

The Adamanter

THE ADAMANT MUSIC SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

June 2020

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'Strange Feeling' as Snow Melts, Grass Grows, Turtles Lay Eggs, Henry and Chase Undergo Repairs - But No Music

By Matthew Mead

June already!! Well the heatwave is over, back to normal spring temps for us. Steve and I have been busy finishing the garden beds and clearing trees and brush that have choked everything in over the years. Now the grass is growing about as fast as it will all year so trying to stay caught up on that.

Getting ready to start tearing the floors out of Chase house in preparation to address the dampness. Chase, Henry, and Waterside Hall should have new floors by the time you all return. Will be painting buildings this month as weather allows. The gardens are fully awake and about to put on the annual show. This is usually a reminder that the hills are about to come alive with music and we are scrambling a bit to get everything ready for your arrival.

It's a very strange feeling to know that it will remain quiet this year. We will be renting The Common and Quarry House for a year to help pay the bills. Lucky folks to have such a beautiful backyard!!

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The path from Barney Hall to The Common, under repair; in a photo taken in early May. Matt, Eben, and Jean are keeping The Adamanter current with all of their work.



Yes, Eben is a master bow maker, but his strawberry shortcake tastes better.

Matt's Campus Update, continued

I hope you all are staying safe and finding ways to keep busy with our new normal. I think its important to still find time to do what you love and make time for enjoyment. For most of you that's music! While I sure wish you could be here to share your gifts, I'm looking forward to seeing you all next summer. The turtles are back laying eggs all over the lawns so that means its time for painting and projects for me! Take care of yourselves and your families. Keep on playing!



Eben Can Stand the Heat, but is Out of the Kitchen; Continues Bow Making, Gardening, and Being A Dad

By Eben Bodach-Turner

Well, as I write this it has sunk in that Adamant won't be happening this year. We will miss inviting you all to our little corner.

The past couple of months have been pretty quiet around here, as you might imagine. For me not a lot has changed. Since I work making violin bows from my home shop I have continued as usual.

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William Hume, O'Connor Alum, Live Streams Degree Recital From Living Room in Family Effort

By William Hume

This spring I completed the Master's program for Piano Performance and Pedagogy at New York University in the studio of Marilyn Nonken. For my degree recital, I set up a live stream through YouTube and performed works by Beethoven, Liszt, Ravel and arrangements of Gershwin songs by Michael Finnissy. I customized the stream with images and music to play throughout and had help from my talented brother Stephen, a film major at Boston University. You can see my program notes and recital video on my website -

<http://williamhume.com/live-events/>

Sending fond wishes to the Adamant family for the summer and beyond!



Steve hauling brush. That's his blue tractor, which he very generously lets the school use.

Eben Helps to Raise Tens of Thousands of Dollars for Musicians Affected by Pandemic

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The biggest difference is that Lana and the kids are home with me all day!

Our days have filled quickly with homeschooling, yard work (finally built that deck that we have talked about for 13 years) and testing new recipe ideas.

Until last week, much of my time was occupied with a project a friend of mine launched to raise money for musicians affected by the pandemic. Jake Brillhart is a violin maker in Chelsea, VT. He decided to make a violin (live on Facebook!) and raffle it off, and use the proceeds to give mini grants to musicians. I offered to collaborate with a fellow bow maker in Colorado, Evan Orman, and make a bow to add to the prize. When we started out the hope was to raise \$15,000. On the night of the drawing in mid May we had raised \$70,500 from over 1,000 donations! It was so gratifying and nourishing to work with these great folks on a meaningful project during such a bizarre chapter in our lives.

Now I'm settling in to a summer of making bows and working in the garden, something I haven't really done since I started cooking at Adamant. And I'm already working on next year's menus. Be safe everyone. Can't wait to welcome you all back in 2021!

—Eben



Eben and Lana with the kids.



Janice Nimetz sent in some pics from years past at Adamant - Mary Lou Frances, Mr. Pressler, and Frank, top; and Mark Reiss after his class, middle; Mark Reiss sent in a couple of photos too, below



Matt Manwarren, His Summer Upended, Works on Beethoven and Chopin, Visits Mom in Texas, Becomes Technology Expert

Greetings Fellow Adamanters!

As I write this, I am in Texas visiting family for three weeks. This summer will certainly go down in the books as being one of the strangest that I can remember. Normally, I spend the month of June preparing for the John O'Connor Masterclass or getting ready to teach in the Traditional Session at Adamant, while also attending concerts and masterclasses at other summer festivals closer to my home in South Carolina.

Even though plans have changed for all of us, I hope you have been able to re-channel your energies into productive means. For the first time I can remember, I have not had an upcoming concert for which to prepare. I have not had teaching obligations during the summers like I usually have. To be honest, it has felt a little strange, if not slightly unnatural.



Matt and his mom, Carol. She's got him working in the garden pulling weeds.

The fall and winter were busy with several solo performances, including two concerts in Texas, concert on Kiawah Island in South Carolina, and an all-Schubert recital in North Carolina in

February, among other performances. Plans were also in motion to perform the London version of the Brahms *Ein Deutsches Requiem* on March 26 with pianist Arlene Shrut and the Voices of Ascension in New York City under the baton of Dennis Keene. Unfortunately, the concert had to be postponed to another date to be determined due to the Covid-19.

During the second half of the spring semester at Winthrop University, I found myself having to navigate a whole new "normal." Teaching online has been a challenge, though I have learned much more about technology than I ever wanted to know.

For me, having so much free time this summer has enabled me to learn new repertoire that I have had on my "to do" list for many years, including Beethoven's *Eroica* Variations and Chopin's B Minor

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Matt Manwarren Makes the Best of the Pandemic

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Sonata. Not having immediate upcoming performances has allowed me to dig deep into new repertoire that I have put off because of other pressing demands in recent years. Having this extra time to practice has been reinvigorating for me.

I will certainly miss Adamant this summer – especially the students in the Traditional Session and faculty colleagues with whom I work. I will also miss the “regulars” I see at the O’Conor Masterclass. The connections and the bonds formed through this special place are like none other I have experienced. Being a part of a rich history envisioned by Edwine Behre so many years ago is indeed a privilege for all who experience it. It won’t be the same this summer.

I wish for each of you a healthy, safe, and productive summer, and I look forward to the time when we can make beautiful music at Adamant again.

Matthew Manwarren



Matt Mead, one of two “Matt M’s” working near Waterside Hall recently

Adamant Zoom or YouTube recital Planned for Saturday, August 1st

The Adamant Project Committee is planning to hold a recital via the internet. Please contact Alex Last at alex.last@yahoo.com if you’d like to play. No tech expertise required!

***The Adamant Benefit
Concert Will Now Take
Place on Saturday, May 1st,
2021***

***At the DiMenna Center for
Classical Music in New York City***

Silence in the Streets of Kansas City

Andrew Christiansen



Mary Carmack McDougal and Alice Mary Kimball campaigning in Kansas for President Woodrow Wilson in October 1916

Andy Christiansen, Adamant's Historian and Archivist, recently retrieved interesting material documenting the activism of an Adamant founder, Alice Mary Kimball. A journalist, she was dedicated to civil rights and workers' rights, and often wrote in support of peace and civil rights here at home and abroad.

It's hard to believe that the suspension of normal business activity in Kansas City, Missouri in 1917 would lead to the creation of the Adamant Music School, but it did, for that was the year of the Kansas City streetcar

strike. It was organized and led by one of the school's founders, Alice Mary Kimball.

What made the strike extraordinary was how it united essential service workers against a foe so risky and dangerous. Armed militias such as the Pinkerton's and Kansas "cowboys" ruthlessly broke any organized labor action with strikebreakers and violence. Twenty eight years before, the Kansas thugs went to Minneapolis to break the 1889 streetcar strike (1), Between 1895 and 1929, there was a street car strike in nearly every American city and each one enjoyed the

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support of the local citizenry, each one was violent, and each one failed but one. With the hiring of strikebreaker, James Farley, who had an army of 40,000 paid scabs, the San Francisco street car strike of 1907 resulted in 30 deaths and a 1,000 wounded.

Alice Mary was well aware of these dangers when she heard the local street car workers were going on strike. She met with them, carefully noting their grievances, and proposed a plan. She would write up their accounts into a statement which they could take to Kansas City newspapers to be published. On August 9th, the strikers endorsed her statement with a unanimous standing vote at the Labor Temple.

journalist for *Kansas City* had to make wasn't identified as author, so picked two



take it to the managing editor. She rehearsed the pitch they would make and reminded them to identify the mass of strikers (over two thousand men with their wives and children and representatives from other unions) who would be marching outside the window as loyal readers of the *Kansas City Star*. This process would be repeated at the offices of all the other newspapers in town, highlighting a legion of loyal readers. It was clear the editors would know the

“Are you with us, people of Kansas City?”

Being a the *Star*, she sure she the she men to

statement was written by somebody other than these streetcar workers, so she signed it, O.O. Briggs, a retired carpenter who had “agreed” to help them. Later, when company men would storm into his home, they

discovered not the articulate intellectual fueling the movement, but a blind and deaf nonagenarian.

The statement begins: “To the *People of Kansas City*: We, the employees of the Kansas City Street Railways Company, feel that a decent consideration for the people of Kansas City

demands a candid statement of the intolerable grievances which have, after many patient, long suffering years, forced us to take united action. The Kansas City Railways Company says “Be Loyal to us.” We reply, “We shall be loyal to our wives and children.” Here we take our stand. We leave it to the men and women of Kansas City to judge between us.

The street car employees live under conditions of industrial feudalism which seem incredible in this enlightened age. Wages are low – so low that many hundreds of street car employees are living below the misery line, actually suffering from malnutrition and consequent worry and nervous strain. Hours are so long and the working day so badly arranged that practically every employee knows from experience the drain of energy and lowered vitality resulting from constant labor and lack of sleep.”

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She gives specific examples of the malnutrition, despair, and loss of family time for the workers and says, "There are many men among the strikers who, until the strike, had not seen their babies for weeks except when they came home at night and found the little ones asleep...The public, unfortunately, has invested no way by which we may get our rights without disarranging the street car service."

Alice Mary concluded the statement with an appeal to the community: "We fight, just as our forefathers did, for life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Are you with us, people of Kansas City?"

We thank the public for the kindly spirit in which they have taken the unfortunate inconvenience of the past few days, and we thank the newspapers for the honest presentation of our case. We are determined to win this strike, not by violence, but by peaceful persuasion, and with the cooperation of the humane, justice loving people of Kansas City."

As businesses ground to a halt, Alice Mary said, "It was almost like a holiday. The street cars stopped. And everybody in the city who had a job stopped. And the city was full of peace. It was just like Sunday or the 4th of July."



Eben's handiwork

The company assured city officials there would be no strikebreakers, but on the third day of the strike, the first 600 finks from New York arrived. The *Star* revealed the contents of a secret telegram and published the addresses of where they would be staying. Deployed by the famous strikebreaking company of Berghoff Brothers and Waddell, the New York contingent had members of the New York mafia, led by Eddie "The Runt" Costello. Alice Mary responded with another statement on the front page of the August 11th morning edition of the *Star*.

"We, the employees of the Kansas City Railways Company, and our wives, in mass meeting assembled, wish to enter our emphatic protest against the importation of strikebreakers as a means to defeat us in our struggle for justice. We ask that the mayor and the police commissioners, as men responsible for the safety of men, women, and children of the community, stand like a

"We are inflexible in our determination to have no bloodshed or violence in this strike"

rock against a policy which has stained with blood the industrial history of scores of American cities. We ask the mayor and police commissioners in this precaution for law and order."

After describing specific instances of force and killing by the strikebreakers in other parts of the country, she wrote, "We are inflexible, in our determination to have no bloodshed or violence in this strike, and every man of us is on his honor to make our demonstration a peaceful one. But we cannot

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do it alone. We must have the intelligent cooperation of the mayor and the police department, backed by public opinion. The business of a strikebreaker ... is to provoke trouble, and thus turn public opinion against the workmen."

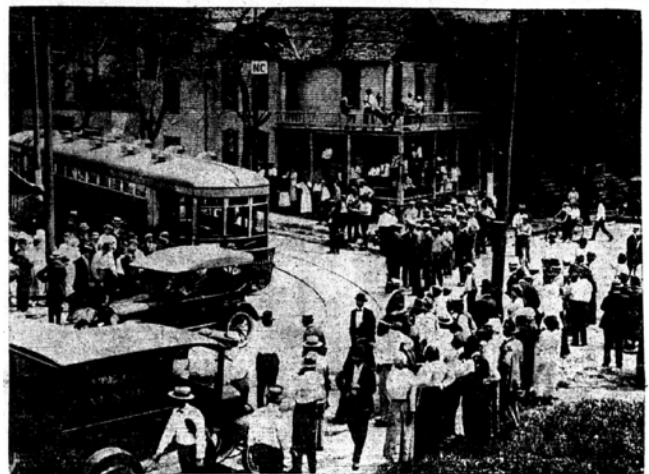
She ends with "We repeat again that if there is violence in this strike, it will not be ours. But we can answer only for ourselves. The remainder of the responsibility is up to the public."

With 1,300 finks descending on Kansas City, the die was cast. Alice Mary saw to it telegrams were dispatched to President Woodrow Wilson, whose state campaign she had headed up less than a year before, as well as Secretary of Labor, William B. Wilson. Forty three policemen, in an act of solidarity, told their commanders they would refuse to protect strikebreakers and were fired by police commissioners appointed by the governor of Missouri. Other unions pledged to go on strike if scabs ran the cars. When the company tried to move some of the strikebreakers to a station, the streetcars were blocked by citizens with their wagons and automobiles. Two strikers were hit with blackjacks provided to the imported workers by Berghoff Bros and Waddell and a riot erupted with 300 men, women, and children throwing bricks and rocks. The tide quickly turned against the finks, as it did in another riot, and by the end of the afternoon the finks were literally on the run with everyday

"The union was formed and the workers won all their demands."

citizens chasing after them with sticks. Some remained trapped in a streetcar some others in a butcher shop, and others in the building which the company had prepared for them. In all these cases the strikers and the police took extraordinary efforts to protect them. In one case, when the finks fired at the police from a car barn, 35 police stormed the building and confiscated all their weapons.

WHERE THE RIOTING OCCURRED



Scene of the clash this morning at Tenth street and Woodland avenue between sympathizers with striking carmen and strikebreakers. The picture shows the empty car from which the strikebreakers were driven by the sympathizers. Photograph by Ralph Bald, staff photographer of The Post.

At midnight that night, 800 strikebreakers with their arms high over their heads were marched to Union Station to be sent off on trains. As Alice Mary would write two months later in the journal, *Life and Labor*, October 1917, "A cordon of union men with joined hands guarded the strikebreakers, and street car men marched close by to prevent violence. The affair was entirely orderly and was directed by the police department. Behind the escorted gunmen was a crowd of 20,000 Kansas City people, cheering and laughing." Miraculously, unlike other strikes,

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nobody was killed and only several dozen injured, and only four seriously. The union was formed and the workers won all their demands.

Alice Mary immediately switched gears to help organize "laundry workers and telephone girls" and women drapery workers. Her conclusion, in capital letters, was that any strike could be

won "IF THE TRUTH COULD BE GOT TO THE PEOPLE." But there were fears also. When the danger of violence was escalating, she contacted a lawyer, Frank Walsh. Alice Mary said:

Here was a whole city, union after union stopping and when I came in, I said, 'Mr. Walsh, I need to have some legal advice. I need to have someone I can depend on if this breaks,' and he says, 'Oh, you are the one. I knew, I knew, I knew it was someone.' He knew it wasn't the labor people and he knew it wasn't the old virtuous carpenter, Mr. Briggs. He said that he had been puzzling his head over who it could possibly be. After that, I had the most wily lawyer at my disposal and the labor people had him too, so we were quite safe."



"A century has passed and we repeat again the history of oppression and failed leadership."

Not long after that, Frank persuaded Alice Mary and her husband, Harry Godfrey, to move to New York City and it was a matter of days before she accidentally bumped into Edwine Behre and the rest is history, with the three of them, Alice Mary, Harry, and Edwine establishing the Adamant Music School.

The streets of Kansas City would become silent a year later when the Spanish Flu hit in September, sickening 1,000 students at the two army motor corps schools. The Kansas City Health Department declared them to be hard colds. As cases mounted, schools, churches, and theaters were closed, but not cabarets and saloons, as long as there were no more than 20 people, but this was not enforced. When Dr. Gannon, the Director of the contagious Diseases Department, ordered the Metropolitan Company, owner of the streetcars, to limit standing passengers to 20, the company refused to comply. In early

November, after a more wide ranging closure and gathering ban had been enacted, business complained that it was unfair and pressured the mayor to lift the

ban. This, he did and reopened the schools as well. Infections and deaths spiked and Kansas City had one of the worst death rates in the country.

A century has passed and we repeat again the history of oppression and failed leadership. The only difference is the acceptance of truth and reality. Alice Mary valued truth and believed it was the only thing which could set people free. Today, there is no truth. There is no reality and that could kill us.

Sources:

- (1) (<https://www.minnpost.com/mnopedia/2020/04/a-pay-cut-prompted-the-1889-twin-cities-streetcar-strike/>)

"We're Forced to Strike," *Kansas City Star*, August 10, 1917, p.2.

Street Car Employees Appeal to Public for Sympathy Have Been Living Under System of 'Industrial Feudalism' They Assert in Statement – Pledge to Win by Powerful Persuasion

"Are Pledged Against Violence," *Kansas City Star*, August 11, 1917, p.1.

Strikers in Statement Denounce the Hiring of Strikebreakers

Influenza Encyclopedia – The American Influenza Epidemic of 1918-1919, The University of Michigan Center for the History of Medicine and Michigan Publishing, Then University of Michigan Library, <https://www.influenzaarchive.org/cities/city-kansascity.html#>



Esther Wang Checks In

Hello Music Friends!

I hope you are all healthy and staying safe. I also hope you've been able to go outside and enjoy the sights, smells, and sounds of spring, soon to be summer. I've been taking a lot of walks. It's been a great joy to see the flowers blooming and to greet people as we pass each other. While it's not easy taking all the precautions that keep family members safe, it is wonderful to see our neighbors taking the same precautions. In this way, we all take care of each other.



I've been knitting a lot, too. A couple baby sweaters and hats. Starting some sweaters for my mom and friend in CA. Knitting is like practicing, being in the moment, trying to stay focused, striving for the best result possible, and enjoying the process.

I wish you a safe and happy summer. Much love and peace to everyone.

Esther Wang

Click here to use PayPal to donate to the Adamant Music School, to become a Sustaining Member, or to find tax information about donations.

Please consider donating at the following levels:

<i>Prelude</i>	<i>at least \$25</i>
<i>Fugue</i>	<i>\$50 or greater</i>
<i>Rondo</i>	<i>\$100 or greater</i>
<i>Allegro de Concert</i>	<i>\$250 or greater</i>
<i>Sonata</i>	<i>\$500 or greater</i>
<i>Concerto</i>	<i>\$1,000 or greater</i>

The Adamanter

welcomes and needs contributions from all members of the Adamant community. Please let us know what all of you are up to, and please include photos. Send everything to alex.last@yahoo.com.

This edition would not have been possible without the efforts of the Adamant Project Committee, Noah Hardaway, chair.

We hope to publish another edition by the end of the summer.

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