

A Look at Today's Performers...



Max Ayala

I like playing different kinds of songs that have cool rhythm! Max is 10, in 4th grade, and is completing 4 years of piano study. Max has enjoyed his recital pieces this year with his favorite being Trumpet Fanfare. Max brings his best to piano every week and LOVES his successes! He enjoys expressing music and was exuberant as Melman in the musical Madagascar this year. He joins in the group activities with energy and, ahem, a bit of a competitive spirit!! I love the sparkle in his eyes when he has had success with a song. Thanks Max!



Annia Blasi

I like how personal playing the piano is and how I can make the music I play my own! Annia is 14, in 8th grade, and is completing 6 years of piano study. She is a motivated student who gets excited by more complex melodies and rhythms, but also loves any piece that moves her fingers around the keyboard. She has grown so much in the years I have taught her. Her confidence has soared and it is amazing to see the ease with which she plays her music! I will miss her so much as she starts a new life in Wichita, Kansas. I wish you every success in your future life Annia! We will miss you and the fun ensemble playing we have done together!



Graham Blasi

I like learning the cool rhythms in my music which make piano playing really fun! Graham is 14, in 8th grade, and is completing 5 years of piano study. He comes to piano every week ready to play and learn new music. He is very rhythmically strong due to his percussion background. He has grown tremendously this year and has really enjoyed his recital music. He has found a strength in memorizing music which is an incredible feat! I couldn't be more proud of the amazing young man you are becoming Graham! I will miss you and all the fun facts you tell me about Japan! Good luck in your new home in Kansas!



Lucas Brown

I like the satisfaction of accomplishing music I am interested in and music that makes sense to me. Lucas is 13, in 7th grade, and is completing his second year of piano study in our studio. He enjoys his piano pieces and works dutifully at accomplishing them all. He is very invested in music that hits his logic just right! He successfully completed his first AIM exam this year. He comes to his lessons with a great attitude, is a very conscientious student, and makes me laugh every week with his commentary about each song. Congratulations on a great year of musical growth Lucas!



Claire Burgess

I like playing piano because it is fun and a nice refreshing break from other things in my life. Claire is 12, in 7th grade, and is completing 5 years of piano study. She is an organized student and has grown in her skills and artistry this year. She enjoys her successes and hard-earned accomplishments. We had a lot of fun in the fall being runners and musicians! She absolutely amazed me this year with her perseverance through some really challenging AIM music. Hard work can be more impressive than learning ease at times!!! I am so proud of you Claire!



Emily Burgess

I love how piano creates opportunities for me in other musical groups and gives me a lot of great experiences making music with friends. Emily is 15, a sophomore, and is completing 7 years of piano study. Her energy, her devotion to music, and her excitement about learning new music is a daunting and yet fantastic challenge to this teacher. We have spent these piano years together loving piano, playing beautiful, exciting, and challenging duets and solos. We have had many moments where at the end of the piece we either sighed or burst out laughing. We have gone far together due to her love and commitment to her music. Thanks for these years Emily. I will miss you so very much.



Annabella Guo

I like when I really get my music. Then it is fun! Annabella is 10, in 4th grade, and is completing her 3rd year of piano study. She has continued to grow and learn even more this year. Though she will say it is hard to understand, she has proven to learn a lot this year and have success in accomplishing her music. She likes music a lot but she LOVES science and learning about animals. She has a quiet demeanor that carries some very loud opinions and keeps me laughing a lot of the time! Annabella, I celebrate the very smart and talented person you are and today I cheer you on!



Ben Hueber

I look forward to playing and singing challenging music that connects with me and gives me "all the feels" Ben is 18, a senior, and is completing 9 years of piano and voice study. Ben is constantly on the move, being involved in many musical groups including the high school chamber choir, Wheaton Bible Church choir, and high school worship team. He will be going to Wheaton College in the fall to study voice under the instruction of his talented dad, Tom Hueber. He is an incredible artist and a wonderful friend, someone who brings his all to his endeavors and his art. I am so proud of my nephew. I love you Ben.



Anaiah Inch

I love playing songs that are easy for me! Anaiah is 7, in second grade, and is my very first long distance skype student. She has completed 1 year of piano study and is a very artistic little girl. She is very persistent in understanding and accomplishing her music, sometimes becoming quite impatient with the learning process. She is talented, beautiful, a sweet daughter and my adorable granddaughter. What a delight for me to have you in this studio at long last, Anaiah!!



Priscilla Logan

I love mastering pieces so I can enjoy playing the music well and beautifully. Priscilla is 15, a freshman, and is completing 5 years of piano study. She is very motivated and enjoys all music, but really connects with emotional, beautiful music. She has brought her piano skills to her school (Clapham School) this year, playing hymns and special music for them. She is a loving daughter and sister, a wonderful musician and artist. Those attributes are present with her in every note she plays. I have loved our duets and the opportunities to "pray" through our music Priscilla. I will miss you so much next year!



Hannah Logan

I like learning fun songs! Hannah is 6, in 1st grade, and is completing her first year of piano study. We have learned the benefits of practicing and the joy of new songs that are fun! She has worked hard this year and has been very comfortable with me, feeling free to lounge on the couch while waiting for her lesson. She is a free spirited, witty little girl with a sparkle in her eye and a quick reply to any issue! Hannah, thank you for a great first year of piano!



Timothy Logan

I look forward to challenging and familiar music that I can really enjoy learning! Timothy is 10, in 5th grade, and is completing 5 years of piano study. He constantly challenges me to find him music he will connect with, really preferring ones he where he can utilize his strong hands and sound. He loves to play challenging versions of songs he is familiar with and works very hard on them. Timothy is up for many types of challenges in music and continually surprises me with what he can do! He really gets excited finishing each book and going on to the next one! Good work this year Timo!



Asher McNeil

I like the cool sounds of piano music and making those sounds myself! Asher is 12, in 6th grade, and is completing 4 years of piano study. He is the first to let me know his progress along with his failures every week. We have a lot of discussions, clarifying the definitions of life moments and music. He has committed himself to his music this year and grown in skill and artistry. He also enjoys providing much commentary on the work ethic of his brother. Asher, I am truly proud of how far you have come this year. Congratulations!



Benjamin McNeil

I like rhythm and banging the keys, but not too hard because our piano was my mom's wedding gift. Benjamin is 10, in 4th grade, and is completing his 1st year in our studio. We have had an interesting year as we have learned about each other. I have learned that he will bounce all over the living room while waiting for his lesson. He has learned that he cannot jump on the furniture or throw balls in the studio. LOL. He works hard at his music and continually shows depth of understanding as he plays with enthusiasm and energy! He springs into lessons every week with a big hello and I am so thrilled to have him in the studio! It's been a great year Ben!



Performing May 5, 2019 @ 2:00 PM

Performing May 5, 2019 @ 4:00 PM



Joey Mikson

I like piano because music sounds really great on it and I have a lot of fun of doing it. Joey is 14, a freshman, and is completing his 3rd year of piano study. He is a talented musician always fighting between reading music and playing by ear. He has worked hard and had a very successful year of meeting his piano goals. We laugh a lot and I threaten a lot, always in the spirit of him working to his potential. I enjoy his love of music, the smile in his eyes, and the joy he really gets from playing the piano! Joey, thank you for showing everyone the musician you are this year. Congratulations!



Michael Mlot

I like learning fast songs on the piano because they are really fun to play! Michael is 11, in 6th grade, and is completing his 2nd year of piano study. He has been a whirlwind of fast learning, growing, and accomplishing at the piano this year. He always has a witty word for me on whatever it is we are playing or whatever subject we are talking about. He completed his second AIM exam, playing music that was extremely challenging. He has enjoyed soaring through piano, with only a few moments he crashed to the ground. Michael, you have done so much this year in piano and I am so proud of you.



Gwenneth Nika

I like playing songs that move my fingers around the keyboard! Gwenneth is 10, in 5th grade, and is completing 5 years of piano study. We have made it through another year of early morning lessons which is an accomplishment for both of us! She brings an intense desire to do well and have success with her music. She is not afraid to tell me how she is feeling about her music and the challenges she faces. I love her journey through music which always has its share of trials and victories! Gwen, I am so proud of your musical growth this year! Congratulations!



Leah Nika

I like being able to play different styles of music because they all have their own emotion and it is fun to connect with it all. Leah is 14, in 8th grade, and is completing 9 years of piano study. She has done a great job with her music this year. This year she was nominated to the AIM Honors Recital as a level 6 student which was a huge tribute to her work and artistry. We laugh a lot during our lessons and she constantly shows me her desire to do very well with her music. She is a committed student who grows in leaps and bounds every year. Leah, I admire your energy and determination and am so very proud of you!



Esther Rakow

I love playing songs that I know and make me happy! Esther is 7, in 2nd grade, and is completing her second year of piano study in our studio. She works hard to accomplish her music and it shows! She shows a great musical aptitude and learns easily though we have met our challenge in note reading. She is very determined to earn the maximum piano dollars she possibly can every week and spend it when I open the Piano Store. We have had a great time playing We're Off to See the Wizard. Esther, we have had a wonderful year together. I am so proud of you!



Anna Reitz

I like being creative with music, learning a new piece, being challenged, ensembles, and my favorite: beautiful music! Anna is 18, a senior, and is completing 10 years of piano study. She enjoys all the different styles of music she has played, especially being enthralled with her recital music. The more ensembles she can play, the happier she is this time of year. Through our piano years together, she has been my happy student: happy to be here, happy to get new music, happy to learn recital music. Happy. Her love for piano has brought a joy to our studio that I will deeply miss next year. Anna, words cannot tell you how much I have loved our time together. Now on to your next adventure!



Elise Ricamato

I love piano because it is such a great outlet, helping me through a lot of life. I love to share my music with friends through the ensembles we are in together. Elise is 17, a senior, and is completing 12 years of piano study. She is dedicated to her music and all the ways she can use her music out of our studio. She has accompanied friends, played for church, and played in her school music ensemble. She loves accomplishing her music, and through all the ups and downs of this year has managed to persevere to the end! We have laughed, we have cried, we have been amazed at all the challenges this year has brought. Elise, you have easily surpassed every hope you had for piano. I will feel a sadness on Wednesday afternoons because YOU are not here. I wish you every joy in life and in your future in San Diego!



Magdalena Schave

I like playing energetic songs. They get me going! Maggie is 10, in 5th grade, and is completing her 2nd year of piano study in our studio. She has come to piano every week with a smile and determination. It has been so much fun to work with a student who is enjoying her time at the piano. She has worked hard on her music and did a great job on her second AIM exam. She has loved her recital music, especially Country Jamboree. She gets excited at the group lessons and quiet Maggie becomes a chatty enthusiast! Congratulations on a great year!



Katelynn Tracey

I like piano because I am excited to learn and express the emotions of cool music. Katelynn is 15, a freshman and is completing 9 years of piano study. She has had to learn the challenge of keeping up with piano along with the demands of high school. She LOVES music and enjoys learning new songs whether from me or ones she discovers on her own. She has matured this year, working to be responsible and successful. We have a wonderful time at the piano each week and no matter what the week holds, she comes in ready to work. Katelynn is always ready to spend 30 minutes playing and learning, learning and playing every week. Katelynn, you are so very talented!



Matthew Siletzky

I think piano is hard and it helps me learn music AND it is fun! Matthew is 8, in 2nd grade, and is completing his second year of piano study! I have loved having the opportunity to teach my grandson. He loves earning his piano dollars and being the first to see what he can buy. He is always ready to play his songs for me and show me how well he can play them! He has worked hard on his recital music and done a great job learning them. Matthew, you are so much fun to teach. Good job this year being a terrific piano student!



Kate Vallaro

I have always wanted to learn to play the piano and I love the energetic pieces I get to play! Kate is 13, in 7th grade, and is completing 6 years of piano study. She has worked at her music and her goals all year, always knowing exactly what she is supposed to do at home. She is sometimes surprised at how well she can do after really working hard and is always relieved at great results. She has enjoyed her recital music and playing duets this year! Kate has improved in so many ways this year and been a great success. Congratulations!



Lisa Soppi

I love being able to play the piano and sing to exciting upbeat songs. Lisa is 11, in 6th grade, and is completing 6 years of piano study. She is always excited about new and challenging music. Her perseverance through the harder music has been a delight to witness this year. She has learned and grown a lot this year and we have had a ton of fun singing and playing her Disney music. She loves her ensemble music and just really enjoys the recital season. Lisa is conscientious and a delightful student. Congratulations on all your successes this year!



Jimmy Wdowiarz

I like playing fun songs and making up my own songs. Jimmy is 6, in kindergarten, and is completing two years of piano study. He has had to learn that practice does help with his music 😊. He loves the games of group lessons, the fun of earning piano dollars, and playing with my grandson truck collection! He has done a great job memorizing music, sticking with a challenging song, and accomplishing his goals. Thanks for being such a good student this year Jimmy!



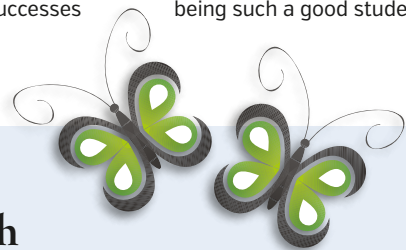
Jessica Inch Siletzky

I love seeing how the kids have literally grown up when I take their portraits each year. As a professional musician and music teacher, participating with my mom's piano studio has been very natural. Outside of the studio, I volunteer at the Shedd Aquarium in the Marine Mammal Department. I perform as a flutist in the Wheaton Bible Church Orchestra, and in the Summer I play with the Wheaton Municipal Band. This year, I have also begun to seriously study acting and voice. Mainly, however, I am a digital filmmaker, screenwriter, director and photographer through my production company, Love and Legacy Films. I have been using the GI-bill to go to film school at Columbia College in Chicago and will graduate next week. I am the mom of a lively 8-year old who is taking lessons with his Grandma (Mrs. Inch) for the second year. 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 have loved watching every student in the studio grow this year.



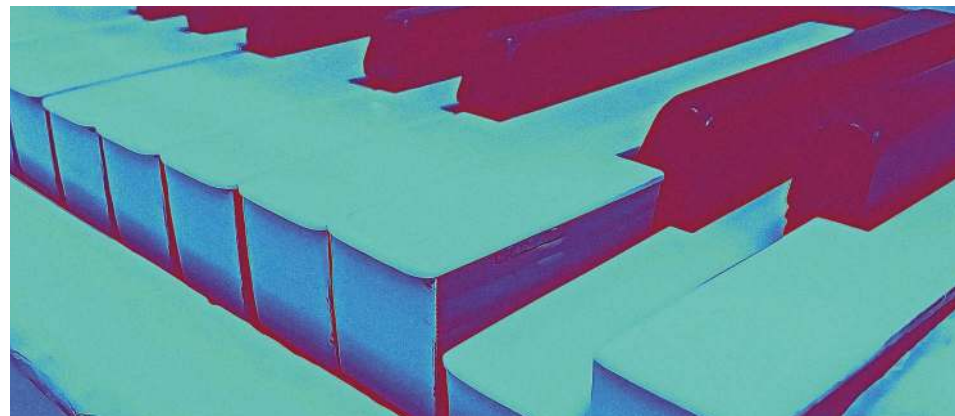
Bethany Biggs

I love expressing, connecting with others, accomplishing, and making memories through the piano. The love of piano and playing it with others is one of the truest joys of my life! Having blossomed into a musician in my mom's studio it is an honor to be able to come back to teach at the very place I first learned. Years of piano study led me to pursue being a teacher in my own field, French. During my years of teaching high school I was also able to learn about teaching piano under the direction of Mrs. Inch. After I got married and moved to Indiana, I opened my own studio while also accompanying at the local university where I worked as an Administrative Assistant for their music program. Having moved once more, I am now a piano teacher at a local school with a thriving studio of my own. It brings such joy to my heart to share this path with my mom and I'm blessed to have her encouragement and counsel as I continue to learn the art of teaching piano. Someday I hope to share the gift of piano with my son who is now two and a half. Music has blessed me my whole life and it has been a lifelong joy to watch the love and learning of each student in this studio.



Debi Inch

I love the surprising, exhilarating, joyful moments of my students' musical triumphs. I have been teaching piano for 33 years, all of which has taken place here in West Chicago. I have been active in the National Music Teachers Association for 25 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. Our recital photo brochure has been featured in national pedagogy workshops on "how to make a recital sparkle"! I am a musician who also finds an incredible outlet in triathalons, mixing artistry in the afternoon teaching with physical training in the first part of the day! 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.



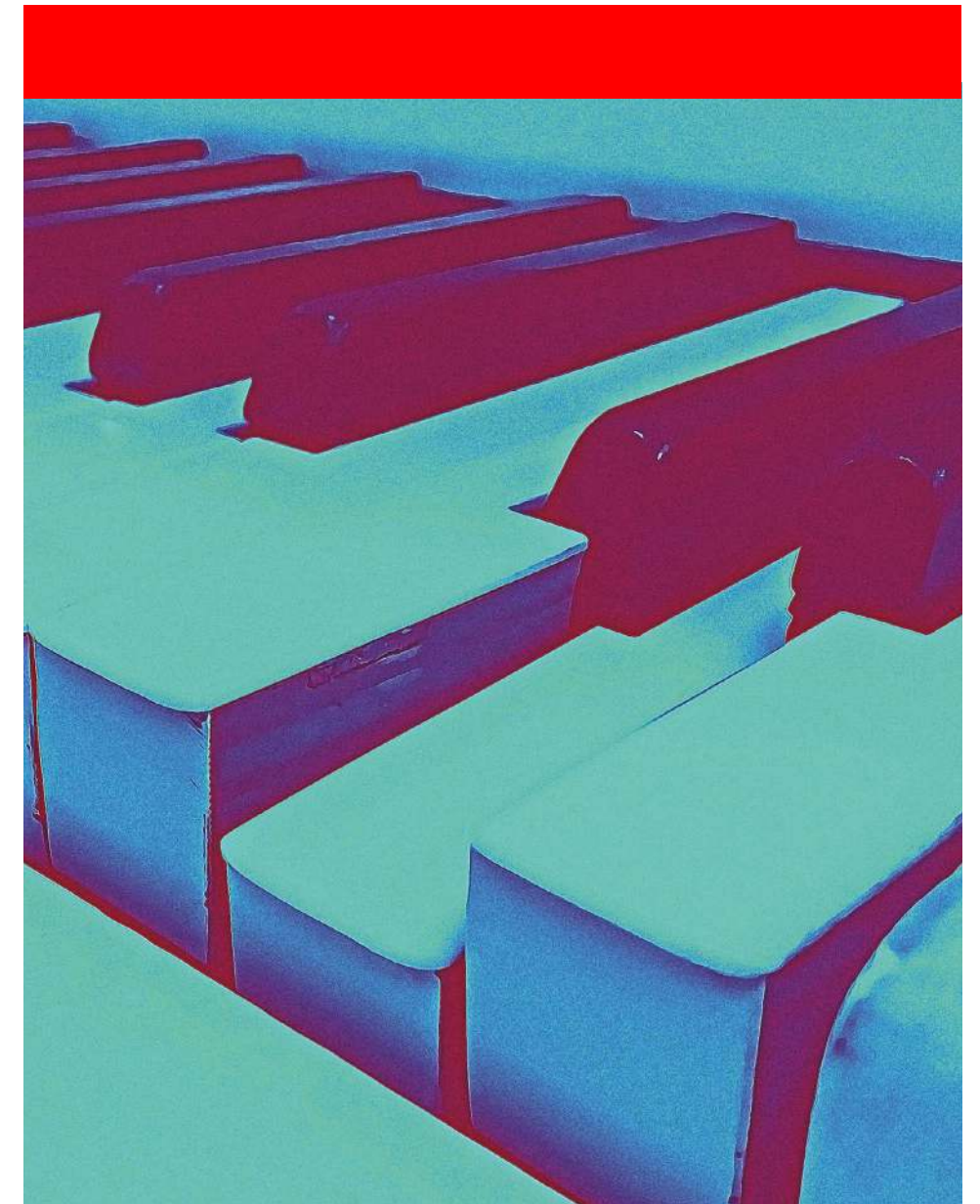
recital
SPRING 2019

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