



DANA MARTIN STUDIO
864 Wellington Way
Lexington, KY 40503
859.552.4419

QUICK LINKS

- DanaMartinStudio.com
- dana@danamartinstudio.com
- [@danamartinky](https://twitter.com/danamartinky)
- DanaMartinStudio.com/keys

KEYS

DANA MARTIN STUDIO
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

NEWSLETTER INFO

Publisher: Dana Martin

Contact info:
864 Wellington Way
Lexington, KY 40503
dana@danamartinstudio.com
859.552.4419

Subscription info:
Free to students enrolled in
Dana Martin Studio

2023 © All rights reserved

KEYS | DECEMBER 2023

WHAT'S NEW FOR DANA

Natalea turned 9 November 3, and we went out to lunch and the park. Happy birthday, Natalea!

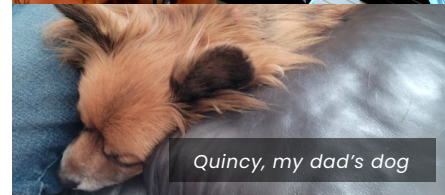
I attended the Ballet Conservatory to see some of my students (Grace and Emma Siguenza, and Ava and Allie Persinger) dance and sing.

It was wonderful to have all my kids and grands together with my dad and stepmom here for Thanksgiving. We celebrated Christmas since we won't all be together again for Christmas.

We also celebrated Tiffany's birthday (Nov 16) and Jonathan's birthday (Nov 23)!



Fun cousin pic!



Quincy, my dad's dog



The whole family!



Tiffany & Megan



Will & Andrea



KEYS NEWSLETTER

DANA MARTIN STUDIO MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

- IN THIS ISSUE**
- PAGE 1 | Parker Sims Student Spotlight
 - PAGE 1 | Community
 - PAGE 2 | 2023 Reflection
 - PAGE 2 | Christmas Cat Memes
 - PAGE 3 | How to Become a Good Listener
 - PAGE 3 | Recital Tips
 - PAGE 3 | Christmas Recital Info
 - PAGE 4 | What's New for Dana

PARKER SIMS

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Parker

Meet Parker Jinsoo Sims. He's 13 and attends Learning Together homeschool with his Mom & sister Josie, and his favorite subject is science. They are a part of

Light Homeschool Support group, and they take lots of field trips.

He lives with his parents Chris & Pattie and younger sister Josie.

He also has an older sister Kaylee and an older brother Caleb.

He has lots of pets: 2 dogs Mack & Zoey, cat Millie, 2 mini donkeys Jack & Jill, 2 highland cows Dip & Dot, 2 fainting goats Rose & Patch, 1 mini Rex rabbit Clover & 10 silkie Chickens.

Parker enjoys reading. His favorite book series recently is The Fishing Chronicles. We enjoy read aloud. We are reading The Silver Chair of the Chronicles of Narnia. We enjoy reading the Bible; we are currently in Exodus.

Parker does US Yoshakia Karate. He recently tested for his green belt & passed his test.

Parker enjoys watching UK football. He especially enjoyed watching them beat U of L (his dad's favorite). Parker enjoys building Legos. He likes Marvel movies; Ironman is his favorite.

Parker says, "I do piano because my mom makes me," but he says it's ok! Parker enjoys going to our youth group at our church.

He loves playing Minecraft, reading Minecraft books & watching YouTube videos of others playing Minecraft.

Parker enjoys snow skiing & looks forward to going with his dad & siblings to Perfect North this winter.

Parker's favorite musician is Crowder. His favorite songs are "Milk & Honey" & "Run Devil Run."

Parker is so fun to be around. He is always asking questions & learning.

Parker is honest to a fault, and always kind and thoughtful. He asks about my week every lesson. He gives every song his best, even if it's not a song a particularly likes, and he will tell you if he doesn't like something, which always makes me smile!



COMMUNITY Studio Happenings

Hi! WELCOME NEW STUDENT!
JESSICA LANGNER

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
HENRY MEYER DEC 10
HOLLIE HUNT DEC 17
RACHEL BRAKEVILLE DEC 23
JONATHAN DUEBER DEC 28

IMPORTANT DATES
CHRISTMAS RECITAL DEC 11
NO LESSONS DEC 11-JAN 7
LESSONS RESUME JAN 8

2023 REFLECTION

I'd like to take a moment to reflect on the past year. First of all, I'm grateful for my family, my students and all I've been blessed with.

I'm extremely proud of all you've accomplished this year!

We kicked off 2023 with the One-Minute Club where students named and played notes up to 5 levels of difficulty in one minute or less.

In February, 22 students played our Winter Performance at Friendship Towers of Sayre Christian Village.

March was a first for me — I was featured on 36 News at Noon for World Piano Day.

Our 8th Annual Practice Competition was a smashing success with students practicing 35K+ minutes in April!

About 25 students composed an original Mother's Day song.

Our Spring Recital boasted a record 34 students participating!

Fifteen students attended our "I Love the 80s" summer group classes where we played 80s music, bucket drums, music jeopardy, and more. Watch the compilation video here: bit.ly/dmssummergroups2023.

Seven students learned an original Saga Land piece, created a story for their piece, and recorded a video showcasing their creativity. Watch the videos at bit.ly/dmssaga_land2023. Each student also received a special note from the Saga Land composer!

Several students enjoyed the pizza party and minute-to-win-it games they earned during the Practice Competition.

We kicked off the Fall Semester in August with a 100-Day Practice Challenge.

For our Fall Performance 25 students performed for the residents of Morning Pointe.

How many of these challenges and performances did YOU participate in? You have a lot to be proud of when you look back at your accomplishments in 2023. I can only imagine what milestones you'll achieve in 2024!



FUNNY CHRISTMAS CAT MEMES



PRACTICE TIPS

How to become a better listener

The vast majority of our practice time is spent alone, so on a day-to-day basis, the effectiveness of our practice is largely dependent on how well we're able to listen to, critique, and coach ourselves.

When you practice, you're attempting to dedicate part of your attention to playing in the most engaged and effective way, while also listening to and evaluating your playing. It's kind of like trying to sing and count the syllables at the same time. Not so easy to do!

You can probably guess what the solution is — yep, recording yourself. I know it's not fun to listen to yourself, but with the right mindset, self-recording can be an incredibly powerful way to turn your practice efficiency, level of playing, and confidence up to an 11!

- 1 Record.** Pick a short selection of music and record yourself playing. Warm up a bit if you'd like, but record before you practice. The goal is to expose all of the biggest problem areas that are likely to pop up in a real performance setting.
- 2 Create a clear framework** to make it easier for you to critique your playing. Write down these categories to listen for: sound quality, rhythm, phrasing, articulation, and dynamic contrast.
- 3 Listen.** DO NOT judge what you hear as positive or negative. The idea is to simply observe and write down on your worksheet — as dispassionately as possible — what you hear. For instance, rather than writing down "articulation sounded terrible" (terrible = judgment), write down "staccatos didn't sound crisp" (judgment-free observation). In other words, you're not creating a list of things that sound bad. Think of it more as a list of problems that you'd love to find solutions for!
- 4 One more tip.** Focus on only one category at a time. Meaning, listen back once just for sound quality. And then listen again but only for rhythm issues. And then again for phrasing, and so on. Remember, the goal is baby steps and sustainable change, not an extreme overnight practice makeover. Next month, we'll pick up right here and talk about how to level up your problem-solving skills and guide yourself through the self-coaching process.



RECITAL TIPS

Here are a few tips to help you show up confident and prepared for the recital, whether it's your first or you have several under your belt.

- **Give your recital piece extra attention** and work on any trouble spots until you can play it without any errors
- **Dress-casual** — dress slacks and shirts or dresses (no holey jeans, please)
- **Bring your Christmas music** even if you have your piece memorized, and especially if you're playing a duet
- **Take a moment to gather your thoughts** and count off a measure to yourself before you begin playing
- **Smile and acknowledge** your audience with a bow or nod when you're finished playing
- **Please stay to the end** if at all possible for a group photo and to receive your certificate and gift as well as join us for a light reception



PLEASE JOIN US FOR
AN EVENING OF

Beautiful Music

7PM MONDAY
DECEMBER 11, 2023

LAFAYETTE CHURCH
OF THE NAZARENE
264 LAFAYETTE PARKWAY
LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY

DANA MARTIN STUDIO
DANAMARTINSTUDIO.COM