



DANA MARTIN STUDIO

2355 Huguenard Drive, Ste 101
Lexington, KY 40503
859.488.9148

QUICK LINKS



KEYS

DANA MARTIN STUDIO
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

NEWSLETTER INFO

Publisher: Dana Martin

Contact info:
2355 Huguenard Dr, Ste 101
Lexington, KY 40503
lessons.dms@gmail.com
859.488.9148

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KEYS | SEPTEMBER 2026

WHAT’S NEW FOR DANA

We took a quick trip to visit Jon-Michael in August, with Evie and Natalea tagging along for the adventure. We joined them at church, where Anthony teamed up with Jon-Michael, Hadlee, and Landree to participate in all three Sunday services—a truly special family moment! One of our favorite snapshots this month captures Hadlee on the youth worship team that Sunday.

I officially started teaching Landree piano online, and she is thrilled to finally be learning. I tried finding a local teacher near her, but I suppose I’m a bit selective when it comes to my granddaughter—so I took matters into my own hands! She is currently working through the PX program and having an absolute blast.

Anthony and I went to dinner at Bella Cafe with some friends. We wholeheartedly recommend ordering the Buttermilk Chicken and saving room for the butterscotch pudding!

Soccer season is in full swing for Natalea, Will, and Ryan, while Hadlee is enjoying playing for her school volleyball team.

Landree will celebrate her 11th birthday on September 6. Happy birthday, Landree!



Evie, leading worship and playing keys

Megan, peach picking

Landree & Natalea

Will

Ryan

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VANESSA DUECK

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Vanessa

Meet Vanessa Dueck!

I am the oldest of 9 children. And I have 22 nieces and nephews. One of my married sisters lives close to me, and I enjoy her

5 children very much! I live by myself in a cute tiny house with a lawn and small garden. I enjoy planting my garden and watching it grow. And I can’t resist a few pots of flowers!!

I moved from Virginia to Kentucky to work with Tiny Hearts Midwifery in an apprenticeship. I am a midwife’s assistant as I’m going through my training. I have assisted with over 125 births. I have attended 6 of my nieces and nephews births. The last one I got to catch! It has been an awesome experience and responsibility to assist and witness new life coming into this world! We deliver an average of 50 babies a year usually at home. I also have a full time job running my own cleaning business.

I enjoy crocheting. My current project is

crocheting caps for the babies that we deliver. When I have a chance, I enjoy housekeeping, cooking, and decorating. Being on call 24/7 for the midwifery doesn’t allow much chance for traveling. But since this is a new area for me, I have lot of local places to explore! I’ve had the chance to visit the Shaker Village. One of my favorite places to relax is Cave Run Lake.

I’ve always enjoyed piano music. So I decided to try my hand at it. And it has been music and expression for my soul! It has been a real challenge to learn to play since I started as an adult. But I love the challenge and I have such a good teacher!! It boosts my sense of accomplishment and confidence to celebrate my growth and successes in piano playing!!

Vanessa began piano lessons with me about three and a half years ago, and she has steadily advanced all the way to Level 3. Her entire face lights up whenever she plays one of her favorite hymn arrangements.

Vanessa simply exudes joy. One look at her smile tells you she is a truly joyful person who genuinely loves people!



COMMUNITY
Studio Happenings

Hi! WELCOME NEW STUDENTS!

JOHN JACOB ALLISON
CAMERON BAILEY
NICOLE DING
MILLA LING
LANDREE MARTIN
ELOISE STAI
ALEXANDRA STRATEMANN
MATEO WORHUNSKY

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

LANDREE MARTIN	SEPT 6
LEVI DONOVAN	SEPT 12
OLIVIA RUSSELL	SEPT 14
GRACE ROGERS	SEPT 15
PATRICK RUSSELL	SEPT 17
AMBER ESTEPP	SEPT 26

IMPORTANT DATES

LABOR DAY (NO LESSONS)
SEPT 7
FALL BREAK (NO LESSONS)
SEPT 28–OCT 4
ICE CREAM PARTY OCT 16
FALL PERFORMANCE OCT 24

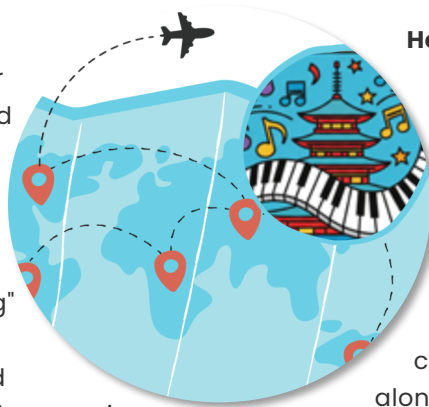
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OUR WORLD TOUR IS IN FULL SWING!

We are about halfway through our World Tour practice challenge, and it has been so incredible watching everyone earn stamps on their passports! Together, we're "visiting" musical destinations across Asia, Africa, and beyond—highlighting the amazing places where our own DMS students have roots!

Our challenge has three levels, each one more exciting than the last. Keep up the great work and keep track of your practice time to collect those stamps! Each destination you visit on your passport earns you another stamp, bringing you one step closer to reaching your goal.



Here is how to earn your stamps:

- Practice at least 5 days a week (even practicing just one song counts!).
- Keep track of your practice time to collect your stamps along the way.

Ice Cream Party Alert! Earn just **four stamps** and you'll qualify for our special Ice Cream Party on **Friday, October 16th** at the studio! It's going to be a fantastic celebration full of delicious treats, great music, and fun with fellow musicians.

Keep up the momentum, practice hard, and let's see how far our music can take us!

WORLD TOUR ICE CREAM PARTY!

We are so proud of all our incredible musicians, and we will be celebrating their dedication with a sweet treat! Every student who earns at least four stamps on their World Tour passport is invited to our **Ice Cream Party on Friday, October 16th**, from 6:30–8:00 PM right here at the studio.

Once your student qualifies, keep an eye on your inbox for an email with an RSVP link and details on how parents can help make the evening extra special.

Bring the whole family! It's going to be an unforgettable night packed with fun:

- **Delicious Ice Cream & Toppings Bar**
- **Face Painting**
- **Silly Photo Booth**
- **Cultural Showcases:** Celebrate the amazing places we "visited" on our tour with displays, music, and traditions shared by our very own DMS families!

This event is our way of saying a huge congratulations for all your hard work. Keep practicing, collect those stamps, and we can't wait to celebrate with you!



FUNNY CAT MEMES



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.

PRACTICE TIPS

5 Tips to Improve Your Sight-Reading

3

Look ahead. Instead of focusing on one note at a time, train your eyes to read ahead. This helps you understand the musical phrases and keeps the flow of the piece going. Just as you read words in a sentence, not in isolation, you should read notes in musical phrases.

2

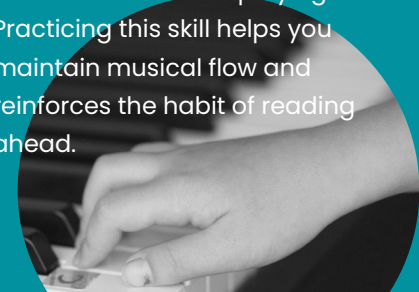
Choose easier pieces. Don't try to sight-read something at your current playing level. Instead, pick music that is one or two levels below where you are. The goal is to read new music every day, and easier pieces allow you to focus on the process without getting bogged down by difficult technique.

4

Read in chunks. Don't get caught up in reading every single note individually. Instead, look for patterns and shapes. Notice if the music is moving up, down, or staying the same. Identify intervals and chord shapes. This approach is much faster and more efficient than reading one note at a time.

5

Keep going! One of the most important rules of sight-reading is to never stop. If you make a mistake, keep your eyes on the music and continue playing. Practicing this skill helps you maintain musical flow and reinforces the habit of reading ahead.



Sight-reading is a valuable skill for any musician. Just like learning to read a book, the more you practice, the better you get! Here are five tips to help you improve your sight-reading skills:

1

Practice daily. Consistency is key! Spend 5–10 minutes each day reading new music. The more you expose yourself to new pieces, the more comfortable and fluent you'll become.

FALL PERFORMANCE

Sharing our music with the community. For those who are new to the DMS family, each fall our students share their talents with local senior living communities as a way to give back through music. It's always a heartwarming experience that brings so much joy to everyone involved!

This year, we'll be performing for the residents at **Cedarhurst in Nicholasville on Saturday, October 24th**.

Along with playing, we'd love for our students to **bring handmade "Thinking of You" cards for the residents** to keep and brighten their rooms. The notes can be as creative as you want to be, or as simple as "Have a Nice Day" or a simple drawing.

Ready to join us? **Just scan the QR code** in the Fall Performance graphic to RSVP. We can't wait to share this special afternoon with you!

BEST WISHES TO EMILY

We're sending a big thank-you and best wishes to Emily! Last month, Emily wrapped up her time as our teacher's assistant to begin a new co-op position at a local dentist's office. We wish her all the best on her journey to becoming a dentist! Don't worry, you'll still see her around the studio—she's sticking around as a piano student!

Fall Performance

SATURDAY, OCT 24
2:00 PM

CEDARHURST SENIOR LIVING
1600 Nicholasville Bypass, Nicholasville

All students are invited to participate
Each student will perform a piece of their choosing
Please make about 10 "Thinking of You" cards
to present to the residents

Please RSVP by 10/9
scan code or visit:
bit.ly/dmsfallperf2026

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