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NEWSLETTER

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR
DANA MARTIN STUDIO
DANAMARTINSTUDIO.COM

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KEYS | MARCH 2021

WHAT'S NEW FOR DANA

Our Missouri trip to surprise my dad for his birthday got postponed due to the icy weather we had. We're going soon, and I'll have an update and pictures next month.

My dad turned 80 on February 23. He was instrumental in my playing piano as well as teaching. He managed a piano store when I was growing up. When I was a teenager, we worked together near McAlpin's inside

Turfland Mall during the Christmas season. I demonstrated the organs (2 fingers produced a full rhythm section, chords and melody). When anyone purchased an organ, they received six free lessons, and he asked me to teach those lessons. I'm very thankful for the musical heritage he gave me. Happy birthday, Dad! 🎵



Landree, Tiffany, & Hadlee



Will



Andrea & Ryan



Natalea & Evie

Megan & Jonathan

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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR DANA MARTIN STUDIO

MARCH 2021
VOL 12 ISSUE 3

COMMUNITY

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

ABBY GORDLEY	3.14
CARLA URIBE	3.21

IMPORTANT DATES

SPRING BREAK
MAR 29—APR 4

PRACTICE COMPETITION
BEGINS APR 4

SPRING RECITAL
MAY 17

ONLINE REVIEWS



Here's a recent review from a happy parent:

Mrs. Martin is an outstanding piano teacher! My daughter has been attending lessons for over a year and has made amazing progress in that time! Mrs. Martin is patient, helpful, and is always willing to assist my daughter if she gets "stuck" between lessons. Excellent teacher! —Jennifer S.

If you would like to leave a detailed review, please visit g.page/danamartinstudio/review. Thank you!

STUDENT HIGHLIGHT: CARLA URIBE



Carla

Meet Carla Pamela Uribe. She's a senior at Paul Lawrence Dunbar and lives with her mom and dad, Idelma and Alfredo.

Her favorite subjects are math and anatomy, and she's excited that there will be prom and graduation this year!

Carla enjoys all kinds of music. She's reading *The Help* now, and she already saw the movie. Her favorite TV shows are *The Arrow*, *The Flash*, and *Super Girl*. Her favorite movie is *The Perfect Game*. She enjoys soccer, basketball, and boxing. And she loves vintage cars.

Carla is looking forward to planting a garden this spring with her family. She also enjoys making hats and scarves, as well as baking.

She was the winner of the Practice Competition last year, and she recently received her food handler's certification.

The July 4 of 2019, Carla vacationed at Myrtle Beach with her family. It was really cool to see fireworks from where they were eating! The restaurant was attached to the bridge where the fireworks were launched.

Ever since she was little, Carla has enjoyed listening to classical music with her mom. She also plays the clarinet, but piano is her favorite instrument. Carla started playing keyboard for her church worship team last year, and she loves it. She is currently preparing a piece for a sacred fine arts competition in May.

Carla is a hard worker and a joy to teach. She has a ready smile and a sweet kindness about her. I'm sure Carla will continue her journey of playing for ministry and blessing others with her musical talents and joyful spirit. 🎵



Life is one grand,
sweet song,
so start the music.

RONALD REAGAN

DANA'S PRACTICE TIP

HOW TO PLAY FASTER WITH NO ERRORS

A metronome will help you ramp up the speed of any piece you're working on at the moment.

Here's a 4-step process to help you get the best results:

Step 1: Find a SLOW Tempo

Put your metronome at a slow setting. And by slow, I mean ridiculously slow. You need it slow enough so you can play your piece easily with no mistakes. One of the main benefits to practicing it slowly like this first is that you can drill in perfect muscle memory by really zeroing in and focusing on each note.

Step 2: Ramp Up the Speed

Next, increase your speed 3-5 bpm. You should barely be able to even notice that it's faster. Play through the piece 2-4 times.

Then turn it up another 3-5 bpm and play it through 2-4 more times. Keep ramping up the tempo like this until you hit a speed where you start to make some mistakes. This is your "Max Tempo," or the maximum speed you can play the piece at this point.

Step 3: Solidify your Max Tempo

Once you've hit your Max Tempo, really concentrate and practice it 3 or 4 times. Try to play the piece without any

mistakes. You will probably still make some, but really push yourself to play perfectly at that tempo.

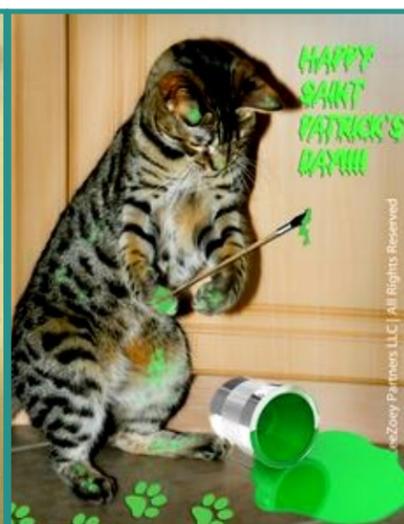
Write down your Max Tempo so tomorrow you can try to beat it! It's important to keep track of your daily Max Tempo so you know you're making progress on your piece.

Step 4: Back to a Slow Tempo

Now go back to a slower tempo and play through it 3-4 times perfectly. **Don't skip this step!**

Your brain remembers the last time you practice something best, and you want to make sure the mistakes from the Max Tempo don't get drilled in. By playing it through slowly last, you will ensure your brain will learn the notes accurately.

Ramping up your tempo gradually helps reduce the mental stress of practicing. If you try to immediately play your piece at a faster tempo, your brain will freak out, and you'll make a lot of mistakes. By slowly ramping it up, you'll barely even notice the tempo change at each new tempo. It's a very effective way of getting your piece up to speed. 🎵



30-PIECE Challenge UPDATE

1st Round

2nd Round

NAME	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Tanner	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢									
Truett	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢			
Cody	🟢																													
Vivienne	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢				
Olivia (2)	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢			
Grace (2)	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢																										
Kasi	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢				
Abby	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢																										
Claira	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢													
Molly	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢																						
Emerson	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢		
Naa Enyonam	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢			
Liya	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢														
Beatriz	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢									
Trey (2)	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢																								
Alexandra	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢															
Carla	🟢	🟢																												
Joseph (2)	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢															
Lexi	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢																									
Emily	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢																	
Ayanna	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢														
Evie	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢									
Natalea (2)	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢																									
Cohen	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢	🟢																									

THE PRACTICE COMPETITION IS BACK!

Our 6th annual Practice Competition will begin **April 3**, as soon as students return from Spring Break. Students have 4 weeks to **crush a category and win a prize** or qualify for a **certificate and fun pizza party**. All qualifying students will be recognized at the spring recital.

CATEGORIES—win a prize AND come to the pizza party:

- **BEST SINGLE DAY** of practice
- **MOST PRACTICE BY A BEGINNER** (lessons less than a year or level 1A or Primer)
- **MOST CONSECUTIVE DAYS** of at least 60 minutes

- **GREAT START:** Student with most practice in the first week
- **MOST MINUTES** during entire competition (4 weeks)

GREAT prizes—winners get to choose their favorite from the following:

- **Mp3 PLAYER** (like an iPod)
- **MOVIE** Tickets
- **RESTAURANT** Gift Card
- **AMAZON** gift card

QUALIFY for the pizza party:

- **Consistency:** Anybody who doesn't skip a single day of practice (at least 20 min) throughout the competition

- **Bronze:** 180 minutes (3 hours) weekly commitment
- **Silver:** 300 minutes (5 hours) weekly commitment
- **Gold:** For serious practicers: 420 minutes (7 hours) weekly commitment
- **Cumulative target:** Anyone who logs a cumulative total of 1000 minutes over the lifetime of the competition will receive this reward, without worrying about what happens on individual days

DOUBLE factor:

Students get to pick one day each week that counts DOUBLE!

Help your student choose a goal to work toward and rack up those practice minutes! Call grandma or invite a friend in and have your student play his/her recital pieces and count it toward their minutes. The possibilities are only limited to your imagination!

