

# QUARTER NOTES

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.

## WHO ARE CITY VOICES STUDENTS? FIND OUT INSIDE!

### 2: #wearecityvoices

Read about our newest project highlighting students' musical development and preferences!

### 3: #wearecommunitymembers

Read about all of the places City Voices students have been spotted performing this year!

### 7: #weareachievers

Read about how our amazing students are using their skills to achieve big things!



## WHO ARE CITY VOICES STUDENTS?

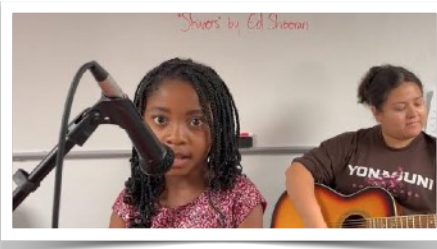
**They are musicians, of course, but they are so much more than that. Informed by our Summer Music Academy project #wearecityvoices, this newsletter celebrates all the things they are - performers, community members, alumni, achievers, learners, and part of a wonderful village!**

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# #wearecityvoices



Daniela Ortiz & Diana Gonzalez checking recording for #wearecityvoices



Olivia Skuster & Daniela Oriz recording for #wearecityvoices

This summer we introduced an all-school project highlighting who our students are musically! Called #wearecityvoices, and led by Teaching Artist (and City Voices graduate) Daniela Ortiz, participating students composed, rewrote, or brought in a song they already knew and loved, recorded their submission, and sat for an interview about what has influenced them musically - audio and videos were then released on social media platforms.

We loved getting to know our students better, and finding out what makes them musically tick! Participants included Olivia Skuster (Windsor, 3), Diana Gonzalez (Christ the King, 6), Ivin Muhammad (Roosevelt, '22), and Tanganyika "Lucky" Lac (Hoover, 11). They are City Voices!

## CITYVOICES BY THE NUMBERS:

- \* City Voices students came from 14 different area schools, in grades 6-12.
- \* They were mentored by 8 different teaching artists, all experienced, professional musicians and educators.
- \* They won musical roles in 5 different community theatre performances at Des Moines Young Artist's Theatre, the Des Moines Playhouse and Ankeny Community Theatre.
- \* City Voices students won 3 lead roles in area school musicals.
- \* 2 City Voices students were nominated for the Iowa High School Music Theatre Association's "Triple Threat Award," and participated in their year-ending showcase.
- \* They were supported by donations from 80 different supporters, including Bravo Greater Des Moines, the Iowa Arts Council, EMC Insurance Foundation, American Equity Investment, American Enterprise Foundation, West Bank Foundation, Bankers Trust, Community Foundation of Des Moines, EMC Insurance, the Yip Harburg Foundation, and the Addam Medina Foundation.
- \* All together, our students have received over 500 hours of free music education so far this year, and the year isn't over yet!

#wearecommunitymembers

**CITY VOICES STUDENTS ARE PROUD TO BE A PART OF OUR COMMUNITY! THEY COULD BE SEEN ON STAGE THIS YEAR:**

**@IOWADEMOCRATIC PARTY CONVENTION**

City Voices students were asked to sing “Lift Every Voice and Sing” at Hy-Vee Hall in downtown Des Moines for the Iowa Democrats’ annual convention. This event featured many political candidates, and we are proud to be a part of democracy in action!

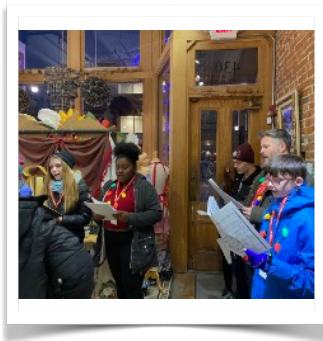
**@IOWA STATE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION**

Samantha Miller (Lincoln, 11) sang the National Anthem for delegates attending the Iowa State Education Association’s Annual Conference. City Voices supports our state’s amazing educators!

**@DELTA KAPPA GAMMA**

City Voices students **Amanda Eclatt (Lincoln, 11)**, Me’Lisa Dudley (East, 12), Keira Jorgenson (Brody, 7) and Jaren Jorgenson (Brody, 8) for the Des Moines chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma’s 70th Anniversary Celebration on Saturday, May 7. Delta Kappa Gamma is an honorary women’s education fraternity. A wonderful morning!

AMANDA ECLATT (Lincoln, 11)



**@HOLIDAY PROMENADE**

City Voices students caroled throughout the East Village as a part of the annual “Holiday Promenade” event, highlighting the amazing, eclectic businesses in this area. We had a great time - and the warm weather didn’t hurt!

**SAMANTHA MILLER (Lincoln, 11), ME’LISA DUDLEY (East, 12), OWEN NICOLINO (Roosevelt, 11), teaching artist JEREMY JORGENSEN, JAREN JORGENSEN (IA Virtual Academy, 8)**

**@PLYMOUTH CHURCH**

Three City Voices students recorded a song representing their heritage for Plymouth’s video series “1619 Revisited.” Me’lisa Dudley (East, 12) sang “I Will Rise,” by Yolanda Adams, Dayana Espinoza (North, 10) sang “Los ojos de Mandela” by Beatriz Luengo, and Tanganyika “Lucky” Lac sang “Africa:No Xenophobia” by Rayvanny.



**@INGERSOLL LIVE**

City Voices students were invited for the second straight year to participate on the Community Stage at this year’s Ingersoll Live, in August. This great event, right in our neighborhood, featured some of the city’s amazing musical groups - we were well represented with Owen Nicolino (Roosevelt, 11), Emmalyn Anton (Brody, 6), **Jeanella McKinney (Harding, 8)**, Samantha Miller (Lincoln, 11), and even an alumnus, Caitlyn Porter (Lincoln, ’20). Love our neighborhood!

## SPRING RECITAL 2022

City Voices students participated in a Spring Recital, concluding the Spring session of lessons. Held at Grandview University's Speed Lyceum Center, students entertained an appreciative crowd with Classical, Contemporary, Music Theatre and original music!

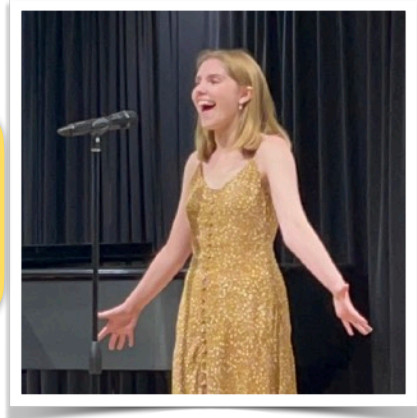
## SUMMER RECITAL 2022

On Saturday, July 30, 2022, 19 City Voices students took the stage at Grandview University's Speed Lyceum Center to present a program to wind up the Summer Music Academy! With selections representing Music Theatre, Contemporary pop music and even a little Nirvana, students showed off a lot of talent, highlighting all of the hard work they had done in lessons! A large, appreciative crowd of friends and family were treated to a wonderful evening!

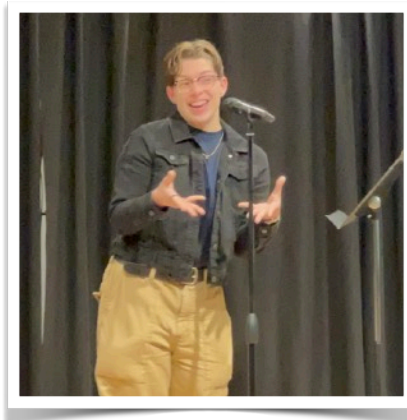
Special thanks go to Dang Felton, Michael Xayavong, Sarah Jorgenson, Brandon Record, and the amazing Alex Snodgrass for helping this amazing event happen! It takes a village!



**Baranaca Pankey, (8, Ames) "Smells Like Teen Spirit" (Nirvana)**



**Sam Miller (11, Lincoln) "Monster" (Frozen)**



**River Wise (2021, Lincoln) "Dear Professor Thompson" (Ordinary Days)**



**Jessy Arroyo (10, Roosevelt) "I'm Alive" (Next to Normal)**

# Summer Music Academy 2022

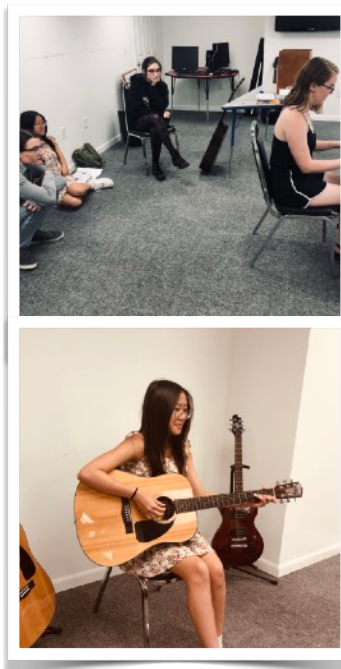
#wearelearners

We were so excited to have students back in our studios this summer for the 2022 Summer Music Academy!

This year's program featured some old favorites, including Songwriting , Record to Radio: Making a Cover Song, and Music Theatre, but also morphed the Production class into a new form, resulting in our #wearecityvoices project. (Read about THAT on p. 2!) Students accomplished some great things, and the creativity was flowing!

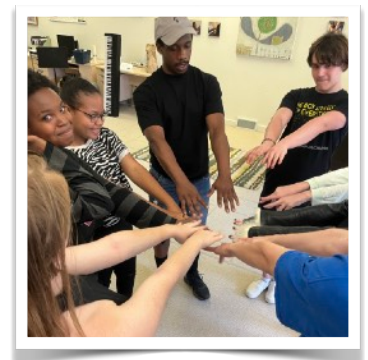
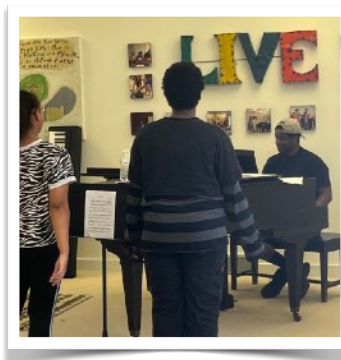
## SONGWRITING:

Teaching artist Dang Felton led students through a composition journey, using the online platform BandLab, and they really responded, writing and performing for one another!



## MUSIC THEATRE:

Teaching artist Napoleon Douglas led students through their performance paces once again, with every student polishing a performance piece in just 4 days!



# #wearealumni

## DANIELA ORTIZ (North, 2016)

Daniela, a graduate of Des Moines North High School, passed her Board Exam and accepted a position as a music therapist at the Texas State Hospital in Terrell, TX. She is a graduate of the University of Kansas with a degree in Music Therapy. Daniela also spearheaded our summer project #wearecityvoices.



## LORENA ECLATT (Lincoln, 2018)



Lorena, a graduate of Des Moines Lincoln High School, earned her Bachelor's degree from Drake University in Spring 2022, in vocal performance and music business. She also accepted a position as Property Manager at Mainframe Studios, a nonprofit artist collective in downtown Des Moines. A singer-songwriter, she is also a frequent performer throughout the metro, known as Lani.

## NAPOLEON DOUGLAS

(Teaching Artist, City Voices)

Napoleon M. Douglas, one of the original teaching artists with City Voices, was a part of two world premiere musicals in 2022. He was a member of the cast of *Bruce* at the Seattle (WA)

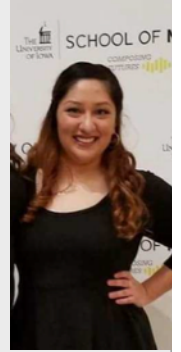


Repertory Theatre, a musical that tells the story of Steven Spielberg and the making of the movie "Jaws." Immediately after that show wrapped, he joined the cast of B. D. Wong's *Mr. Holland's Opus* musical, at the Ogunquit Playhouse in Ogunquit, Maine, where he played the role of "Louie" originated by Terence Howard, and served as Dance Captain. Napoleon is a graduate of Des Moines Roosevelt ('10), and has a degree in Theatre from Drake University ('14) as well as an MBA from Southern New Hampshire University. New York-based, he is a frequent guest artist with City Voices, as well as a new Board Member.



## MAYTE GOMEZ-CRUZ (North, 2016)

Mayte, a graduate of Des Moines North High School, is working as a music therapist at Lurie Children's Hospital in Chicago, IL. A graduate of the Music Therapy program at the University of Iowa, Mayte also completed an internship at the hospital.



### AND....

- Shad-dai Johnson (Roosevelt, '20) is a student at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, studying jazz voice.
- Owen Yoder (Lincoln, '20) is a theatre arts/music theatre student at Luther College. He has earned numerous roles in campus productions.
- River Wise (Lincoln, '21) is studying Theatre Arts at Columbia College/Chicago. He recently performed in Otherworld Theatre's production of *The Hunger Games*.
- Marquis Bundy (Lincoln, '21), studied at Columbia College/Chicago, and is now a working actor in Chicago, IL. He can currently be seen as "Professor Bhaer" in *Little Women* at The Home Creative Co..

## #weareachievers

- ◆ **Me’Lisa Dudley (East, ‘21)** earned a lead role in Des Moines Young Artists’ Theatre production of “Heathers” in Summer 2022. Me’Lisa was also nominated for the Triple Threat Award by the Iowa High School Music Theatre Awards for her starring role as “Dorothy” in East’s production of *The Wizard of Oz*.
- ◆ **Samantha Miller (Lincoln, 11)** was nominated for the Triple Threat Award by the Iowa High School Music Theatre Awards for her starring role as “Carrie” in *Carrie, the Musical*.
- ◆ City Voices alumni **Marquis Bundy (Lincoln, ‘21), River Wise (Lincoln, ‘21) and Caitlyn Porter (Lincoln, ‘20)** earned roles in Ankeny Community Theatre’s summer 2022 production of *Godspell*. Caitlyn also graduated Spring 2022 from the School of Music Vocations at Southwestern Community College.
- ◆ **Amanda Eclatt (Lincoln, 11)** earned a Division I rating (the highest possible) at the State Solo/ Small Ensemble contest in Spring 2022. Amanda earned one point off a perfect ballot for her performance of Debussy’s *Mandoline* and Hundley’s *Come Ready and See Me*.
- ◆ **Me’Lisa Dudley (East, ‘21), Gbomi Kayode (McCombs, 7) and Keira Jorgenson (Brody, 6)** earned roles in Des Moines Young Artist Theatre’s presentation *Duets*.
- ◆ **Emmalyn Ankton (Brody, 6) and Keira Jorgenson (Brody, 6)** were selected for the Des Moines Middle School Honors Choir, which performed at Drake University Spring 2022.
- ◆ **Teaching Artist Brandon Record** was voted “Volunteer of the Year” at the Des Moines Playhouse. Brandon is a frequent music director in Playhouse shows, including Summer 2022’s performance of *Matilda the Musical*.
- ◆ City Voices students and teachers earned feature roles in musicals at the Des Moines Playhouse and Des Moines Young Artists Theatre, including “Disney’s Descendants,” starring 3 City Voices students, **Me’Lisa Dudley (East, ‘21), Gbomi Kayode (McCombs, 7) and Keira Jorgenson (Brody, 6)**.
- ◆ City Voices graduates from 2021 and 2022 earned admission to music programs at Luther College, Monmouth College and Columbia College/Chicago, studying Vocal Performance and Music Theatre.



# #weareavillage

## THANK YOU:

To our amazing supporters for believing in our students, and helping better their future! It truly does take a village - and we know that we have the best village around!



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AND our amazing individual contributors for 2022:

Darrell & Sue Rojohn, Phil & Sharon Walsh, Dianna Baker, Robert Carr, Lisa C. Raabe Werth, Anita Micich, Delta Kappa Gamma, Iowa State Education Association, Lori Glawe, and Clark A. Matzen!

**THANK YOU!!**



WANT TO HELP? You can be part of our village - go to our website at [www.cityvoicesdesmoines.org](http://www.cityvoicesdesmoines.org), and click on "DONATE," or scan this QR code!