

A Look at the Performers...



Max Ayala

I am motivated to learn songs because I just really like piano! Max is 11, in 6th grade, and has completed 5 years of piano study. Max has enjoyed

his recital pieces this year, memorizing them with great enthusiasm. Max brings his best to piano every week and LOVES his successes! He has especially loved his end of year Disney songs. He is a hard worker at home and always comes to lessons with a smile! His musical triumphs light him up! Thanks Max!



Graham Blasi

I am motivated by songs with cool rhythms, melodies and chords that make it sound good. Graham is 16, a sophomore, and has completed 6 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. We have had a great year of skype lessons while he has started his life in Wichita, Kansas. I am amazed at his musical growth, maturity, and continual perseverance. We especially enjoyed him sharing drum solos with us at the group lessons! Way to go Graham!



Lucas Brown

I motivated by accomplishing music I am interested in and sounds really good to me.

Lucas is 14, a freshman, and has completed three years of piano study in our studio. He enjoys his piano pieces and works dutifully at accomplishing them all. He enjoys being challenged by music that stretches him. He comes to his lessons with a great attitude, is a very hard worker, and takes his accomplishments very seriously! His musical depth is so very evident and it is a joy to work with him on music he loves!



Claire Burgess

I am motivated by piano because it is fun and a nice refreshing break from other things in my life. Claire is 14, a freshman, and has completed 6 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. I am very proud of her AIM accomplishments this year and her hard work through it all! It was a great year, finishing with a duet with her littler sister for a change! I am so proud of you Claire!



Emily Burgess

I am motivated to progress in music so I can fulfill my hope of becoming a band director and share my love of music with others. Emily is 17, a senior, and has completed 8 years of piano

study. She has also been playing the clarinet for 7 years. She is an exceptional alumna of our studio! Being involved with music study, performance, ensembles, marching band, show band, and more is the love of her life. Her energy to keep achieving in piano and clarinet studies is a huge force in her life. She plans to continue her love for music in college and beyond!



Annabella Guo

I am motivated to show up to piano and finish music I have worked on each week. Annabella is 11, in 6th grade, and has completed 4 years of

piano study. She has continued to grow and learn even more this year. She has grown in her ability to read and play music beyond what she thought she would accomplish. She has a quiet demeanor that carries some very loud opinions and keeps me laughing a lot of the time! Annabella, I am proud of what you have done in piano this year. Great job!



Christina Guo

I am motivated to work on piano because I have my heart set on the end result: beautiful music! Christina is 14, a freshman, and has completed 1 year of piano study in our studio. Christina

returned to piano study after a few years of pursuing flute and viola at school. She came back with a deep desire to play and achieve beautiful music and she has done just that. I am so proud of her hard work and her commitment to learn and grow in her piano skills! I am so glad to have you as a student, Christina!



Anaiah Inch

I am motivated by playing fun music, my Disney songs, and older songs I know how to play. Anaiah is 9, in 4th grade, and has completed 3 years of piano

study. She has had a very successful year taking lessons via skype. She has learned music she thought was going to be too hard and found out she could do it! Anaiah is talented, artistic, creative, sensitive and a very hard worker. I am so proud to be your Grandma and of all your accomplishments this year!



Priscilla Logan

I am motivated turning the music on the page into a song! Priscilla is 17, a senior and has completed 7 years of piano study. She states, "I remember watching my mom sit at the

piano to play hymns out of the hymnal and turn them into masterpieces. Piano has been a big part of my life and I always enjoy improving my skills. I started learning piano with Mrs. Inch when I was ten years old and I have learned so much from her. Last year I started taking lessons from Miss Janna and I will finish senior year with her. I hope to take this priceless skill with me as I move forward in life and further my education."



Hannah Logan

I am motivated by songs that are easy to learn! Hannah is 8, in 3rd grade, and has completed 3 years of piano study. We have learned the benefits of practicing and the

joy of new songs that are fun! She has survived learning music that was harder for her and learned to persevere. She is a free spirited, witty little girl with a sparkle in her eye and a quick reply to any issue! I enjoy making deals with Hannah to keep her going! It has been a truly successful year!



Timothy Logan

I am motivated by how far I have come with piano and it makes me want to keep going.

Timothy is 14, in 8th grade, and has completed 6 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 harder versions of songs he is familiar with, rising to the challenge. Timothy is up for many types of 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 McNiel

I am motivated by the sound of my music when it is learned. Asher is 14, in 8th grade, and has completed 5 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 takes his musical goals seriously and does his part to accomplish them. He also enjoys providing much commentary on his brother and sister. Asher, I am truly proud of how far you have come this year. Congratulations!



Benjamin McNiel

I am motivated by the sound of my songs and the piano dollars to get it done!

Benjamin is 11, in 6th grade, and has completed 2 years in our studio. He has come to his lessons ready to work and show me his progress. 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, is ready to count his piano dollars, and reach his next goal! Great work this year Benj!



Selah McNiel

I am motivated by piano because I am good at it and I love music!

Selah is 9, in 4th grade and has completed her first year of piano study. She began lessons not knowing what it would be like and found out she LOVED it. We have literally raced through the year, with her having endless energy for learning her music. She has loved her successes and defines herself as being very good at piano. I agree! Way to go Selah!!



Joey Mikson

I am motivated by songs I like, songs that sound really cool and have a lot of interesting parts. Joey is 16, a junior, and has completed 4 years of piano

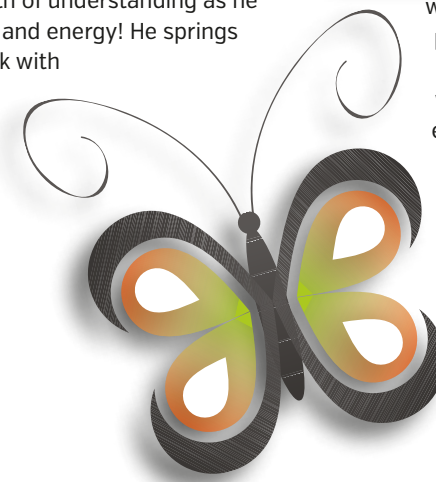
study. He is a talented musician always fighting between reading music and playing by ear. He has loved his music and has had to really work at his piano goals. We laugh a lot and I threaten a lot, always in the spirit of him working to his potential. I enjoy his love of music, the smile in his eyes, 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 am motivated by songs that sound good and I have accomplished through hard work. Michael is 11, in 6th grade, and has completed 3 years of piano study. He has been a

whirlwind of learning, growing, and persevering 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 has taken on some big piano challenges and done a great job. He constantly is learning how to balance academics with piano. Michael, you have accomplished a lot in piano and I am so proud of you.



Gwenneth Nika

I am motivated by piano prizes!!! Gwenneth is 12, in 7th grade, and has completed 6 years of piano study. We have enjoyed having evening lessons this year and no mornings! She

brings an intense desire to do well and have success with her music. She has had to learn how to fit all her loves into a very busy schedule. I love her journey through music which always is full of perseverance, especially with piano dollars on the line! Gwen, I am so proud of your musical growth this year! Congratulations!



Leah Nika

I am motivated by music that is interesting to me. Leah is 16, a sophomore, has completed 10 years of piano study. She has done a great job with her music this year.

She has really discovered her musical preferences and what she loves this year. 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 appreciates deeper musical experiences with every year. Leah, I admire your depth and determination and am so very proud of you!



Esther Rakow

I am motivated by new songs, fun songs, pretty songs.. basically LOTS of songs!

Esther is 9, in 4th grade, has completed 4 years of piano study in our studio. She works hard to accomplish her music and it shows! She is ready to show me her accomplishments every week. 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 love playing duets together and made a point to play duets every week this year. Esther, we have had a wonderful year together. I am so proud of you!





Magdalena Schave

I am motivated to work at piano so I can learn new and more advanced music!

Maggie is 12, in 7th grade, and has completed 3 years of piano study in our studio. She has come to piano every week with a smile and determination. She has enjoyed learning new music whether for AIM, recital or fun. She has experienced playing her first recital duet. She gets excited at the group lessons, spending piano dollars, and achieving her goals. Maggie, it is a joy to spend time with you at the piano!



Lisa Soppi

I am motivated when I notice my improvements and play music I really enjoy!

Lisa is 13, in 8th 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 been very committed to her music and accomplishing it. 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!



Matthew Siletzky

I am motivated when I can memorize a song I really like and when I have lots of piano dollars!

Matthew is 9, in 4th grade, and has completed 3 years 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 excited when he has memorized a song he likes! He has gone above and beyond, learning so many extra 5 finger patterns. Matthew, you are so much fun to teach. Good job this year being a terrific piano student!



Jimmy Wdowiarz

I am motivated when I can play my music fast and the way I want to play it.

Jimmy is 7, in 2nd grade, and has completed 3 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 showing me how well he can play his songs! He has done a great job memorizing music, sticking with a challenging song, and composing music. Jimmy, I am very proud of your accomplishments this year!



Debi Inch

I am motivated by the joy my students have as they play music they are excited about, connect with, and have succeeded in learning!

I have been teaching piano for 34 years, all of which has taken place here in West Chicago. I have been active in the National Music Teachers Association for 26 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.



Joe Williamson

I am motivated by performance and love to get all my recital pieces to performance level!

Joe is 18, a senior, and has studied piano with his mom, Janna Williamson, for 10 years. He completed level 12 of the AIM theory and performance exams this school year. Joe began his musical studies at the Wheaton Yamaha Music School at age 4 and also took violin lessons for 8 years. He especially enjoys playing Bach, as well as most twentieth century music. Besides piano, Joe is involved in leading the worship band at his youth group and singing in choir at church. Joe plays baseball and runs cross country at his high school. We have really appreciated him stepping in a being a really cool substitute teacher in the studio this year. Thanks Joe!



Jessica Inch Siletzky

I am motivated by watching these students progress and grow up as 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 am an adjunct Professor of Music Theory at Wheaton College, I perform as a flutist in the Wheaton Bible Church Orchestra, am the media coordinator and play with the Wheaton Municipal Band. Mainly, however, I am a digital filmmaker, screenwriter, director and photographer through my production company, Love and Legacy Films. I am the mom of a lively 9 year old who is taking lessons with his Grandma (Mrs. Inch) for the fourth 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.



recital
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