



DANA MARTIN STUDIO
2355 Huguenard Drive, Ste 101
Lexington, KY 40503
859.488.9148

QUICK LINKS



KEYS

DANA MARTIN STUDIO
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

NEWSLETTER INFO

Publisher: Dana Martin

Contact info:
2355 Huguenard Dr, Ste 101
Lexington, KY 40503
lessons.dms@gmail.com
859.488.9148

Subscription info:
Free to students enrolled in
Dana Martin Studio

2026 © All rights reserved

KEYS | OCTOBER 2026

WHAT'S NEW FOR DANA

Here is a quick peek at what's been going on with my family and me lately:

Family Celebrations: We have a big milestone coming up—Will turns 14 on October 30th! Happy Birthday, Will!

Concert Fun: Anthony and I got to see Exile live in Richmond last month! We had an absolute blast singing along and reminiscing over all of their classic hits.

Honoring Our Veterans: I had the privilege of attending a touching Quilt of Valor ceremony honoring a couple of friends who served in the military. Each veteran was presented with a beautiful handmade quilt—a meaningful tradition that has awarded nearly 500,000 quilts to veterans since 2003.



Andrea, Ryan, Dana, Debbi, Pop (& Quincy), Evie (& Elvis), Anthony, Megan, Natalea, Will, Jonathan

On the Fields & Keys: The grands are keeping super busy! **Hadlee** is keeping the volleyball court hot and loving cheerleading while **Landree** is earning lots of stars and crowns in her piano practice! **Will, Ryan, and Natalea** are giving it their all on the soccer field, and **Megan** recently added a new piano book and is having so much fun learning familiar tunes. **Ryan** finished a supplementary book in his level, and since the only available book on hand was a Christmas one, he jumped right in—and mastered 10 Christmas songs in his very first week! **Evie** and I have officially started practicing our annual Christmas duet, and **Natalea** is hard at work on her very first Fine Arts piece.



Hadlee & Landree



KEYS
DANA MARTIN STUDIO
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

IN THIS ISSUE

PAGE 1	Grant Kersey: Student Spotlight
PAGE 1	Community
PAGE 2	World Tour Ice Cream Party
PAGE 2	On the Move: Leveling Up (NEW!)
PAGE 3	Only Have 15 Minutes to Practice?
PAGE 3	Fall Performance
PAGE 3	Welcome, Lexi!

GRANT KERSEY
STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Grant

Meet Grant Kersey, a bright 2nd grader at Mary Queen of the Holy Rosary whose curiosity and energy shine both in and out of the classroom! A huge fan of science, Grant lives with his parents, Dorinda and Justin. When he isn't hitting the books, he is almost always on the move—whether he's playing soccer, running cross country, shooting hoops on the basketball court, or squeezing in a game of golf or pickleball with family and friends.

When it's time to unwind, Grant loves diving into the hilarious worlds of *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* and *Dog Man*, or settling in

for a *Harry Potter* movie marathon. He's also quite the globetrotter! Among his favorite adventures are exploring LEGOLAND in Germany, experiencing the magic of Disney World, and shredding the snowy slopes while skiing in Lake Tahoe.

Grant decided to take up piano to challenge himself with a fun new skill and explore his passion for music. His dedication is already making waves in the studio—Mr. Carmen shares that Grant absolutely loves the flashcard exercises, often powering through them over and over again with unstoppable enthusiasm! We are so proud of Grant's hard work and thrilled to have him as part of our studio family.



COMMUNITY
Studio Happenings

Hi! WELCOME NEW STUDENTS!
HENRY CLAYTON
ALINA GURUNG TAMANG

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
ALEXANDRA STRATEMANN OCT 1
ETHAN ABRAMS OCT 9
HELENA WEISS OCT 18
CAMERON BAILEY OCT 23
LEXI BORCK OCT 23
AUSTIN LENKE OCT 27

IMPORTANT DATES
FALL BREAK (NO LESSONS)
SEPT 28–OCT 4
ICE CREAM PARTY OCT 16
FALL PERFORMANCE OCT 24
THANKSGIVING WEEK:
NO LESSONS TUES–THURS
(NOV 24–26)
MONDAY STUDENTS WILL
HAVE LESSONS NOV 23
CHRISTMAS RECITAL DEC 14

CELEBRATING OUR WORLD TOUR CHAMPIONS

I am so incredibly proud of all our students who worked so diligently during our World Tour Challenge! Watching their dedication, enthusiasm, and growth over these past weeks has been an absolute joy.

My ultimate goal with this challenge was to help our students build a consistent practice habit that lasts well beyond the finish line—and I truly believe we'll see the positive impact of their hard work for months and years to come. (The fun quest and ice cream party are just the cherry on top!)

It's also been wonderful learning about the heritage and cultures represented by our studio families, and I can't wait to see your displays and presentations at the party!



You're Invited: World Tour Ice Cream Party!

When: Friday, October 16th | 6:30 – 8:00 PM

Where: At the Studio

Who: All qualifying students (4+ passport stamps) & their families!

Every student who earned at least four stamps on their World Tour passport has unlocked an invitation to our celebration! Once your student qualifies, keep an eye on your inbox for an RSVP link and details on how parents can get involved.

Bring the whole family! It's going to be an unforgettable evening featuring:

- **Delicious Ice Cream & Toppings Bar**
- **Face Painting**
- **Silly Photo Booth**
- **Cultural Showcases:** Celebrate the amazing places we "visited" with displays, music, and traditions shared by our very own DMS families!

This night is our way of saying a huge CONGRATULATIONS for all your hard work and practice. We can't wait to celebrate with you!

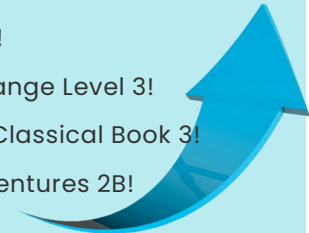
ON THE MOVE: LEVELING UP

We're launching a brand-new section in our newsletter to celebrate students who have mastered a level and officially moved up to the next book in their series!

Graduating to a new book takes real dedication, consistent practice, and lots of perseverance. We are so proud of these talented musicians for keeping the momentum going and reaching their next big musical milestone.

Join us in giving a huge round of applause to this month's level-up champions:

- **Grace Bailey** — Leveled up to Alfred Premier 2B!
- **A'Mari Newell-Goodwin** — Leveled up to PX Orange Level 3!
- **Cate Nguyen** — Leveled up to Piano Literature Classical Book 3!
- **Grace Rogers** — Leveled up to Faber Piano Adventures 2B!



FUNNY CAT MEMES



PRACTICE TIPS

Only have 15 minutes to practice?

Is 15 Minutes at the Piano Even Worth It?
Short answer: Yes—if you give every minute a job.

Most people waste short practice sessions playing a piece from the beginning, polishing what already sounds good, and hitting the exact same wall. A focused 15-minute plan beats a scattered hour every single time.

Here is how to split your clock:

3

Phase 3: Zero In (8 mins) — Play through once to find where you wobble, then stop! Isolate just that tricky bar or two. Practice hands separately, then together, slowly enough that you don't stall.

1

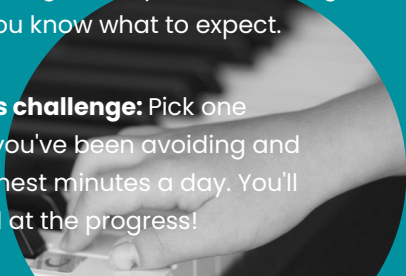
Phase 1: Warm Up (5 mins) — Get your fingers moving with slow scales or 5-finger drills. Focus on touch, not speed. Go slow enough to feel every finger.

2

Phase 2: Analyze (2 mins) — Scan the score before playing a note. Spot repeating patterns, tricky key changes, or dynamic markings so you know what to expect.

4

This week's challenge: Pick one tough bar you've been avoiding and give it 8 honest minutes a day. You'll be amazed at the progress!



FALL PERFORMANCE

Sharing Our Music With the Community. Our Fall Performance is this month, and we can't wait to see our students shine! All students, even those who are brand new, are encouraged to participate. This is a wonderful "first step" in performing because it's in a relaxed, friendly atmosphere in front of a very supportive audience.

Make a Card, Make a Day. Many of the residents we'll be performing for don't have visitors, so they truly appreciate a personal touch. **Please prepare about 10 cards** to pass out after the performance. They can be as detailed or as simple as you like—anything from a complex drawing to a simple "Thinking of You" or a smiley face will bring a smile to their day.

RSVP Today. Please RSVP today (yes or no) using the link or QR code to the right. It helps us so much to have all the RSVPs in one place. Thank you!



WELCOME LEXI!



We're excited to introduce our new Teacher Assistant, Lexi Borck!

Hi everyone! My name's Lexi Borck, and I'm a freshman at the University of Kentucky, majoring in Biology on the PrePA track. Music has been part of my life ever since I was little. I started playing piano when I was about eight years old and joined the SCAPA program in fourth grade. From fourth to eighth grade, I was a piano major, then switched to flute during my four years at Lafayette.

Being part of the music program at Lafayette was such an amazing experience, and I've made some of my best memories because of it. I was in the marching band all 4 years at Lafayette and had the opportunity to serve as one of the four drum majors my senior year of high school. I've also participated in many music ensembles, such as All-State, CKYO, and District Honor Bands.

Although I'm not pursuing a career in music, I plan to keep it part of my life. I'm so grateful for the opportunity to work at Ms. Dana's studio as a TA, and I'm excited to work with these kids and help them grow throughout their musical journey.