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QUICK LINKS



KEYS

DANA MARTIN STUDIO
 MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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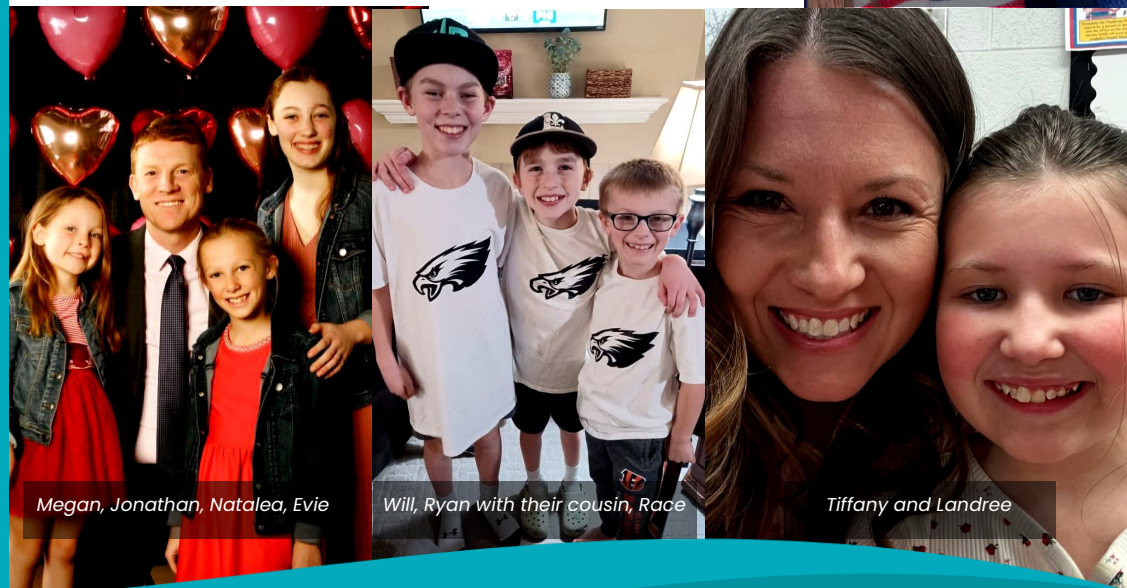
KEYS | MARCH 2025

WHAT'S NEW FOR DANA

Anthony and I didn't get to go out for Valentine's Day because I was under the weather, but he did get me some beautiful roses! Thanks, Honey! My dad and stepmom celebrated birthdays last month. Happy birthday, Dad and Debbi! We celebrated Anthony's birthday over the weekend with Andrea, Jonathan and the kiddos. Happy birthday, Anthony!



Hadlee



Megan, Jonathan, Natalea, Evie

Will, Ryan with their cousin, Race

Tiffany and Landree



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RYAN CAREY

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Ryan

My name is Ryan James Carey. I live with my Mom and Dad, Evie, Will, Natalea, and Megan.

I'm home-schooled, in the second grade, and math is my favorite subject.

I play soccer, basketball and baseball, and I like to watch UK basketball and the Cincinnati Reds play baseball.

My favorite books are the *Dogman* books. My favorite movie is *The Sandlot*. And I like to watch *Bluey*.

I like playing outside, Legos, playing P-I-G, and playing games with my family.

I've earned four badges this year in Royal Rangers at church.

I'm looking forward to taking a family trip to Alabama this summer.

I like playing the piano. The *Merry-Go-Round Broke Down* is my favorite song to play.

Ryan is my grandson and has been taking piano lessons for over a year. Long before he started, he would excitedly say, "It's my piano lesson time!" after his sisters had theirs. We'd play through the entire level one Christmas book together—I'd point at the notes, and he'd play them. Such fun memories!

Now, he's playing and sight-reading music on his own, and he still loves playing Christmas songs. His genuine joy for music makes teaching him piano incredibly rewarding.



COMMUNITY

Studio Happenings



WELCOME NEW STUDENTS!

LIAM ALJAFAR
 LEVI DONOVAN
 MAXINE REYBURN



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

LILY WU	MAR 7
ISAAC MCKINNEY	MAR 11
LILLIAN FRANKLIN	MAR 14
LORI HORN	MAR 16



IMPORTANT DATES

SPRING BREAK
 APRIL 7-13

PRACTICE COMPETITION
 BEGINS APRIL 14

SPRING RECITAL
 MAY 12

PC PIZZA PARTY
 MAY 16

10TH ANNUAL PRACTICE COMPETITION

Showcase your dedication and love for music during the milestone 10th Annual Practice Competition.

Competition begins on your lesson day the week of April 14, lasts for 21 days and ends on your lesson day the week of May 5.

CATEGORIES

- **BEGINNER BRILLIANCE:** This is your chance to shine by being the beginner with the most minutes during the competition. For students with less than a year of lessons.
- **ONE-DAY WHIZ:** Celebrate the most remarkable day of practice with the most minutes in a single day.
- **STREAK STAR:** Claim the title for the most consecutive days of practice of at least 60 minutes.
- **WEEK ONE WONDER:** Push for a strong start with the most practice in the first week.
- **PRACTICE POWERHOUSE:** Accumulate the highest total practice minutes during entire competition (21 days).

GREAT PRIZES

Winners get to choose their favorite from the following:

- **AMAZON** gift card
- **Mp3 PLAYER** (like an iPod)
- **WILLIS MUSIC** Gift Card
- **MOVIE** Gift Card
- **RESTAURANT** Gift Card

LEVELS OF ACHIEVEMENT

Even if you don't win a category, you can still be a winner by achieving one of these levels:

- **CONSISTENCY CHAMPION:** Practice at least 20 minutes every day of the competition and earn your spot as a Consistency Champion!

- **BRONZE MAESTRO:** Log at least 180 minutes (3 hours) each week of the competition to earn Bronze Maestro status.
- **SILVER VIRTUOSO:** Practice 300 minutes (5 hours) weekly and rise to Silver Virtuoso rank.
- **GOLD PRODIGY:** Log 420 minutes (7 hours) each week to become a Gold Prodigy!
- **TARGET 1000 TITAN:** For students who may work better in bursts rather than consistently: Hit a total of 1000 minutes during the competition to earn the title of Target 1000 Titan.

DOUBLE FACTOR: Students get to pick one day each week that counts DOUBLE!

Choose a goal to work toward and rack up those practice minutes! Remember, every minute counts!

Play for Grandma, your family, or a friend and count those minutes, too! The possibilities are only limited to your imagination.

The Practice Competition is for every age group, including adult students.

Every year there are students who get inspired by the Practice Competition and continue the practice habits they started during the competition and really see their progress soar. This year it could be **YOU!**

NEW this year: Check the PC Leader Boards online as often as you like! Leader Boards will be updated daily.

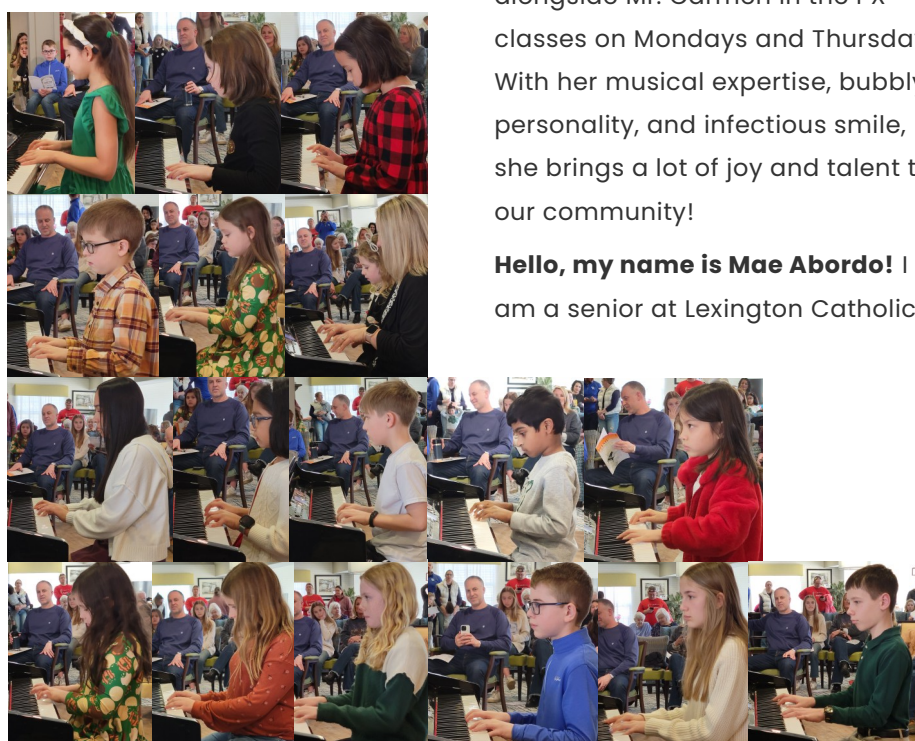
Pizza Party! Winners will be announced at the recital and invited to a pizza party the following **Friday, May 16, 6:00 PM at the studio.**

FUNNY CAT MEMES



WINTER PERFORMANCE PICS

Thanks to everyone who played at Cedarhurst last month!



PRACTICE TIPS

Study the score (music) away from the piano

1 Think through all of the logistical aspects of the music like the time signature, key signature, dynamics, articulation (legato, staccato, etc.), tempo, fingering, etc.

2 This is especially helpful when you're first starting a piece, but it's also a worthwhile thing to do throughout the learning process. Before you begin a new piece, take the time to make every possible observation you can about the music.

3 Make a solid plan about what you'll do when you take the music back to the piano. This will ensure that you start learning the music quickly and effectively.

4 What do you expect it to sound like — slow, fast, legato, staccato? What mood is the music trying to communicate or portray? Is it a flowing legato piece or a quick, fun piece? Is it mysterious or quirky?



MEET MAE ABORDO!



We're thrilled to introduce Mae as a new addition to DMS! Joining us as a PX teacher

assistant, Mae will be working alongside Mr. Carmen in the PX classes on Mondays and Thursdays. With her musical expertise, bubbly personality, and infectious smile, she brings a lot of joy and talent to our community!

Hello, my name is Mae Abordo! I am a senior at Lexington Catholic

High School, where Mr. Carmen teaches. He is the reason why I'm working at the studio now—he was my literature teacher last year, and he told me about the studio because he knows how much I love music.

I've been playing piano since I was three, so music is a huge part of my life. I attended the Governor's School for the Arts in 2023, and I have performed at the Singletary Center twice. I am also a church accompanist in Winchester and Stanton. In my free time, I love cooking, baking, reading, playing flute, and hiking.

I haven't been at the studio long, but I've loved working with the students—it's always the highlight of my day. I'm so excited to be part of the studio and to get to know everyone throughout the next few months!

30-PIECE CHALLENGE

You've got 2 months left to complete the 30-Piece Challenge, and you can do it!

1. **Review your progress:** Make sure all your pieces are entered onto your 30-Piece Challenge sheet. Pieces must be at least 16 measures long (beginners, 8 measures).
2. **Tackle shorter pieces:** If you're learning longer pieces and find it challenging to reach 30, pull out some shorter, easier pieces (at least 16 measures) and learn these. You can likely learn 2 or 3 each week, and it's great for sight-reading as well!
3. **Share your progress:** Play them for your teacher at your next lesson or shoot me a quick video during the week.

I believe in you! Let's achieve this challenge and make sure you're recognized at the Spring Recital!