

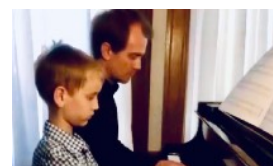
**A few of this month's highlights:**



**DAMTA SCHOLARSHIPS**  
DON'T FORGET TO APPLY!



**FESTIVAL FOR CREATIVE PIANISTS**  
FEST FRI. MARCH 4



**IN-PERSON MUSICALE**  
WITH A ZOOM OPTION



# 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 —In-Person!—

**March 9<sup>th</sup> - Brenna Berman**

**Variations on a Theme by Taubman**

**Description:** Much of what we think, believe, and do is decided by automatic mental processes of which we are mostly unaware. Our gut instincts and intuitive thinking are fast and often accurate. However, when our intuition makes an error, it usually goes undetected and we miss an opportunity to learn and improve. This is especially true in learning to play a musical instrument. Dorothy Taubman understood this, and much of the Taubman Approach involves retraining, refining, and optimizing technical, physical, and musical intuition.

In my twenty years of teaching the Taubman Approach, I have learned to appreciate how we all have similar autopilots when it comes to learning music and playing the piano. Because they are automatic, we generally do not think to question them. However, there are often better solutions to pianistic problems than we realize. The Taubman Approach emphasizes that how we think about and approach passages is as important as technique and musical considerations. Tools of the Taubman Approach help us create new and better instincts, resulting in greater ease, fluency, speed, tone control, and artistic expression.

My main source material on automatic mental processes comes from Daniel Kahneman's book, *Thinking, Fast and Slow*. Kahneman is a psychologist who won the Nobel Prize with Amos Tversky for their pioneering work on judgement and decision making. Their research laid the groundwork for many of today's findings in psychology and behavioral science.

**Bio:** Brenna Berman was first inspired to study the Taubman Approach when she began taking lessons from John Bloomfield in 1995 during his visits to Boulder, Colorado. While a student at Oberlin Conservatory, she became injured (tendonitis, carpal tunnel syndrome, and ulnar nerve damage) from the long hours of daily practice. Determined to overcome injury and limitations, she moved to Philadelphia in 2001 in order to begin regular lessons with Robert Durso. With the consistent help of Mr. Durso and Edna Golandsky, she recovered quickly from her injuries and began her journey to being the pianist she had hoped to become. She immersed herself in teacher training, and became certified at the Instructor level in



2006, and is now certified at the Master level.

An avid performer since the age of seven, Brenna Berman has performed extensively throughout the United States and Europe. She has won many international, national, and statewide awards and scholarships. As an Artists International New York Debut award winner, she gave her New York debut at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall in March 2008. Ms. Berman has performed and been interviewed on several live radio broadcasts and has been featured in multiple [Bosendorfer.com](http://Bosendorfer.com) articles.

Ms. Berman is a Certified Master Teacher of The Taubman Approach and holds an Associate Faculty position with The Golandsky Institute. While living in Philadelphia, Ms. Berman was an instructor of piano at Drexel University. She has twenty-two years of training as a performer and teacher of the Taubman Approach and mentors piano teachers pursuing certification. She has studied with the most highly acclaimed experts in the field: Robert Durso, Edna Golandsky, John Bloomfield, and Dorothy Taubman. She holds a Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance from Oberlin Conservatory and a Master of Arts in Piano Performance from Hunter College.

Ms. Berman is known for helping pianists and other instrumentalists eliminate playing-related injuries, overcome limitations, acquire the tools necessary for virtuosity and expression, and reach their artistic potential. Her students have won many awards, performed with orchestras internationally, and been admitted to prestigious institutions such as Oberlin Conservatory. In addition to pianists and other instrumentalists, she helps computer users, knitters, painters, writers, and others prone to repetitive stress injuries.

Ms. Berman is based in Colorado and has private studios in Louisville, CO and Houston, TX. She also offers online video lessons to students across the country and internationally.

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**Save These Dates:**

**March 9**  
9:30-10:15 a.m. - Business Meeting  
10:30-12:00 a.m. - Spring Program with Brenna Berman: "Variations on a Theme by Taubman"

**March 13**  
2:00 p.m. - Musicale

**March 31**  
DAMTA Scholarship Registration Deadline

# DAMTA SCHOLARSHIPS!

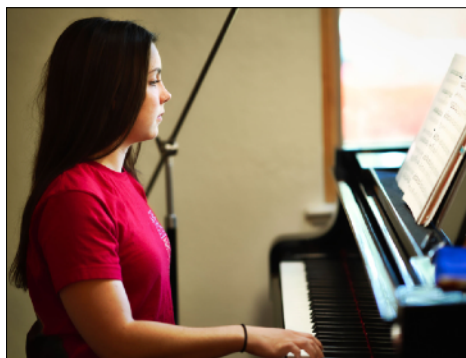
*Submitted by Sonya Clark*

Attention Teachers and Students!

DAMTA is again awarding five \$200 scholarships to students and teachers in the DAMTA network!



Funds can be used for a large variety of educational and professional development activities including camps, festivals, master student/teacher lessons, professional enrichment, and



The deadline to register is March 31, 2022. The registration form is at [denvermusicteacher.com](http://denvermusicteacher.com) under the "Benefits" header. Awardees will be recognized at the May DAMTA Musicale.



Please forward any questions to Sonya Clark at [sonyaclark433@gmail.com](mailto:sonyaclark433@gmail.com).

**2021/2022 Board Members:**

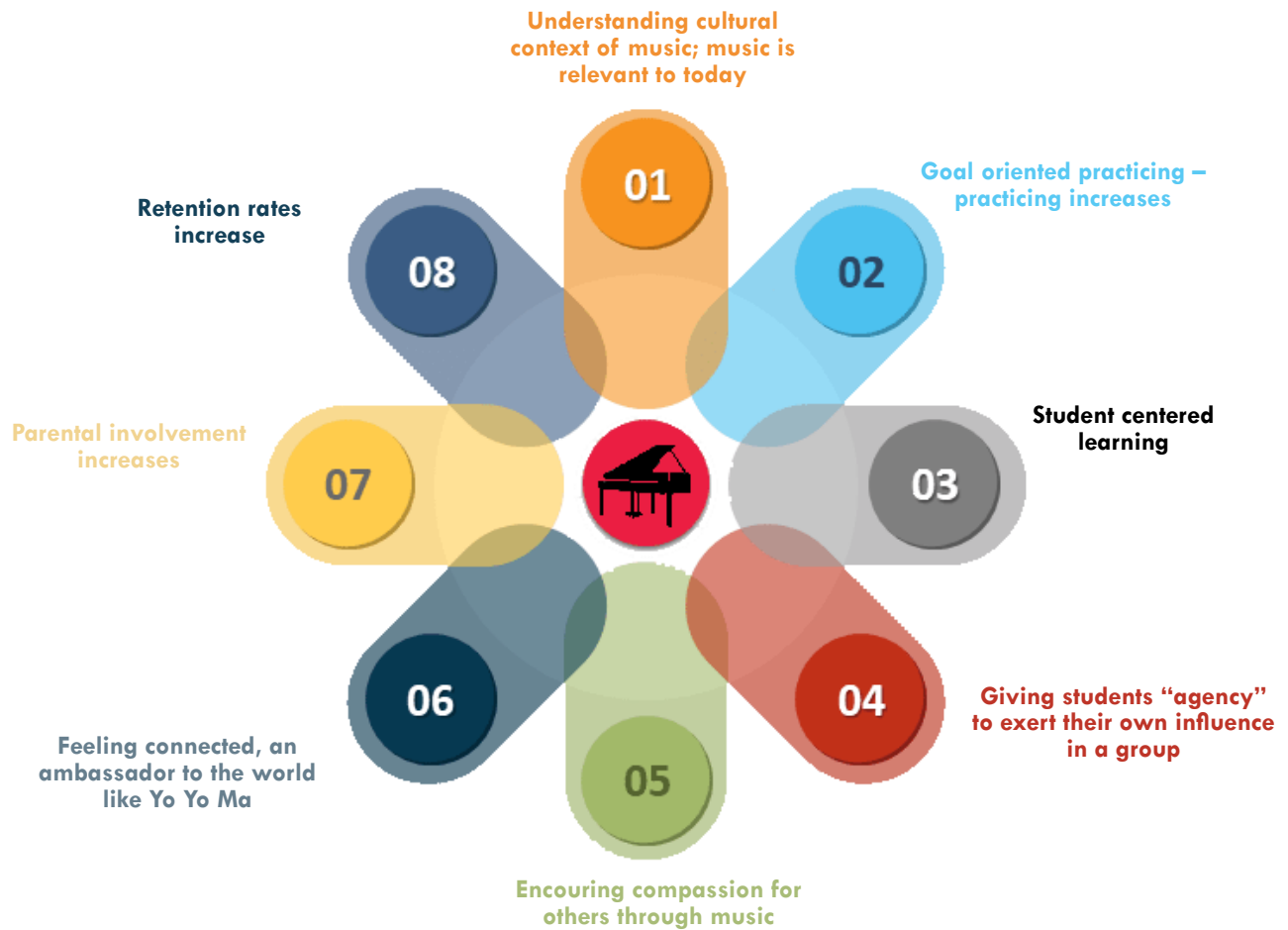
Ben Raznick	President
Marilyn Madsen	Vice President (Programs)
David House	Vice President (Newsletter)
Sonya Clark	Vice President (Membership)
Megan Koegel	Vice President (Student Musicales)
Deborah De La Torre	Vice President (Diversity Equity & Inclusion)
Nazila Nekooraad	Secretary
Carolyn Angelier	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](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.

## When Our Students Inspire Others

Penny Lazarus, NCTM · [www.pennylazaruspianostudio.com](http://www.pennylazaruspianostudio.com) · [p.lazarus@comcast.net](mailto:p.lazarus@comcast.net)



## **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



### **Join us for Festival Friday on March 4<sup>th</sup>**

Join Dr. Matthew Cooper for this live workshop on how to improvise with polychords! Learn how to link together three related polychords (triads over a different bass note) to create simple but fun and fresh-sounding free improv. Perfect way for intermediate pianists to build improvisation skills. Registration is free for students and teachers registered for the 2022 Festival, otherwise the fee is \$10.00

<https://www.festivalforcreativepianists.org/event-details/anyone-can-improvise-with-polychords-with-matthew-cooper>

Looking forward to seeing you,  
Evelyn Billberg, Program Director



# In-Person Musicales 2021-22

The board has decided to return to in-person musicales! The next musicale will take place on March 13 at 2:00 at Classic Pianos. Masks are required for this event. We are excited to gather again in person for a musicale, but in an effort not to pack the room we will set up a Zoom so we can reach a wider audience.

## Guidlines

- \* There will be no fee to perform in musicales. However, participants are encouraged to donate to our scholarship fund.
- \* Online musicales will be limited to 60 minutes.
- \* Some musicales will have designated themes, but any performer is encouraged to participate even if their piece is not related to the theme.
- \* For online performers, more performance creativity is welcomed; this can include staging, family members joining in the performance, or whatever the students come up with!

## Save these dates!

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.**

March Host: Jan Romero: [jromero788@aol.com](mailto:jromero788@aol.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

# Happy Nowruz!

*Submitted by Nazila Nekooraad*

Persian New Year, Nowruz, is on Sunday March 20, 2022 at 9:33:26 a.m., the exact time that equinox happens. It has been celebrated by many people for at least 3000 years.

A few weeks before the new year, it is customary to start cleaning the houses and setting up the *Haft Seen* table. Family members gather around the table when the equinox is happening and exchange gifts (just like Christmas) and make wishes.

The table is set by putting mirrors, candles and items that start with “S” sound, such as:

- Seeb (apples) symbolizing beauty and health.
- Serkeh (vinegar) symbolizing age and patience.
- Samanoo (sweet pudding made of wheat germ) symbolizing affluence.
- Senjed (the dried fruit of the oleaster tree) symbolizing love.
- Sumaq (sumac berries) symbolizing the color of the sunrise.
- Sir (Garlic) symbolizing medicine.
- Sabzeh (wheat sprouts growing in a dish) Symbolizing rebirth.

Also, we add:

- Sonbol Hyacinth flower, symbol of coming of Spring.
- Sekkeh, coins for prosperity and wealth.
- Colored eggs (like Easter) a symbol of fertility.
- Goldfish, a symbol of life.

This upcoming Nowruz, I wish all of you health, happiness, and prosperity!

*- Nazila Nekooraad*



Year 1401 Nowruz celebration, volunteering for Colorado Children's Nowruz Foundation (CCNF)

The Colorado Children's Nowruz Foundation (CCNF) is a not-for-profit organization with no religious or political affiliations dedicated to celebrating and promoting Iranian arts and culture for the benefit of Iranian-American children, youth and adults in Colorado. Founded in 2005, CCNF has organized an annual children's Nowruz program. Iranian-American children and youth of all ages have the opportunity to participate in this annual ritual, which gives them exposure to Persian traditions and culture.

<https://www.facebook.com/coloradochildrensnowruz/>

## Marking Two Years of the COVID-19 Pandemic

*Submitted by Kristen Jordheim*

Two years have passed since we started active conversation on DAMTA Passalongs about “this virus” and then moved meetings quickly to Zoom. It is important that we mark this passage of time to acknowledge and honor the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on us as a group.

We mourn the loss of life close to us, in our students’ lives and in our larger community. Colorado has now counted over 12,000 deaths. That is a loss of more people than could fill Red Rocks. We acknowledge the loss of human connections, of musical connections and live harmonies. We cope with loss of income and adjusting to new ways of teaching.

We quickly moved to virtual lessons, losing some students, but strengthening experience and learning for many. We helped each other in learning how to mute and unmute. DAMTA kept programs and educational courses vibrant and strong. There is so much we have learned. There are so many positive aspects of the last two years that will make us better for the future in carrying out our mission.

Hopefully we can leave fear and uncertainty far behind. The COVID-19 pandemic is still unpredictable. We commemorate with open hearts and ears. We consider our needs and how to best go forward. Deadly serious and life changing, but better largely because of strong teamwork and resilience.

## Our Generous Sponsors!



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## 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>