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Dates To Remember

March 10. Student Musicale, 2:00 p.m., Classic Pianos/Online.

March 13. Business Meeting, 9:30 - 10:00 a.m., Classic Pianos/Online.

March 13. Spring Program with:TBA, 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Classic Pianos?/ Online.

March 31. DAMTA Scholarship Applications Due via damta.org.



LYRICS NEWSLETTER



DAMTA'S 4TH ANNUAL MUSICALE CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

- Ben Raznick remarks on the event.
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DR. LEAH CLAIBORNE RECEIVES DAMTA'S TRAILBLAZER AWARD

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DAMTA'S SPRING PROGRAM:

- 3/13 Joshua Zabatta Presents: "Connecting to the Music, Connecting to Others: Audience Engagement and Performance Skills for Musicians"

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DAMTA'S SPRING PROGRAM: Session 3



March 13 - "Connecting to the Music, Connecting to Others: Audience Engagement and Performance Skills for Musicians"

- with Joshua Zabatta

For any performer, the job is to connect with audiences and tell dynamic stories. This workshop will help you learn to communicate beautiful stories with your music, regardless of whether there are words to your piece. You will also learn effective techniques to engage with your audience from the moment you step on stage and then take it further to leave a significant, lasting impression. Lastly, you will be given tools to channel your nervous energy into performance.

Joshua Zabatta never imagined that singing while driving a tractor on a Montana farm would eventually lead to a career where he performed in 48 states and 14 countries. After emerging onto the professional scene, Joshua quickly received acclaim as a "terrific soloist" by the St. Louis Post Dispatch. Career highlights include serving as a soloist in Alban Berg's Wozzeck with the St. Louis Symphony, the role of Harry in La Fanciulla del West (Opera Colorado), Don José in Carmen, Fernando in Goyescas (Boulder Opera), and Harlekin in Der Kaiser von Atlantis (People's Theatre of Denver). An avid music education advocate, Joshua Zabatta mentors dozens of students around the country in addition to serving as a touring and teaching with Central City Opera and Faculty for the Rushmore Music Festival. You can follow Joshua Zabatta's career through his website: www.joshuazabatta.com.

All events will be held on Wednesdays from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. All programs are presented online or in-person at Classic Pianos of Denver, and online.

DAMTA Board Members 2022-23

Ben Raznick	President
Joshua Zabatta	Vice President (Programs)
David House	Vice President (Newsletter)
Annette Karges	Vice President (Membership)
Dr. Thomas White	Vice President (Student Musicales)
(Vacant)	Vice President (Diversity, Equity & Inclusion)
Chandrika Prem	Secretary
Carolyn Angelier	Treasurer
Kristin Jordheim	Parliamentarian
Nazila Nekoerad	Historian
Vince Madison	Past President

Submissions

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

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 workshops, competitions, special sales, instruments for sale privately, auditions, concerts, recitals, etc.

Celebrating WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

“My imagination can picture no fairer happiness than to continue living for art.”

- Clara Schumann



*Clara Schumann
(1819-1896)
German pianist,
composer, and
piano teacher*



*Sophie Menter
(1846-1918)
German pianist
and composer,
student of Liszt*



*Guiomar
Novaes
(1895-1979)
Brazilian
pianist*



*“A Lady Seated at a
Virginal” (c. 1630)
Pieter Codde
(Dutch painter)*

From the **virginal**, an instrument intended to occupy young women of the 16th and 17th centuries, thereby keeping them, well...eponymous, to the rise of the **virtuosa**: an epoch-spanning journey of passion, courage, resolve, and dazzling talent.



*Beatrice Rana
(1993-) Italian
pianist*



*Martha Argerich (1941-)
Argentine pianist*



President's Message:

DAMTA'S 4TH ANNUAL STUDENT MUSICALE CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH A RESOUNDING SUCCESS!

Dear DAMTA,

Thank you to everyone who attended our 4th Annual Musicale Celebrating Black History Month! I am so enormously proud. Our community of teachers, students, families and friends, showed up to create an unforgettable and meaningful event. We were honored that Dr. Leah Claiborne joined us in person as students performed works from her newly published series, Piano Music of Black Composers.

DAMTA was so appreciative to partner with Lamont School of Music Piano Preparatory Program. For this year's event, we were proud to be a recipient of the Community Engagement Grant by Music Teachers National Association (MTNA), the Local Association Grant by Colorado State Music Teachers Association (CSMTA), and for our event to be sponsored by Friends of Chamber Music.

We were humbled that in our recital's fourth year, we grew our participation from 8

(Continued on page 5)



students of 4 teachers in 2021, to 26 students of 16 teachers in 2024! This event could not be made possible without the hard work of our Event Committee. This group worked for many months, and some for over a year, to ensure this event would become a reality. Thank you, Dr. Emily Book McGree, Dr. Thomas White, Jennifer Bowlds, Greta Praznowski, Maggie Johnston and Leigha Wyche.

The crowd was encouraging as students took the stage. Every student performed so well, and I loved seeing how everyone dressed. After all, we encouraged students to “wear something nice that also matches their personality.” The audience was asked to rise for the opening of our program, “Lift Every Voice and Sing”, the Black National Anthem. Students who performed this piece and African American Spirituals read allowed the lyrics in advance of performing to honor the important meaning behind the music.

Undeniably the most powerful moment of the event was when Dr. Claiborne took the stage to share her remarks. Dr. Claiborne graciously complimented our students and teachers. “I didn’t only notice how incredible the music was, but the level of teaching that had to go behind to allow the student to perform as well as they did. And I think that speaks so much volume to the intentionality and the purpose behind the event today.”

Dr. Claiborne also shared her own personal journey of growing up without performing music by composers that looked like her. That all changed in college when she began researching music by Black composers. “When I found the collection, 24 Negro Melodies by Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, I realized that I wanted to do my Dissertation Lecture Recital on those pieces. Because that was the first time I remember coming on a concert stage and remembering I could find my voice, no matter who was staring back at me.”

(Continued on page 6)



The Event Committee poses with Dr. Leah Claiborne.



Before performing a duet, students Annika and Uma Evans, with their teacher Tania Nelson, share the meaning of the Black National Anthem, “Lift Every Voice and Sing”, along with the lyrics to the music.



Dr. Leah Claiborne performing Samuel Coleridge-Taylor’s “I’m Troubled In Mind”.



Dr. Claiborne proceeded to perform “I’m Troubled In Mind”, a piece from Samuel Coleridge-Taylor’s collection. Much of the audience was already in tears from Dr. Claiborne’s vulnerable remarks. Her completion of this gorgeous and powerful composition was met with a standing ovation.

I then joined Dr. Claiborne on stage to share with her a special surprise. DAMTA in recent history created the Trailblazer Award to honor a member of our community doing outstanding work that is inspirational and courageous. I was elated to share that Dr. Claiborne was our newest recipient of the DAMTA Trailblazer Award. On the following page you will find my speech.

Our program concluded with a Q&A. All the kids joined Dr. Claiborne on stage, received a participation medal, and then met Dr. Claiborne outside the recital hall for a book signing and reception.

In conversation with Dr. Claiborne following the event, I was touched to hear from her, “This was one of the most impactful events of my career. It exceeded my wildest dreams.” Thank you Dr. Claiborne, for your trust in DAMTA to develop and execute this event. Our students, teachers and families are so inspired by you. We are honored by the opportunity to further your work and mission.

As I am in my final months of my third and final year as President, I know when I look back on this day that I will be reminded of our meaningful work.

Sincerely, *Ben Raznick*

Ben Raznick
DAMTA President



Dr. Claiborne takes questions from students following the performance.



DR. LEAH CLAIBORNE RECEIVES DAMTA'S TRAILBLAZER AWARD



*DAMTA Trailblazer Award Recipient:
Dr. Leah Claiborne
Presentation by Ben Raznick, DAMTA President
DAMTA's 4th Annual Musicale Celebrating Black
History Month
Hamilton Hall, Newman Center, Denver University
February 25, 2024*

For all of our students here today, I'd like you to think of something you find unjust in our society. Something that you see happening, and you know there must be a better solution. Can you think to yourselves, how can I help fix this? What can I do to make a difference?

I would like to give you an example. We have someone here who recognized that we are not seeing enough piano repertoire for students written by Black composers. So, Dr. Claiborne decided to work on a solution and developed a 2 volume series of music by Black

composers for the beginning pianist, so that students and teachers like all of us here can learn and teach this beautiful music by talented composers. Additionally, I think it provides an incredible tool for us as music educators as we recalibrate our value system and highlight these artists' contributions and their place in music education.

A teacher's engagement with this publication will directly affect their students' repertoire foundation. If over the next ten years, our 16 participating teachers each teach 100 of our students even just one composition from these books, we here today will affect a total of 1,600 students.

DAMTA believes it is important to highlight members of our community doing this outstanding work that is inspirational and courageous. We want to recognize someone who is fighting for justice in our society, and will not back down, even when times are challenging.

So, 2 years ago DAMTA developed an award to do just this, and we titled it, the Trailblazer Award. On behalf of DAMTA and the Lamont School of Music Piano Preparatory Program, I invite all of you to join me in applause by honoring our newest Trailblazer Award recipient: Dr. Leah Claiborne.



Dr. Leah Claiborne and DAMTA's President, Ben Raznick

DAMTA President Ben Raznick received the following email from DAMTA member Nichole Young, in which she articulates how the February Musicale affected her, and the implications it has for the music teaching profession.

Hi Ben!

I'm reflecting on Sunday's recital, and I wanted to tell you how wonderful it was! Everyone's students played so well, and they were ADORABLE. Standout moments for me were the quiet-voiced students getting huge sounds out of the piano, the girl in the very nice dress and snow boots, (very Colorado!), all the variety of gorgeous and interesting music, Dr. Claiborne's story—and particularly that she had an emotional time (that right there is a singular reason for an event to be worth the effort), her playing (I didn't have enough tissues handy!), and the Q&A with students on the stage, to center them and their experience. The details were beautiful—the program, everyone's prepared remarks, the "Lift Every Voice and Sing" performance and audience education, awards/medals—so many other working parts that came together beautifully!

Our field is so behind when it comes to lifting Black people's work up, in real time. I loved seeing Dr. Claiborne "get her flowers" in real time. I want there to be more celebrations like that all over the country. THIS is how it's done, and it's just the beginning. Well done, friend. I know it's the culmination of a lot of your time and work, as well as everyone's time and work at DAMTA and beyond, and I'm super impressed. I cannot believe I'm allowed to know you all--so lucky!!

Star-struckedly,
Nichole Young

Reflecting on the February Musicale Celebrating Black History Month



FESTIVAL FOR CREATIVE PIANISTS RETURNS TO ITS IN-PERSON PROGRAM!

Submitted by Evelyn Billberg

The Festival for Creative Pianists is excited to announce a return to our in-person program in 2024 — ***don't miss this opportunity to fuel your creative passion in a community with fellow pianists and world-renowned teaching artists!***

Over this past year, we developed a partnership with the Adamant Music School in Vermont. This inspiring campus and pianist haven, nestled in the beautiful mountains of Central Vermont, opened their doors over 80 years ago and the Festival for Creative Pianists will now be a part of this enduring legacy.

Adamant Music School is welcoming the Festival for Creative Pianists to kick-off their season with our creative and inspiring program from June 11-15, 2024!

For our first year back in person, we will be joined by world-renowned teaching artists like Kevin Olson, Wynn-Anne Rossi, Martha Hill Duncan, as well as stellar composers and performers like John Salmon, Ayumi Okada, and Michael Close. This slate of inspiring, and creative pianists are at the heart of our program.



Participants will have access to over 20 practice cabins on campus, plus performance and learning spaces.

Creative opportunities will include:

- masterclass-style group coaching,
- creative workshops,
- composition and improvisation intensives,
- performances and concerts,
- jam sessions, collaboration opportunities, and more!

Participants prepare 10-15 minutes of performance repertoire; including structured improvisation, and spontaneous creative playing. They will receive individualized and constructive feedback from professional world-class teaching artists. They will also have the option of submitting an original composition for feedback. All participants are recognized with one unique, individually-tailored award to highlight their excellence.

The beautiful setting at Adamant Music School will provide ample opportunities for collaboration, and the amazing group of teaching artists, composers, and performers through the Festival for Creative Pianists will be present to support creative development, exploration, and skill-building.

Don't wait - enroll by March 31st, 2024 to receive a special discount. Scholarships are also available! Final enrollment deadline is May 15th, 2024.

Pianist or piano teachers are welcome to join us in June 2024 for the in-person festival. Check out our performance and workshop calendar for the festival, then join us for a day!

Select performances and workshops will be open to the public on a by-donation basis. Please visit www.festivalforcreativepianists.org/vermont-festival to learn more and enroll today!

Festival for Creative Pianists Board of Directors ... www.festivalforcreativepianists.org/about/team

Festival for Creative Pianists, P.O. Box 1254, Montpelier, VT 05601
www.festivalforcreativepianists.org



“The Pianist” Liubov Popova, 1915

Submitted by Annette Karges

Apply for a DAMTA Scholarship!

Scholarships can be used for master classes, additional instruction, summer programs, equipment or project support. Awardees are required to complete a report on their experience and how they used the funds.

Application will open April 1st, with an application deadline of Sunday, April 21st. Be sure you are signed up for DAMTA Passalongs to receive scholarship updates.



American Guild of Organists
Denver Rocky Mountain Chapter
**2024 Summer Organ Lesson
Scholarship Program**



**Discover the
power and
beauty of
the King of
Instruments**

www.ago.drmc.org

APPLICATION DEADLINE
Monday, 15 April 2024

Please see reverse for more information.

For nearly two decades now the Denver Rocky Mountain Chapter of the American Guild of Organists has awarded scholarships to promising 13 to 18-year-old piano student piano students to receive six free hour-long organ lessons during the summer, with the opportunity to participate as a performer at the chapter's September meeting.

Application available at:
<https://www.agodrmc.org/>

Application Due: Monday, 15 April 2024, by Midnight. Submit by Email at MarkAlanFilbert@msn.com or by U. S. Mail at the Address on the Flyer.

Auditions: Saturday, 4 May 2024, 10:00 am-3:00 pm. Mark Alan Filbert Music Studio, 4427 South Atchison Circle, Aurora, CO 80015.

Orientation: Saturday, 18 May 2024, 10:00-11:30 (Open to the Public at No Charge). Saint Paul Lutheran Church, 1600 Grant Street, Denver, CO 80203.

Instruction: Six Organ Lessons from June-August 2024. Dates/Locations to be arranged with Assigned Organ Teacher.

Final Recital: Sunday, 8 September 2024, 7:00 pm (Open to the Public at No Charge). Saint Paul Lutheran Church, 1600 Grant Street, Denver, CO 80203.

If you have any questions about the Scholarship Program, don't hesitate to reach out to me by email or by telephone at **720.980.9624**. Again, feel free to distribute the attached flyer and application form to any of your students who may qualify.

Thank you so much for your support of this exciting programs!

Mark Alan Filbert, MM, MSMAGO Organ
Scholarship Coordinator

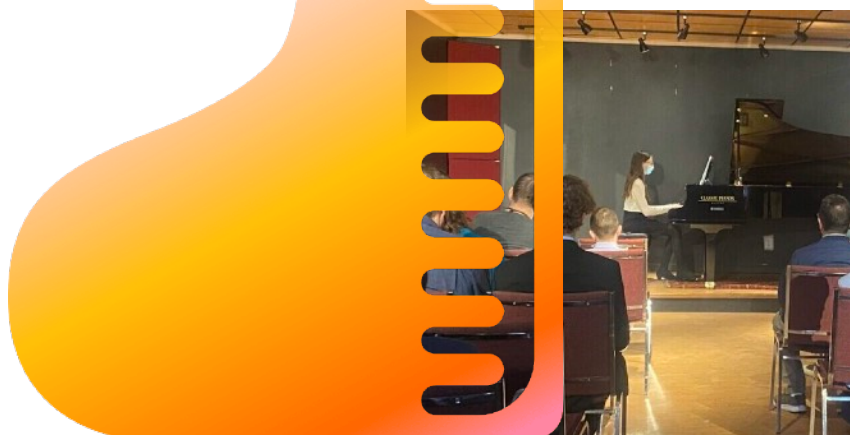
Guidelines for Participants and Teachers:

1. **Sign up to participate:** Any Interested performers can sign up through their teacher and complete the form provided:
2. **Preparation:** The student should be prepared musically, but memorization is not required.
3. **Performance Etiquette:** Teachers should prepare their students with essentials for performance, including how to walk on stage, what to wear, how to introduce yourself and your piece, and how to bow.
4. **Musicale Fee:** We encourage a donation of at least \$10 per participant. Donations support DAMTA's scholarship fund as well as its ongoing operations. You can donate using the Donate Link on DAMTA's website, or pay in person before the performance.
5. **Access & Participation:** Each participating teacher should take up no more than 1/3 of the program length. Musicales typically last no longer than 60 minutes.
6. **All Students Are Welcome and Supported:** Students of all ages, skill levels, and instruments are welcome to perform in our musicales. Every student, teacher, and audience member should be supportive of the other participants.
7. **Copyright Policy:** Copyright laws must be observed; all music must be an original publication, licensed for reprint, or in the public domain.

Guidelines for Musicale Hosts:

See the Student Musicales page on DAMTA's website: <https://denvermusicteacher.com/students/>

STUDENT MUSICALES



DAMTA presents a Musicale once a month during the school year. Musicales give students of DAMTA teachers the opportunity to perform in a welcoming and supportive environment. **Students of all instruments, ages, and levels are encouraged to perform.** We also offer a livestream over Zoom for anyone who can't attend in person. Contact musicale chair, Dr. Thomas White, at tomwhitepianokeys@gmail.com with any questions.

Get involved:

1. Sign students up to perform! (sign up form: [Musicales Sign-Up Form](#))
2. Host or co-host/assist with a musicale.
3. Donate to DAMTA.

Next Musicale: March 10th, at 2:00 p.m., at Classic Pianos of Denver (1332 Broadway, Denver, CO. 80210) Host: Jennifer Bowlds, jen.a.bowlds@gmail.com.

Upcoming Musicales:

- April 14, 2024, 2:00 p.m.
- May 19, 2024, 2:00 p.m.

DAMTA'S SCHOLARSHIP FUND AT WORK

February Spotlight: RUBY GARLOW



Ruby is a student of Ben Raznick

Ruby used the scholarship to attend the Walden School Young Musicians Program in Dublin, NH. She studied musicianship, composition, and computer musicianship there. She also sang in a choir. She composed two pieces: one for flute and vibraphone and the other for electronics. For her flute piece, she learned how to transpose music up two octaves. She also got to do fun camp activities like swimming, dancing, and hiking.

MEET YOUR BOARD



Dr. Thomas White

V. P. Student Musicales

Hello, I am Dr. Thomas White. I have had the great honor this year of being Vice President of Student Musicales and I am very fortunate to have had a growing piano studio in the Denver area for over 3 years.

In the early 2000's I lived in the beautiful city of Telluride. During my time there, I developed a love for hiking, learned to ski, and hosted the Sunday Evening Classical program on the local radio station, KOTOFM. In 2008 I left Telluride to pursue a masters

degree in Piano Performance at the University of Northern Colorado. From there I went to the University of Oklahoma where I earned a doctoral degree in Piano Performance and Piano Pedagogy.

After completing my coursework, I got a job as a piano instructor at the Suzuki Music Institute of Dallas. During my 6th year of teaching in Dallas, COVID came to town and the dreaded Zoom lessons began. So I left Dallas to spend some time with my family in Pennsylvania. As the pandemic continued, my next move took me to Dayton, Ohio where I spent a year helping a good friend and colleague start a music academy.

Towards the end of my year in Ohio, I received a call from another good friend and colleague who was about to have a baby. She asked if I would be willing to come to Denver for three months and teach her piano students while she was out on maternity leave. I knew that if I spent three months in Colorado I would never want to leave, so I decided to make the big move and immediately began building my own studio.

Moving back to Colorado has been the best decision I have ever made and the past three years have truly been the best years of my life. I am so fortunate to be able to connect with the outdoors again, I'm now engaged, and I have been able to build a strong professional connection with DAMTA.

Before becoming the Vice President of Student Musicales, I had been consistently signing up my students for these monthly performances. I immediately recognized the importance and potential of this program. The Musicale program offers invaluable performance experiences to students

throughout the Denver area. As Vice President, one of my goals is to continue fostering a positive and non-judgmental performance experience for all students.

The Musicales are a great opportunity for students to perform a piece for the first time or play something in preparation for a competition or recital. They take place in the performance space at Classic Pianos so students have the chance to perform on a fantastic grand piano. The Student Musicale program not only fosters performance skills but it also helps create a musical community in the Denver area. It brings in students from many different studios across the city and provides a means for us to get to know each other a little bit.

I feel very fortunate to be a part of this program and I hope every DAMTA member has the opportunity to utilize this amazing resource. To find information about the Student Musicale Program you can go to DAMTA's website or use this link:

<https://denvermusicteacher.com/students/>



Dr. Thomas White listening to students perform at DAMTA's 4th Annual Student Musicale Celebrating Black History Month, which he helped to organize.



A student performing at a student musicale at Classic Pianos



DAMTA's student musicale program helps create community in the Denver area.

A BIG THANK YOU TO DAMTA'S GENEROUS SPONSORS!



<https://www.boulderpianogallery.com>



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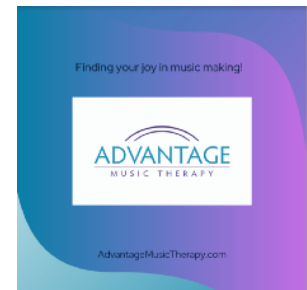


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