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KEYS

DANA MARTIN STUDIO
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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WHAT'S NEW FOR DANA

Anthony's birthday was March 5. We celebrated with family Saturday, March 2 with UK basketball tickets to senior night on March 6, and our church surprised him on Sunday with a UK themed basket and lots of appreciation.

My stepmom and dad's birthdays were on February 22 and 23 respectively. They spent a few days in Branson with friends.

We're planning a trip to visit Jon-Michael in Cleveland, OH for spring break.



Ryan & Jonathan

Landree & Hadlee



Megan

Natalea, Jonathan, Evie

Jonathan, Anthony, Will, & Ryan



KEYS

NEWSLETTER

DANA MARTIN STUDIO MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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ETHAN ABRAMS

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Ethan

Meet Ethan Abrams. He lives with his mom, dad, little brother Jackson, 3 dogs – a boxer named Dexter, and two pugs named Franny and Pepper, and 5 chickens.

Ethan is a sophomore at Lafayette High School, and his favorite subject is English. He's a tenor in the Lafayette Chorale.

He enjoys archery, *Hunger Games*, *Hunger Games* movies, driving, and

playing video games with family and friends.

Ethan is a member of the Beta Club and the National Junior Honor Society.

"For spring break we are planning a trip to Florida, and we will be spending time with extended family, visiting the beach and going to a theme park or two!"

"I was heavily inspired to take piano lessons by my grandfather, who learned piano when he was young. He's always been a huge inspiration to me, so I wanted to take after him and learn more about piano and music. I have always loved music, so for a while, I've wanted to have a hobby that relates to music, that I can play for my family and enjoy as I grow up."

Ethan is a conscientious student and appreciates a musical challenge.

He has a delightful sense of humor and enjoys regaling me with funny stories and situations than happen in his work and school life.



COMMUNITY

Studio Happenings

Hi! WELCOME NEW STUDENTS!
ZAYNE D'SOUZA
STEVE JOHNSON

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
INES MAYNARD MAR 7
HANNAH BOYD MAR 9
OLIVIA HATTON MAR 14
LORI HORN MAR 16
PETER LAO MAR 26

IMPORTANT DATES
SPRING BREAK (NO LESSONS) APR 1-7
SPRING RECITAL MAY 13

9TH ANNUAL PRACTICE COMPETITION

This is a highlight of the year, and it all begins April 8, 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.

CATEGORIES—win a prize AND come to the pizza party:

- **BEST SINGLE DAY** of practice
- **MOST PRACTICE BY A BEGINNER** (lessons less than a year or level 1A or Primer)
- **MOST CONSECUTIVE DAYS** of at least 60 minutes
- **GREAT START:** Student with the most practice in the first week
- **MOST MINUTES** during entire competition (4 weeks)

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

QUALIFY for the pizza party:

- **CONSISTENCY:** Anybody who doesn't skip a single day of practice (at least 20 min) throughout the competition
- **BRONZE:** 180 minutes (3 hours) weekly commitment
- **SILVER:** 300 minutes (5 hours) weekly commitment

- **GOLD:** For serious practicers: 420 minutes (7 hours) weekly commitment
- **CUMULATIVE TARGET:** Anyone who logs a cumulative total of 1000 minutes over the lifetime of the competition will receive this reward, without worrying about what happens on individual days

DOUBLE factor:

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

Help your student choose a goal to work toward and rack up those practice minutes!

- Encourage your student to get some practice minutes in before school.
- Call grandma or have your student invite a friend in and play his/her recital pieces to count toward their minutes

The possibilities are only limited to you and your student's imagination!

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

Each year there are some 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!

FUNNY CAT MEMES



PRACTICE TIPS

Study the score (music) away from the piano

1 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.

2 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?

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

4 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.



WINTER PERFORMANCE

We had 23 students participate in the Winter Performance last month at Highgrove at Tates Creek.

Thank you to everyone who prepared a piece to perform and made cards for the residents.

The residents were delighted with your music and your touching outpouring of love. They loved receiving your cards and notes.

The activities director was overjoyed with the entire program!



NOTE WORTHY

Congratulations to Kasi Depew (center) for her outstanding performance with a Distinguished rating! She played the clarinet in an ensemble with some of her school friends from Seton School at KMEA a few weeks ago!



30-PIECE CHALLENGE

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

It takes a while to learn longer pieces, and it can be challenging to learn 30 pieces for these students.

What to do? Pull out shorter, easier pieces (at least 16 measures) and learn these! You can probably learn at least 2 or 3 each week. It's great for sight reading as well!

Play them for me at your next lesson or shoot me a quick video during the week. I want you to achieve this challenge and be recognized at the Spring Recital!