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Quick Links

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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WHAT'S NEW FOR DANA

Fall has been full of sweet visits and special family moments! While you may have spotted the photo with my dad and stepmom in last month's newsletter, I didn't have the space to share that they visited during fall break. A definite highlight of their trip was spending an afternoon in Berea and enjoying a wonderful lunch at Boone Tavern.

Just a few days later, our son Jon-Michael came down for a solo visit. While we missed seeing Tiffany, Hadlee, and Landree, getting some rare one-on-one time with JM was such a gift. He spoke at our church over the weekend, we enjoyed catching up over dinner at Ford's Garage, and we had plenty of relaxed movie nights together.

The following Sunday was equally special, as Ryan was baptized at his church—we spent a wonderful day celebrating this meaningful moment with Andrea, Jonathan, and the whole family.

We also celebrated Will turning 14 with great family time and s'mores around the fire pit!

Most Fridays you can find me in Louisville teaching piano to the grandkids and catching up with Andrea. Since my schedule didn't allow me to travel up one week, they made the trip down to my studio for their lessons instead—having them here at the studio was an absolute treat!



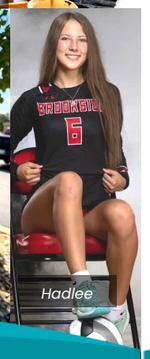
Pop, Debbi, Dana



Jonathan, Evie, Ryan, Will, Andrea, Natalea, Megan, Dana, Jon-Michael, Anthony



Landree



Hadlee



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AVA McFARLAND

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Ava

We are thrilled to introduce you to Ava Reese McFarland!

Ava is a freshman studying biomedical science at Frederick Douglass High School, where her favorite classes are biomedical science and choir. She also stays active in the Black Student Union and DanceBlue. When she's not playing volleyball or cheering on her favorite team, the UK Wildcats, Ava enjoys journaling, coloring, watching *Gilmore Girls* or *Dance Moms*, and relaxing with her favorite movie, the 1998 version of *The Parent Trap*.

She comes to us with a strong record of leadership and excellence, having been named the Central Kentucky Middle School Young Achiever of the Year in eighth grade, receiving the Danforth Award, and serving as Junior Beta Club secretary. Ava shares her home with her mom, Falon; her dad, Rodney; her brother, Remi; her sister, Bella; and her dog, Bebe.

Music is a big part of her life—she recently got to see her favorite artist, Freya Skye, live in concert, calling it "really exciting to see and hear her perform live." Ava shares that she decided to take piano lessons because she has "always loved the piano and wanted to learn how to play." As her skills grow, her goals are to "play my favorite songs, perform in front of large audiences, and even write my own songs."

Mr. Carmen is her teacher and has this to say about her, "Ava is a dedicated, hard-working student. Her devotion to faith music is inspiring."

We are so excited to support Ava on her musical journey!



COMMUNITY

Studio Happenings

WELCOME NEW STUDENTS!

EMILY GOGEL
KASHVI NITHYANANDAM
LON ROGERS
RINGO ROGERS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

NATALEA CAREY	NOV 3
GRACE BAILEY	NOV 19
CATE NGUYEN	NOV 20
MILLA LING	NOV 27
MILENA PUGLEY	NOV 28

IMPORTANT DATES

THANKSGIVING WEEK:
MONDAY STUDENTS WILL HAVE LESSONS NOV 23
NO LESSONS TUES-THURS (NOV 24-26)
CHRISTMAS RECITAL DEC 14
NO LESSONS DEC 14—JAN 3
WINTER-SPRING SEMESTER BEGINS JAN 4

WORLD TOUR GRAND FINALE & ICE CREAM PARTY!

We wrapped up our World Tour in the sweetest way possible with our grand finale and ice cream party! A heartfelt thank you goes out to all of our international students who created such beautiful displays and generously shared their rich heritage, culture, and stories with our community.

Special thanks to Mr. Carmen and Ethan for their invaluable help in making the evening run smoothly and successfully, to Grace, Mari's mom who served the ice cream, and to the students who came out to explore the displays, enjoy a treat, and show their support. It was a wonderful celebration of our diverse community!



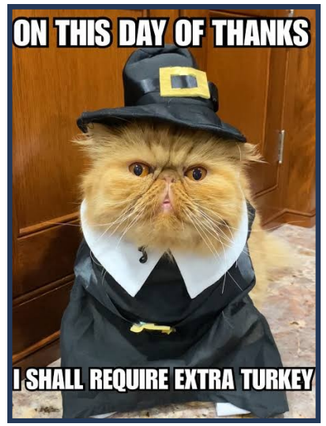
ON THE MOVE: LEVELING UP

Join us in giving a huge round of applause to this month's level-up champions:

- **Margaret Davis** — Leveled up to PX Purple Level 2!
- **Sanbhi Bhattarai** — Leveled up to PX Blue Level 4!
- **Olivia Russell** — Leveled up to PX Silver Level 5!

Graduating to a new book takes real dedication, consistent practice, and lots of perseverance. We are so proud of these talented musicians for keeping the momentum going and reaching their next big musical milestone.

FUNNY CAT MEMES







And the Winner Is...



Skylar

We had so much fun with our Halloween Candy Corn Contest!

The actual count in the jar was 189 pieces of candy corn.

A huge congratulations goes out to Skylar, who came amazingly close with a guess of 185! She took home the entire jar of candy corn to enjoy.

Way to go, Skylar—enjoy your well-deserved treat!

PRACTICE TIPS

Practice Smarter. Stop Starting Over!

Have you ever noticed that the first few lines of your piano piece always sound great, but the music gets a little fuzzy further on? It's a super common habit, but here's why it happens.

1 **Why Starting at the Beginning Slows You Down.** If you always start at the beginning, you're actually practicing the part you know best the most! The sections that need the most attention—usually the newest or trickiest parts—get the least amount of practice time at the end of your session. This leads to a piece that feels uneven and unstable.

2 **The Power of Multiple Starting Points.** The secret to a secure, balanced piece is to mix up where you begin!

Work on the Newest or Hardest Parts First. Use the natural divisions we make in your lessons (like measures or musical phrases) and start your practice there. Focus your energy on those tough spots until they feel secure.

Aim for Absolute Security. Only go back to the beginning to play the entire piece after you've strengthened the parts that need the most work.

3 **Build Performance Confidence.** This method does more than just balance your skills; it builds resilience. When you develop multiple secure points of reference throughout your music, you feel much more confident. If you happen to make a mistake during a performance, you won't panic and try to go all the way back to the start—your mind will know exactly where the next secure jumping-off point is!

Try this method this week and watch how quickly the entire piece becomes strong and secure!

RING IN THE SEASON AT OUR CHRISTMAS RECITAL!

Get ready for one of our most anticipated events of the year! Our Annual Christmas Recital is just around the corner.

Our dedicated students are already working incredibly hard, preparing a beautiful and festive selection of holiday music, including wonderful solos and fun duets. We invite you to bring the whole family, especially the grandparents, and make it a special night to remember! It's a joyful celebration of their musical progress and the perfect way to kick off the holidays together. We can't wait to share the music with you!



FALL PERFORMANCE AT CEDARHURST

Our musicians brought the joy of live music to Cedarhurst in Nicholasville for our annual fall performance! Around 20 students shared their talents with the residents, filling the room with beautiful music before handing out handmade cards to brighten everyone's day.

A huge thank you to all the students who dedicated time and effort to preparing their pieces—your hard work truly showed. We also want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Carmen and Lexi for coming out to cheer on and support their students, and to Ethan for capturing the wonderful memories through photos and videos. Thank you to everyone who joined us in making this such a meaningful community event!



HAVE A CONFLICT WITH YOUR LESSON?

PX Students USE OUR STUDENT PORTAL to reschedule your lesson here: danamartinstudio.com/studentportal.

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