



DANA MARTIN STUDIO

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QUICK LINKS



KEYS

DANA MARTIN STUDIO
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

NEWSLETTER INFO

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KEYS | DECEMBER 2025

WHAT'S NEW FOR DANA

We had a blast recently celebrating Natalea's 11th birthday on November 3rd! We gathered with friends and family for her big day, complete with plenty of S'mores. What a fun time!

Huge, happy birthday wishes to our wonderful family members who celebrated last month:

- A big Happy Birthday to our daughter-in-law, Tiffany, whose special day was Nov 16!
- And another big Happy Birthday to our son-in-law, Jonathan, who celebrated on Nov 23!

Thanksgiving this year was a truly special time! We were so happy to host a visit from our son and his family all the way from Cleveland, Ohio, as well as Andrea and her family. My heart is full! I absolutely love it when all the grands are here!



We finished our time together with a fun trip to Great Wolf Lodge. What a blast! It was the first time our whole crew went together, and it was so much fun that we're already planning to make it an annual event!

I'm thrilled that I got to give Landree her very first piano lesson! It truly is such a special privilege for me to be able to teach my own grandchildren.

DECEMBER 2025



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PATRICK RUSSELL

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Patrick

Let's give a warm shout-out to Patrick Russell, a delightful 2nd grader from LCA!

Patrick is supported by his family: Dad Kyle, Mom Carmen, and sister Olivia.

When he's not busy with his favorite subjects (lunch, computers, and library),

Patrick enjoys video games and participating in LEGO Robotics, with his first Expo coming up this February!

Patrick started piano just under a year ago, and he's making fantastic, fast progress—he's already in Level 3! His big goal is to complete all the Piano Express books.

Patrick's positive energy and natural leadership shine in the studio; he loves playing and singing for his classmates and is always a joyful helper to the other students.

TIPS FOR CHRISTMAS RECITAL SUCCESS

Whether this is your very first recital or you have several performances under your belt, these tips will help you show up confident, prepared, and ready to shine!

- **Master Your Piece:** Give your recital piece extra, focused attention. Work on any remaining trouble spots until you can play it through with comfort and accuracy.
- **Dress the Part:** Please plan for a smart, dress-casual appearance (dress slacks and shirts, or dresses—no holey jeans, please!).
- **Bring Your Music:** Even if you have your piece memorized, always bring your music book with you, especially if you are performing a duet!
- **Take a Breath:** Before you begin playing, take a brief moment to gather your thoughts, settle your hands, and quietly count off a measure to yourself. This sets your tempo and focus.

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COMMUNITY Studio Happenings



WELCOME NEW STUDENTS!

MAYLEIGH GREATHOUSE
TAYLOR NGUYEN



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

JOHANA MENDOZA DEC 1



IMPORTANT DATES

CHRISTMAS RECITAL DEC 15
NO LESSONS DEC 15–JAN 4
WINTER–SPRING SEMESTER
BEGINS JAN 5
ART BEAT IN JANUARY
(DATE & TIME TBD)

DECEMBER 2025

REFLECTING ON AN UNFORGETTABLE YEAR

Let’s pause and take a moment to look back at the incredible journey we’ve shared. I am profoundly grateful for a wonderful year spent with my family, our amazing DMS team, our beautiful studio space, and, most importantly, all of our dedicated students! I am so incredibly proud of everything you have accomplished in 2025.

What a rewarding year of growth, challenge, and beautiful music!

2025 Highlights: A Year of Milestones

January: We kicked off the year by bringing our music to the community with the Art Beat performance at the Marksbury Family Branch Library.

February: Twenty-three students played a wonderful program for our Winter Performance at Cedarhurst at Beaumont.

April: Practice Power! Our 10th Annual Practice Competition was a smashing success, with students logging nearly 32,000 minutes of practice time!

May: We celebrated a huge milestone: one year in our dedicated studio space!

Spring Success: Our Spring Recital was one for the books, boasting an impressive 36 students participating!

Summer Fun: We boosted creativity

with our summer group classes—elementary students attended the fun Melody Makers classes, while our teens attended a focused Piano Composition Workshop. We also held our first Piano Camp!

Fall Kindness: Our Fall Performance brought joy to the community as students performed for the residents of The Willows at Hamburg.

Major Achievements: Throughout the year, we celebrated students who completed the challenges they earned, including a great pizza party and minute-to-win-it games earned through the Practice Competition, and congratulations to the twenty students who completed the demanding 30-Piece Challenge.

October Milestone: A huge round of applause for Catherine Nguyen, who graduated as our first official Piano Express Student!

Looking Ahead

We are now gearing up for our Christmas Recital in December to finish the year on a high note! (See what I did there?!)

Take a moment to reflect on this impressive list of accomplishments. How many of these challenges and performances did you participate in? You have so much to be proud of when you look back at your efforts in 2025. I can only imagine the musical milestones you’ll achieve in 2026!

FUNNY CAT MEMES



NOTE WORTHY

A big shout-out to Kasi Depew, who played at The Willows at Fritz Farm for their Family Brunch event in October! We’re so proud of you, Kasi!



Kasi



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 Simple Habits for a Brilliant Practice

3 Consistency Beats Cramming. A little bit of focused practice every day is far more effective than trying to squeeze it all into one long session. Aim for regular, consistent practice several days each week; your brain and your fingers will thank you!

1 Set Small Goals & Win Big. Break down your piece into small, manageable sections, focusing on mastering one area at a time. Those small wins really do add up, building both your confidence and your overall skill surprisingly fast!

2 Slow Down for Speed. Slow practice is essential! It’s how you build precise muscle memory and rock-solid accuracy. Don’t worry about speed yet—it will come naturally once you feel confident and secure in your technique.

4 Listen and Reflect (Be Your Own Coach). Grab your phone and record yourself! Listening back is a powerful tool. It instantly helps you spot areas for improvement, and it gives you a crucial chance to stop and celebrate all the progress you’ve made along the way.



RECITAL TIPS

Continued from page 1

- Acknowledge Your Audience:** When you are finished playing, remember to smile and acknowledge your audience with a nice bow or nod.
- Stay for the Celebration:** Please stay until the very end of the program, if at all possible! We’ll be taking a group photo, and we’d love for you to join us to receive your certificate and gift, followed by a light reception.

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 have been 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!

PLEASE JOIN US FOR
AN EVENING OF

Beautiful Music

7 PM MONDAY, DEC 15

LAFAYETTE CHURCH
OF THE NAZARENE
264 LAFAYETTE PARKWAY
LEXINGTON

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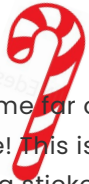


We are delighted to share that Dana Martin Studio has once again been invited to participate in the Art Beat Celebration this January! This is a wonderful, week-long local focus on the arts for children, running from January 12th to 16th.

This is a great opportunity to share our students’ talents with the community. Please keep an eye on your email for the specific date and time of our performance slot.

In the meantime, be sure to keep a recent favorite piece nice and fresh so you’ll have something wonderful ready to play!

CANDY CANE BINGO CHALLENGE!



We always emphasize that the QUALITY of your practice time far outweighs the QUANTITY! This year, we’re making quality practice fun with our Candy Cane Bingo Challenge! This is a series of engaging, concrete exercises designed to help you qualify your time at the keyboard—and earn extra stickers while you do it!

Candy Cane Bingo begins on your lesson day the week of Dec 1 and runs through Christmas Break. You have 5 weeks to complete as many BINGOS as you can to become a practice hero!

You get to choose how to achieve a BINGO (across, down, or diagonal). You’ll receive fun stickers for every BINGO line you complete, plus a huge bonus of extra stickers if you fill the entire page! Let’s make this holiday season your most focused practice time yet!