

## TEACHER ENRICHMENT CORNER

BEN RAZNICK, VP FOR TEACHER ENRICHMENT, EDITOR  
THE TEACHER ENRICHMENT CORNER LISTS NON-PROFIT EVENTS FOR TEACHERS AND STUDENTS IN COLORADO.  
IF YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR EVENT ADDED, PLEASE EMAIL [BENRAZNICKMUSIC@GMAIL.COM](mailto:benraznickmusic@gmail.com)

## Festivals & Events

### Colorado Taubman Approach Workshop

October 13-15, 2023

Want to acquire fantastic new tools for playing, teaching, and overcoming challenges at the keyboard? With presentations, master classes, pedagogy classes, technique clinics, artist concerts, and optional private lessons, this workshop will be full of amazing insights and tools. Multiple tracks of presentations will cover Taubman experience levels from newcomer to advanced. Presenters include Golandsky Institute Faculty members and teachers Brenna Berman, Barbara Banacos, and Beth Grace, EAM Artists and EAM teachers.

Early bird registration deadline: September 13

For more information, visit [EffortlessArtistryMusic.com](https://EffortlessArtistryMusic.com) or email [EffortlessArtistryMusic@gmail.com](mailto:EffortlessArtistryMusic@gmail.com). Brought to you by Colorado's own Effortless Artistry Music - Taubman Approach nonprofit.

### Jefferson Symphony Orchestra - Young Artists Competition

The 2023 first-place winner of the JSO\*YAC for Piano is Hans-Derek Yu, playing Prokofiev's *Piano Concerto No.3*. In March/April, in addition to performing a solo recital, he made his debut with the Jefferson Symphony Orchestra under guest conductor Scott O'Neil.

Next year's JSO\*YAC will be for classical woodwind, brass, and percussion; 2025's competition will be for classical strings, harp, and guitar.

#### Prizes

First: \$5000, winners' recital, solo recital, and debut with JSO

Second: \$2000 and winners' recital

Third: \$1000 and winners' recital

Eligibility: Applicants to age 23

Application: Hosted by Acceptd, <https://app.getacceptd.com/jeffersonsymphony>

Entry deadline: September 29, 2023

Live competition: January 6, 2024

Information: <https://www.jeffsymphony.org/yac-competition> or email [jso.yac@gmail.com](mailto:jso.yac@gmail.com)

## Chevalier: #IYKYK

by Ben Raznick

A hashtag club has emerged online: “#IYKYK.” And what does it stand for? It's not as easy to guess as you'd think, but once you know...you know. That's why you might not be surprised to discover the initials stand for “If You Know, You Know!” referring to insider knowledge that only a select group of people understand. And that is exactly the point of the film, *Chevalier*. For those who have seen it, Joseph Bologne, Chevalier de Saint-Georges has transformed from someone you might not have even heard of, into the divine life of the party. If you haven't seen it, simply put, you're missing out.

The unexpected opening scene draws the viewer into a unique scenario: Chevalier de Saint-Georges is musically dueling with Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart on stage in a performance at a Parisian theater packed with aristocrats. As they battle back and forth, each musician attempts to outshine the other's intricate violin passages. While one might blame this scene on Hollywood's love for dramatic effect, in fact this form of duel and Saint-George's participation in authoring the style is historically on point: “Chevalier de Saint-Georges emerged on the Parisian musical scene around the same time as a new form, the symphonie concertante, became popular. His name is closely associated with the success of this new, essentially French

form of concerto... offering not one but two or more soloists ‘competing’ with each other” (Banat 178).

The scene continues as Saint-Georges dabbles into a fusion of genres. Film composers Kris Bowers and Michael Abels, known for *Bridgerton* and *Get Out*, respectively, share their intentions to engage viewers of today: “The Joseph solos take on a modern, Jimi Hendrix style tone so the music reflects what we'd expect to hear in that situation” (Jazz). Saint-Georges incorporates impressive technique into an increasingly stimulating cadenza. The orchestra uniformly joins back in to share the grand finale together, leaving Mozart bitter and upset. The audience, at first befuddled by Saint-Georges' participation, now roars at his success and champions him as the winner.

Born in 1745, Saint-Georges was an internationally renowned violinist, composer, conductor, fencer and dancer. Even US president John Adams judged him “the most accomplished man in Europe” (Duchen). He was very popular and known for his kindness and compassion (Banat 182-183). However, in spite of Saint-Georges' dazzling talent across many spectrums, he constantly struggled to gain his community's respect and acceptance because he was Black.

## Chevalier: #YKYK CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

Saint-Georges endured constant discrimination, and the film shares French public opinion fearing the arrival of the Black community in their homeland, describing them as “dark pestilence.” Saint-Georges himself is called a “dark stranger,” a “barbarian,” among much deeper hurtful language. His experiences align with “Double Consciousness,” a term W.E.B. Du Bois coined in 1903 to describe the Black American identity. Double Consciousness refers to the “twoness” of navigating a white world while constantly aware of being othered by disdain of skin color (Du Bois). The unfairness of Saint-Georges’ circumstances are not lost on the viewer. All he seeks is a theme parallel to the Ernestine opera he composes: “... to be truly and fully loved.”

Saint-Georges would battle courageously for racial equality later in his life. At 44 years of age in 1789, Saint-Georges abandoned his musical career to become a colonel leading a troop of Black soldiers in the French Revolution (Waleik). Colonel de Saint-Georges led an army and cavalry brigade to Guadeloupe to pacify the region after the abolition of slavery. Upon his return, he was deemed a hero, honored and deeply respected by his fellow soldiers (Rotraut).

With so many mountainous accolades, why have many of us never even heard of Joseph Bologne, Chevalier de Saint-Georges? When Napoleon in 1802 reversed the abolition of slavery, much of Saint-Georges’ music was destroyed and lost. This touching production, *Chevalier*, does much more than honor the story of Chevalier de Saint-Georges; it challenges viewers to learn and intentionally focus our curriculum on Saint-Georges and his music. A composer of operas, concertos, chamber music, vocal music and more, it is essential for the remaining existing works and biography of Saint-Georges to be included in our musical studies. What are other ways our music community can celebrate the legacy of Chevalier de Saint-Georges?

So, now are you... in the know? You are one step closer, but you won't truly join the club until you see the film. So don't

become a victim of Chevalier #FOMO! (Fear of Missing Out!) Find the film at a theater near you or at [chevalierfilm.com](http://chevalierfilm.com).

### SOURCES:

ABC News. “Actor Kelvin Harrison Jr.: ‘Mozart stole lines from violinist Joseph Bologne’” 4:32 <https://youtu.be/HkOFrSUCb4>

Banat, Gabriel. “Le Chevalier de Saint-Georges, Man of Music and Gentleman-at-Arms: The Life and Times of an Eighteenth-Century Prodigy.” *Black Music Research Journal*, vol. 10, no. 2, 1990, pp. 177–212. JSTOR, <https://doi.org/10.2307/779385>. Accessed 26 May 2023.

Du Bois, W. E. B. (William Edward Burghardt), 1868-1963. *The Souls of Black Folk; Essays and Sketches*. Chicago, A. G. McClurg, 1903.

Duchen, Jessica. “Chevalier de Saint-Georges: The man who got under Mozart’s skin” *Independent*. February 7, 2016. <https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/classical/features/chevalier-de-saintgeorges-the-man-who-got-under-mozart-s-skin-a6859191.html>

Jazz, Tangcay. How the Music of ‘Chevalier’ Enlivens the Story of an 18<sup>th</sup>-Century Creole Violinist in Marie Antoinette’s Court. *Variety*. April 21, 2023.

<https://variety.com/2023/artisans/news/chevalier-score-kris-bowers-michael-abels-1235590202/>

Rotraut Freifrau Stromer von Reichenbach-Baumbauer. *The Music of Joseph Bologne, Chevalier de Saint-George*. European Heritage Days. <https://www.europeanheritagedays.com/story/8a938/The-Music-of-Joseph-Bologne-Chevalier-de-Saint-George>

Waleik, Gary. “Le Chevalier De Saint-Georges: Fencer, Composer, Revolutionary”. *WBUR*. March 15, 2019. <https://www.wbur.org/onlyagame/2019/03/15/chevalier-saint-georges-france-fencing>

## Teacher’s Toolkit: Resources for Music Teachers

[JSTOR.org](https://www.jstor.org) - Explore the world’s knowledge, cultures, and ideas. Enrich your research with primary sources. Explore millions of high-quality primary sources and images from around the world, including artworks, maps, photographs, and more. Personal accounts can help with your research, whether you are a student with access to an institutional subscription or an independent researcher:

Read up to six articles every 30 days online for free. (Note that

JSTOR has temporarily increased the number of articles you can read online for free from 6 to 100.)

With your JSTOR.org account, you can read:

“Le Chevalier de Saint-Georges, Man of Music and Gentleman-at-Arms: The Life and Times of an Eighteenth-Century Prodigy.” *Black Music Research Journal*, vol. 10, no. 2, 1990, pp. 177–212. JSTOR, <https://doi.org/10.2307/779385>