



DANA MARTIN STUDIO

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QUICK LINKS



KEYS

DANA MARTIN STUDIO
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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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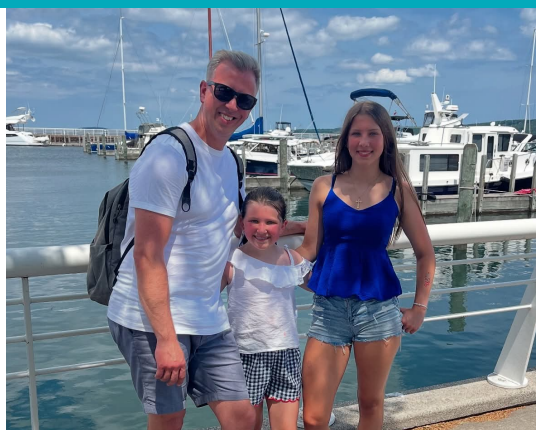
DANAMARTINSTUDIO.COM

KEYS | AUGUST 2025

WHAT'S NEW FOR DANA

We had double the fun with birthdays, with my daughter Andrea's on July 26th and my granddaughter Evie's Sweet 16 just two days later! We're looking forward to a special girls' trip soon to celebrate them both. A very Happy Birthday to two amazing people!

The fun didn't stop there. My grandson, Will, finally got to see the Dude Perfect show he's been excited about all year. Hearing that they had a blast just makes my heart happy!



Jon-Michael, Landree, Hadlee on vacation



Evie, Andrea, Ryan, Jonathan, Megan, Will, Natalea at the Dude Perfect event



Evie, Megan, Natalea

AUGUST 2025



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ELEANOR ARMSTRONG

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Eleanor

Hi, I'm Eleanor Armstrong and I will be 10 on August 12th. I live with my mom, dad, sister, Caroline, and dog, Daisy. I

also have an older brother who lives in Louisville and teaches high school chemistry.

I am in 5th grade at Meadowthorpe Elementary. I participate in eSports, Battle of the Books, and Girls on the Run. I play softball and soccer, and am on swim team in the summer. I also take ballet, tap, jazz and musical theater classes at Gotta Dance Studio.

Reading is one of my favorite things to do and I love a lot of books! One of my favorite authors is Reina Telgemeier. I like crafting things and making origami. I participated the Reflections Art Contest last year and my photograph won at the school and district level!

Over the summer I was in Nothing But Treble, a choir camp, and I got to play Home on the Range on piano in the final performance.

My favorite trip was going to Walt Disney World with my family, but I also loved going to Chicago with my class last year.

I'm taking piano lessons because I've always wanted to learn how to play piano. In fact, it was my New Year's Resolution at preschool when I was 4 years old!

Since starting in our Piano Express program last September, Eleanor has absolutely soared, zooming through the first three levels and already nearing the end of Level 4. Her focus and dedication are remarkable—she consistently earns top marks on every piece she plays.

What's even more special is the way she leads by example. Eleanor is a kind, positive influence on her classmates, and her passion for music is contagious. We are so proud of you, Eleanor, and can't wait to see you conquer Level 5 and all your other musical goals!



COMMUNITY

Studio Happenings



WELCOME NEW STUDENTS!

CORINNE ANDRIOLA

DAVID MALENAB

EVELYN WELLS

SHAYLA WHITEHOUSE



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

ELEANOR ARMSTRONG AUG 12



IMPORTANT DATES

FALL SCHEDULE BEGINS

AUG 4

NO LESSONS

SEPT 1 (LABOR DAY)

FALL BREAK (NO LESSONS)

SEPT 29—OCT 5

GELATO PARTY OCT 10

FALL PERFORMANCE OCT 11

DANAMARTINSTUDIO.COM AUGUST

WORLD TOUR PRACTICE CHALLENGE

To kick off our Fall Semester with energy and fun, we're launching a brand new, 8-week individual practice challenge starting the week of August 4: The "World Tour" Practice Challenge!

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:

- 1. **Your Piano Passport:** Each student will receive a "DMS World Tour Passport" booklet with 8 destinations.
- 2. **Earning Your Stamps:** To earn a passport stamp for that week's destination, a student simply needs to complete their "Travel Prep"—which means meeting minimum practice requirements.

Achievement Levels & Rewards
We've created three levels of achievement to celebrate every student's hard work.

- **Level 1: Jet-Setter** (4+ Stamps)
Reward: A "Jet-Setter" Certificate
- **Level 2: Globe-Trotter** (6+ Stamps)
Reward: A "Globe-Trotter"

THE 30-PIECE CHALLENGE IS BACK!

It's time for one of our favorite studio traditions, now in its sixth year! The 30-Piece Challenge encourages students to learn and polish their music, building confidence and a great repertoire.

The Challenge: Master a piece of music (at least 8 measures for beginners, 16 for others), playing it with musicality, feeling, and a steady beat.

The Rewards:

- **In the studio:** Students earn a prize for every 10 pieces they master!

Certificate and a prize from the World Traveler treasure box.

- **Level 3: World-Class Virtuoso** (All 8 Stamps!)
Reward: A "World-Class Virtuoso" Certificate, a special prize, and the honor of being a studio role model!

The Grand Finale: A "Roman Holiday" Gelato Party!
We'll celebrate everyone's hard work and consistent practice with a fun, delicious party to honor all of our amazing World Travelers.

Our final destination is Rome, the home of delicious gelato! To celebrate the end of our challenge, any student who reaches at least Level 1: Jet-Setter status (earning 4 or more stamps) will be invited to our "Roman Holiday Gelato Party" (ice cream with your favorite toppings) on **Friday, October 10 at 7:00 PM.**

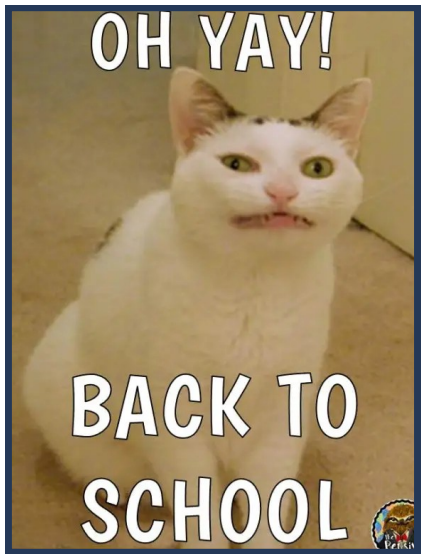
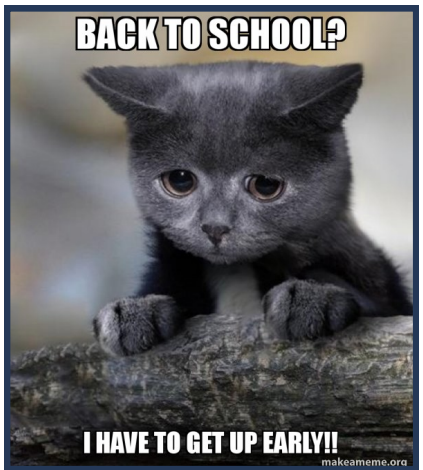
This challenge is a fantastic, low-pressure way to build the great practice habits that lead to a successful and enjoyable year of music. I can't wait to get started!



- **At home:** Parents, consider celebrating these milestones with a special treat or outing to make the achievement even sweeter.
- **At the recital:** All challenge finishers will receive special recognition during our spring recital.

This challenge is designed for all levels, and we can't wait to see how many pieces we can master together this year!

FUNNY CAT MEMES



HAVE A CONFLICT WITH YOUR LESSON?

PX Students reschedule your lesson here: calendly.com/danamartinstudio/px-reschedule.

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

PRACTICE TIPS

4 Tips to a Happy and Consistent Practice Routine

2 Pair Practice with a Favorite Activity. Link piano practice to something your child genuinely loves. Think of it as a "First ____ then ____" routine. For example, "As soon as we finish our piano time, we can start our video game time." This helps your child associate the work of practicing with the positive feeling of the "treat" that comes right after.

Creating a new habit takes time and patience for everyone. Here are four simple ways to help your young pianist build a positive and lasting relationship with daily practice.

3 Make It a Game, Not a Battle. To foster independence and avoid power struggles at the piano bench, let your child be the leader. Simply asking, "Which piece from your assignment do you want to start with today?" gives them a sense of control. You can also turn tasks into fun challenges: "I bet you can't find all the C's on this page in 10 seconds!" or "Let's see how fast you can get your hands in the right starting position!"

4 Celebrate Daily Wins. Especially when a habit is new, small and immediate rewards work wonders for positive reinforcement. A simple and fun idea is to use a 7-day pill box. Fill each day with a small treat (a Skittle, a chocolate chip, a sticker). After each successful practice session, they get to open that day's box. It's a clear and visual way to see their consistent effort pay off! Remember: More consistency = More confidence and progress!

MEET EMILY: OUR NEWEST PX TEACHING ASSISTANT

My name is Emily Paredes-Mendoza, and I have lived in Lexington, Kentucky, my whole life. I'm currently a junior at Frederick Douglass High School, where I'm part of the Biomedical Sciences Program and will graduate in 2027.

I started playing piano about three years ago and hope to continue playing for many more years! I've always had a passion for music. I began playing the violin when I was about eight years old and have now been playing for about eight years.

Being in orchestra has had a huge influence on my musical journey! I was inspired to start learning piano after the pandemic, when I began watching The Piano Guys on YouTube! My favorite type of music to play is classical, but I love listening to pop music. I truly enjoy music and the art of performing!

Some of my favorite hobbies include archery, practicing piano or violin, working out, studying, and hanging out with my friends.



I'm incredibly honored to be working with Dana Marin Studio. It's such a privilege to work with a wonderful group of kids and help them grow their musical skills. I love celebrating with them each time they complete a new piece! One piece of advice I'd like to give my students is this: always believe in yourself and make time to practice!

We are so thrilled to have Emily as part of our studio team this year! If you've been in the studio lately, you've likely already seen the wonderful connection she has with our students.

Emily brings such a kind and patient energy to her teaching, and it's clear how much the students enjoy working with her. She has a special talent for making every student feel encouraged and successful.

We feel so fortunate to have her positive influence in our community. Please be sure to give Emily a warm hello next time you see her!