



**DANA MARTIN STUDIO**  
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# KEYS

DANA MARTIN STUDIO  
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

### NEWSLETTER INFO

Publisher: Dana Martin

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Subscription info:  
Free to students enrolled in  
Dana Martin Studio

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KEYS | JANUARY 2023

## WHAT'S NEW FOR DANA

We took a ride on the Polar Express with Andrea & Jonathan and the kiddos, complete with hot chocolate, cookies and a visit from Santa!

Andrea & Jonathan celebrated their 17th anniversary on December 17 with a concert of some of Andrea's favorite artists, Danny Gokey and Natalie Grant.

Jon-Michael & Tiffany and their family have taken a new pastor position in Cleveland, Ohio. We're excited that they will now be much closer to us!



# KEYS

## NEWSLETTER

DANA MARTIN STUDIO MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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## SCARLETT OCHS

### STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Scarlett

My name is Scarlett, and I live with my mom, Esther, my dad, James, and my brother, Brandon. I have a dog named Sunny, and 6 chickens (all of which are named but shall remain nameless here).

I'm in 7th grade at The Lexington School and I'm on the archery team there as well. My favorite classes are Art and English.

I'm not much for sports, but I'll watch hockey every once in a while. My favorite team is the San Jose Sharks. I'm also a Seahawks fan (football) due to an inter-class rivalry at my school.

My favorite books are the *Toilet-Bound Hanako-Kun* series (I know the name is strange but I SWEAR it's good and it doesn't have toilet humor), my favorite show is *Brooklyn*

9-9, and my favorite movie is *Knives Out*. I love to draw and do digital art and it's something I'd like to do for as long as I can. Uh, special recognition... I was placed on the High Honors list last year in school, and I won the Single Day of Practice award during the practice competition. I'm taking piano lessons because it's cool being able to play songs I like and learning how to play even more.

*Scarlett started lessons with me about a year ago as a level 3 student. She enjoys mastering songs she really likes, and she will practice until she does just that. As she mentioned, she won the Most Practice in a Single Day in the Practice Competition last April. She practiced 6 hours on her "doubles" day, meaning she got credit for 720 minutes in one day! As I said, she's not afraid of practice.*



## COMMUNITY

### Studio Happenings

- Hi!** WELCOME NEW STUDENTS!
- EMMA AUDIA
  - AVERY ELLIOTT
  - GIDEON ELLIOTT
  - AZARIAH LOGAN
  - LINDSAY NORDIN
  - BENNETT NORDIN
  - ALLIE PERSINGER

- HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
- KASI DEPEW JAN 26

- IMPORTANT DATES
- LESSONS RESUME JAN 9
  - WINTER PERFORMANCE FEB 18

## ONE-MINUTE CLUB

We revived the One Minute Club Note-Naming Challenge last year, and it was a big hit!

Students name and play notes beginning at Level 1 and work their way up to Level 5. Students must play and name the notes in one minute or less to move to the next level.

Each student will receive a badge and recognition in the newsletter for every level they master. PLUS there are also rewards for students with the fastest times in each level.

Look for all the details in your student's music folder this week.

At each lesson over the next 8 weeks here's what we'll do:

1. Teacher names note, student plays
2. Student names note without playing
3. Student names note and plays (timed) twice and fastest time is recorded

Ways to help your student:

- Quiz your student on his notes at home to help him achieve a faster time at his lesson
- Download Flashnote Derby (only available on iOS) or another note-naming app to practice at home

Watch as your student improves her sight-reading over the next few weeks by learning and retaining the notes on the staff in this fun and gamifying way.



Thank you



Thank you to everyone who gave me Christmas gifts! I always like to properly acknowledge your gifts by sending a thank you note.

There were a couple gifts that didn't have a card or name on the gift tag.

So, here's a more public thank you, and I hope you'll let me know if you're the one who gave me the gifts.

Thank you for the Queen Bee Christmas dish and tea towel. They are so cute and what a thoughtful gift!

Thank you for the Christmas tea towel, recipe cards and the Joseph Beth gift card. Again... so cute! The recipe cards will come in handy because my daughter recently asked me for the recipes of some of my holiday dishes that I make every year. And who doesn't love Joseph Beth?!

I always appreciate your thoughtfulness, especially at this time of year. I was just disappointed that I couldn't thank you personally.

## 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.

2

Before you begin a new piece, take the time to make every possible observation you can about the music. What do you expect it to sound like? What is the music trying to communicate or portray? Think through all of the logistical aspects of the music like the time signature, key signature, dynamics, tempo, fingering, etc.

3

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.



## CHRISTMAS RECITAL 2022

Thirty-five students participated in our Christmas Recital last month. We heard Jingle Bells to Silent Night and everything in between, including a Rachmaninoff prelude. We rounded off the evening with a fun duet, Sleigh Ride Fantasy.

Sorry, a few students had to leave early and aren't in the above 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!

## RATE YOUR PRACTICE

### Hot off the presses!

We're starting January with a new sheet to help you evaluate your daily practice.

Did you play a few assignments, practice most assignments 3x, or practice enough that progress was made?

By jotting down a quick number once each day, you'll be able to find your average practice rating and determine what would help you get a higher rating next time.

This helps YOU take control of YOUR practice and see real progress!