



DANA MARTIN STUDIO
 864 Wellington Way
 Lexington, KY 40503
 859.552.4419

QUICK LINKS

- DanaMartinStudio.com
- dana@danamartinstudio.com
- [@danamartinky](https://twitter.com/danamartinky)
- DanaMartinStudio.com/keys

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 | JANUARY 2024

WHAT'S NEW FOR DANA

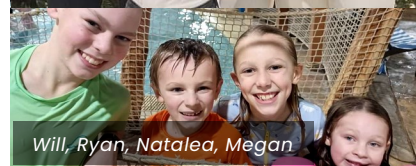
We had a lowkey Christmas, going to Andrea's for the day. I had lunch with a few friends and a cousin I hadn't seen in several years in Bardstown. Andrea and Jonathan and the grands came to our house for New Year's Eve and spent the night. We played games and watched movies.

Will and Ryan started their basketball seasons, and we've been going to Louisville on Saturdays to watch them play.

Andrea and Jonathan celebrated their 18th wedding anniversary on December 17!



Jon-Michael, Landree, Tiffany, Hadlee



Will, Ryan, Natalea, Megan



Megan

Natalea, Megan, Will, Ryan, Evie

Will



KEYS NEWSLETTER

DANA MARTIN STUDIO MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

- IN THIS ISSUE**
- PAGE 1 | Rachel Brakeville Student Spotlight
 - PAGE 1 | Community
 - PAGE 2 | Sight-Reading Club Challenge
 - PAGE 2 | Funny Cat Memes
 - PAGE 3 | How to Become a Good Listener Part 2
 - PAGE 3 | Recital photo
 - PAGE 4 | What's New for Dana

PARKER SIMS

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Rachel & Nick

My name is Rachel Brakeville. I've been living in Lexington for almost 10 years now but am from central Illinois. I have 2 dogs (Sophie and Charlie) and love them greatly. I currently work for Build-A-Bear in marketing and have loved

the company. I play volleyball recreationally and love spending my weekends watching college (Go Cats!!) & NFL football.

I recently got engaged and have really enjoyed this holiday season with my fiancé. I also had a birthday recently (Dec. 23) and celebrated with friend at a dinner.

I take piano lessons to challenge myself and develop a skill I had as a child. My piano goal is to be able to sight read music effectively.

I love the variety of teaching adult students along with kids and teens, and Rachel is no exception. She gives every song her best and especially enjoys learning pop ballads And Christmas songs.

We laugh a lot, especially about how difficult it is to get both sides of your brain to work together when the left and right hands are doing something totally different from each other!



COMMUNITY Studio Happenings



WELCOME NEW STUDENT!

RYAN CAREY
 SUZANNAH RANA



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

KASI DEPEW JAN 26



IMPORTANT DATES

LESSONS RESUME JAN 8
 WINTER PERFORMANCE
 FEB 24
 SPRING RECITAL MAY 13

SIGHT READING CHALLENGE

Sight reading is what happens the first time you look at a new piece of music. You're "reading by sight" before you know what the music should sound like. The goal for any musician is to be able to sight read faster with increasing accuracy.

I wrote in the Keys Newsletter a few months ago about how to improve your sight reading. Just like reading a lot as a child helps you learn to read better and faster, sight reading more will help you sight read music better and faster.

So, I'm bringing back a previous challenge from a few years ago with a few upgrades: Sight Reading Club! It's a fun way for students to earn rewards as well as improve their sight-reading skills at the same time.

Here's how it works:

- Sight read 3 exercises during your lesson each week
- Sight read 3 exercises each day during your practice time (about 5 minutes)
- Receive 1 sticker on your Sight Reading Club sticker chart for each day you practice all 3 exercises
- Pick a Goody Box prize when your Sight Reading Club chart is full

It's possible to earn up to 8 stickers each week: 1 for each day you practice plus the one you earn during your lesson!

Sight Reading Club Challenge will begin on your lesson day the week of January 8 and will run through February.



FUNNY CAT MEMES

**When your soul is dark and evil,
and they ask you to smile.**



DON'T LISTEN TO THEM



YOU'RE NOT FAT. YOU'RE FLUFFY

**I'm a little concerned
about my Uber driver,
but he has 5 stars**



PRACTICE TIPS

How to become a better listener, Part 2

1 Teach someone else. The most obvious application would be to find opportunities to teach. Teach a parent or sibling something you learned at lessons this week. Or find a practice buddy that you can both offer advice to, and receive advice from.

2 Imagine giving your friend a lesson. We can also get better at giving ourselves advice by imagining we're teaching a friend rather than ourselves. Take out your worksheet that we talked about last month. Starting with the first problem you'd like to solve, imagine a friend came to you describing that same problem, and was looking for your advice. What would you suggest they try?

3 Talk to the duck. In the software engineering world, there's a story about a programmer who would carry around a rubber ducky and debug code by walking the duck through the code, line by line, explaining what everything did. If you're struggling to get yourself into teacher mode, grab an inanimate object of some sort, set it up near your piano, and walk it through your recording, measure by measure, explaining what happened, why, and what specific adjustments would lead to a different result.

Will this make you look a little silly? Yes, but it can make practicing difficult passages much more satisfying. Maybe even fun!

So how does this apply to your piano practice? I'm so glad you asked!



CHRISTMAS RECITAL 2023

Thirty-four students participated in our Christmas Recital last month. We heard Jingle Bells to Silent Night and everything in between, including several duets and even a quartet. We rounded off the evening with a fun duet, Ukrainian Bell Carol.

Sorry, a few students had to leave early and aren't in the photo.

Thanks to all my students who worked so hard to prepare for this evening of beautiful music! And thanks to the parents, grandparents, siblings and friends who came and supported our students. We appreciate you!

CHRISTMAS RECITAL 2023

