

A few of this month's highlights:



ASIAN-AM. & PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE
A CELEBRATION



HONORING MEGAN KOEGEL
DAMTA BOARD MEMBER



DEI: BEING THE CHANGE
DAMTA RECOGNIZED



LYRICS

DAMTA's Final Event of the Year! Don't Miss Out!

Wednesday May 11, Classic Pianos (1332 S Broadway, Denver, CO 80210) and on Zoom

9:00-9:30am - Annual Meeting



9:45-11:15am - "Variations on a Theme by Taubman" presented by Brenna Berman (rescheduled from March 9)

11:30-12:15pm - Teacher's Musicale and Celebration of Patricia Chen (DAMTA President from 1996-1999) (Please sign up with Marilyn: mamadsen@yahoo.com)



12:30pm - Celebration Lunch

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May 11: DAMTA's final event of the school year

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Sponsors

Member Information

Save These Dates:

May 11

9:00-9:30 a.m. - Business Meeting

9:45-11:15 a.m. - Spring

Program with Brenna Berman: "Variations on a Theme by Taubman" (rescheduled from March)

11:30-12:15 Teachers' Musicales

May 15

2:00 p.m. - Student Musicales



Jake Shimabukoro, Hawaiian ukelele virtuoso and composer



Miya Masaoka, Japanese American composer



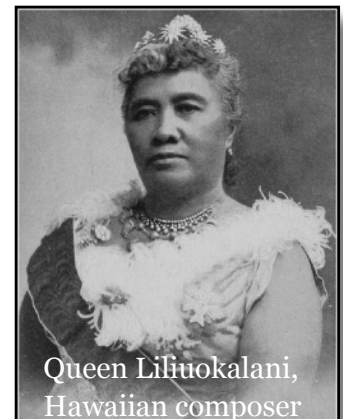
Chinary Ung, Cambodian American composer

Celebrating

Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month



Tan Dun, Chinese American composer



Queen Liliuokalani, Hawaiian composer

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 month I began working with a new student in the 5th grade. Her only way to practice between lessons was by using a small keyboard on loan from her school. I sent an email to our Passalongs email group asking if anybody had an extra keyboard or piano that needed a home. I was so touched that I received not one, not two, not even three, but four (!) offers of keyboards/pianos that DAMTA teachers could provide to my new student. Our network is strong and supportive, and I'm so grateful. Thank you all sincerely.

My first year as DAMTA president is coming to a close, and I'm so proud of the work we have completed. Below are some great accomplishments I'd like to share with you:

- Our DEI Committee is honored to have a summary of our work published in MTNA's AMT Magazine (April/May 2022 edition) in Dr. Leah Claiborne's DEI Column. We are proud that our hard work is being shared on a national scale, and you can read it right here in our Lyrics newsletter on page 4.
- Our February Student Musicales was our 2nd annual celebration of Black History Month by welcoming students to perform compositions by Black composers, read aloud their biographies and contribute creative expressions. I'm so proud of my student Margaret Nourse and her poem "Closer To Light" that she shared at this event, published for the first time in this edition of our Lyrics newsletter on page 6.
- This year, we exceeded our goal in fundraising for our scholarship fund! We raised \$1,443 and awarded \$1,180 to seven deserving students studying flute, trumpet, cello and piano. Come meet and celebrate with these students at our honoring ceremony during the final Student Musicales of the school year on Sunday 5/16, 2pm at Classic Pianos.
- Our Fall Course and Spring Programs went hybrid! Our final tallies for attendance showed that our online viewership was double the amount of in-person attendees. Our Fall Course was also attended by Martha Hilley Past-MTNA President in Austin TX, and in locations such as Kansas City KS, Bloomington IN and Ann Arbor MI. How amazing we were able to broadcast our programs outside of Colorado! Members have shared their appreciation for our new hybrid setup, and we will indeed continue this model into the future.
- DAMTA raised \$855 for the Marshall Fires Fundraiser! CSMTA set up this fundraiser and DAMTA took immediate action to create our own PayPal Donate Button. We announced to our membership that we were accepting both physical checks and PayPal for this fundraiser. We generated 58% of our funds by mail and 42% from PayPal.
- Committees, committees, committees! Among the many committees created this year to encourage teamwork, I'm especially thrilled about our Technology Committee. This group's goal is to manage our current technology and to stay at the forefront of the latest technological trends that will better help us serve our members and community.

Last but not least, DAMTA, I want to share with you that as a member of the Recording Academy, I had the honor to attend for my very first time the 2022 Grammy Awards, live in Las Vegas! The classical awards are given during the Premiere Ceremony, and I was in the front row! I loved watching the performances and celebrating the award winners like Florence Price's Symphonies Nos. 1 & 3 recorded by Yannick Nézet-Séguin and The Philadelphia Orchestra. My album, Birds of a Feather, will be submitted for Grammy consideration next year. Stay tuned!

Thanks for an incredible year,
DAMTA.
See you at the CSMTA
conference!

Ben Raznick

Ben Raznick
DAMTA President



Submitted by Ben Raznick

DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND *INCLUSION*

Being the Change

By Leah Claiborne



It has been inspiring to learn about the transformative work that MTNA teachers are spearheading to create inclusive, diverse and more equitable education and programming in their areas. Below are two examples, in their words, of how a MTNA state affiliate and a local music teacher powerfully change their communities with music being the driving center of their mission.

Denver Area MTA

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

HONORING

MEGAN

KOEGEL



This month we say goodbye to Megan Koegel, one of our valued board members and a shining light in the DAMTA community.

Megan Koegel grew up in a home in which she was taught to love music. She remembers loving her piano lessons and knew early on in life that she wanted to teach. She earned a Bachelor's degree in Piano Performance and Pedagogy from the University of Minnesota at Duluth, and a master's degree in the same from the University of Colorado at Boulder. She is a classically trained pianist, but acknowledges that popular music has always been a central inspiration in her own musical pursuits. After her studies in piano pedagogy, she earned a Master of Arts in the Study of the Beatles, Popular Music and Society from Liverpool Hope University. She says her time studying in Liverpool enhanced her passion for the importance of popular music, and credits it with giving her a new perspective on music education.

As for so many of us, the pandemic changed her teaching. She acknowledges being pleasantly surprised at the new opportunities afforded by online teaching. She now has students in multiple states, and even other countries.

At the end of this month, she will be moving to St. Paul, Minnesota. The Twin Cities will be gaining a very special person and a remarkable teacher. We in Denver will miss her deeply, but we are confident that her new community will welcome her with open arms.

All the best to you, Megan, in all your pursuits, in music and in life!

Student Spotlight: CLOSER TO LIGHT.

by Margaret Nourse

I wrote Closer to Light because it was Black History Month. At first, I could not think of what to say. At first it sounded like more of a story. Then, all of a sudden, I just thought of it. I could include a lot of people who helped with Black Lives Matter, and each time they helped, things got better, or, Closer to Light. Since I was doing it for piano, I kind of wanted to play piano or add some music also. Then I thought of it. Since things were getting Closer to Light and I was doing it for Black Lives Matter, I could get higher on the piano on the black keys. Finally, at the end, I'd press the top key on the piano because it represents the progress we are making.

Closer to Light by Margaret Nourse

Alicia Garza created the name Black Lives Matter and wrote The Purpose of Power.

Closer to Light A# C# D# F#

Amanda Gorman writes poems to inspire people to help.

Closer to Light G# A# C# D#

Kamala Harris was the first black vice president.

Closer to Light F# G# A# C#

Martin Luther King Jr. organized a great march.

Closer to Light D# F# G# A#

Maya Angelou showed people that no matter how hard they hurt you,

you can rise, keep going,

Closer to Light C# D# F# G#

Rosa Parks refused to give up her bus seat.

Closer to Light A# C# D# F#

Nina Simone changed the world with her music.

Closer to Light G# A# C# D#

Colin Kaepernick knelt down instead of standing

to show that we need to make changes.

Closer to Light F# G# A# C#

Harriet Tubman created the underground railroad and helped enslaved people escape.

Closer to Light D# F# G# A#

Together, we can get

Closer to Light C



Margaret Nourse

Margaret Nourse, age 9, is a student of Ben Raznick. She presented this original poem and composition, celebrating Black History Month, at the student musicale on February 13th, 2022.

Continued from page 4

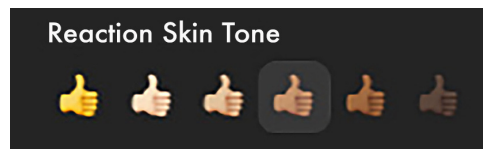
■ HOW DO YOU...?

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.

The DAMTA DEI Committee includes Ben Raznick (DAMTA President), Deborah De La Torre (DEI Vice President), Marilyn Madsen, Nazila Nekoerad and Jan Romero.

Penny Lazarus Piano Studio Newburyport, Massachusetts

My piano studio does not look like America. Missing are the beautiful arrays of the darkest part of the rainbow spectrum that is a symbol of diversity. During online recitals, when we applaud, Zoom gives us six choices for reaction skin tones. My Korean, Hispanic, Sephardic, Egyptian, Lebanese, Guatemalan and Trinidadian students match four of these. Still, at least two colors are missing. Yet we work to broaden the canon with Afro-centric composers. We include the myriad castles of our skin,¹ highlighting achievements of Black artists throughout the studio.



Outside we have a Little Free Music Library that identifies my studio. It is filled with traditional music as well as Florence Price’s *Album of Piano Pieces* and Nathan Holder’s *Why is My Piano Black and White*. In the hallway are books about Beethoven, and *Change Sings* by poet Amanda Gorman, who delivered her poem “The Hill We Climb” at the 2021 presidential inauguration. Music by Hale Smith, Margaret Bonds, William Grant Still, Valerie Capers,

Joseph Bologna, Zenobia Powell Perry, Jeremy Ajani Jordan and Regina Harris Baiocchi share space with favorites by classicist composers.

We are a project-based studio. This means, I work with an organizing idea that forms repertoire, recital themes and community engagement events all year long. This year, students are studying music by Black composers and will perform these pieces at a showcase recital. I also weave these themes throughout our general music study. In one event, we practiced conducting. So, when students conducted videos of symphonies, my guest conductor and I included Black maestros. In another event, we toured the church where 19th-century anti-slavery activist William Lloyd Garrison preached and eventually, evicted.

My zoomer students look forward to our annual practice project in which students find a sponsor who gives them three cents for every minute at the piano during a 6-week period. We raise \$1,000 annually to support a “sister” studio. This year we are working with the Hamilton-Garrett Music and Arts after-school program in Roxbury, Massachusetts, so that our donation will support their mission to “pass on the rich legacy of Black cultural music to the next generation.”

Notes

1. Castle of Our Skins is a concert and educational series in Boston, Massachusetts, dedicated to creating more equity in composer representation on concert stages and highlighting achievement by Black historical figures. The phrase “castle of our skins” comes from the celebrated poet Nikki Giovanni’s *Poem (for Nina)*.

Leah Claiborne, DMA, is assistant professor of music at the University of the District of Columbia. She holds a BA degree from the Manhattan School of Music and MM and DMA degrees from the University of Michigan.





In-Person Student 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!

May 15 at 2:00

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

May Host: Marilyn Madsen: mamadsen@yahoo.com and 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 template.

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>