

#### DANA MARTIN STUDIO

864 Wellington Way Lexington, KY 40503 859.552.4419

# QUICK LINKS



<u>DanaMartinStudio.con</u>



<u>aana@aanamartinstualo.cor</u>



@danamartink



<u>DanaMartinStudio.com/keys</u>

# KEYS

DANA MARTIN STUDIO MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

### **NEWSLETTER INFO**

Publisher: Dana Martin

Contact info

864 Wellington Way Lexington, KY 40503 dana@danamartinstudio.com 859 552 4419

Subscription info

Free to students enrolled in Dana Martin Studio

2024 © All rights reserved

### KEYS | MARCH 2024

# 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.





KEYS

NEWSLETTER

ANA MARTIN STUDIO MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

□ PAGE 1 | Ethan Abrams Student Spotlight

PAGE 1 | Community

PAGE 2 | Practice Competition

O PAGE 3 | Note Worthy

PAGE 3 | 30-Piece Challenge

PAGE 3 | Study the music away from the piano

PAGE 4 | What's New for Dana

# 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



WELCOME NEW STUDENTS!
ZAYNE D'SOUZA

STEVE JOHNSON



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!** 

INES MAYNARD HANNAH BOYD OLIVIA HATTON LORI HORN

**PETER LAO** 

MAR 14 MAR 16 MAR 26

MAR 7

MAR 9



IMPORTANT DATES

SPRING BREAK
(NO LESSONS)
SPRING RECITAL

APR 1-7

**MAY 13** 

DANAMARTINSTUDIO.COM MARCH 2024 DANAMARTINSTUDIO.COM MARCH 2024

### 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**



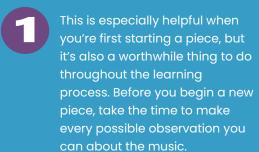






# PRACTICE TIPS

Study the score (music) away from the piano





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?



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



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!