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- [DanaMartinStudio.com/keys](http://DanaMartinStudio.com/keys)

## WHAT'S NEW FOR DANA

My dad turned 80 on February 23. We had surprised him with a Zoom party during the ice storm, so he was genuinely surprised to see us at a restaurant in Branson, Missouri the following week.

Our son and his family only live a couple hours south of Branson in Arkansas, so they met us at the restaurant, and we got to spend a few hours with them. Getting to see

our granddaughters, Hadlee and Landree was a real treat! Hadlee turns 10 on April 11.

We also celebrated Anthony's birthday on March 5.

Anthony and I got our first C19 vaccines, and our second vaccines are scheduled. We're looking forward to being fully vaccinated!



Anthony & Jon-Michael



Will, Ryan and Natalea

Megan & Evie



Back row: Jon-Michael, Anthony; 2nd row: Tiffany, Hadlee, Dana, Pop, Debbi; Front: Landree

### NEWSLETTER INFO

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Free to students enrolled in  
Dana Martin Studio

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## COMMUNITY

### WELCOME NEW STUDENTS!

COURTNEY GOINES  
DASH SMITH

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

TREY WELLS 4.6  
VIVIENNE SCHWEIGHARDT 4.10  
BEATRIZ BEZERRA 4.16

### IMPORTANT DATES

#### NO LESSONS

APR 26—MAY 2 (out of town)

#### SPRING RECITAL

MAY 17

### ONLINE REVIEWS



Here's a recent review from a happy parent:

*Dana is just the kind of piano teacher I've been looking for. She is so organized! I appreciate her monthly newsletter, incentive programs, and online lesson options when needed. And Dana is so kind! My daughter has made a ton of progress due to Dana's teaching methods and her sweet spirit. —René M.*

If you would like to leave a detailed review, please visit [g.page/danamartinstudio/review](http://g.page/danamartinstudio/review). Thank you!

## STUDENT HIGHLIGHT: OLIVIA RUSSELL



Olivia

Meet Olivia Russell. She lives with her parents Kyle and Carmen, her little brother Patrick and her pet beta fish Doug. She loves spending time with her grandparents in Louisville and in Bowling Green. She

has three cousins with one more on the way! Olivia is in kindergarten at Lexington Christian Academy. She loves to play with her friends on the playground and her favorite subject is Art.

Her favorite TV show is *Dino Dana* and her favorite book is her *Dino Dana Field Guide*. She loves learning about dinosaurs, digging for fossils in the backyard, and wants to be a paleontologist when she grows up. She also loves playing with dinosaur toys with her brother Patrick.

This is Olivia's first year of piano lessons. She said she loves piano because you can learn new notes and play songs like "Happy Birthday." She would like to be able to write her own songs some day.

Olivia goes to church at Calvary Church of the Nazarene. She likes children's church and

learning new Bible stories.

She comes from a musical family (her dad is the pianist at church), and she's definitely following in his footsteps. She breezed through her level 1 piano books in under seven months, and she's already surpassed the 30-Piece Challenge twice!

Olivia comes to each lesson with a smile and a genuine eagerness to learn. She has been playing for less than a year, but has already mastered the basics of note and rhythm reading and is beginning to add dynamics. Her music is well rehearsed and played with absolute joy.

Please join us  
for an evening of  
beautiful music!

Monday, May 17

7:00 p.m.

True Life Church  
407 Kingston Road

Dana Martin Studio  
[DanaMartinStudio.com](http://DanaMartinStudio.com)

## DANA'S PRACTICE TIP

### HOW TO OVERCOME PIANO PRACTICE EXCUSES

I've probably heard every excuse in the book and then some when it comes to piano practice. From, "I forgot," "I didn't have time," and even "I couldn't find my books."

**As a parent, you've probably heard these as well.** You may even hear some that students don't say to me, their teacher. Such as, "It's boring," "I don't like these songs," or "It's too hard."

**Occasionally there may be a song that the student really doesn't like.** I understand that. There are some songs I don't care for either. We can cover those same skills in another song that the student may like better.

**However, usually, when students give these types of excuses,** what they're really saying is, "It takes work, and I didn't really put in the effort this week."

**Sometimes the student really isn't excited about his piano homework.** If he hates the pieces assigned, he won't want to work on them. I make every effort to find pieces I think your student will enjoy. If there's a particular genre, artist, or piece your student really wants to learn, let me know. When the student is excited about a piece, he's much more likely to put in the practice time.

**Does she conveniently forget what she's supposed to work on?** I write every assignment on the Lesson Notes sheet and place it in her piano folder. I also include specific notes about what to focus on, especially if the piece is being repeated or is a performance piece that we're polishing.

**What can you, the parent do at home to help your student create productive practice habits and avoid excuses?** You can take an active role in your child's musical education. Help your student choose a daily practice time and stick to it. Just like he does his homework, makes his bed and brushes his teeth. Make piano practice a part of his everyday responsibilities.

**Practicing the piano can be a lonely activity.** It's not like practicing soccer with your teammates. Be listening nearby in case she runs into trouble. If you hear her stumbling over a particular spot every time she plays that piece, ask her to isolate that spot and work on it for a few minutes. Make it a game: if she can play it 3 times in a row without errors, she can have 3 M&Ms.

**If there's something he just isn't getting,** don't suffer through it until the next lesson. Send me a quick video and let me know so I can help him now.

**We can work together to make piano practice productive and fun** so your student is learning AND enjoying piano without excuses!



I'm the Easter cat!



I've been waiting here all day

and still no Cadbury eggs!

## UNDER THE SEA! SUMMER GROUP CLASSES

I'm already preparing for our Summer Group Classes.

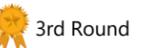
This year's theme, Under the Sea! promises a fun time of making instruments, music games that enhance our learning, as well as snacks that complement our theme, and much more!

**Students may choose to attend the group classes in lieu of their regular lessons in June and July.** Sign ups will begin in May.

**Here are just some of the many benefits** of group piano instruction:

- Provides performance opportunities for students
- Develops performance confidence and poise
- Encourages the development of critical listening and problem-solving skills
- Is a dynamic and motivational learning environment that can challenge students to higher levels of preparation and commitment
- Encourages the development of a strong rhythmic sense

# 30-PIECE Challenge UPDATE



NAME	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Tanner	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	
Truett (2)	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢																							
Cody	🟡	🟡	🟡																											
Vivienne (2)	🟢	🟢																												
Olivia (3)	🏆	🏆	🏆	🏆	🏆	🏆	🏆	🏆																						
Grace (2)	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢																							
Kasi	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	
Abby	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡																								
Claira	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	
Molly	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡																				
Emerson	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	
Naa Enyonam	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	
Liya	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	
Beatriz	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	
Trey (2)	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢																	
Alexandra	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	
Carla	🟡	🟡	🟡																											
Joseph (2)	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	
Lexi	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡																								
Emily	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	
Triniti																														
Evie	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	
Natalea (2)	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢																	
Cohen	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟡																									
Dash																														

## THE PRACTICE COMPETITION IS ON!

**Our 6th annual Practice Competition** starts April 5, as soon as students return from Spring Break!

Students have 4 weeks to crush a category and win a prize or qualify for a **certificate and fun pizza party**. All qualifying students will be recognized at the spring recital.

**Check your Practice Competition flyer** for all the info, including categories, prizes, etc.

**Be sure to check the leader board** each week to see who's ahead in each category and what you need to do to be on the leader board next week!

**Each year students knock it out of the park** and set new records as well as challenge themselves to reach a personal goal.

**As students are practicing more,** they're also improving muscle memory, dexterity, sight-reading and rhythm skills and so much more!

**The Practice Competition** is also preparing students for the upcoming recital as they devote more time to master recital pieces.

**There are so many reasons** to get in on the action, so let's get practicing!

- Is an excellent format for teaching functional musicianship skills
  - Is a prime environment for the study of piano technique
  - Creates a sense of community among students where they support, encourage and learn from each other
- Talk to your student** about this exciting and valuable opportunity. I hope to have several classes this summer as class size will be limited to six students.
- More info available soon!