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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR
DANA MARTIN STUDIO
DANAMARTINSTUDIO.COM

NEWSLETTER INFO

Publisher: Dana Martin

Contact info:
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Subscription info:
Free to students enrolled in
Dana Martin Studio

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KEYS | DECEMBER 2021

What's New for Dana

Natalea turned 7 on November 3. I told you last month about our family tradition of going around the room and saying something about the birthday person. Some of the things that were said about Natalea were that her smile lights up a room, she's kind, generous, and loyal.

Both our daughter-in-law and son-in-law celebrated birthdays in November.

Happy birthday to Tiffany (Nov. 16) and Jonathan (Nov. 23)!

My dad and step-mom came in for Thanksgiving along with Andrea and Jonathan and kiddos. Jon-Michael and family didn't make it in for Thanksgiving, but they're coming for Christmas. Looking forward to having all my kids and grandkids together this holiday! ●



Hadlee and Tiffany



Ryan and Will with their Christmas tree in their room



Natalea, Evie and Megan with their Christmas tree in their room (Evie made the topper)



Jonathan at the Louisville school where he teaches



Landree and Jon-Michael

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KEYS

DEC

2021

NEWSLETTER

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR DANA MARTIN STUDIO

COMMUNITY

WELCOME NEW STUDENTS!

LUCAS OLIVEIRA
EMILY PAREDES
MATEO WORHUNSKY

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

COHEN FREESE 12.30
MOLLY MATTHEWS 12.30

IMPORTANT DATES

CHRISTMAS RECITAL
MONDAY, DEC 13

NO LESSONS
DEC 13—JAN 2

STUDENT HIGHLIGHT: ALEX QUINN



Alex

Meet Alex Quinn, one of my adult students. He lives with his 3-year-old Goldendoodle, Owen. His parents and one sister live in Georgia, another sister lives in Texas, and his brother lives in New York! Alex is

a manager at Chick-Fil-A.

Alex says, "In my spare time I enjoy hiking/ mountaineering. Cold weather hiking and camping is one of my favorite activities, especially with a good group of friends!"

His favorites: "My favorite music is hymns, but I also enjoy contemporary worship and can be known to blast Christian Hip-Hop from time to time. My favorite book is *Pilgrim's Progress*. My favorite movie series is the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy. I love playing board games! My favorite TV show is watching Georgia beat whoever they're playing in football. I am hopeful that Georgia makes it to the College Football Playoff National Championship Game in

Indianapolis, in which case I will go to the game with my dad and brother!"

Something he's not fond of — spaghetti.

Alex is taking piano lessons "because I want to be able to play hymns for personal devotion, as well as for my church should they need me."

Alex has been my student for about a year and a half, and is a diligent practicer. He especially enjoys playing hymns and jazzy tunes, and we enjoy discussing church topics, common ground for us both. ●

Please join us
for an evening of
beautiful music!

* Date: Monday, Dec. 13

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: True Life Church

407 Kingston Road
Lexington



+ TIPS

Actively listen to quality recordings of your music



1

Find a quality recording of a piece you're learning. YouTube has just about any piece from just about any book. Some books come with CDs or links to online recordings.

2

Active listening is its own unique activity that deserves all of your attention. Close your eyes and really focus on the sound of the music. Open the score and follow along. Imagine your hands playing the notes you hear.

3

Your brain is like a sponge that absorbs the music that you hear. The more you let it soak up the sound of your music, the easier it is to get that music back out of you.

Merry Christmas!

After the last 20 months we've had, I think we've all learned to be more grateful for our families, our clients and all we're blessed with.

2021 was another year where you stepped up to the plate every time, and I'm extremely proud of the student response to challenge.

You weathered covid quarantines with Zoom lessons like a champ. You practiced 27,000+ minutes (a record!) during the Practice Competition (collectively). We didn't get to have our winter performance at a senior center this year, but you prepared for and nailed your recital pieces for our live recital in May. Several students attended up to two of our four fun Under the Sea summer group classes. For the fall semester, you hit the ground running with the 100-Day Practice Challenge (you'll read about the students who finished this challenge on the next page). Then in October, we started working on Christmas music, a welcome addition to our regular repertoire. You'll get to hear the fruits of your hard work at the Christmas recital in just a few weeks!

I'm looking forward to 2022 where I hope we can get back to incorporating more of our fun traditions, including our winter and fall performances at senior centers. ●

Professional Recital Videos

There's still time to pre-order your recital videos. Thanks to those who've already ordered!

Victor Sigüenza, owner of StarClock Media, is Grace and Emma's dad, and his specialty is dance and music recitals.

Victor kindly made a short promo video for the upcoming recital. Check it out [here](#). It's only about one minute long.

Please get your pre-orders in soon! ●



100-Day Practice Challenge

We began a **100-Day Practice Challenge** at the beginning of the fall semester in August. The goal was for all students to create good practice habits. And I'm happy to say that those who made it all the way, as well as several who made it to one of the 25-, 50-, and 75-day milestones, are continuing the 7-days per week practice habit.

I'm proud of all my students who began the **100-Day Practice Challenge**. It's not easy to practice every single day for 100 days, and I've very proud of all of you!

The following students stuck with the entire **100-Day Challenge** and made it all the way to the end!

Grace Sigüenza
Emma Sigüenza
Kasi Depew
Lexi Borck

Naa Enyonam Omane-Achamfuor
Etor Akafuah
Selase Akafuah
Cohen Freese



30-Piece Challenge Update

I'm so proud of all my students who are consistently learning new pieces. A few have already started on their second round of 30 pieces!

To make the list, students must play a piece for me with musicality (correct tempo, rhythm, dynamics and expression). Each piece must be at least 16 measures long (8 measures for beginner students).

Our **30-Piece Challenge chart** will be back next month. I wanted to have room this month to showcase the students who completed the 100-Day Practice Challenge.

Keep up the great work! ●