

COMPOSER'S CORNER: TIPS FROM NOVA POON TO EKS STUDENTS

Be Curious – “Always follow your curiosity, seeking what is important to you – in music, in art, in life: it is the same path.”

Be Wonder – “There is so much that is beautiful and interesting in life – keeping your sense of wonder can sustain you for a lifetime.”



23 CANVA STORIES

February Break

CLOSED

Please note that EKS Music School will be closed for February vacation from February 16–22. We wish everyone a wonderful break and look forward to seeing you when classes resume.

EKS MUSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2026



Composer of the Month: Nova Poon

Nova Poon (b. 1983) is a Canadian composer based in Calgary, Alberta, whose music spans solo, chamber, and orchestral settings. She began playing piano and synthesizer at a young age, composed her first piece at just ten, and later added flute to her musical world – experiences that shaped her deep love for chamber music.



Nova is especially known for her inventive combinations of instruments and her imaginative use of extended techniques and everyday objects to create unexpected sounds. Her music often feels exploratory and curious, inviting listeners to hear familiar instruments in new ways. Drawing inspiration from art, literature, nature, and shared human experiences, her works are both thoughtful and vividly expressive.

This month, students will explore the music of Nova Poon, focusing on her creative approach to sound and chamber music. We will listen to selected works, discuss her inventive instrument combinations, and learn about extended techniques and unconventional sound sources. Through listening and discussion, students will discover how everyday experiences, nature, and art can inspire fresh and imaginative musical ideas.

SCAN ME



Friendship Concert

April

11



Friends

Perform in a small group (2-5 students)

Take the Stage with your friends

Register by Feb 7



LEARN MORE

Friendship

CONCERTS

Groups may include EKS students, friends outside EKS, or family members

All instruments and levels are welcome

Registration deadline: February 7



VOICE MASTERCLASS WITH ERIN MATTHEWS

We recently enjoyed a wonderful Voice Masterclass with soprano **Erin Matthews** at the Braintree Public Library, filled with thoughtful music-making and meaningful learning moments. The welcoming setting created a supportive environment for both performers and audience members to engage deeply with the art of singing.

EKS voice students **Elowen Cassidy**, **Valerie Mui**, **Chris Romeo**, and **Anya Healy**, all students of senior faculty **Ms. Jen Pearl**, performed with confidence and musical focus. Each singer came well prepared and showed great openness to feedback, allowing the coaching to be both productive and inspiring.



READ MORE



AN AFTERNOON OF INSPIRED SINGING, LEARNING, AND GROWTH



ANYA HEALY



VALERIE MUI



CHRIS ROMEO



ELOWEN CASSIDY



GUEST ARTIST: ERIN MATTHEWS

Throughout the masterclass, **Ms. Matthews** shared practical insights on vocal technique, interpretation, and stage presence. Her encouraging and detailed approach helped students refine their performances while building confidence and musical awareness.

We are grateful to Erin for her generosity and expertise, and to the Braintree Public Library for hosting this enriching community event. It was a memorable afternoon that highlighted our students' hard work, the guidance of Ms. Jen Pearl, and the joy of shared music-making.



UPCOMING PERFORMANCE

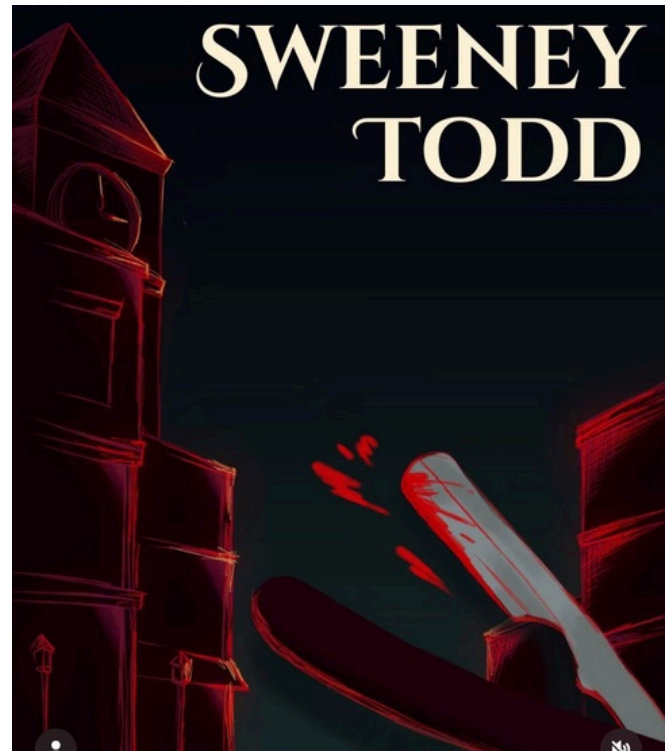
EKS PRIDE

WE ARE PROUD OF YOU!

EKS Voices Take Center Stage in Sweeney Todd! 🎭



**EKS
STUDENTS
SHINE**



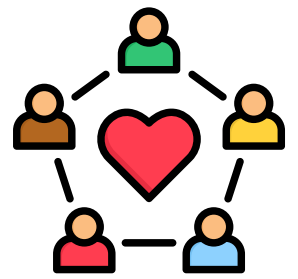
We are thrilled to celebrate two of our EKS voice students (Students of Senior Faculty Ms. Jen Pearl) who will be featured in QNQHS's spring production of Sweeney Todd.

Congratulations to Chris Romeo (TOP), who will take on the role of the Beggar Woman, bringing depth and drama to this iconic character.

We also congratulate Anya Healy (BOTTOM), who will be performing the role of Johanna, showcasing her beautiful lyric voice and stage presence.

Both students have worked diligently in their voice studies, and we are so proud to see their growth reflected on the musical theater stage. Bravo to Chris and Anya—we can't wait to cheer you on this spring! 🎭

EKS FACULTY & STUDENTS SHARING STAGE



Feb 21
4p.m.

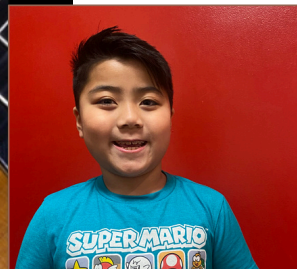
@ St. Chrysostom's Church
1 Linden Street MA 02170



EKS senior faculty member Fred Springer presents Encounter: Music for Here and Now, a recital of solo classical guitar music.

Featuring a prelude performance by star EKS students Meghana and Eden. The concert will be held at St. Chrysostom's Church, Quincy, MA, on Saturday February 21st at 4 PM. Free admission.

CONCERT OPENERS



EDEN
WONG



DIVYA MEG HANA
DANDE

**COME JOIN US TO SUPPORT OUR VERY OWN
FACULTY AND STUDENTS**

Faculty News



Congratulations to Dr. Ben Yee-Paulson on a Remarkable Composition Concert

Congratulations to Ben Yee-Paulson on the tremendous success of his composition concert earlier this January.

The program featured an evening of original works, with every piece on the concert written by Dr. Ben himself, offering audiences a compelling glimpse into his musical voice and creativity.

We are also proud to share that our senior faculty member, Fred Springer, was part of the concert, premiering several of these works.

[Click to see the video and relive this inspiring night of new music.](#)



[Click HERE to WATCH](#)



Upcoming Show by Voice and Piano Faculty Ms. Akshi Viswanathan

We're excited to share an upcoming post-Valentine's Day show featuring our voice and piano faculty member Akshi, performing under her stage name **Tara Sunne**, at the Middle East Club Upstairs. The evening brings together three Boston-based singer-songwriters — Tara Sunne, Riley Lauren, and Anna Lisa Patti — all students from BU and Berklee. This 2.5-hour show will feature a mix of original music along with pop, folk, and rock covers in an intimate club setting. Please note that this is an 18+ event. It's a great chance to enjoy emerging local artists in one of Boston's most iconic live-music venues.

[Ticket Information](#)
(Please click)

Tara Sunne

Riley Lauren

2 / 17 — THE MIDDLE EAST

7PM | DOORS 6:30
PRESALE: \$15
DAY OF: \$20

UPSTAIRS
472-480 MASS AVE
CAMBRIDGE, MA

WITH SUPPORT FROM ANNA LISA PATTI