

An after school, tuition-free nonprofit music education program that offers disadvantaged students music instruction that can provide them with the skills, opportunity and knowledge necessary to excel in school, community, and career.

CITY VOICES

QUARTER NOTES



CITY VOICES STUDENTS (L TO R) AMANDA ECLATT (LINCOLN, 9,) DAMARIS NELSON (EAST, 12,) TAEALYN FISHER (EAST, 10) AND TARYN COOK (BRODY, 8) TOOK VIRTUAL LESSONS IN SPRING 2020.

PANDEMIC, DERECHO & ZOOM - OH MY!

When it became clear that the Spring 2020 session of City Voices was probably not going to be able to continue as normal due to the encroaching global pandemic, we moved quickly to be able to ensure that students would continue to have access to learning about and making music. Through the miracle of Zoom, FaceTime, and other virtual networking tools, most students were able to continue to have a weekly lesson. And

while we sometimes had to grin and bear the frozen screens (especially entertaining when student or teacher was in the middle of a big “ah”....), we also found unexpected joy in meeting students’ favorite pets, laughing at younger siblings running through the room, and getting a little closer glimpse into the life of the person on the other side of the screen. Above all, we all learned a little bit more about ourselves - that we were more

capable than we knew, that we could make music really almost anywhere, and that we would get through this together. Our Summer Recital was amazing proof that we did just that! 2020 doesn’t seem to be easing up too much - the recent derecho event took out our internet and our fence at City Voices. But we know we can “weather” this too (pun intentional!) And we can’t wait to see how creatively we can make music this fall!

INSIDE:

REWIND - P. 2

Lead roles, honors choirs, and a worldwide audience: read about our pre-pandemic year!

RESET :P.3

Alt - Delete - resetting our program via the virtual world!

REVAMP : P.4

Honoring our graduating seniors - where they came from and where they are going!

RESPECT: P.5

Honoring our graduating seniors - where they came from and where they are going!

PRE-PANDEMIC

City Voices students were making waves during the first part of the 2019-20 school year - at school and all over the metro!

REWIND



2019 Liberty & Justice Dinner, Wells Fargo Arena

ROW 1: Amanda Lowe, Abigail Phelps, Amanda Eclatt, Veronica Eclatt, Mary Mawi, Shaddai Johnson, Aline Mereno, Tessah Smith.

ROW 2: Esther Ubadigbo, Saraya Waters, Duncan Vivanh, Isaiah Wade, Jordan Legvold, Kaseia Tillman, Kendall Bruce, Shannon Seals

LIBERTY & JUSTICE DINNER

City Voices students and Teaching Artists were asked to sing the National Anthem at Wells Fargo Arena for the Iowa Democrats' annual Liberty & Justice Dinner. This event featured 14 different presidential candidates, an audience greater than 13,000 people, and a worldwide audience! It was a great opportunity to see democracy in action!

SEEN ON STAGE

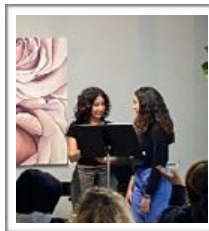
Our students were seen in the East High School production of "Sister Act," (Damaris Nelson/12, Me'Lisa Dudley/10), and Owen Yoder (12) played a lead in Lincoln High School's production of "Forever Plaid." Damaris was nominated for the prestigious Triple Threat award, given by Des Moines Performing Arts, based on this performance. 100% of our participating students also received 1's at the State IHSSA Music Theatre contest: Veronica Eclatt (Lincoln, 12,) Owen Yoder (Lincoln, 12,) Damaris Nelson (East, 12,) Annika Baker (Hoover, 12) Me'Lisa Dudley (East, 10,) and Tessah Smith (East, 10.) Damaris Nelson was named All-State as a result of her performance. Gbomi Kayode (McCombs, 6) performed at the Des Moines Playhouse.



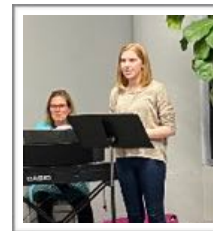
Damaris Nelson

MAINFRAME STUDIOS

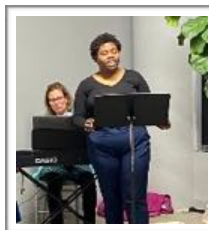
Just before everything shut down in March, City Voices students were invited to present entertainment at Mainframe Studios, in downtown Des Moines, during their popular First Friday Event! We didn't know it would be our last live event, but it was a great one!



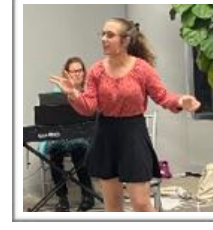
Veronica&Amanda Eclatt



Samantha Miller



Damaris Nelson



Annika Baker

RESET

Knowing that live performances were not going to be possible, City Voices embarked on a brave new way of communicating with our audience - over YouTube and Facebook! We were thrilled with the videos that students and teachers submitted and that Napoleon Douglas edited and

formatted for viewing as part of our "Quarantunes" Series, featuring everything from songs to wash hands by, to how to play a song on one guitar string, to a short choreography session, to how to warm up at home. Those were received so well that we decided to forge ahead and feature our

Teaching Artists "live from City Voices." We then featured our fabulous seniors in a series of Senior Recitals at the end of the school year. They were amazing, and proved once again that even though so much was canceled, the music-making never stopped!



Teaching Artist Napoleon Douglas did what he does best - teach our students how to be the most effective stage performers they can be! His video leading us through a dance sequence was intense but a lot of fun!



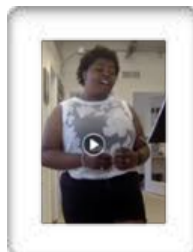
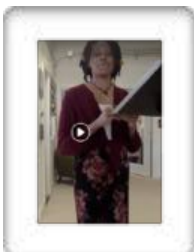
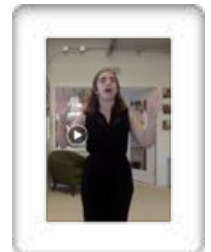
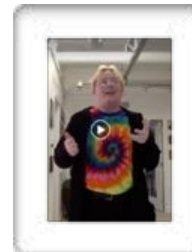
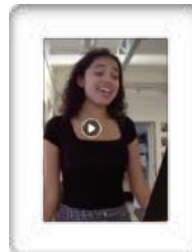
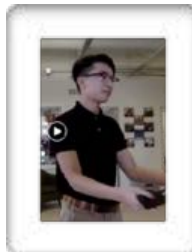
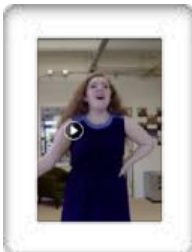
Senior Mary Mawi was one of many City Voices students who filmed a version of them singing "Happy Birthday" in order to wash their hands the recommended 20 seconds. Mary's version was in Korean, and included a shout-out to Mrs. Sims!



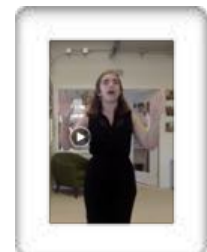
The Jorgenson family provided wonderful entertainment for one of our Friday afternoon "Live from City Voices" sessions that featured our amazing Teaching Artists!



Teaching Artist Dang Felton was another of our "Live from City Voices" series and gave us all a great reminder that live music is still great!



Our amazing seniors knocked it out of the park (or the studio!) with their incredible Senior Recitals! We couldn't be prouder of the musicians they have become - look out, world, here comes the class of 2020!



Row 1: Caitlyn Porter, Shaddai Johnson, Kalyn Truong, Veronica Eclatt, Owen Yoder, Annika Baker

Row 2: Esther Ubadigbo, Damaris Nelson, Annika Baker

REVAMP



Courtney Krause shifted her popular Songwriting Class to a completely virtual environment - and students thrived from the more personal interaction and guidance.

Napoleon Douglas led students through an incredible Music Theatre experience, with daily classes and lessons, culminating in student-filmed videos of their performances.



Some City Voices students returned to the studio this summer for lessons, with lots of safety measures in place, including masking in common areas, lessons conducted at 12 feet distances behind 6' plexiglass walls, and air purifiers in the teaching areas. Oh, and lots and lots of hand sanitizer!



Theory Students transitioned to a brand new way of learning online - the good news was that we could still see our musical examples!



City Voices was incredibly honored to be asked to virtually "sing" the National Anthem for the Iowa Democratic Party's annual Hall of Fame Event. Students and Teaching Artists alike recorded their parts individually, and they were combined into an amazing video that played at the beginning of the event, introduced by former first lady Christie Vilsack.

RESPECT

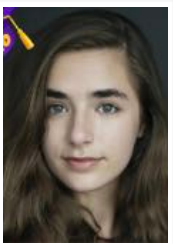
The City Voices Class of 2020 was one for the books - featuring no less than All-State musicians, Triple Threat nominees, musical leads, Division I solo winners, and high GPAs to boot! And although Covid-19 caused some changed plans, they are still just as impressive! We salute our super seniors!



Damaris Nelson (East High School) will attend DMACC for a year and then transfer to a 4-year college. She would like to study something in the medical fields, as well as continue studying music. She was a Triple Threat nominee in 2020.



Kalen Truong (North High School) will attend the University of Pennsylvania where he will study biomedical engineering. He was a lead in "Into the Woods" this spring. He hopes to continue to act and sing.



Annika Baker (Hoover High School) will attend the Iowa State University on scholarship where she will major in Theatre Arts and minor in Business. She was a 2-time Triple Threat nominee.



Shaddai Johnson (Roosevelt High School) will attend the University of Nevada/ Las Vegas where she will double major in criminal justice and vocal and commercial jazz. She made the ISU Honors Choir last winter.



Esther Ubadigbo (Roosevelt High School) will attend Northwestern University on a full scholarship. She will study the biological sciences with an adjunct major in Global Health Studies. She would love to sing in an a cappella group.



Caitlyn Porter (Lincoln High School) will attend Southwestern Community College for Music Vocations where she will study music and music business. She was a lead in Lincoln's "Hairspray."



Owen Yoder (Lincoln High School) will attend Iowa Central Community College as a Theatre major. He hopes to pursue a career in Musical Theatre. He was selected for All State in 2018, and advanced to All State Music Theatre in 2020.



Veronica Eclatt (Lincoln High School) will attend DMACC to satisfy her general education requirements and then transfer to a 4-year school. Her major is undecided. She received a perfect ballot at IHSSA's Music Theatre Contest in 2018.



Lilah Gray (Lincoln High School) will attend Luther College where she plans to study Elementary Education. She was a lead in Lincoln's planned production of "Hairspray" last spring.



Abigail Phelps (Roosevelt High School) will take a gap year to pursue her singing career. [facebook.com/abigailphelpsmusic](https://www.facebook.com/abigailphelpsmusic).

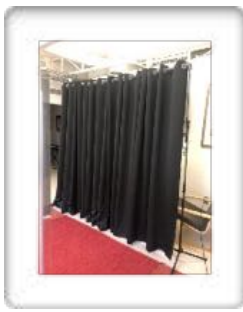


Owen Johnston (Johnston High School) will spend a year riding out the pandemic and hopes to continue to seek opportunities for performing throughout the city.



Mary Mawi (Roosevelt High School) will attend Iowa State University on scholarship with an undecided major. She had solos in her school choir "Bridges to Harmony" and sang solos at her church.

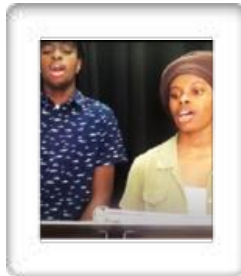
RECITAL



Despite the pandemic, the show must go on! City Voices students rose to the occasion with some amazing performances - “live” on social media!



Samantha Miller
(Lincoln, 9)



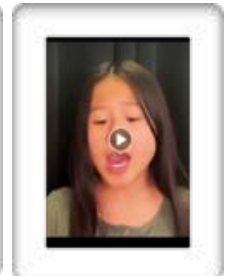
Esther & Josh Ubadiabo
(Roosevelt, 12, 11)



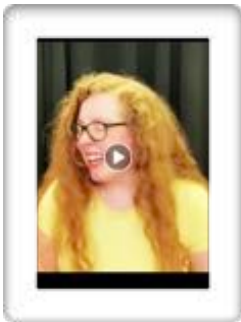
Macey Cooper
(Meredith, 6)



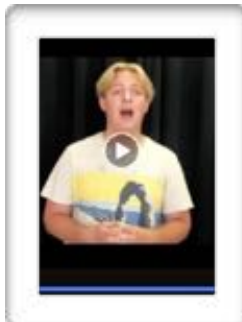
Quinn Matzen
(Roosevelt, 9)



Janessa Lee
(Hoyt, 6)



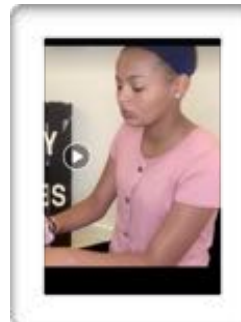
Caitlyn Porter
(Lincoln, 12)



Owen Yoder
(Lincoln, 12)



Tessah Smith
(East, 11)



Gbomi Kayode
(McCombs, 6)



Annika Baker
(Hoover, 12)



Jaren Jorgenson
(Brody, 6)



**MISSED THESE INCREDIBLE
PERFORMANCES?**

**THE GOOD NEWS: THEY ARE STILL
AVAILABLE ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE!**

[FACEBOOK.COM/CITYVOICESDESMOINES.](https://www.facebook.com/cityvoicesdesmoines)

CHECK OUT THE VIDEOS TAB!



Amanda Eclatt
(Lincoln, 9)



Kaseia Tillman
(Roosevelt, 11)

REWARD

CITY VOICES HONORED BY BRAVO WITH “SPOTLIGHT AWARD” 2020

City Voices was incredibly honored to be one of two recipients of Bravo Greater Des Moines' "Spotlight Award," a recognition designed to "shine a light on inspiring work happening because of Bravo's investments in arts, culture and heritage organizations." More than 1500 guests, including a City Voices contingent, saw Executive Director Mary Anne Sims accept a beautiful trophy on behalf of the entire

organization, which is now prominently displayed in the City Voices Studio! We are so proud to have been recognized in this way, and even more proud of our students and incredible Teaching Artists who helped us earn this amazing honor! We couldn't have done it without them!



City Voices was represented by (left to right) Teaching Artist (and alumnus) Michael Xayavong, student Esther Ubadigbo, Teaching Artist Amanda Lowe, Executive Director Mary Anne Sims, Board Member Anita Micich, and Teaching Artist Sarah Jorgenson. A wonderful time was had by all!

RECOGNIZE

THANK YOU

TO OUR AMAZING PARTNERS THROUGHOUT THE METRO FOR THEIR SUPPORT OF OUR PROGRAMS!

Although the Coronavirus pandemic has led to some significant financial setbacks for nonprofits nationwide as well as in the metro, City Voices was privileged to have been supported by some wonderful community partners, who made it possible for us to continue to offer programming!



American Enterprise
GROUP INC.



Bankers Trust.

IOWA ARTS COUNCIL

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

For their support of our Summer Music Academy 2020!



For their ongoing support of our yearly programming as well as for supporting our new RECORDING STUDIO with a Capital Project grant!



For their support of our new RECORDING STUDIO!



For their support of our voice lesson program as well as our Songwriting class!

And to the following organizations for their matching contributions and general overall support:

IOWA DEMOCRATIC PARTY

WELLS FARGO (YOUR CAUSE)

PRINCIPAL FINANCIAL GROUP (YOUR CAUSE)

WELLMARK FOUNDATION

NETWORK FOR GOOD

BUTLER FAMILY CHARITABLE FUND

As well as all those generous donors who contributed to our Facebook fund-raising campaign. You help keep the lights on and the music going!

REWIND

CITY VOICES ALUMNI ARE MAKING A MUSICAL DIFFERENCE OUTSIDE OUR WALLS - AND WE COULDN'T BE PROUDER!

Daniela Ortiz (North, 2016)

Served as programming director of the City Voices Summer Music Academy for the 2nd consecutive year, as well as teaching College Prep Music Theory and a private voice student. She also was part of the Dynamic Duo leading our Music Production and HipHop workshops, with Topeka-based hip-hop artist Dontae McKnight. Daniela, a senior in Music Therapy at the University of Kansas, will complete all of her coursework this fall, and will begin a music therapy internship at the Florida State Hospital in Okeechobee, FL in the fall of 2021. This facility is an adult, residential psychiatric facility, and Daniela hopes to implement a therapeutic HipHop program, as well as other Music Therapy activities.

Mayte Gomez-Cruz (North, 2016)

Graduated from the University of Iowa as part of the "Zoom Class of 2020." She received a Bachelor of Music in Music Therapy, with Honors. Her Honors recital was held in March, and featured many Spanish-language songs, some accompanied by Mayte on guitar. She is beginning a Fall 2020 internship at the Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital in Chicago, IL, part of the Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine.

Allegra Hernandez (Urbandale, 2015)

Graduated from Berklee College of Music with a degree in Interdisciplinary Music Studies, with a focus in guitar, music business, and production. They transferred to Berklee Online when their previous college, McNally Smith College of Music, closed in 2017. They have assumed new positions as a studio director for a recording studio that is entirely owned and operated by women and non-binary people, guitar instructor for School of Rock, and Director of Tech, guitar instructor and band coach for GirlsRockDSM.

City Voices students did some pretty amazing things during the Spring and Summer of 2020, and if you missed any of them you can find all of our amazing videos and performances on our social media pages!

www.facebook.com/cityvoicesdesmoines/

twitter.com/CityVoicesDSM

Instagram: cityvoicesdesmoines

YouTube: City Voices Des Moines

AND DON'T MISS OUR NEW, ONGOING SERIES OF STUDENT PERFORMANCES FEATURING THE MUSIC OF BLACK COMPOSERS! RELEASED WEEKLY ON OUR FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM PAGES!

Summer 2020

CITY VOICES



City Voices

924 45th Street
Des Moines, IA 50312