



**DANA MARTIN STUDIO**  
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# KEYS

DANA MARTIN STUDIO  
 MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

### NEWSLETTER INFO

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 Free to students enrolled in  
 Dana Martin Studio

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KEYS | MARCH 2023

## WHAT'S NEW FOR DANA

Some residents from our Winter Performance came to me afterwards to thank me personally. They loved the music and asked if we could come again soon!

We survived the wind storm of 2023 without power for 54+ hours!

My dad's birthday was February 23 and my stepmom's the 22nd. I'm going to visit them in Missouri during Spring Break.

Anthony's birthday is March 5. He got a new guitar to add to his collection.

We're going to visit Jon-Michael and family in a couple weeks to see their new digs in Ohio!



Will, Natalea, Ryan, Megan & Evie with Papaw on his birthday

Landree

Hadlee & Tiffany



# KEYS

## NEWSLETTER

DANA MARTIN STUDIO MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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## BRAD DAVIDSON

### STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Brad

Meet Brad Davidson. He's only been taking piano lessons for a little over a year, but he has come so far during this short time. He plays advanced classical music and hymn arrangements with poise and style. Brad brings passion, color and integrity to every note he plays, and there are no insignificant measures or passages for him.

Brad's family includes his father, mother, two older brothers and an older sister and a chocolate lab.

He's a senior at Lexington Christian Academy, and music theory is his favorite class.

As far as his favorite books he says, "F. Scott Fitzgerald's novels are probably my favorite. Besides practicing piano, I don't do much else."

Currently, he's preparing for and looking forward to participating in the Kentucky Fine Arts Festival at Campbellsville University later this month.

Brad is very excited about going to college this fall. "Probably the biggest feat of my musical career so far has been my acceptance into Asbury's music program.

"I feel like I've been given a calling to play piano and study music. Others have told me that I have a God-given talent, and I've put in a lot of work in order to use that talent and develop into who God wants me to be."



## COMMUNITY

### Studio Happenings



WELCOME NEW STUDENTS!

RUTHIE BOYD  
 YOHANA MONTES



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

ANDREA TIMONEY MAR 3  
 MOLLY MADDEN MAR 8  
 HANNAH BOYD MAR 9



IMPORTANT DATES

SPRING BREAK APR 3-9  
 (NO LESSONS)  
 SPRING RECITAL MAY 15  
 NO LESSONS MAY 15-31

## 8<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL PRACTICE COMPETITION

It all begins April 10, 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:

- **Mp3 PLAYER** (like an iPod)
- **WILLIS MUSIC** Gift Card
- **MOVIE** Gift Card
- **RESTAURANT** Gift Card
- **AMAZON** 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:**

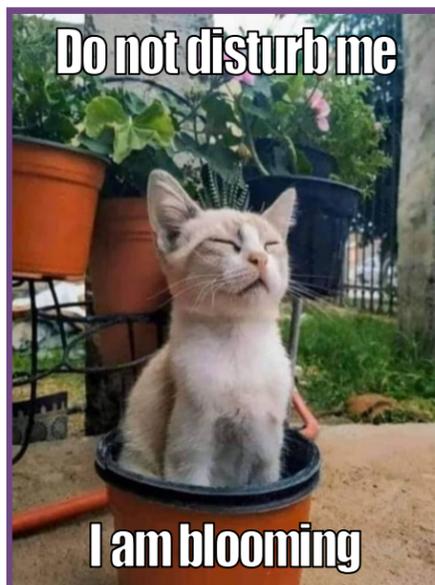
Students get to pick one day each week that counts DOUBLE!

**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!



## PRACTICE TIPS

*How to play faster with no errors*

**A metronome will help you** ramp up the speed of any piece you're working on at the moment. Here's a 4-step process to help you get the best results:

**1**

**Step 1: Find a SLOW Tempo**

Put your metronome at a slow setting. And by slow, I mean ridiculously slow. You need it slow enough so you can play your piece easily with no mistakes. One of the main benefits to practicing it slowly like this first is that you can drill in perfect muscle memory by really zeroing in and focusing on each note.

**2**

**Step 2: Ramp Up the Speed**

Next, increase your speed 3–5 bpm. You should barely be able to even notice that it's faster. Play through the piece 2–4 times. Then turn it up another 3–5 bpm and play it through 2–4 more times. Keep ramping up the tempo like this until you hit a speed where you start to make some mistakes. This is your "Max Tempo," or the maximum speed you can play the piece at this point. *HINT: Focus on the ticking of the metronome instead of the melody.*

**3**

**Step 3: Solidify your Max Tempo**

Once you've hit your Max Tempo, really concentrate and practice it 3 or 4 times. Try to play the piece without any mistakes. You will probably still make some, but really push yourself to play perfectly at that tempo. Write down your Max Tempo so tomorrow you can try to beat it! It's important to keep track of your daily Max Tempo so you know you're making progress on your piece.

**4**

**Step 4: Back to a Slow Tempo**

Now go back to a slower tempo and play through it 3–4 times perfectly. Don't skip this step! Your brain remembers the last time you practice something best, and you want to make sure the mistakes from the Max Tempo don't get drilled in. By playing it through slowly last, you will insure your brain will learn the notes accurately. Ramping up your tempo gradually helps reduce the mental stress of practicing. If you try to immediately play your piece at a faster tempo, your brain will freak out, and you'll make a lot of mistakes. By slowly ramping it up, you'll barely even notice the tempo change at each new tempo. It's a very effective way of getting your piece up to speed.



## WINTER PERFORMANCE

Twenty-two students performed at Sayre Christian Village Friendship Towers on Saturday, February 18. After the performances students passed out Valentines and homemade cards to the residents. This is one of my favorite events of the year. I love that it gives students a chance to perform and bless our senior community at the same time.



Winter Performance, Sayre Christian Village, February 18, 2023