



### DANA MARTIN STUDIO

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## QUICK LINKS



# KEYS

DANA MARTIN STUDIO  
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

### NEWSLETTER INFO

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## WHAT'S NEW FOR DANA

It has been such a joyful month filled with family, celebrations, and a few very special milestones!

We recently had the pleasure of hosting my dad and stepmom. It was so wonderful to have them here and celebrate both of their birthdays under one roof. We even managed a mini-family reunion when Andrea and the kids made the trip up for a day to visit with them. There is truly nothing better than a house full of family and laughter!

One of the big highlights of the month was attending a 50th wedding anniversary party for some of our dearest friends. It was such a

beautiful milestone to witness, and as an added bonus, we got to reconnect with friends we hadn't seen in years. Of course, the night wouldn't have been complete without a little music! Anthony was a total hit during the karaoke portion of the evening with his rendition of "My Girl"—he definitely won over the crowd!

Speaking of Anthony, he celebrates a birthday of his own this month on the 5th. Happy birthday, Honey! I'm so glad we get to keep the celebrations going.



Evie, Mamaw, Andrea, Jonathan, Natalea, Megan, Papaw, Ryan, Will

Hadlee

Landree

MARCH 2026



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## A'MARI NEWELL-GOODWIN

### STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



A'Mari

This month, we are so excited to introduce you to A'Mari Newell-Goodwin, though most of us at the studio know her as Mari!

Mari is a bright and busy 2nd grader at Dixie Elementary who brings so much energy to our studio family. What truly stands out about Mari is her infectious smile—it lights up the room the moment she walks through the door. She has a wonderful way of connecting with others and makes friends so easily, which makes her such a joy to have in our group classes!

Mari is a true "powerhouse" both in and out of school. "My favorite subject is math," she says, "and I love to play with my BFFs!" When she isn't hitting the books, she's staying active with horseback riding and gymnastics. Her hard work is definitely paying off, too; she recently earned the "Splash of Excel-

lence" award at school and is frequently recognized at gymnastics for her dedication.

At home, Mari is surrounded by a wonderful family and a very unique crew of pets. "I have my Mom, Dad, fish, Levi (my mini pig), and Rio (a big dog)!" When it comes to family time, they love staying active together. "I like to play pickleball with my family!" she shares. She also loves reminiscing about their trips to the beach: "I like to play in the sand and water and I love spending time with my family."

When it's time to relax, Mari reaches for her favorite book, *The Wild Robot*, or catches an episode of *Percy Jackson*. She's also a big fan of the movie *Zombies 4* and loves to get creative by coloring, painting, and playing with her Labubus.

Mari's journey into piano started because of a spark of curiosity and a piano already waiting for her at home. "I take piano lessons because I have a piano and I'm really interested," Mari says. She is currently working toward a very exciting musical goal: "I want to try to get all the crowns!" With her "Splash of Excellence" work ethic and that positive attitude, we have no doubt she'll earn those crowns in no time. We are so proud of you, Mari!



## COMMUNITY

### Studio Happenings



### WELCOME NEW STUDENTS!

AVA MCFARLAND  
HELENA WEISS



### HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

LILY WU	MARCH 7
LILLIAN FRANKLIN	MARCH 14
EVELYN WELLS	MARCH 23
ISAAC HOSTETLER	MARCH 30



### IMPORTANT DATES

SPRING BREAK APRIL 6-12  
SPRING RECITAL MAY 18

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## NEW STUDENT PORTAL!

We are thrilled to launch My Music Staff, the brand-new student portal at Dana Martin Studio! This easy-to-use online system is designed to give your family more flexibility and convenience than ever before.

With the new portal, you can:

- **Manage Your Calendar:** View your full lesson schedule at a glance.
- **Easy Rescheduling:** Cancel or reschedule lessons (Piano Express) with just a few clicks.
- **Stay Organized:** Access helpful resources and studio tools all in one central place.

**How to Get Started:** Keep an eye on your inbox! You will receive an email later this week with a personalized link to set up your login. Once your account is ready, you can access the portal anytime by visiting and clicking on the Student Tools section.

We hope this new resource makes managing lessons simpler and much more convenient for your busy schedules. We can't wait for you to try it out!

## BUILDING SUCCESS: HOW TO BE A SUPPORTIVE PIANO PARENT

We are so grateful for all of our piano parents! You are the "home team" that makes musical growth possible. To help your student feel confident and prepared for their lessons each week, here are a few simple ways you can support them:

- **Be an Active Listener:** Take a few moments each week to really listen to your student play. Showing genuine interest in their progress is the best way to keep them excited about playing.
- **The Weekly Folder Check:** Please check their music folder once a week. This allows you to check the Lesson Notes from the teacher as well as any upcoming activities that require your attention.
- **Come Prepared:** Ensure your student brings all of their music and their folder to every lesson. When they have their materials, they feel much more organized and ready for a positive, productive session!

## MUSICAL MARCH MADNESS!



March Madness comes to the studio!

This month, Dana Martin Studio is hitting the court! We're launching a month-long challenge where students can "dribble" through their books and "slam dunk" their goals.

Each "goal" moves you further into the tournament. Check out the Musical March Madness Brackets in the studio each week to see where all our star students stand!

It starts this week and runs through your lesson day the week of March 23!

## 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

### The Power of "Off-Bench" Practice

**2 Find the Mood:** What story is the music telling? Is it mysterious and dark, or bright and quirky? Knowing the "vibe" helps you play with more expression.

**3 Check the "Logistics":** Scan the music for the "Big Three":

- **The Signatures:** Key signature (flats/sharps) and time signature.
- **The Roadmap:** Dynamics (louds/softs), expression marks, and tempo markings.
- **The Fingering:** Notice where your hands need to shift or where a tricky finger jump might be.

**1 Imagine the Sound:** Before you play a single note, look at the page. Do you expect it to sound fast and bouncy (staccato) or smooth and flowing (legato)?

**4 Make a Plan:** Decide exactly which section you're going to tackle first when you sit down. Having a solid plan makes your practice time much more effective and rewarding!



## WINTER PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS!

We had an incredible time at Highgrove at Tates Creek for our winter performance! It was a joy to see about 20 of our talented students take the stage to share their music with the senior residents.

While the music was wonderful, one of the true highlights of the day was the connection made after the final notes were played. Our students spent time sharing handmade cards with the seniors, bringing so many smiles to the room. It was a beautiful reminder of how music and kindness can bring a community together.

We also enjoyed some special musical moments, including a fantastic duet featuring Mr. Carmen and one of our students!

Finally, a huge thank you goes out to Mr. Carmen and Ethan for all of their hard work behind the scenes. From setup to coordination, they made sure everything ran smoothly so our students could shine. Thank you to everyone who came out to support our young musicians!



Winter Performance 2026

## 30-PIECE CHALLENGE

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

1. **Review your progress:** Make sure all your pieces are entered onto your 30-Piece Challenge sheet. Pieces must be at least 16 measures long (beginners, 8 measures).
2. **Tackle shorter pieces:** If you're learning longer pieces and find it challenging to reach 30, pull out some shorter, easier pieces (at least 16 measures) and learn these. You can likely learn 2 or 3 each week, and it's great for sight-reading as well!
3. **Share your progress:** Play them for your teacher at your next lesson or shoot me a quick video during the week.

**I believe in you!** Let's achieve this challenge and make sure you're recognized at the Spring Recital!