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KEYS

DANA MARTIN STUDIO
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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WHAT'S NEW FOR DANA

We celebrated Natalea's 8th birthday with a scavenger hunt and a double-decker cookie cake!

Thanksgiving was a special treat with all my kids and grandkids as well as my dad and stepmom under one roof. Love the joy and laughter of family!

A special thanks to my grands for decorating my tree and home for Christmas while they were here.

Basketball has begun for Will. He scored 10 points at his first game of the season!



Megan & Ryan opening gifts from Pop & Gigi

Landree getting the decorations ready



Evie & Landree decorating the banister

Will's first basketball game of the season



Natalea, Ryan & Hadlee decorating the tree



KEYS NEWSLETTER

DANA MARTIN STUDIO MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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WHY RECITALS ARE IMPORTANT

FEATURE ARTICLE

As we approach the Christmas Recital, there are several new students who've never performed for anyone other than family. A few got their feet wet at the Fall Performance, which was a great precursor to the recital.

Even students who have performed a few or many times still get nervous and may need to be reminded of why we even have recitals.

Recitals are essential. I strongly believe that recitals are an essential part of music education. You'd never allow your athlete to only attend soccer practice but never actually play in a game.

I encourage my students to go above and beyond the lesson by getting them involved in recitals, events and other performances that help build character and enforce life skills. The life skills gained from these public performances are invaluable to students and will benefit them for years to

come as they translate into school and later their careers.

Preparing for recitals instills discipline. A recital is a deadline, which requires diligent practice as well as extra time and effort to memorize and master the pieces to perform them with excellence. With pride, students know they've met the challenge of discipline, hard work and accomplishment, which translates into a student's work ethic as he grows to take on other life challenges.

Recitals are a great way to build courage and confidence in students. Performing is no walk in the park. It takes a lot of courage to get up and perform at a recital and often leads to extreme nerves and anxiety. You've no doubt heard that public speaking is more feared by adults than death. When a student begins performing at a young age, the more comfort-

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COMMUNITY Studio Happenings



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
RACHEL BRAKEVILLE DEC 23



IMPORTANT DATES
CHRISTMAS RECITAL
TUES, DEC 13
NO LESSONS
DEC 13—JAN 8
LESSONS RESUME JAN 9

PLEASE JOIN US FOR
AN EVENING OF
Beautiful Music
7 PM TUESDAY DEC 13
TRUE LIFE CHURCH
407 KINGSTON ROAD
LEXINGTON



2022 A 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 2022 with the One-Minute Club where students named and played notes up to 5 levels of difficulty in one minute or less.

In February I added Wednesdays as a new teaching day to my schedule and immediately added several new students.

Our 7th Annual Practice Competition was a smashing success with 35 students practicing 38K+ minutes in April!

Our Spring Recital boasted a record 33 students participating!

Fifteen students attended our Virtual Holiday summer group classes where we "traveled" to Brazil and Ghana. We learned about their culture, music and instruments.

We kicked off the fall semester in August with a BINGO practice challenge. Several students completed the entire sheet!

In September DMS hit a milestone — 50 students! I'm grateful for the referrals and new family members who joined.

We began working on Christmas music in October, and you'll soon enjoy the fruit of your labor at the Christmas Recital.

In November we finally got to resume our Fall Performance at a senior residence after two years of covid.

Students, you have a lot to be proud of when you look back at your accomplishments in 2022. I can only imagine what milestones you'll achieve in 2023 with new challenges!



RECITAL VIDEOS

If you'd like a professional-quality video of your child's performance, Victor Siguenza is once again videoing our upcoming recital.

Scan the QR code or click below to order your DVD, Blu-Ray or flash drive copy today: bit.ly/dmsrecital121322. (The form says Winter Showcase Video. Just be sure to include DMS Recital beside your name so he'll know it's for our recital. Thanks!)



PRACTICE TIPS

Actively listen to quality recordings of your music

1

Find a quality recording of a piece you're learning. YouTube has just about any piece from just about any book. Some books come with CDs or links to online recordings.

2

Active listening is its own unique activity that deserves all of your attention. Close your eyes and really focus on the sound of the music. Open the score and follow along. Imagine your hands playing the notes you hear.

3

Your brain is like a sponge that absorbs the music that you hear. The more you let it soak up the sound of your music, the easier it is to get that music back out of you.



RECITALS ARE IMPORTANT (CONTINUED)

table she will become at it and the less nervous she will feel. Translate the performance skills acquired from recitals into public speaking and other public performances students will face later on.

Recitals teach students to focus on their achievements rather than their mistakes. Mistakes are a part of life and everybody makes them. The more a student practices and plays at recitals, the easier he will be able to move past a mistake and pick himself right back up again. I tell my students that no one remembers your mistakes; they only remember their own. Students come to realize that mistakes are not what matter most, but that getting up on stage and doing your best is most important.

Recitals motivate students to work hard for their achieve-

ments. Students want to do well in front of their friends, family and peers. That motivation they feel before a performance will continue when they watch their peers perform. Seeing younger or less experienced students perform encourages a student to feel accomplished at how far she has come. Likewise, watching older or more experienced students perform encourages her to set goals for what she has yet to accomplish.

Recitals teach students how to prepare and be prepared for other life skills and challenges. Take pride in your hard work, diligence and accomplishments because they pay off in life.



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 book** even if you have your piece memorized, and especially if we'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 to receive your certificate and gift as well as join us for a light reception