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Dates To Remember

May 8. DAMTA Annual Meeting, 9:30 - 10:30 a.m., Classic Pianos/Online.

May 8. DAMTA Teacher's Musicales, 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Classic Pianos/ Online.

May 19. Student Musicales and Honoring Ceremony for DAMTA Scholarship Recipients, 2:00 p.m., Classic Pianos/ Online.



LYRICS NEWSLETTER



BEN RAZNICK REFLECTS ON THREE YEARS AS DAMTA'S PRESIDENT

- Gains in DAMTA's DEI work, Programs, Technology, and more.

Page 2.



ANNOUNCING: SPECIAL MUSICALE CELEBRATING LATIN AMERICAN MUSIC

- March, 2025. Sign up to participate!

Page 5.



DAMTA'S FALL COURSE IN PLACE

- Keys to Growth & Empowerment.

Page 12.

What An Amazing Three Years It's Been!



President's Message:

Dear DAMTA, This edition of Lyrics, May 2024, I present you with my final President's Message. Can you believe three years have passed? I sure can't. It feels like the blink of an eye, yet as I have been composing this message, I'm in awe of the work we have accomplished together. Our local association has not only earned 2022 Local Association of the Year, but we were nationally recognized for our work twice in the American Music Teachers (AMT) Magazine, and I had the honor to present a session at the MTNA Conference about DAMTA's DEI work. As we conclude this chapter of our work together, I share heartfelt congratulations and appreciation to our board members, members, students & families, supporters & community, for your loyalty to our association.



DAMTA is awarded CSMTA's 2022 Local Association of the Year

(Continued on page 7.)

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 Nekoorad	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 NATIONAL ASIAN AMERICAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH

“You Change the world by being yourself.”

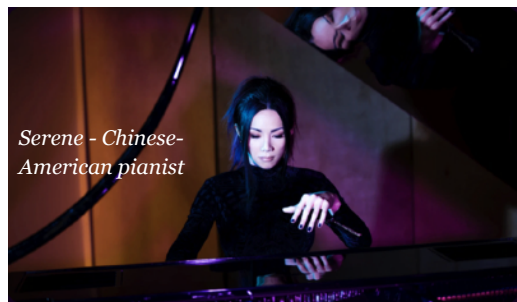
- Yoko Ono



Bokjung Byun - Korean American classical guitarist



Mimi Hwang - Chinese-American cellist



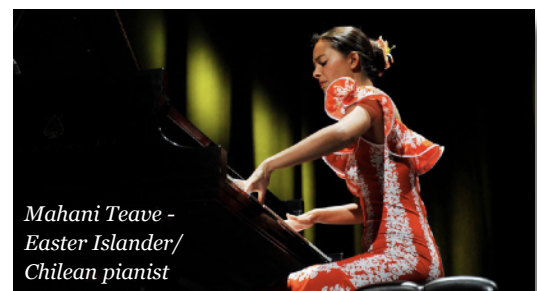
Serene - Chinese-American pianist



Nathan Matthew David - Filipino-American composer



Nguyễn Phúc Hải - Vietnamese-American violinist



Mahani Teave - Easter Islander/Chilean pianist

Uncertainty and the Power of "Yes"

Editor's Note:



In my very first editor's note, I wrote about my student Clayton. He'd just had his final lesson before commencing film studies at C.U. Denver. I couldn't have known, when he began lessons at the age of six, that he'd grow into that rarity, the passionate, self-motivated student. "He loves the piano," I wrote, "and plans to continue taking lessons, but the new demands on his time and energy will dictate the feasibility of that." In other words, I fully expected that our lessons would soon come to an end.

That was in September of 2021. As it turned out, he continued studying with me for another year and eight months. His lessons only ended when he decided to pause his film studies to travel in Asia, gathering material for his own film. In May of 2023 he performed on my Spring studio recital for the last time as my student. He'd worked hard on the first movement of the Ravel *Sonatine*, and played it beautifully. Then, as I was about to thank everyone for coming, he announced that he had a surprise for me, a kind of musical "thank you" for the years of lessons. He sat back down at the piano and embarked upon "Vallée d'Obermann" from the first book of Franz Liszt's *Années de pèlerinage*. I was gobsmacked. I had no idea he had been working on this fistful. He had learned it, and well, all on his own.

As I sat there listening, it became apparent to me as that I had had nothing to do with this. I'm not averring false modesty about my

teaching abilities, or that I had not had an influence on him. But his, what? will? drive? desire? whatever one might call the spiritual or characterological forces that had led him to lay claim to this music, that was all him.

At the end of April of this year it came time again for my Spring recital. I knew Clayton was in town. On a whim, I texted him, asked him if he was playing anything, and if he'd like to participate. He texted back an emphatic "yes!". He played Scriabin's "Prelude for the Left Hand" Op. 9, No. 1, and a piece of his own, called "Impromptu". As we were talking after the recital, I noticed a tattoo on the inside of his left forearm that had not been there the last time I'd seen him. It was a musical staff with a whole rest hanging from the fourth line, topped by a fermata, underscored with a triple forte. A beguiling absurdity. He explained that it was a symbol



devised by the Russian composer Sofia Gubaidulina to represent her friend, the great composer Alfred Schnittke, who attempted to express the absurdity and profundity of life through his music. And so there we were, eating post-recital snacks, me and this young man who I'd known since he was six, for whom Alfred Schnittke, and his tragicomic symbol, was a thing. I felt a kind of expansion beneath my feet, like the world taking a breath.

When I began teaching piano back in the early 1990s, I was beset with doubt as to my qualifications. But, since I didn't feel qualified to do much else, I went with it, and discovered that, whether or not I was any good at it, I loved doing it. I certainly had no inkling that one day a student would surprise me with Liszt. Even less did I imagine that one day I'd be asked to join the board of a prominent local music association known as DAMTA to serve as the editor of its newsletter. I did that, too, with no feeling of certainty apart from that "yes" seemed a much better answer than "no". Thank heavens for little flashes of wisdom, for my life has been enriched in so many ways on account of that "yes". Of course, I would have found ludicrous the idea that three years later I would be stepping into the role of DAMTA's president. But here we are.

And so I write my final editor's note, thinking once again about Clayton and the impossibility of knowing what lies ahead. What I do know is that, like Clayton, DAMTA has grown, and is growing, not only in numbers, but in quality and strength. Because of where it has been, and the leadership it has, through some collective wisdom, drawn to itself over the years, DAMTA is now in a better place than ever before to help its members engage with their profession and with the world. It takes no special insight to see that DAMTA is — which is to say we are — primed and ready to surprise us all. ♦



Announcing: SPECIAL MUSICALE CELEBRATING LATIN AMERICAN MUSIC

| March 2025 | Hamilton Recital Hall | University of Denver |

How DAMTA is preparing.

In preparation for this event, DAMTA has submitted an application to MTNA for a "Community Engagement" grant. If awarded, funds from this grant would go towards purchasing Dr. Gonzáles-Miller's book series for teachers interested in having their students participate. It would also help cover the costs of putting on the event.

What DAMTA needs from you:

Because an event like this is a significant undertaking, requiring considerably more planning and organizing than our typical monthly musicales, we are announcing it early so as to assess the level of interest from our teachers. If you are interested in having your students prepare works by Latin American composers and to participate in this event, let us know by using the sign-up link to the right. We're eager to hear from you!

We are excited to announce that, in March of 2025, DAMTA will host a free community event celebrating the music of Latin America. We are eager to renew the partnership with the Lamont School of Music Piano Preparatory Program, under the directorship of CSMTA

President Dr. Emily Book McGree. Last year's collaboration resulted in February's hugely successful student musicale celebrating Black History Month. Like that event, this one will be held in the beautiful Hamilton Recital Hall at Denver University's Newman Center.

We are deeply honored that El Sistema Colorado, under the directorship of Dr. Ingrid Larragoity-Martin, has agreed to join us in this collaborative effort. Students from this world-renowned social action and music education program will take the stage alongside students of DAMTA and Lamont.

We are privileged to be joined by award-winning pianist, scholar, and pedagogue, Dr. Desireé Gonzáles-Miller, whose milestone book series, *Expanding the Repertoire: Piano Music of Latin American Composers*, will provide the backbone of the repertoire to be performed. Participants will have a rare opportunity to learn and be uplifted by her knowledge, wisdom, passion, and experience. We couldn't be more thrilled!

The next step is yours! If you are interested in having your students perform in this exciting and unique event, follow the link below to sign up and stay informed. ♦



Dr. Desireé Gonzáles-Miller, NCTM

Interested in being a part of this Special Musicale? Sign up here! Link: <https://forms.gle/Z1LrcjcZVL3xku6s5>

Deadline: July 1st, 2024

(Continued from page 2.)

I often reflect on how I first learned about our association. About 8 years ago I moved to a new neighborhood and opened my piano studio. I decided to make a post on NextDoor to share the news. A friendly lady named Kristin Jordheim contacted me, offering to meet me for coffee to share about ... "DAMTA". My journey of becoming a piano teacher and running my own studio was a bit off the beaten path, so this brilliant network of independent music teachers was not on my radar. However, growing up in Boulder, I participated with my childhood piano teacher, Judy Lambert, in events like "Multiple Piano Festival" where up to a dozen pianos and 24 students play onstage together at the same time. Apparently, this was the workings of... BAMTA (Boulder Area)! So, this network of teachers wasn't so foreign to me after all. Sure enough, a short time later I joined DAMTA as a member and from that moment forward, I never looked back. I found a warm and nurturing home in this organization that provided me access to a wealth of esteemed educators and performers, student activities and events, and a support system I leaned on heavily.

Having previously worked in public education and educational nonprofits, I felt I'd be a good fit to join the Board of Directors. (Also, then President Vince Madison nudged me enough times!) Once elected as Vice President of Newsletter, I had a great time collecting information from our membership to publish in our Lyrics newsletter. I also prided myself on developing a new template. I transitioned our newsletter from black and white text to include colors, photos and our DAMTA logo. When it was time for Vince Madison to step down from his presidency, I felt ready to continue serving by running for the President role, and I am so glad I did. DAMTA not only has been wonderful to me as

an educator, but also supportive in my growth in leadership. Our association has been encouraging as I developed leadership skills, and as our association spearheaded important work such as our commitment to Diversity, Equity & Inclusion.

I'm so proud of our association's achievements during my 6 year tenure on our board Here are some of the highlights:

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI)

It was an honor to work with our bylaws committee to draft amendments and elect our first VP of DEI in October 2020. DAMTA is proud to be the first association in our entire MTNA network to develop this VP position, providing guidance and support in the development of MTNA and CSMTA's same role. I was so appreciative to give a session at the 2024 MTNA Conference in Atlanta titled "Grassroots DEI: How Local Associations Can Be a Force For Change". My presentation highlighted DAMTA's journey towards DEI work and how we have intended to implement



Ben presents about DAMTA's DEI work at the 2024 MTNA convention in Atlanta.

leadership work through a DEI lens. I received such special feedback from Dr. William

Chapman Nyaho, MTNA VP of DEI: "This is so impressive, it's just brilliant... incredible, methodical. [DAMTA has] been able to create something that is quite universal." This praise is proof that our hard work is paying off. I am elated that this work will continue forward as we welcome to our board our newly elected VP of DEI, Jerome Síbulo. Welcome, Jerome!

Student Musicales

In February 2021, our association developed our student musicale into a celebration for Black History Month. Four years later, working with our VP of Musicales Dr. Thomas White, our event blossomed in beautiful and unforeseen ways. We welcomed Dr. Leah Claiborne for our 4th Annual Musicale Celebrating Black History Month and were honored that she attended our recital as students performed works from her newly published series, *Piano Music of Black Composers*. We were thrilled to collaborate with Lamont School of Music Piano Preparatory Program to develop this special event. Our recital took place in Hamilton Hall at Denver University's Newman Center on a Steinway & Sons grand piano. DAMTA was the proud recipient of the Community Engagement Grant by Music Teachers National Association (MTNA), the Local Association Grant by Colorado State Music Teachers Association (CSMTA) and event sponsorship by Friends of Chamber Music. We were humbled that in our recital's fourth year, we grew our participation from 8 students of 4 teachers in 2021, to 28 students of 16 teachers in 2024! Our total funds raised for this event achieved \$1,600! Enjoy watching the replay of our event at damta.org or on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com).

What's more exciting? We feel so inspired and want to continue the momentum! We are

already planning an exciting follow up event next year to celebrate Latin American music with a sheet music series compiled by Dr. Desireé González-Miller that will be published by Hal Leonard this summer. Please stay tuned!



Our February Student Musicale was an enormous success!

Programs

In these past few years, our VPs of Programs Marilyn Madsen and Joshua Zabatta worked to think outside the box for our professional development sessions, chairing our Programs Committee to develop our Fall Course themes such as "Meet Your Neighbors: Conversations with Local Artists", "Nurturing the Well-Rounded Musician" and "The Power



Joshua Zabatta with presenters Nazila Nekoerad and Fernanda Nieto

of Music: World Music & Its Influence on Social Justice Movements". We also worked to develop a new procedure for collecting information from our presenters, facilitating the creation of our marketing. As you have seen, Joshua is creating beautiful brochures and booking well in advance. Thinking back to one of my favorite memories, I will always remember when Marilyn and I took a field trip to DAMTA's Denver Public Library archives to shuffle through 3 boxes of information. We discovered that we had been offering a Fall Course for over 40 years, and began to proudly market this in our brochure.



Marilyn and Ben at the Denver Public Library Archives

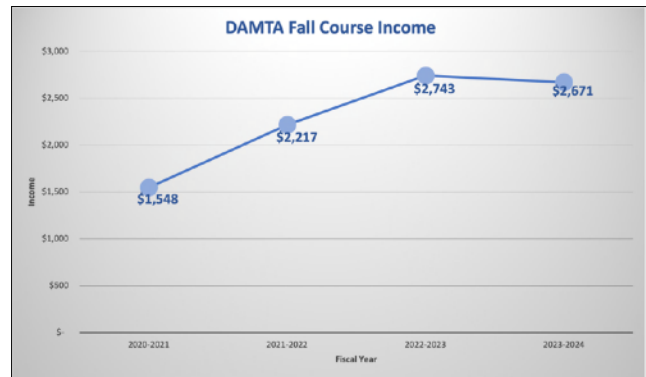
Finances

I have had the great privilege to work with our Treasurer, Carolyn Angelier. Carolyn digitized our finances and helped us analyze our income vs expenses and improve our cash flow. Carolyn has taught me invaluable lessons in finance, and perhaps the most important: If we would like to add a new expense line for spending in our budget, how do we expect to raise that money in our income? These conversations inspired by Carolyn have often

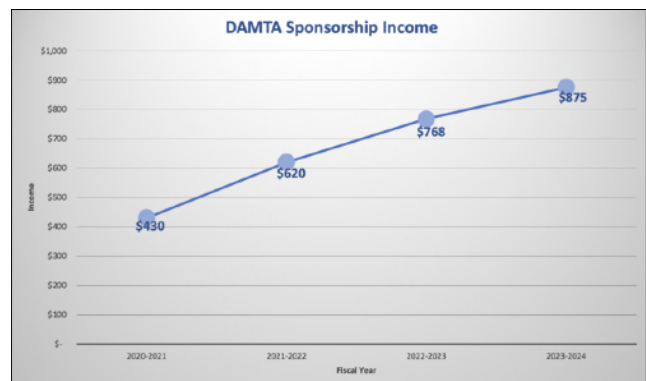
our creative ideas to become economically sound.

Carolyn and I developed the charts below to represent the great successes we've had in the past 3 years:

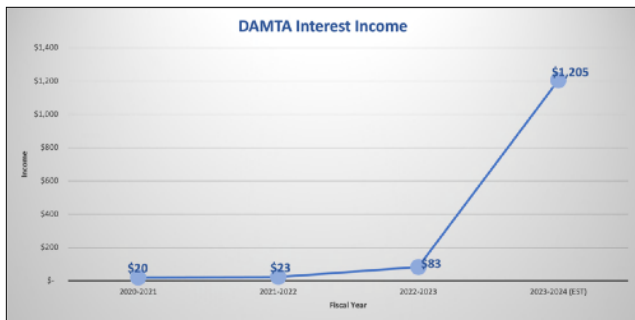
- We've seen a steady increase in our Fall Course income due to excellent speakers, our hybrid model and marketing.



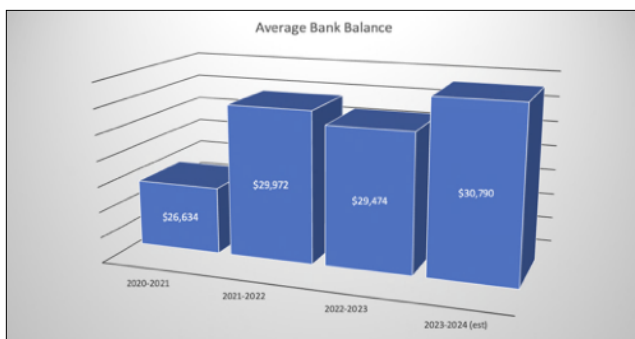
- We are proud to have steadily increased our sponsorship and continue to seek new partnerships.



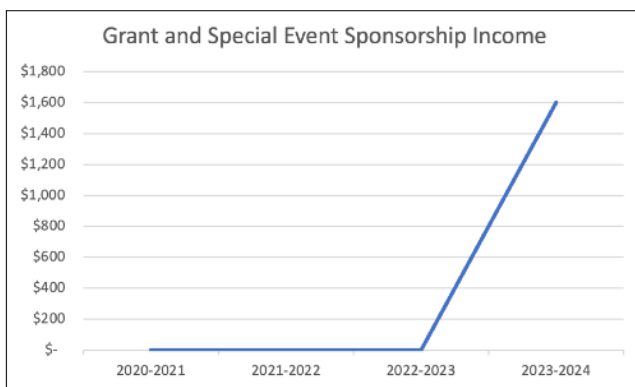
- DAMTA has a large savings due to a donated piano and then sold. We have approximately \$20,000 in our savings. This past year we began to invest these savings into a high-yield CD (Certificate of deposit - I know us music lovers are not accustomed to a CD as a banking term!) We are celebrating that this year, our interest is gaining DAMTA over \$1,200 annually!



- Our average bank account balance has increased steadily each year, even with our new technology investments.



- For the first year in recent years, DAMTA was awarded \$1,600 of additional funds in a combination of grants and event sponsorship. We are inspired to seek out more grants to facilitate our great work.



Technology

I am so proud of DAMTA's work with technology. We developed a Technology

Committee that researched and purchased equipment for DAMTA's successful hybrid model. Additionally, our website is updated to represent our current work at DAMTA and we have buzzing social media accounts on Instagram & Facebook. Thank you, David House, Kristin Jordheim, Annette Karges, Shana Kirk, Vince Madison and Joshua Zabatta.

Membership

In these past few years, I've enjoyed working with our membership VPs to brainstorm opportunities to increase our membership engagement. I'm so excited that next year you can expect fun membership mixers and opportunities to simply spend time together! This VP role also works hard to organize our DAMTA scholarship and sponsorship. Both are running so successfully and continue to increase in interest. Thank you, Evelyn Billberg, Sonya Clark and Annette Karges.

Secretary

I have loved witnessing the evolution of our secretary work. Chandrika has now developed email templates for all of our meeting agendas and keeps our minutes in one place. There is so much organizational work that happens behind the scenes, and often we may miss this because things run so effortlessly. I can confirm, none of this is possible without our secretary role. Thank you, Nazila Nekoord and Chandrika Prem.

Newsletter

Last but not least... Our Lyrics newsletter is

soaring! That is because our editor, David House, goes above and beyond for every single edition. In his three years as VP of Newsletter, David developed our monthly bulletin into a thoughtful artistic vision with a design aesthetic, editor's messages, member contributions, and his infamous cultural collages of musicians to celebrate diversity awareness.

I'm elated that David will now step into our President role! I remember the first time I had the opportunity to visit David's home, and was impressed by his walls (yes, walls) of CDs. As I



David with Augie (left) and Hugo in front of part of his impressive CD library.



Thank you to our DAMTA photographer, Lan Vo!

have reflected on this, I have learned that David's passion for listening not only applies to his music collection, but also to how he works with his colleagues. In fact, the first thing he did as President-Elect was to schedule a meeting with each VP to learn about their role. I am so impressed with how David has embraced this leadership transition. DAMTA you are in wonderful hands! David will be a fantastic President as a dedicated, witty and compassionate leader. I couldn't be happier with this transition and am so grateful David accepted the nominating committee's recommendation to run. Congratulations, David!

Elected to fill our VP of newsletter role is Nichole Young, welcome to our board, Nichole!

I would like to also thank everyone who I've called on for support these past years. Whether it be our Past Presidents and board members for their institutional knowledge and advice, my husband Shawn and my family, or any colleague or friend who has guided me in challenging times, I'm so very appreciate for your advice.

Thank you for a beautiful presidency, DAMTA. It's been truly an honor and I'm so thrilled for what's to come with our association!◆

Sincerely,

Ben Raznick

Ben Raznick
DAMTA President

Submitted by David House

El Sistema Colorado:

A Force for Change

El Sistema is a social action/music education program founded in Venezuela in 1975. Its motto is "Music for Social Change". Its mission is to bringing free classical music education to disadvantaged children. El Sistema Colorado (ESC) is the local chapter of this now global organization. Dr. Ingrid Larragoity-Martin is the executive director, Johnny Szumski the program director of this vibrant and exciting organization.

In April, DAMTA President Ben Raznick, President-Elect David House, and Nichole Young, incoming V.P. of newsletter, attended "Resonance", an educational afternoon and evening presented as a fundraiser for ESC. Also in attendance was Chee-Hwa Tan, CSMTA's Vice President of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. It was a transformative event!

DAMTA is eager to find ways of partnering with this exceptional organization. To begin with, we have invited them to participate in a student musicale celebrating Latin American Music, to be held in March of 2025 (See page 5). They enthusiastically accepted our invitation! And so begins what we hope will be an ongoing and productive association between DAMTA and ESC. ♦



DAMTA's Fall Course 2024: Keys to Growth & Empowerment

Joshua Zabatta, DAMTA's VP of Programs, has assembled a remarkable group of presenters for our Fall Course. About the course, Joshua says, "I am absolutely thrilled with our lineup for this year's Fall Course. Empowering others and giving them the tools they need to move forward is one of my passions and a key part of my mission statement. In my life, I have been blessed to have wonderful people who have mentored me and helped me move forward in my career. I hope this set of presenters can help empower our local teachers to impact their students and community." For a more complete description of sessions and presenters, check DAMTA.ORG.



Empower. Motivate. Inspire.

Fall Course Rates for 2024

\$115 - Early Registration (By 07/01)
\$140 - Registration (After 07/01)

Ask about our group rates where you can save up to 40% off registrations covering 5 or more people.

Non-DAMTA members are welcome to register as well!

All programs available in person at Classic Pianos of Denver and online, except for 11/13 and 12/11 which are online only. Replay available for all programs.

Register now to gain access to these seven great presentations!



More information at:
www.DAMTA.org

Join us for our 2024 Fall Course.

We at DAMTA aim to empower, enrich, and inspire teachers in the Denver area and beyond with our innovative programs. We hope you can join us for our fall course this year.

"Music is the great uniter.
An incredible force.
Something that people
who differ on everything
and anything else can have
in common."

~ Sarah Dessen

DAMTA
Denver Area Music Teachers Association
www.denvermusicteacher.com

The Denver Area Music Teachers Association Presents:

Keys to Growth & Empowerment:

A Toolkit of Essentials for the Independent Music Teacher

Our 45th Annual Fall Course



2024 FALL COURSE PRESENTATIONS

09/11: DIANNE BETKOWSKI



How to get to Carnegie Hall: Tools for Practice & Motivation in the Studio

The organization of student practice time has proven to be an amazing tool for success, and Dianne will share how her book, *How to Get to Carnegie Hall: Weekly Music Practice Organizer*, helps speed student progress, as well as some of the associated practice techniques she and her students enjoy and which contribute to accelerated and joyful learning.

09/25: DAVID ANDERSON



Introduction To Personal Branding: Discover your Mission, Vision, and Values

Personal branding is a journey of self-discovery and self-expression. It's about aligning your inner feelings with your outer actions. Your mission is your purpose, your vision is the future you want to create, and your values guide your actions. In the *AriaReady* process, these are the first steps to becoming known, liked, and trusted. Your brand is about authenticity, living in alignment with your mission, vision, and values, by expressing your true self. If you don't tell your story, someone else will!

10/09: AMY ERHARD



Building Your Music Business With Intention

Create a roadmap for your ideal business based on your professional skill set and personal goals. In this session we'll explore business models, growth strategies, and technology tools to help you create the business you envision!

All presentations are held on Wednesdays from 10:30 to 11:30am, with a Q&A until Noon. All programs take place in-person at Classic Pianos of Denver and Online, except for 11/13 & 12/11 which are online only.

All in-person programs are hosted at: Classic Pianos of Denver, 1332 S. Broadway, Denver, CO 80210

10/23: ALEJANDRO CREMASCHI



From Habaneras to Huapangos: Developing a sense of rhythm and timing with Latin American repertoire

During this presentation I will introduce Latin American intermediate and advanced pieces that contain rhythmic and timing challenges. I will demonstrate practical techniques to help students develop a better understanding of rhythm, timing and direction. These challenges include rubato, syncopation, hemiolas, cross-rhythms, irregular rhythms and rhythmic groupings, and toccata-style rhythmic writing. Many of these pieces were inspired by folk rhythms, including the germinal Habanera dance rhythm, Huapangos and other 6/8 dances.

11/13: STEPHANIE ANN BALL



The Art of Truly Space Holding: How to be Present & Emotionally Available for Your Students

In this session we'll explore what it means to hold space for our students and all the emotions that come along with the learning process. Beginning with a conversation on how to understand our own emotions and nervous systems as teachers, we'll cover important topics like intentional listening, staying grounded, and energetic boundaries. Stephanie will also share tools you can use to spot emotional dysregulation in your students so you can create a safer space for them to express their creativity and grow as musicians *This Presentation is online only.

11/20: EMILY BOOK MCGREE



The Inclusive Classroom: Strategies for Teaching Neurodiverse Students

Meeting students where they are is one of the most important things we do as teachers. Research shows that 15-20% of the current population is considered neurodivergent, and this number will likely climb over the coming years. This presentation will discuss ideas and strategies for effectively teaching neurodiverse students in both private and group piano studios.

12/11: ERIC BRANNER



The Business of Private Teaching Studios: Thriving at the Intersection of Purpose and Entrepreneurship

This talk explores various aspects and perspectives of managing and operating your studio. Develop curiosity, and identify as an entrepreneurial business owner. Learn new, actionable ideas and technology to help you earn more, deepen the enjoyment of your work, and increase the impact you make on your community. *This Presentation is online only.

Concert Report

“Focus on Native Composers”

by Carolyn Angelier

I had the privilege of attending the “Focus on Native Composers” concert on Sunday, April 13th. This collaboration between Ken Caryl Concerts and Celebration of Native Arts was a rare opportunity to hear this music performed by talented area musicians. Performers included the Signature ensemble from Young Voices of Colorado, the Columbine Music Teachers Association (CMTA) teachers and students, and DAMTA’s very own David House along with his husband Lan Vo.

There was a wide variety of sounds and instruments featured, including voice, piano, violin and dog whistles. Works featured included the following:



David House (piano) and Lan Vo (violin) performing “Coyotes” by Connor Chee



Luke Mizuki (piano) and Kimean Wibbenmeyer of Young Voices of Colorado



Young Voices of Colorado performing “We Are the Storm” by Jarod Tate

- “We are the Storm” by Jerod Tate – performed by the Signature ensemble from Young Voices of Colorado
 - “Canadian Floral Emblems” by Beverley McKiver – performed by CMTA teachers and students
 - “Mountain Prairie” by Jessica McMann – performed by Sofia Vyhmeister, vocalist from All-State Choir 2024
 - “Coyotes” by Connor Chee – performed by Lan Vo (violin) and David House (piano)
- Performances by CMTA teachers:
- “Whistle Quartet” by Raven Chacon
 - “Singing for Water” by Brent Michael Davids

- "Great Gambler" by Michael Begay
- "Warrior" and "Unconquerable" from *Savage: The Unconquerable Wanda Savage* by Nicolette Blount
- "Sandpaintings" by Connor Chee

It was impressive to see the hard work and professionalism that went into learning this challenging music. It was especially refreshing to attend an entire concert featuring new and intriguing repertoire. I look forward to hearing more from this organization and these performers. ♦



Jena Dickey conduction Young Voices of Colorado



A Young pianist from the Columbine Music Teachers Association performing one of Beverly McKiver's "Canadian Floral Emblems"



Vince Guerri, Joshua Riggs, Ellen Shamas-Brandt, Cindy Newman, and Kristen Celusniak performing "Unconquerable" by Nicolette Blount



The gathered performers of the "Focus On Native Composers" Concert (minus Lan Vò, who took the picture.)

Submitted by Ben Raznick



Leila Viss Named 2024 MTNA Foundation Fellow

Congratulations Leila Viss, our 2024 Foundation Fellow, nominated by Colorado and celebrated at the MTNA Gala in Atlanta! It was exciting to cheer Leila as she stepped onto stage to receive this award. We appreciate Leila's kind message below.

Leila has her Master of Arts Degree in Piano Performance and Pedagogy from the University of Denver, Lamont School of Music and operates her independent piano studio in Centennial, Colorado. "From the start, it's been my goal to offer innovative, tech-savvy lesson plans to develop pianists who stick with the piano for a lifetime." [LeilaViss.com](https://leilaviss.com) includes music app suggestions, dynamic teaching tips, off-bench activities, clever ways to teach with household, repurposed items and original compositions and arrangements. We are so proud of you, Leila! 🎉🎵

Dear Members of Denver MTA,
I am writing to express my heart-felt gratitude for your generous contribution to the MTNA Foundation in my honor. Being recognized by members of an outstanding organization like MTNA is an exceptional honor. Being recognized by my colleagues for daily working in a field that I've always been passionate about is a lovely surprise.

Knowing that your donation will support individuals in their music training brings an extra layer of joy to this surprise.

So, thank you. Your thoughtful gesture has deeply touched my heart. I'm still reeling.

With much appreciation,
Leila J. Viss

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: May 19, at 2:00 p.m., at Classic Pianos of Denver (1332 Broadway, Denver, CO. 80210) Host: Nazila Nekooraad, nekooraadnazila@gmail.com.

Upcoming Musicales:

- This is the last musicale for this academic year. We look forward to your participation in September!

WHAT DAMTA MEMBERS ARE UP TO

Submitted by David House

On April 20th, Jamie Shaak gave the world premier of composer Bill Hill's *Rhapsody for Piano and Orchestra*, with the Evergreen Chamber Orchestra.

The Denver community knows Hill as the principle percussionist with the Colorado Symphony, the conductor of the Evergreen Chamber Orchestra, and a skilled composer. *Rhapsody*, his most recent work, was written especially for Jamie. It is an engaging, energetic work showcasing Hill's acknowledged influences - Stravinsky, Ravel, modern jazz - ideally suited to Jaimie's formidable gifts.

Those of us who know Jamie know she is a supremely accomplished pianist whose gifts in no way impede her approachability and charm. There is a joy in her that comes across both when speaking with her one on one, and to an audience when she sits before a piano. Her performance of *Rhapsody* was - I can think of no better word - joyful. ♦



Jamie with long-time friend Dana Breitenstein and David House at the premiere of "Rhapsody for Piano and Orchestra".

Jamie Shaak Premiers Bill Hill's Rhapsody for Piano and Orchestra



Bill Hill and Jamie Shaak. Bill says he consulted Jamie at a every step of the composition process for "Rhapsody", and that she never asked him to change a single note!

DAMTA'S SCHOLARSHIP FUND AT WORK

May Spotlight: CORA ELIASSON

I used the DAMTA scholarship to pay a portion of the monthly tuition for the Summer School of Rock Program. I am still doing my research into purchasing a microphone and the necessary equipment. This year I performed in The Beatles program. I have been singing lead and backup vocals, in addition to keyboards and trumpet. This made preparing for the concert more difficult and time-consuming than last year when I was only performing on vocals. I learned the importance of practicing at home consistently to be better prepared for the concert.

My favorite part of School of Rock is being able to perform with different groups of people. The Beatles program has 21 songs, and I am part of 10 of those songs. Each song has a different group of students combined to make the band for that song.

My favorite part of School of Rock is being able to perform with different groups of people. The Beatles program has 21 songs, and I am part of 10 of those songs. Each song has a different group of students combined to make the band for that song.

I grew as a musician this year by focusing more on my stage presence, whereas last year I focused more on singing in a contemporary setting. I think having a better stage presence has improved my voice because I feel more confident and comfortable on stage. I also improved my communication skills with the other band members.

Thank you so much for awarding me a scholarship for this program. I really enjoyed School of Rock and plan to participate in the program again next summer. ♦



Cora is a student of Arlyce Black.

MEET YOUR BOARD



Carolyn Angelier

Treasurer

I grew up in a rural community in southeastern Ontario, Canada. Both my grandmother and mother played the piano and I grew up hearing it regularly.

In Canada, piano studies very often follow the Royal Conservatory of Music (RCM) curriculum. It is a nationally developed system of comprehensive music education and assessment, covering many different instruments. I began this program soon after my first lessons at the age of 8. Each school year included preparation for an RCM practical and theory exam, and these tangible goals were a driving force in my piano studies. My extracurricular time was spent preparing repertoire, participating in festivals and music camps, and completing the advanced theory requirements necessary to graduate from the RCM. We moved to Chicago and I was able to study with concert pianist Gloria Greene Thomas. I received my ARCT in Piano Performance in 1996.

Following this, I attended Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario and received a Bachelor of Commerce degree with a major in finance. I have been working in corporate finance and accounting for the past 25 years, but I also teach piano and this element of my professional life brings me great joy. I believe I have learned as much from my students as they have learned from me. My membership in DAMTA has significantly impacted my development and networks in the local teaching community. The shared knowledge and experience of these teachers has been invaluable to my teaching career. ♦

A BIG THANK YOU TO DAMTA'S GENEROUS SPONSORS!



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