

a look at the performers!



Max Ayala

"For a beginner I am doing pretty good!!" Max is 8, in 2nd grade, and is completing his second year of piano study. He completed his first AIM exam this year! He has grown in his music skills all year and even learned some fun songs on his own! He is an enthusiastic, happy, determined, and fun loving student. Max, you have done a great job this year. Congratulations!



Luciana Balzer

"I had to really work on musical skills of balance in my playing this year." Luciana is 14, in 8th grade, and is finishing 7 years of piano study. She has really persevered through some very challenging pieces and has done amazing work. I loved seeing her act, dance, and sing in her school's production of High School Musical. She achieved level 6 AIM this year and is a 2017 medal winner! Luciana, you continue to sparkle in life and in our studio! Congratulations! ✨



Serena Balzer

"Although I haven't been able to give practice my all this year, I have LOVED exploring challenging pieces and making them my own!" Serena is 17, a junior, and is finishing 10 years of piano study. She enjoys upbeat jazz songs with fun pizzazz as well as deeply sentimental and expressive pieces. She took 4 AP exams this year and still made time for piano! She completed the level 9 Theory AIM exam with great success! She and Mrs. Hueber have worked together and have a beautiful recital duet this year. Serena, I am so proud of all your accomplishments!



Annia Blasi

"I really liked playing my wishlist song 'He's a Pirate'" Annia is 12, in 6th grade, and is finishing 4 years of piano study. She achieved the next level in AIM and is a 2017 medal winner. She has really blossomed with her music this year and shown tremendous artistry and movement around the keyboard! She is playing a beautiful duet with a fellow student this year! Annia, Congratulations on a wonderful year in piano.



Graham Blasi

"I'm proud of my 100 practices!" Graham is 12, in 6th grade, and is finishing 3 years of piano study. He has done a great job achieving his goals and is a 2017 medal winner. He has grown in his understanding of piano and has played many different songs this year. He memorized his recital music very quickly! He has a great sense of humor and keeps me on my toes during his lessons! Graham, you have succeeded this year and have learned a lot. Congratulations!



Claire Burgess

"Piano is really fun, especially playing songs I love!" Claire is 11, in 5th grade, and is completing her third year of piano study. She completed her next level of AIM and is a 2017 medal winner! She comes to her lessons prepared and ready to work. She has enjoyed her successes this year and pushed herself in playing harder music. Claire, you have grown this year and learned a lot! Congratulations!



Emily Burgess

"This year started hard with big goals, but I made it through successfully!" Emily is 13, in 8th grade, and is completing five years of piano study. It was a joy to accompany her clarinet solo for Solo and Ensemble this year. She completed the level 6 Theory AIM exam and is a 2017 medal winner. She and Claire have another great duet together which has been a lot of fun. Emily, you have worked hard this year, reaching your goals. Congratulations!



Ryan Fitzgerald

"I have really enjoyed piano and am surprised I was able to learn as much as I have this year." Ryan is 14, in 8th grade, and is completing his second year of piano study. He completed his first AIM exam and is a 2017 medal winner. We have enjoyed our Wednesday afternoons together and had a LOT of fun at the piano. He has played some great music this year and he has especially enjoyed his recital music. It has been a great year with many successes. Congratulations Ryan!



Ella Gsedl

"I LIKE piano and love exploring on the keys to find melodies I know!" Ella is 20, a 2nd year student at COD, and has studied piano for 12 years. She has grown musically this year and has pushed herself to be even more responsible as she juggles school and piano. Her attention to musical details has grown this year, making her music expressive and lovely. She is a kind, dedicated piano student who brings a great attitude to piano every week. Ella, thank you for a great year!



Nina Gsedl

"Even though NO morning is pleasant, I really like my song 'A Pleasant Morning!'" Nina is 17, a junior, and has studied piano for 9 years. She loves upbeat, jazzy songs and especially loves to play duets. Her sense of rhythm is strong and a natural strength in her. It really is showcased in our fun duet this year! She is a 2017 medal winner. She works hard at the challenges she faces which continually makes her stronger. Nina, it is truly a joy to watch your successes. Congratulations!



Mayim Guerra

"I learned a LOT in my very first year of lessons!" Mayim is 7, in 1st grade, and is completing her first year of piano study. She is a pint size bundle of cuteness, but brings a quick wit along for the ride!! We have had a great year learning how to be a piano student, working at everything whether easy or hard. Mayim, I am so proud of you for everything you have learned this year!



Annabella Guo

"Piano is easy when you get the hang of it!" Annabella is 9, in 3rd grade, and is completing her first year of piano study. She has learned to work hard at piano, and has always let me know what she likes and doesn't like. She is quiet yet determined and has grown in her piano playing abilities all year. Annabella, I am very proud of you this year!



Ben Hueber

"This year I have rediscovered piano, learned to work hard, and had a blast!" Ben is 16, a sophomore, and has come back to piano after taking many years off. He previously studied with his mom and this year has had the pleasure of being team taught by his mom and his aunt. He is a talented musician, having success at solo and ensemble, being chosen for ALL State choir, and completing his first AIM exam. He was chosen for the AIM Honors recital and also performed in the High School musical this spring. He is a ton of fun and I appreciate the opportunity to rekindle his love of piano! Ben, I am so proud of you this year!



Priscilla Logan

"I feel really accomplished when I can play a piece I've worked hard on!" Priscilla is 14, in 8th grade, and is finishing four years of piano study. She loves new music and learns music quickly and enthusiastically. She achieved AIM level 5 this year and was chosen for the AIM Honors Recital! She is a 2017 medal winner. She is a quick wit and keeps me on my toes with motivating her to new levels of artistry. Priscilla, congratulations on all your accomplishments!



Timothy Logan

"I like playing songs that aren't hard, but aren't easy!" Timothy is 9, in 4th grade, and is finishing four years of piano study. He completed AIM level 2 with great success. He always has a smile as he skips into piano every week with or without shoes. His recital pieces include a duet with his sister and a beautiful solo. Timothy, you have come far this year. Congratulations!



Asher McNeil

"An old friend (piano) helped me meet a new friend (violin) this year." Asher is 10, in 4th grade, and is completing his second year of piano study. He has worked hard to achieve his goals this year and is a 2017 medal winner. His sense of humor has kept us both laughing each week! I love to see him running down the street to his lesson. He is very responsible to keep me updated on everything that prevents him from practicing! ✨ Asher, congratulations on your accomplishments this year.



Joey Mikson

"I just really want to get better at piano and be a great musician!" Joey is 12, in 7th grade, and is completing his first year of piano study in our studio. He is very musically talented and has worked hard in his piano playing this year. We have together been tackling the task of him learning to really read music as he is a phenomenal You Tube student! He has an incredible ear and it is truly a gift! Joey, I am proud of you for the work you have done this year. Congratulations!



Gwenneth Nika

"I like playing pretty songs, but wish I could play them with long fingernails!" Gwen is 8 and completing three years of piano study. She works hard to learn her music and grimaces through the "sweet spots" that challenge her. She completed the next level of AIM and is a 2017 medal winner. She has a very quiet humor with remarks that she delivers at just the right moment, making me laugh every time! Gwen, you have done a great job this year and I am so proud of you!



Maura Nika

"Hard work definitely pays off!" Maura is 14, a freshman, and has been studying piano for nine years. She loves to play music that is artistic and challenging. She loves to create music at the piano and improvise constantly. She completed the Level 7 Theory exam and is a 2017 medal winner. She has learned a lot about perseverance through harder technical skills this year. She has worked with Mrs. Hueber this year to learn beautiful and challenging music. Maura, congratulations on your many accomplishments!



Leah Nika

"I am proud of how much better I am at note reading this year!" Leah is 12, in 6th grade, and is finishing her seventh year of piano study. She loves music that has a great beat and is fun to play! She is an amazing gymnast and brings a lot of that energy and discipline to her music! This year she plays her recital music with a cast on her arm from a balance beam accident. Way to persevere through it all! She completed AIM level 4 and is a 2017 medal winner! Leah, congratulations on all your successes this year!



Anna Reitz

"I am playing songs this year that I absolutely LOVE and feel so happy playing them!" Anna is 16, a sophomore, and is finishing her eighth year of piano study. She has pushed herself in some truly challenging music this year! She completed Level 6 AIM and was chosen for the AIM honors recital. She is a 2017 medal winner! Her favorite thing in piano is new music and especially her recital music. I love the joy she has in playing her music. Anna, congratulations on a wonderful year!

Performing May 21, 2017 @ 5:00 PM

Performing May 21, 2017 @ 7:00 PM



Elise Ricamato

"I practiced A LOT more this year!" Elise is 15, a sophomore, and is finishing 10 years of piano study. She completed the level 7 Theory exam and is a 2017 medal winner! She loves music that inspires her and lives for AIM performance exams and recital season! She went above and beyond to accompany a friend's vocal solo at school! Way to push yourself! Elise, you reached your goals with flying colors. Congratulations!



Will Ricamato

"It's hard, but in the end it is worth it!" Will is 13 in 7th grade, and is completing his fifth year of piano study! He has enjoyed working at his goals this year. He has grown and accomplished a lot this year! He completed AIM level 3 and is a 2017 medal winner. I love his growing confidence as he musically learns and plays his music. His enthusiasm and hard work has really paid off this year. Will, you made it. Congratulations!



Tyler Ricamato

"Boy, do I need to work harder!" Tyler is 10, in 4th grade, and is completing four years of piano study. He has grown up so much this year and is proud of his accomplishments! He completed the next level of AIM and is a 2017 medal winner! He really enjoys finishing a piece! His recital music has been so exciting for him this year. Tyler, you have achieved your goals. Congratulations!



Sara Richert

"In my busy life, piano is my ultimate escape, just me and the keys, with endless possibilities!" Sara is 16, a junior, and has studied piano for 10 years. She works at many activities while she constantly creates musically through voice and piano. She is artistic, talented and devoted to the music she loves to play. She completed AIM level 6 and was chosen for the AIM Honors Recital. She has worked with Mrs. Hueber this year and played some beautiful and challenging music. Congratulations Sara!



Lisa Soppi

"Piano can be really hard, but eventually I get it!" Lisa is 9, in 4th grade, and is completing her fourth year of piano study in our studio! She completed the next level in AIM and is a 2017 medal winner. She has enjoyed playing her recital pieces and being in 2 duets and a trio! She loves playing Disney music and especially songs she can play AND sing. Lisa, you have worked hard and done so well! Congratulations!



Ema Tomasevic

"I think practice really does make perfect!" Ema is 12, in 6th grade, and is completing her fourth year of piano study in our studio. She completed the next level of AIM and is a 2017 medal winner. She has taken on much more challenging music and has enjoyed her successes tremendously. She is part of a duet and a trio this year at the recital. Ema, congratulations on achieving your goals!



Katelynn Tracey

"This year I really learned to read notes!" Katelynn is 13, in 7th grade and is completing her seventh year of piano study. She is creative, artistic, imaginative, and full of musical energy. She loves to explore learning songs she knows on the keyboard and is always picking out melodies and finding ways to play them. She is a 2017 medal winner! Katelynn, I am so proud your work in achieving your goals. Congratulations!



Kate Vallaro

"I love the challenge of AIM and can't wait to do it again next year!" Kate is 11, in 5th grade, and is completing her fourth year of piano study. She completed the next level in AIM and is a 2017 medal winner. She has worked hard, learned, and enjoyed some great music this year, as well as being part of a trio! She comes to lessons prepared and ready to get to work! I love the strength of her fingers and the loud sounds she can make! Congratulations Kate!



Debi Inch

"I love to excite and motivate my students by having them play music they love, music that touches them!" I have been teaching piano for 30 years, all of which has taken place here in West Chicago. I have been active in the National Music Teacher's Association for over 20 years, serving in many local capacities, including president from 2013 -2015. Currently, I am on the state board serving as the foundation chairperson. I attend many state and national conferences, constantly bringing the newest ideas to our studio. I have a love for all of my students, young and old, striving to find the music and styles which will bring excitement to all who are studying piano with me. I find the creativity in music making joyous, as well as deeply personal, with those God has entrusted me with each year. In all these years, the teaching journey has been a path through the lives and hearts of students and parents that count for blessing after blessing.



Jessica Siletzky

"My favorite thing to do is play games at group lessons especially when Will uses strange accents to talk trash." As a professional musician and music teacher, stepping into an assistant position in my mom's piano studio has been very natural. When I'm not teaching piano, I work as an early childhood Music Together teacher at Wee Heart Music, I do digital filmmaking and photography through Living Legacy, am using the GI bill to go to film school at Columbia College in Chicago, and I am a mom of a lively, adorable 6 year old. There is no better way to enrich a child's mind than by bringing music to them through play, experimentation, community, and instrument study. I am blessed to have been part of each of your children's lives and piano study this year. Hopefully, I have been able to make them smile even a fraction of the amount they have made me smile.



Nancy Hueber

"You think I am CRAZY? You should meet my sister!" Wow! What an awesome gift from God and JOY it has been to teach and get to know Mrs. Inch's students this past year, and to be side-by-side with her at many lessons in her studio! I have taught piano over the past 20 years in NE Missouri, but for the past few years I've concentrated more on performing, as well as establishing a brain injury support group with my husband Tom in Kirksville, Missouri (I am a brain tumor survivor). My background in piano began at age 5 with my mom as teacher, followed by studies at the Juilliard Pre-College, Wheaton College Conservatory of Music, and a Master's and Specialist Degree in piano collaboration and vocal coaching at the University of Michigan. I've enjoyed performing with instrumentalists and singers over the past 27 years in Missouri.

recital
SPRING 2017

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