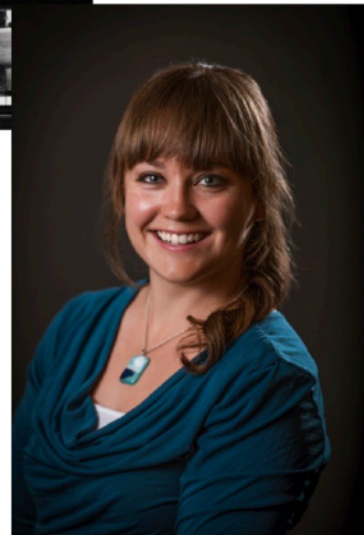
Description: Help cultivate a lifelong passion of artistry in your students by exploring the ways you are already a culturally responsive music teacher, and walk away with some ideas to authentically build onto your own teaching artistry.

Bio: Sonya Clark holds an M.M. in Piano Performance/Pedagogy from UW-Madison, and received her B.A. in Piano Performance, Cum Laude, from Fort Lewis College in Durango, CO. She also studied at Mesa State College during her undergraduate work. During her collegiate study she was an active member of MTNA, participated in international study, and helped manage a non-profit arts school.

She has taught in many different settings, including continuing education, RMM, collegiate, early childhood, and those aged K-12. The specific needs for each community has allowed her ample opportunity to practice culturally responsive teaching, putting the needs of the students and community first. She runs Vine Music Studios in Denver and is on faculty at Front Range Community College.

Katrina Hedrick is in her fourth year at Bruce Randolph Schools in Denver, Colorado; currently teaching 6-12 vocal and instrumental music. Her approach is centered in culturally responsive practices for secondary music education that integrates elemental pedagogy with ensemble rehearsal practices. Katrina has worked in 6-12 music programs in rural and urban Colorado communities for the past 10 years, and is an active music education clinician at the national, state, and regional level.

She holds her B.A. in Music Education and Percussion from Fort Lewis College and a Masters in Music Education from Colorado State University. Katrina earned her Orff Schulwerk certification from University of Nevada- Las Vegas, co-founded the Four Corners Chapter of the American Orff Schulwerk Association, and has continued to develop her education through Adams State University, The San Francisco International Orff Course, and Metro State University. You can contact her at knhedrick@gmail.com.



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Sponsors

Member Information

Save These Dates:

February 9

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

10:30-12:00 a.m. - Spring Program with Sonya Clark & Katrina Hedrick: "Building Student Artistry Through Culturally Responsive Teaching"

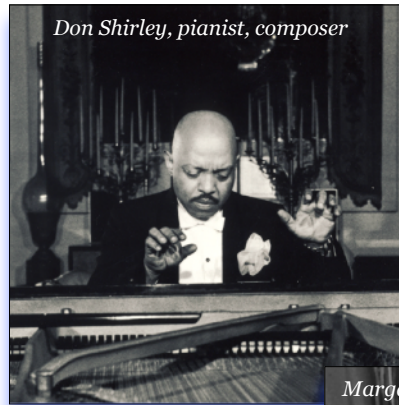
February 13

2:00 p.m. - Virtual Musicale

February 18

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

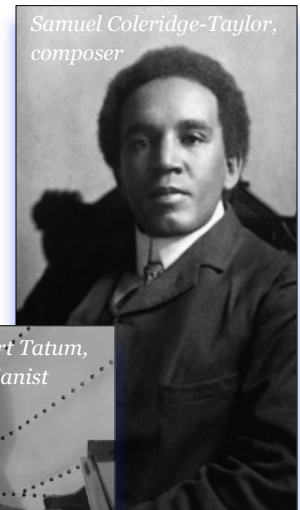
Celebrating
Black History Month



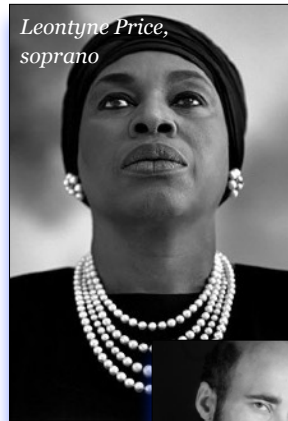
Don Shirley, pianist, composer



Margaret Bonds, composer, pianist



Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, composer



Leontyne Price, soprano



Art Tatum, pianist



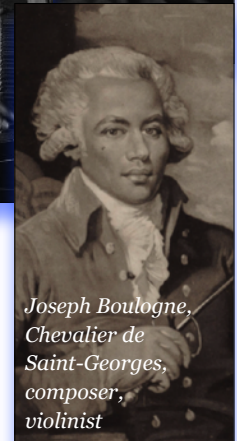
Gregory Walker, violinist



William Grant Still, composer



Nina Simone, singer, songwriter



Joseph Boulogne, Chevalier de Saint-Georges, composer, violinist

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)
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

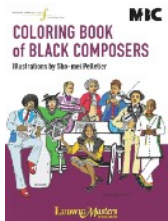
- Submit all flyers, announcements, or news items as an email attachment to our editor, David House, at davidhouse1@comcast.net no later than the 20th of each month. Please give emails the heading "Lyrics Submission".
- DAMTA issues the Lyrics Newsletter monthly from September through May, with a double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



President's Message

Dear DAMTA,

This February DAMTA is committed to celebrating Black History Month, an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing their central role in U.S. history.



Here are a few resources to work with your students:

- [MusicByBlackComposers.org](https://www.musicbyblackcomposers.org)
- [Coloring Book of Black Composers](#)
- [International Florence Price Festival](#)
- [Where Are All The Black Female Composers?](#)
- [Why Is My Piano Black And White?](#)



Rainbow by [SetArtDesigns](#)

For more ideas, I encourage you to visit these great resources:

- [2022 King Holiday Observance](#)
- [Black History Month](#)
- [Teaching Your Child About Black History](#)

Our student Musicales on Sunday, February 13th, 2pm, 2022 will be our 2nd annual celebration of Black History Month by welcoming students to perform compositions by Black composers and read aloud their biographies. As the host of this Musicales, I will be sharing history about the Black National Anthem “Lift Every Voice and Sing”, and Stevie Wonder’s tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in his song, “Happy Birthday.” This year, students and teachers will also be welcome to read literature, poems and share artwork. Suggested essay topics are “Why Is It Important To Continue Dr. King’s Legacy?” and “What Does Black History Month Mean To Me?” As space and time permit, we invite student contributions and creative expressions they have learned for Black History Month in school. While performances of Black composers are encouraged, students are welcome to perform any piece they have prepared in their repertoire.

Please submit names of students, pieces they’ll perform, and literature, poems and artwork submissions by Friday, February 11th to benraznickmusic@gmail.com

Ben Raznick
DAMTA President



Each year on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s birthday, a celebration “Marade” (which combines the word march+parade) takes place. The event begins at City Park and ends at Civic Center Park in downtown Denver with speeches and music. Learn more [here](#). I took this photo this year, January 17th, 2022.



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

Submitted by Deborah De La Torre

As many of you are aware, I am currently a Ph.D. student in Ethnomusicology at the University of Indiana in Bloomington, Indiana. This month I had the privilege to attend our campus-wide 2022 Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration, a series of events held over several days featuring music, lectures, workshops, community events and keynote speakers to commemorate Dr. King's Birthday, recognized nationally this year on Monday, January 17, 2022. This year's conference theme was "A Journey Toward True Education: Social Justice Conference 2022." I am very grateful to be able to continue learning and reflecting upon the history of Civil Rights in the U.S. I hope those of you at home in Denver were also able to participate in local celebrations!

What can a music teacher do to support diversity, equity and inclusion in their music studio? I invite you to do two things: 1) visit www.thekingcenter.org to learn more about Dr. King's important legacy; and 2) consider ways to incorporate and invest this knowledge into your community.

In other DEI news, Ben Raznick, our DAMTA President, was invited by Dr. Leah Claiborne, Director of Diversity and Inclusion at the Frances Clark Center (www.keyboardpedagogy.org/) to submit an article reflecting our DEI work. The following was delivered and is expected to be published in late Spring 2022.

DAMTA has launched efforts toward deeper understanding of the historic inequities within music teaching. We are taking ongoing action steps to increase awareness of DEI work in the study and performance of music, and in the operations and programming of our organization. In October, 2020 our board amended our bylaws to create a Vice President of DEI. We celebrated a membership vote that passed unanimously and appointed the position. We formed a DEI Committee to become a working group that seeks to respond to Dr. King's vision:

"The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically.
Intelligence plus character – that is the goal of true education."
-Martin Luther King, Jr.

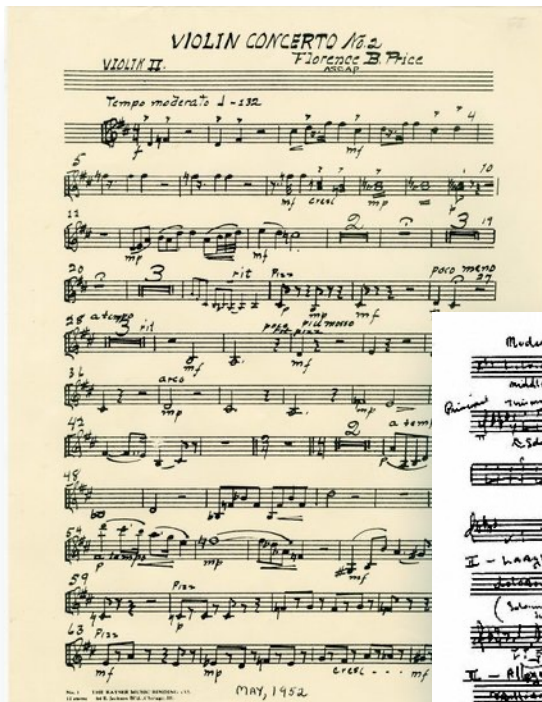
As we state in our DEI Committee Mission Statement: "...We are devoted to the development and implementation of strategies and best-practices that dismantle the oppression of Black, Indigenous, People of Color and historically marginalized communities through racism, cultural and ethnic erasure within all aspects of our music teaching profession in the greater Denver area and society at large." We enjoyed meeting with members of the Ann Arbor Piano Guild Anti-Racism 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.

This year, DAMTA's annual teachers course brought our community's diverse voices together in our [Fall Course 2021](#), "Meet Your Neighbors: Conversations With Local Artists." Presenters included topics such as "JoFoKe Presents", "Chinese Music Past and Present", "Music as a Symbol of Culture Among Mexican and Chicano Populations in Colorado", "Kiowa Tribal Singing" and "Nobu and Kô Kôda: The Women Who Made Music in Japan Happen". Completing our second year of this work, we are proud that our Student Musicale celebrated Black History Month through music and orature.

DAMTA DEI Committee: Ben Raznick (DAMTA President), Deborah De La Torre (DEI Vice President), Marilyn Madsen, Nazila Nekooraad, Jan Romero

Our DAMTA DEI Committee is continuing to meet monthly and reflect on what we have learned during last semester's Fall Course, which was very positively received by the attendees. Input and suggestions regarding ways to acknowledge and celebrate Black History Month through music and orature was provided to the February Student Musicale teacher host. We look forward to a wonderful presentation by our youth next month! DEI plans to move forward with more activities – such as another Book Club event - that will seek to respond to Dr. King's vision and increase awareness of DEI work in the study, teaching, and performance of music.

Respectfully submitted,
Deborah De La Torre, VP DAMTA DEI



FESTIVAL FOR CREATIVE PIANISTS

January 2022 to December 2022 —Enrollment Deadline April 30th

Evelyn Billberg, Program Director:
ev.billberg@gmail.com or ph: 303-629-9209



Mission

The International Festival for Creative Pianists is a nonprofit arts education organization dedicated to celebrating the joy of creating music at the piano by offering unique learning opportunities and supporting the work of 21st Century Musical Artists. Open to all ages, our program fosters well-rounded musicianship (all styles – classical, jazz/pop, original works, improvisation, etc.) and promotes creative skill building and creative thinking via virtual workshops, creative challenges, individualized expert feedback, and more.

Timeline

"First Friday" events:

- February 4: Dr. Arthur Houle (Founder/Artistic Director) will discuss the creativity of Muzio Clementi.
- March 4: Matthew Cooper – Anyone Can Improvise with Polychords.
- April 1: Live Composing, Piano Miniatures.
- More on this and other events: www.festivalforcreativepianists.org/get-involved

Creativity

Developing Your Creativity: There are 22 pages available in four special sections:

- Building Your Creative Habits of Mind
- Discovering and Maintaining Your Inspiration
- Overcoming Barriers and Blocks to Creativity
- Improvisation to Composition.

Creativity Challenges include:

- Creating Composition (8 sessions)
- Creating Videos at the Piano (9 Sessions)
- Improvisation (8 sessions)
- Theory (3 sessions)
- Play (4 sessions)

Learning Activities: Engage in 16 special online learning activities including 8 with live workshop opportunities and 8 with on-demand workshops. Live workshops will also be available on demand.

Review all activities on the festival homepage: www.festivalforcreativepianists.org

The Process

Upon enrollment into our OpenLearning platform, the "Getting Started" section will provide students with all the information they need to succeed.

Festival Submissions: Participants record up to 15 minutes of repertory and/or creative pianism, submit via video, and get constructive feedback by our world-class Teaching Artists. Performance Videos are due June 30th with the "Best Of" submission due August 30th. *We have added a special session on creating videos to assist students and teachers in preparing these submissions.*

Written Compositions: Students are encouraged to submit a written composition for review/comments by the Teaching Artists. These submissions are due August 30th.

Fee, Scholarships and Volunteer Info

- The Fee for this year-long Festival is \$500. When considered as a monthly cost to the budget it is \$46.67.

- Four Ways to Save:

1. Scholarships are available to participants who have demonstrated financial need and show a motivation to build their creative skills at the piano. Scholarship application is required. Festival directors will notify scholarship applicants within 30 days of applying. Scholarships cover up to 80% the cost of enrollment fee, depending on need.

Generous donations to the Festival Scholarship Fund make this possible:

<https://donorbox.org/festival-for-creative-pianists-scholarship-fund#info>

2. Adults Age 60+: Lifelong Learners who are age 60+ will automatically receive a 30% discount.

3. Volunteer Opportunities: **www.festivalforcreativepianists.org/get-involved**

Festival volunteers are eligible for a 50% discount. Please carefully review the volunteer position description and submit a volunteer application to be considered for a volunteer role. Participants of any age can volunteer!

4. Piano Educator Members can receive a 10% discount for them and their students, with the option of requesting bulk pricing for 10+ students.

Become a Piano Educator Member: **www.festivalforcreativepianists.org/get-involved**





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!

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.

February Host: Ben Raznick: benraznickmusic@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.



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



Disaster Relief

A heartfelt *thank you* to DAMTA members for raising \$855.52 in disaster relief funds for members of our community who lost so much in the Marshall Fire. If you would still like to contribute much needed financial assistance, you can do so by following the link below. Donations will be used specifically for those in need of music teaching related assistance.

To make a donation, go to <http://comusicteachers.net/donate>

- Once there, simply tap/click on the yellow **Donate** button and choose Memorial Fund/Disaster Relief in the pull down menu. You can choose to contribute either through PayPal or with a credit card.
- "Mail in" donations are also accepted as instructed on the same [page](#).

Again, thank you to all of you who have come to the aid of those in our music teaching community who have found themselves so suddenly and unexpectedly in need.

Thank you,
Ben Raznick and your DAMTA board

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>