

THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER
OF THE
TOURETTE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
PRESENTS

ArtisTIC Expressions



A Virtual
Showcase

MARCH 28, 2021
4:00 P.M. PACIFIC
VIA ZOOM



Tourette Association of America

Southern California Chapter

Performance Order

Steben Twins - Trapeze
Isaac Mather - Rap
Rylee-Joe Adkins - Visual Art
Alex Deitsch - Vocal Music
Jayce Mazzarisi - Piano
Jhonelle Bean - Interpreting a Song
Summer Short - Visual Art
Cayden Mazzarisi - Drums
Zeb Dore - Rap
Tiffany Cato - Poetry and Visual Art
December - Visual Art and Music
Cain Kulwicki - Poetry
Tiffany Meredith - Vocal Music and Guitar
Trey Lomax - Drums
Maria Serra - Painting
Zanny Nicholas - Vocal Music and Piano
Sophie Liotti - Dance
Anthony Soto - Vocal Music
Destiny Urdsick - Visual Art
Niki Weidner - Vocal Music and Guitar
Kiaha Judge - Vocal Music
Grace Taylor - Vocal Music
Katherine Marshall - Photography and Harp
Lorenzo Tiozzo Caenazzo - Vocal Music and Guitar

Performer Bios



Alex Deitsch

Kerhonkson, New York

I'm Alex, and I'm going to be singing Hallelujah.

Anthony Soto

Naples, Florida

Anthony is a senior in high school and has been doing theatre for 10 years, and is going to be a Musical Theatre Major at the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point. Along with being involved with theatre, Anthony has also loved playing music ever since he was little. Starting on the piano, playing trombone all throughout middle and high school, and has favorited the drums the past two and a half years he's been playing. Anthony was diagnosed with Tourette syndrome when he was 12 years, and although it was a fairly large obstacle to get over he never let it stop him from pursuing his dreams. Acting and singing always helped suppress his tics, so that definitely helped him get over the Tourette Syndrome obstacle.



Cain Kulwicki

Mishawaka, Indiana

I'm a total geek, I love all things Transformers, Pokémon and superhero. I live with my Mama and Dad whom I love. I'm home schooled and enjoy math.

Cayden Mazzarisi

Brick, New Jersey

Cayden is a talented boy with Tourette's since he was 4. He loves all things art! Drawing and creating comic books are his favorite activity. He is also an avid drummer who doesn't miss a beat.



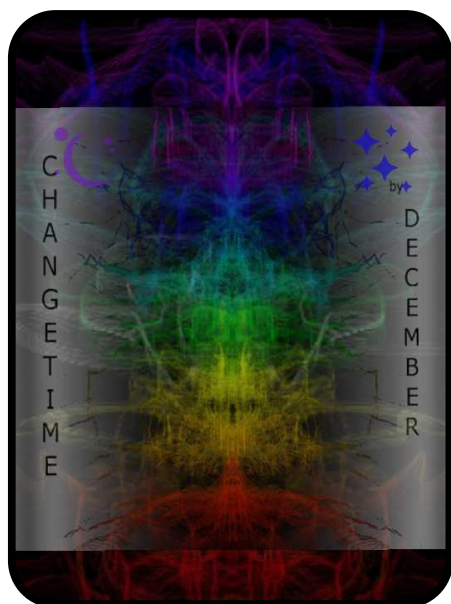
DECEMBER (Matei)

Beaverton, Oregon

MUSIC with INTENT for a PURPOSEFUL UNIVERSE

CHANGETIME: by DECEMBERmusic.org

Born in Oakland, CA with Tourette's, I spent the first 8 years of my life sick with chronic strep infections, then rheumatic fever. The effect of living undiagnosed until 24 was damaging. I applied for disability, and in 2010 I started getting benefits. I'm currently in Beaverton, OR. I've lived in poverty for 18 years and was homeless for 4, during which I lost all my recording gear. I am a trans/gender-neutral person. Being this with Tourette's has made life lonely.



I live in the contempt of society, outcast and feared by many. Now 40, I've yet to find my place in this world. I only get relief from tics when dancing. Every part of my body gets moving in spirals. In that center is where I find stillness. Music is the only medicine that's been effective. The music I compose, I feel I didn't make: the songs are living entities that use me as a medium to be cast into a form, of Light and Ether. That's why I use different names for myself, and the musician. The music has no face; they are open vessels, intended to carry individualized, personal meanings for any listener. If a song has personal meaning for me, I don't share that, as that would take away its ability to carry personal meaning for others.

I have self-produced 9 albums. Songs are free to enjoy: DECEMBERmusic.org. To make a contribution for future music, please use: paypal.me/Matei139

with Gratitude,
-Matei (DECEMBER)
LoveLightHARMONY"

Destiny Urdsick

Canton, Maine

Hello! My name's Destiny. I'm an 18 year old Russo-American traditional artist from Maine who was diagnosed originally with Persistent Tic Disorder in April 2019, which later became full on Tourette Syndrome in July 2019 (and still trying to figure out how to use an archival ink pen with tics-). I love to draw characters from the Japanese puzzle game series, Puyo Puyo and my original character from my own written works, Jeanne.



I love using alcohol markers for my coloured pieces and occasionally coloured pencils and I do really love my 5H pencil for my line art drawings and sketches. I often post my artwork to my Twitter page (@DusklightDGArlé) and over the past almost 2 years that I have been diagnosed with Tourette Syndrome, I have learned how to manage my tics and still do the things that I love, even though it might be just a little bit harder to use that archival ink pen without stabbing it through the paper nowadays.



Grace

Idaho

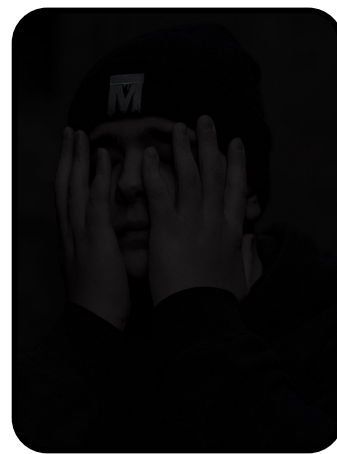
hi! I'm grace and im 15 years old and have had Tourettes, ocd, add, and anxiety since I was 7. music and songwriting have always been my escape from reality and my way to express myself when I needed it most. as of recently I had to go to the hospital for my severe anxiety and panic attacks- and it was honestly one of the scariest moments of my life.

I never thought my mind would be able too take away so many things I loved, including music. but thank the Lord that I am finally able to have my life back, and that I found the strength to continue on even at my worst times. this song is an original, and is sort of a mix of a lot of songs I've written, and although its not my best work lol, I hope it brings you joy in some way!

Isaac Mather

Lynchburg, Virginia

Isaac Mather is a Christian rap/pop artist, singer, songwriter, producer and audio engineer based out of Virginia. His goal through music is to relate to and impact people for the Glory of God.



Jayce Mazzarisi

Brick, New Jersey

Jayce is a young and talented piano player who is striving to create his own songs as his passion. He loves abstract art and his pets very much. He has Tourette's but doesn't let that stop him from being himself and loving music.



Jhonelle Bean

San Antonio, Texas

My name is Jhonelle Bean, I just turned 26 and I live in Texas. I started to develop tics in high school and was diagnosed with Chronic Motor Tic Disorder around 18 or 19 years old.

I love music and have been singing since I was in middle school. I later taught myself to play guitar when I was 16. I am also fluent in American Sign Language and have been signing and interpreting music for about 5 or 6 years.



I will be showcasing my three talents today by doing an ASL interpretation to my cover of Jamie Grace's song "Marching On", which was written as an anthem for the Tourette Syndrome community. I hope this inspires everyone to never give up and continue on even when days get really hard. Feel free to find me on Instagram @cra_z4jesus1



Katherine Marshall

Island Lake, Illinois

My name is Kathrine Marie Marshall. I am 16 years old and I am a sophomore at Wauconda High School. I live with my family and pets in Island Lake. I became a Youth Ambassador for the TAA in the summer of 2019. Last fall, I became Ms. Island Lake to represent my town in McHenry County. I use this forum as a platform to spread awareness about Tourette's Syndrome.

I have been playing the harp for eight years and started composing music in middle school. I also enjoy cooking, photography, and modeling. I am excited to enter this Virtual Showcase, so that others may enjoy my music and photography. My passion is to spread awareness and compassion.

Kiaha Judge

Olympia, Washington

I am the daughter of Wayne and Deena Judge. I am 18 years old and the youngest of 6 kids. I am a Senior at A.G. West Black Hills High School in Tumwater, Washington. I was diagnosed with Tourette Syndrome at the age of 8. Since first grade, I was bullied for having Tourette's; what I could not control made me their target. As I moved on to middle school, my Tourette's seemed to worsen, and with it, so did the bullying.



The emotional pain I felt made me wish for a way to escape the cruelty they enjoyed inflicting on me at school daily. I have a few things I am passionate about: writing, singing, photography, and my horse Daisy. I wish I could say that Singing and Writing have always been my escape, but the truth is, I did not find them until the 4th grade. As high school came, I found more things that began to interest me, Forensics, Anima, Photography, and Choir, to name a few. I love incorporating these things into my stories and videos. I am a member of the Technology Student Association (TSA) and have held the office of social chair, vice president, and president. I learned to be myself and to surround myself with people that accept me as I am. I will forever give the arts its well-deserved credit for sparking a passion in me that turned from something to do to escape to something I now do out of love.



Lorenzo Tiozzo Caenazzo

Venice, Italy

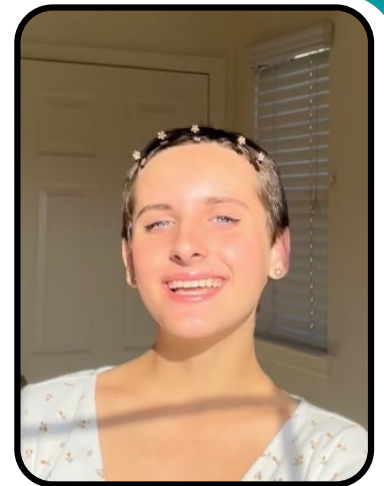
Hi all, greetings from Italy. I'm Lorenzo, I'm 19, and I will perform tonight an original song called "the girl with a broken heart". I have the Tourette syndrome since I was 7 years old and also I have the OCD and the ADHD disorders.

Today, this is not a problem and I live with the TS like part of my life. I think it is so important for me because it helped me to overcome the difficult steps faced in several years. I decided to sing this song because it reminds me one of the most important moment in the last years. I hope you can enjoy what I wrote for this special day and thank you for the opportunity you gave us to express ourselves! Cheers, Lorenzo

Maria Serra

San Diego, California

My name is Maria, I'm 15 years old and I have Tourettes syndrome. I started painting very recently when I realized how much it helps me with my tics. I enjoy painting very much and I use it as a way to express myself.



Niki Weidner

Cincinnati, Ohio

Niki Weidner is a native of Cincinnati and has been a musician for 20 years and a private music teacher for almost 5 years. She is a graduate of Liberty University (M.Ed.), Indiana Wesleyan University (B.S.), and Christian Home Educators of Cincinnati (HS diploma).

Earning many awards and recognition for her performances and musical skill throughout her life,

Niki shares her talent today as an artist-in-residence at several local churches and her love of music with her online and in-studio students. Outside of running NW Music Studio, she enjoys playing tennis and pickleball, swimming, writing and recording her own music, watching classic sitcoms, baking, and spending time outdoors with family and friends. Today, she will be singing an original, "Maybe Someday."

Rylee-Joe Adkins

Benton, Kentucky

My name is Rylee-Joe Adkins, I'm 15 and from Benton Kentucky. I was diagnosed with severe tourettes this year. I have had issues since middle school that has lead me here. I learned a while ago I can control my tics with art.



Sophie Liotti

Bradenton, Florida

My name is Sophie Liotti and I'm 15 years old and I live in Bradenton, FL. I was selected as a TS Youth Ambassador this year and participated in the National Advocacy Day for TS. I love to dance, sing and play violin. I have submitted a trio hip hop dance which I won High Gold at a recent dance competition. I am the one in the blue jacket.



Steben Twins Karyne & Sarah Steben

Los Angeles, California

The Steben twins were a featured trapeze act in Cirque du Soleil for 11 years and traveled the world through 55 countries in their 30years aerialist career before they became motivational speakers. They have won international circus festivals with their defying and innovative trapeze act.

From T.V. Movies and stage performances, they have many stories to share with you. Stories of how they conquered their fears, kept their partnership healthy, learned to embraced their differences, changed their lives from victimhood to survivors, dealt with challenges like ADHD, Anxiety and Tourette syndrome. They are devoted mothers, Pilates teachers and health coaches. Being in nature, sailing at sea and connecting with like mind people makes them the happiest!

www.stebentwins.com

@stebentwins on Instagram





Summer Short

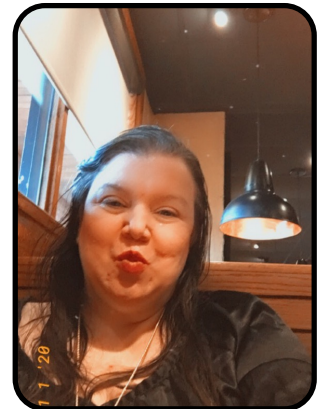
Parker, Colorado

Hi! My name is Summer Short, and I am a freshman in high school from Parker, Colorado. I was diagnosed with Tourette's in December of 2020. In my free time, I like to draw, spend time with my pets, and enjoy the outdoors. I am so excited to be part of this event!

Tiffany Cato

Gray, Louisiana

Hello, I am a poet from South Louisiana. My TS symptoms started at the age of 8. I enjoy movies, reading, karaoke, and travel. My family is my husband Bill and our furbaby Tigerlily.



Tiffany Meredith

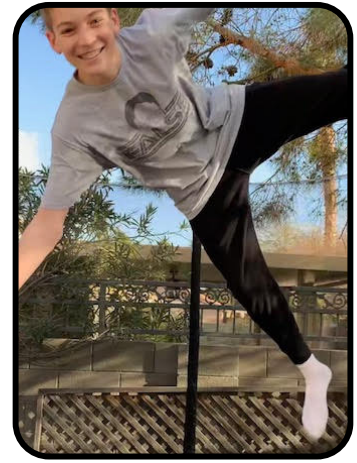
Lakeside, California

Hello My name is Tiffany and I am 15 years old. I wrote this song called "Relationships" a little bit ago and I guess you could call this the world premier. Anyways I hope U like it :)

Trey Lomax

Las Vegas, Nevada

My name is Trey Lomax and I'm from Las Vegas, Nevada! I enjoy listening to/playing music, videogames, and reading. I've been playing drums for 6 years now and enjoy it more than ever!



Zanny Nicholas

Simi Valley, California

Zanny is a 21-year-old singer-songwriter from Simi Valley, California. She is currently finishing up her last semester at Berklee College of Music in Boston where she will graduate with a Bachelor of Music in Songwriting in May. She is beyond thrilled to be a part of ArtisTIC Expressions this year and is so grateful to be a member of such an amazing community.



Zeb Dore

Albury, New South Wales

My name is Zeb, my friends call me "Hax" I have Autism and Tourette's. I am 16 years old. I enjoy gaming and writing my own rap lyrics. I also like to upload videos to my youtube channel "Hax"



ArtisTIC Team



Rhianna Wicken

ArtisTIC Expressions Founder & Coordinator
Long Beach, California

Rhianna was diagnosed with Tourette Syndrome at 14 after her tics, which were easily attributed to other things in childhood, grew frequent and unmanageable. After her diagnosis, she became involved in the Tourette Association of America's Southern California chapter. She was trained as a Youth Ambassador in 2014 during her senior year of high school, and in the same year, created the first ArtisTIC Expressions, which is now on its seventh iteration.

She was trained as part of the inaugural class of TAA Rising Leaders in 2019, and most recently became a member of the Board of Directors for the Southern California chapter of the TAA. She has volunteered in senior staff positions since 2014 at Camp George, the sleepaway camp in Southern California for youth with TS and their families. In the summer of 2020 when camp had to be cancelled due to COVID-19, she headed five weeks of virtual programming for youth and their families.

Rhianna is extremely passionate about bringing the Tourette Syndrome community together and creating a space where those with TS celebrate each other and their talents. Living with TS really sucks sometimes, but having opportunities to meet and connect with others who truly understand what it is like to live with it are some of the best parts of life. Rhianna will be graduating from California State University, Long Beach with a B.A. in Anthropology in May 2021.

Eric McGowan

ArtisTIC Expressions Host
Kansas City, Kansas

Eric McGowan was born and raised in Kansas City and currently resides in Los Angeles. Eric was diagnosed with Tourette Syndrome at an early age and was lucky to have a tremendous amount of support from his family and friends growing up. However, he never knowingly met another person with TS before moving to Los Angeles in 2015. He first became involved with the TAA Southern California Chapter in late 2016 and joined the Board of Directors in March 2018.



Eric is passionate about helping those living with TS through advocacy, organization and attendance of Chapter events, and as the director of Camp George - a sleepaway camp for youth with TS and their families. Outside of his involvement with the SoCal TAA, he works as an acoustical consultant in the building industry. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Acoustics from Columbia College in Chicago and a Master of Arts in Architecture from the University of Kansas.

ArtisTIC Expressions is an event that was created after realizing how much participation in creative outlets helps make our tics quiet down a bit. I hope all of you leave today feeling inspired to create more art and celebrate what you love to do.

The ArtisTIC Expressions team and the TAA Southern California Chapter Board of Directors would like to thank the following people for their help and generosity in making this year's virtual event a reality. We could not do this without them!

Every single creative ticcer who shared their art with us at this event

The Tourette Association of America for promotional and administrative support

The Southern California Chapter volunteer social media team

All of you who attended and supported our community today.

Thank you all!

Please consider [making a donation](#) to the Southern California Chapter of the Tourette Association of America so that we can continue to support our community.