



EKSMUSICSCHOOL.COM

HAPPY
NEW YEAR
2026

EKS MUSLETTER

JANUARY 2026



January Featured Event: Composer Christopher Goldston @ EKS

JANUARY 10, 2026 (SATURDAY)

We are delighted to welcome Chicago-based composer **Christopher Goldston** (Composer we featured in last October) to EKS on Saturday, January 10, 2026 for an inspiring afternoon centered on creativity and contemporary music. Chris will host Piano Masterclasses from 1:00–2:30 p.m., featuring 8 students selected by EKS faculty, and these masterclasses are open for observation at no cost to EKS students and families. This will be followed by a Composition & Improvisation Workshop from 2:45–3:30 p.m., which requires advance sign-up. The workshop is designed to encourage hands-on exploration of original musical ideas in a fun and supportive class setting.



Selected students performing at the Masterclass:
*Max Yu, Edmond Xie, Hannah Magano, Kayden Xu,
Bailey Lin, Selina Li, Emily Wang and Hailey Chen.*

 **REGISTER NOW**

OR

SCAN QR CODE



COMPOSER OF THE MONTH (JAN)

Chee-Hwa Tan

We will be learning more about her this month with our instructors during lessons.

Ms. Tan will be leading a virtual masterclass for our students in March—stay tuned for more details.



Chee-Hwa Tan is a composer, pianist and teacher who is passionate about helping young musicians grow and learn to love the arts.

She grew up in Malaysia and moved to the United States when she went to college. She began composing in graduate school, writing pieces for her piano students to help them advance to the next level and play more expressively. She used her favorite poetry as the basis of her first collection of pieces and made the music sound like the poems - *A Child's Garden of Verses*, by Robert Louis Stevenson. Ms. Tan teaches at the college level, most recently at the Univ. of Denver Lamont School of Music.

Influences



- She grew up immersed in the arts. Her mom was a Chinese brush artist and her aunt was a ballet dancer—and she took dance classes as a child.
- This helped her think about music through movement and visual art. She believes the way you move helps create sound and feeling in music.

Advice for students

- She was interested in composing and conducting but focused on becoming a pianist because she didn't see women in those roles. Later, she realized that anyone can make music and you should never limit your dreams.

Listening Assignment



2025 Winter Concerts

Highlights



Last month's winter concert weekend was a wonderful celebration filled with beautiful performances, laughter, growing confidence, and moments of pride for both students and teachers. It was especially meaningful to see students share the joy and warmth of the holiday season through music, supported by such an encouraging and enthusiastic audience.



Each performance reflected months of dedication and growth, and the positive energy in the room was truly uplifting. We are deeply grateful to our families for their continued support, encouragement, and presence, which make these events so special. Thank you for being an essential part of our EKS community.



2025 WINTER CONCERTS

VOICE MASTERCLASS

with Soprano Erin Matthews

We are delighted to welcome soprano Erin Nicole Matthews for a special Voice Masterclass with our students on Saturday, January 31, 2026. Students from our voice studio will be performing and working with Ms. Matthews in this enriching and inspiring session. This masterclass is free and open to the public, and we warmly invite families, friends, and community members to join us.

Ms. Matthews is a versatile soprano known for her expressive performances in opera, oratorio, and concert repertoire. She has appeared as a soloist with orchestras and ensembles across the United States and is equally passionate about teaching and mentoring young singers. With a strong foundation in classical vocal technique and a thoughtful, encouraging teaching style, she helps singers develop healthy technique, musical confidence, and expressive communication. Her work as both a performer and educator makes this a valuable learning opportunity for our students and an engaging experience for audiences.



Event Details

- **Date:** Saturday, January 31, 2026
- **Time:** 3:00–4:30 p.m.
- **Venue:** BraintreeThayer Public Library
- **Admission:** Free and open to everyone

We hope you will join us for an inspiring afternoon of vocal music and learning.



BRACELET CHALLENGE

 **Bravo!**

First 10 students who completed the challenge!

We are excited to celebrate the first 10 students who have completed the Bracelet Challenge in 2025—congratulations! This milestone reflects their curiosity, commitment, and willingness to explore music beyond the lesson room. From listening and learning to creating and participating, these students truly embraced the spirit of the challenge. We are so proud of their initiative and musical growth, and we look forward to seeing many more students join them as the year continues. Keep up the fantastic work!

[Left to Right, Top to Bottom]: James Magano, Hannah Magano, Renee Chou, Katie Chiin, Douglas Truong, Max Tran, Ian Quon, Meghana Dande, Tailey Chen and Lincoln Huynh-Nguyen.

Bracelet Challenge: Round Two Begins!



We are excited to invite more students to take part in the Bracelet Challenge and share in the fun. The **next 10 students** who complete the challenge by May 2026 will be recognized and receive a gift card as well in celebration of their effort. If you missed the first round, this is a great second chance to jump in. Stay curious, get involved, and enjoy the journey—each step is designed to support musical growth and creativity.



Last month, we are proud to celebrate two students who successfully completed their RCM in-person piano exams with outstanding results. Congratulations to Emma Sukosolvisit, who earned First Class Honours for Piano Level 10, Part 1, a remarkable achievement. We also congratulate Richie Karash, who earned First Class Honours with Distinction for Piano Level 3. These results reflect their dedication, hard work, and musical growth, and we could not be more proud of them.

★ EKS STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS @ RCM

First Class Honor



Emma Sukosolvisit
(Piano Level 10, Part 1)
Student of Ms. Ellyses Kuan

First Class Honor with Distinction



Richie Karash
(Piano Level 3)
Student of Dr. Ben Yee-Paulson

Interest in RCM Exam?

If you are interested in taking an RCM exam or would like to learn more, please speak with your instructor or email us at info@eksmusicschool.com.

Faculty Spotlights



Dr. Ben Yee-Paulson — World Premiere Concert

We are delighted to share that our piano faculty Dr. Ben Yee-Paulson will present a special recital featuring all original world premieres on Sunday, January 18 at 4:00 p.m. at New England Conservatory's Williams Hall. This exciting concert highlights Dr. Yee-Paulson's work as a composer, performer, and conductor, with him performing in several pieces and conducting one of the premieres. The program offers a rare opportunity to experience brand-new music brought to life by the composer himself. We are proud to celebrate this milestone and warmly encourage our community to support and attend this inspiring event.

Teaching & Inspiring: Ms. Ellyses Kuan, Artist-in-Residence at the Adult Piano Retreat in Austin, TX

We are pleased to share that our Music Director Ellyses Kuan will serve as Artist-in-Residence at the *Midwinter Adult Piano* Retreat from January 18–22 at Orpheus Academy of Music (Austin, TX). As part of this immersive experience, Ms. Kuan will be teaching, leading workshops, and performing, sharing her passion for adult piano education through individual instruction and collaborative music-making.

The retreat brings together adult pianists for focused study, inspiration, and community through lessons and workshops. We are proud to see Ms. Kuan contributing her artistry and pedagogy to such an enriching musical experience.



[Orpheus Academy of Music](https://www.orpheusacademyofmusic.com)

CLOSED

MLK Day Notice (Jan 19, 2026 Monday)

In observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, EKS Music School will be closed and there will be no lessons on that day.