

When Genius Meets a Mentor—and a Donor Who Believes

Just over three years ago, **14-year-old Apollo**, a young Navajo pianist with no formal piano training, was encouraged by a fellow student to audition for **Damaris Morales**.

Apollo sat down at Damaris's piano and played a piece by **Franz Liszt**. The room seemed to shake. Everyone listening was stunned. Damaris asked the question any teacher would ask: *"Who has been teaching you?"*

Apollo's answer left everyone speechless:

"No one. I learned from YouTube for about six months."

Apollo couldn't yet read music, write music, or play scales. Yet what he possessed was extraordinary—a rare musical genius and an instinct for the piano that most students spend **10 years or more** developing.

Damaris immediately saw what Apollo could become.

Because Apollo could not afford private lessons, Damaris helped secure educational funding through the **Nevada School of the Arts**, allowing him to receive the training he desperately needed. She then pushed him relentlessly—teaching him not only how to play, but how to read, understand, discipline, and develop his extraordinary natural gifts.

Within his first month, Apollo was invited to perform at **The Smith Center** for a major fundraiser. It became one of the most successful fundraisers in its history.

For the next three years, Apollo worked harder than ever, while Damaris challenged him to reach levels he never imagined possible.

When it was time for college, Damaris personally accompanied Apollo to New York to audition for the **Manhattan School of Music**, where she herself had studied. Through her connections and advocacy, Apollo received a special audition with one of the school's distinguished professors.

He was accepted.

Today, Apollo is beginning his studies at one of the most respected music schools in the country, supported by scholarships and generous donors.

Apollo's story is a powerful reminder:

Genius can open the door—but mentorship, opportunity, and hard work can turn a dream into a future.

At **DGEM — Diapason Global Education for Music**, we believe that when extraordinary talent meets the right mentor, **impossible dreams can become possible.**

Help Make the Next Dream Possible

Apollo's journey would not have been possible without generous donors who believed in his potential and helped provide the opportunities he needed.

This is what DGEM is all about—giving talented students the chance to learn, grow, and pursue their dreams, while helping young people everywhere discover and preserve the music and cultures of their heritage.

You can help make the next dream possible. **No donation is too small.** Even a few dollars can make a difference, and monthly gifts—large or small—help us continue providing opportunities to students who might otherwise never have them.

Your support can help turn extraordinary potential into extraordinary possibilities.

Visit **DGEM.org** to learn more and become part of the journey.