



### DANA MARTIN STUDIO

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## QUICK LINKS



# KEYS

DANA MARTIN STUDIO  
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

### NEWSLETTER INFO

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KEYS | JULY 2026

## WHAT'S NEW FOR DANA

June was absolutely packed with birthdays, laughter, and quality family time! We kicked off the month celebrating Megan's 7th birthday on June 3rd. Later in the month, I celebrated my own birthday on June 21st surrounded by family.

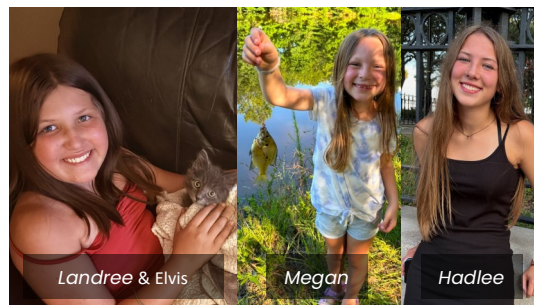
Andrea, Jonathan and the kiddos were here; my dad and stepmom, Debbi, came to visit; and Jon-Michael, Tiffany, and the girls joined the fun, too!

**A Grandkids' Theme Park Adventure:** The grands headed to Kings Island with their parents! While sweet Natalea unfortunately had to miss out due to a bout of strep throat, the rest of the crew had a blast. Some were absolute daredevils eager to ride every single roller coaster, while others were a bit more cautious—but a fun time was had by all!

**Road Trip Pit Stops:** Jon-Michael, Tiffany, and the girls dropped by twice! They stopped in on their way down to Florida, and then again two weeks later heading back home to Cleveland. Having them join us for church on their second pass through was such a special treat.

**A New Kitty:** My dad and Debbi's house has become the official local gathering place for all neighborhood stray cats! Recently, a sweet mama cat living in their shed had a litter, and they brought us one of the kittens. We named him Elvis, and he is an absolute joy—he loves cuddling (when he isn't busy attacking our hands and legs, that is!).

**Looking Ahead to July Birthdays:** The celebrations aren't stopping anytime soon. Happy birthday month to my brother Trey (July 14th), Andrea (July 26th), and Evie (July 28th)!



Landree & Elvis

Megan

Hadlee



Evie & Elvis

Ryan & Uncle Jonny

Will & Jonathan w/  
Will's Big Catch

Natalea, Debbi, & Elvis

JULY 2026

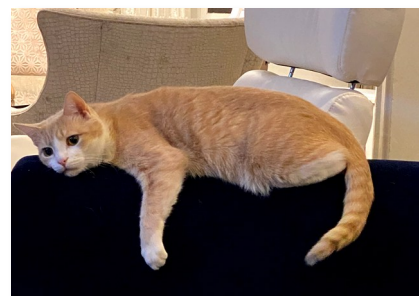


# KEYS

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## WE LOVE OUR PETS!



Jill's tabby cat, Donut. "I love having him curl up next to me while I read."



Lillian and Montgomery. She thinks he is adorable anytime he gets a fresh new haircut.



Mari with Chestnut, her new pet hamster. "There's a lot of things I love about her. It's so cute when she sleeps."



Quinn's cat, Astro. "We love snuggles & cat naps!"

(continued on p. 2)



## COMMUNITY Studio Happenings



### WELCOME NEW STUDENTS!

LILIAN MAKOKHA  
FINN WARNER



### HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

CHRISTINE LERIOSI	JULY 2
PAXTON SMITH	JULY 9
AUDREY KELLEY	JULY 10
A'MARI NEWELL-GOODWIN	JULY 27
EVIE CAREY	JULY 28
QUINN WELLS	JULY 30



### IMPORTANT DATES

MUSIC QUEST PIANO CAMP  
JULY 6-9

JULY LESSONS WEEKS/  
BOOK BLASTS JULY 13, 20

FALL SEMESTER BEGINS AUG 3

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**WE LOVE OUR PETS** (continued from p. 1)



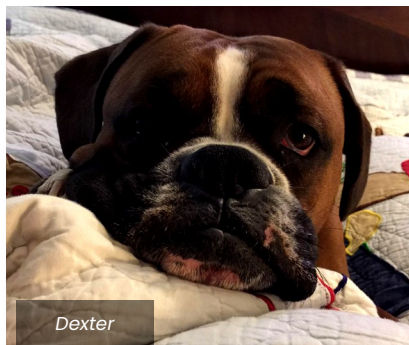
Amber with Reign, her Yorkshire terrier. He loves playing with toys.



Margaret with her dog, Lela. She loves how cute and cuddly she is!



Ava & Skylar. Finn (chocolate) and Riggs, they like to walk and play fetch with them.



Dexter



Pepper & Franny



Ethan & Kratos

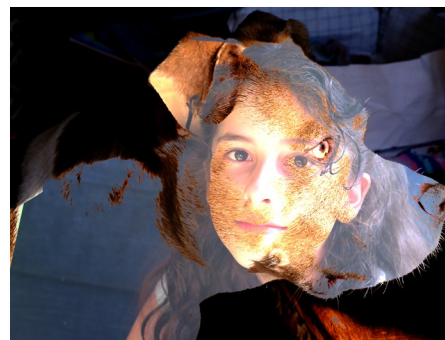


Chief

Ethan: "If there's one thing you should know about me, it's that I LOVE animals! My house full of animals is proof enough of that, and they are all so full of personality! Dexter is our gentle giant, Franny is our old soul sweetheart, Pepper is the queen of the world, and Kratos is an absolute goofball. As for Chief, we have reason to believe he runs the local cat mafia."



Natalie's 5-year-old Golden Doodle, "Ollie. Loves to come to swim practice with my brother and I."



Grace: "This is my dog, Hart! He is a blue-nosed pitbull and he is super friendly. He will be 7 years old this August. We got him when he was just 10 months old—I was only three and a half back then! Now I'm 10 and about to start fifth grade, so we've been together for a really long time! Hart is quite frankly obsessed with playing ball. We love to walk him and play with him in the backyard, and sometimes I even ride my bike alongside him. He also has a best friend named Maggie, a golden retriever who lives next door with our neighbor, Bill. I love my dog, Hart!"

**FUNNY CAT MEMES**



**HAVE A CONFLICT WITH YOUR LESSON?**

**PX Students** USE OUR STUDENT PORTAL to reschedule your lesson here: [danamartinstudio.com/studentportal](http://danamartinstudio.com/studentportal).

**Private Students** contact Dana to schedule an online or video feedback lesson.



Christine, Dana, & Amber. Celebration Lunch @ Chicken Salad Chick

**PRACTICE TIPS**

*Why Your Eyes Belong on the Music, Not the Keys!*

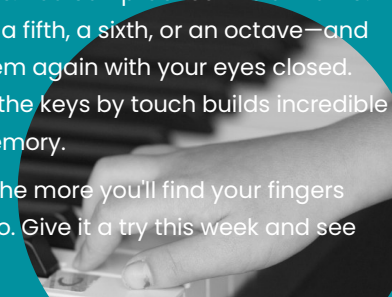
Playing the piano is an incredible journey, and just like any great road trip, it's much easier when you're looking at the road ahead instead of down at your feet! While it feels completely natural to watch your hands when you're starting out, keeping your eyes on the sheet music is a total game-changer.

Here are three great reasons to look up:

**2** It keeps the musical flow going. When your eyes are glued to your fingers, you miss crucial cues from the music. It's like trying to read a map while looking down at your shoes—you'll lose your place pretty quickly! Reading fluently before trying to memorize a piece keeps your momentum going and avoids frustrating pauses.

**3** It builds an "internal keyboard map." Instead of relying on your eyes, let your hands become your guides. You can practice this at home! Try playing different intervals—like a fifth, a sixth, or an octave—and then challenge yourself to play them again with your eyes closed. Walking your hands up and down the keys by touch builds incredible spatial awareness and muscle memory.

The more you practice by touch, the more you'll find your fingers intuitively know exactly where to go. Give it a try this week and see how it feels!



**THE "WORLD TOUR" PRACTICE CHALLENGE: AN 8-WEEK MUSICAL ADVENTURE!**

To kick off our Fall Semester, our 2nd annual individual practice challenge starts the week of **August 3!**

**The Goal:** Each student will embark on a personal "World Tour," collecting passport stamps by building consistent practice habits. The more you practice, the farther you travel!

**How to Travel the World:**

- Your Piano Passport:** At their first lesson, every student will receive a "DMS World Tour Passport" booklet with 8 destinations. Our 8-week tour will take us to exciting places, featuring the unique countries where our own DMS students are from!
- Earning Your Stamps:** To earn a passport stamp for that week's destination, a student simply needs to complete their "Travel Prep"
  - Practice at least 5 days during the week.
  - Mark each day you practice on your Lesson Notes. (Even if it's only a few minutes, it still counts!)
  - Get stamped at your weekly lesson and watch your passport fill up!

**Achievement Levels**

- Level 1: Jet-Setter** (4+ Stamps)
- Level 2: Globe-Trotter** (6+ Stamps)
- Level 3: World-Class Virtuoso** (All 8 Stamps!)

**1** Your hands don't need constant supervision! Think about it this way: when you're riding a bike or driving a car, you don't stare at your hands on the handlebars or steering wheel. You focus on where you're going! Your hands are amazing at navigating the keys by feel alone—trust them to do their job.

**The Grand Finale: Studio Ice Cream Party!**

Any student who reaches **at least Level 1: Jet-Setter** status will be invited to our **Grand Finale** celebration!

- Date and Time:** Friday, October 23 at 7:00 PM
- The Fun:** A delicious ice cream party with all your favorite toppings to honor our amazing World Travelers
- Cultural Celebration:** We will also honor our studio families as they share a piece of their culture with our community — whether through food, traditional dress, dance, music, or a favorite family tradition!

This challenge is a fantastic, low-pressure way to build the great practice habits that lead to a successful and enjoyable year of music. I can't wait to get started!

**How to Be Included in the Cultural Celebration**

If your family comes from a diverse cultural background, we would love to know more. Please send Dana a quick email letting us know:

- What country** or culture your family is from
- If you're interested** in participating/sharing a tradition during the Ice Cream Party!