



DANA MARTIN STUDIO

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QUICK LINKS



KEYS

DANA MARTIN STUDIO  
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

NEWSLETTER INFO

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Subscription info:  
Free to students enrolled in  
Dana Martin Studio

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KEYS | FEBRUARY 2026

WHAT’S NEW FOR DANA

Anthony and I had a lovely, quiet start to the year, ringing in 2026 at home while watching the ball drop together. Since then, we spent a couple of Saturdays cheering on Will and Ryan at their basketball games—it’s always so fun to be in the stands for them.

We also survived the “Winter Apocalypse” of 2026! We were very fortunate to never lose power. While Anthony braved the roads to make it to work every day, I stayed cozy catching up on studio projects. Our black lab, Bailey, provided the daily entertainment, slipping and sliding across the icy backyard several times a day, while Zeke remained

completely oblivious, clearly enjoying his life as a pampered indoor cat.

Ryan is excited that a friend gave him a guitar, and Papaw cleaned it up and put new strings on it for him.

Looking ahead, we’re excited to host my dad and stepmom for a few days in February. We’ll get to celebrate their birthdays together!



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QUINN HAGIHARA  
STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Quinn

We are delighted to feature Quinn Hagihara in our Student Spotlight this month! Quinn has been a part of our studio for a year

now, and her creative energy is a joy to have in our musical community.

A fourth-grader at Stonewall Elementary, Quinn is a true lover of the arts. While she enjoys science, her heart really shines in her Art classes. In fact, she was recently recognized for the Gifted and Talented program in Visual Art! When she isn’t at the piano, she’s often busy taking classes at Artworks, drawing, singing, or catching up with her friends on FaceTime.

At home, Quinn lives with her mom, dad, and brother, Teddy. They are very excited to be welcoming a new pet cat to the family soon! They’re a big UK Wildcats family and love cheering on their favorite team. While Quinn hasn’t played many

sports in the past, she’s thinking about bringing that same “Wildcat” spirit to the court next year to try out basketball!

When it’s time to relax, Quinn is a fan of the *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* books, any Tim Burton movie, and the show *Fionna & Cake*. She has some exciting adventures on the horizon, too—she’s looking forward to a school field trip to the Cincinnati Museum and a sunny Spring Break trip to Florida!

Quinn has always had a natural curiosity for the piano. She says she is truly loving her lessons and hopes to one day master the instrument. With her dedication and artistic eye, we have no doubt she’ll reach those musical goals. Keep up the amazing work, Quinn!



COMMUNITY  
Studio Happenings



WELCOME NEW STUDENT!  
PATRICK MUKWALEMBA



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!  
ZAYNE D’SOUZA FEB 6  
ELLIE SVOEUNG FEB 8  
SANBHI BHATTARAI FEB 26



IMPORTANT DATES  
WINTER PERFORMANCE  
FEBRUARY 21  
SPRING BREAK  
APRIL 6-12  
SPRING RECITAL  
MAY 18



# WINTER PERFORMANCE

We are so excited for our upcoming Winter Performance! This month, we'll be visiting another local senior residence to share our music and brighten the day for the residents. These community performances are such a meaningful way for our students to share their hard work.

**When:** Saturday, February 21 @ 2:30 p.m.

**Where:** Highgrove at Tates Creek  
4251 Saron Drive, Lexington

**A Special Project:** To make the day even more special, we're asking each participating family to create 10 Valentines or "Thinking of You" cards for the residents. We will have the students pass these out personally after the performance—it's always a highlight for the seniors!

**RSVP Today:** Please let us know if you can make it by scanning the QR code on the right. We kindly ask for an **RSVP (Yes or No) by February 12** so we can finalize the program.



# SUPPORTING YOUR STUDENT AT HOME

If your student hits a challenging spot, you don't need to be a piano expert to help them move forward! Instead of giving them the answers, try asking these "Success Questions" to help them problem-solve:

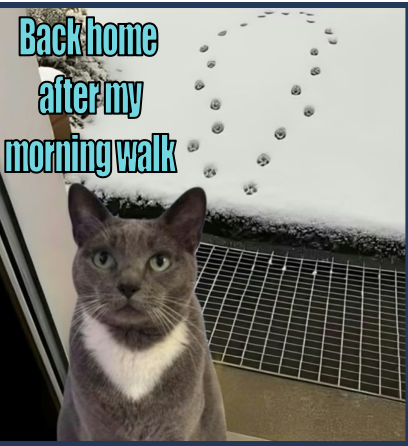
## Strategy: Learning the Music

- **Are you practicing the "trouble spots" first?** Focusing specifically on the hard parts saves time and prevents frustration.
- **Did you check for wrong notes before playing it again?** Encourage them to identify the mistake so they don't accidentally practice it in.
- **Should we write a finger number or note name in your book?** A quick pencil mark in their music is a great reminder for a stubborn note!
- **Are your eyes on the music or your hands?** Keeping eyes on the page is the best way to improve note reading.

## Technical: Using the PX App

- **Did you watch the tutorial video?** Many PX songs have a video—the answer to their problem is usually right there!
- **Have you tried playing it without the app first?** Slowing down away from the backing track helps them find the notes at their own pace.
- **Have you tried it at a slower speed?** The app allows for tempo adjustments; mastering a song at 50% speed is the best way to reach 100%.
- **Are you playing in the right octave?** The app requires playing in the correct range. Check if they are playing too high or too low on the keyboard.

# FUNNY CAT MEMES



# HAVE A CONFLICT WITH YOUR LESSON?

**PX Students** reschedule your lesson here: [calendly.com/danamartinstudio/px-reschedule](https://calendly.com/danamartinstudio/px-reschedule).

**Private Students** contact Dana to schedule an online or video feedback lesson.

# PRACTICE TIPS

## Making Practice a Part of Every Day

Developing a consistent practice habit is one of the best ways to ensure musical growth and enjoyment. Here are three simple ways to help your student make the piano a natural part of their daily life.

2

## Keep the Music at the Heart of Your Home.

Location matters! If an instrument is tucked away in an isolated basement or a back bedroom, practice is in the center of the home, it can feel like a "timeout" or a chore. Placing your piano or keyboard in the living room or a high-traffic area signals that music is an important, shared part of your family's life. When the piano is in the center of the home, it's much more likely to be played.

3

## Celebrate the Small Wins.

During practice sessions, listen for the little breakthroughs. Instead of focusing only on the finished piece, offer specific praise like, "That section sounded so smooth!" or "I love how bouncy and fun that rhythm was!" By celebrating these small moments, you are watering the seeds of encouragement. This positive reinforcement is often what transforms a child from someone "taking lessons for a season" into someone "making music for a lifetime."

# ART BEAT HIGHLIGHTS!

We had an incredible time at the beautiful Marksbury Family Branch Library for **Art Beat**! It was such a treat to demo our Piano Express program to the local community and show some new faces just how fun learning music can be.

The demonstration was followed by a wonderful performance by **eleven of our talented students**. They all did an awesome job and represented our studio beautifully—we couldn't be prouder of their hard work and stage presence!

We did snap a group photo to commemorate the day, though we were so sorry to miss **Naven** and **Sanbhi**, who had to head out before the camera came out. You were both missed in the picture, but your performances were fantastic!

A huge thank you to **Mr. Carmen, Ethan, and Emily** for all of their help behind the scenes. Events like this run smoothly because of your dedication and support.



Art Beat 2026

