

# A LOOK AT THE PERFORMERS...



## MAX AYALA

**I am Okay with a recorded recital, but what about the cookies?!**

Max is 12, in 6th grade, and has completed 6 years of piano study. Max has had a great year, completing his AIM exam with a top score! Max brings his best to piano every week and LOVES his successes! He has especially enjoyed his recital music and looks forward to the fun music of summer. He is a hard worker at home and always comes to lessons with ready to go! His smile when he succeeds is blinding! Thanks for a great year Max!



## GRAHAM BLASI

**I am pretty proud of myself for my piano and drum accomplishments.**

Graham is 16, a sophomore, and has completed 7 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 online lessons, not due to covid, but because he lives in Kansas!! I am amazed at his musical growth, maturity, and continual perseverance. We are currently working on putting a piano song and a drum accompaniment together! Way to go Graham!



## CHRISTINA GUO

**I am always happy when we return to in person lessons and I get to play the amazing studio piano!**

Christina is 14, a freshman, and has completed 2 years of piano study in our studio. Christina has persevered with practice and a deep desire to play amazing piano solos, and this year she has zoomed on screen and on the keyboard. I am so proud of her hard work and her commitment to learn and grow in her piano skills! Though a crazy year, you have had a great one Christina!



## ANAIYAH INCH

**I LOVE the Disney music and beautiful songs I get to play.**

Anaiyah is 9, in 4th grade, and has completed 4 years of piano study. She was able to be an Illinois AIM student while living in RI due to it being an online event! She has learned music she thought was going to be too hard and found out she could do it! Anaiyah really enjoys playing beautiful music and she plays with true artistry! I am so proud of you Anaiyah and love your amazing expression of music!



## HAYDEN INCH

**I like showing what I have learned on piano as long as I still get my screen time!**

Hayden is 7, in 1st grade, and is completing her first year of piano study. She has been flying through her introductory course and showing an amazing musical aptitude. She doesn't like it when she doesn't understand something new, but really works to grasp what we are learning and always comes out accomplishing each new thing. She is enthusiastic and full of vim and vigor for life and the music she is playing. Great first year Hayden!!



## HANNAH LOGAN

**All I want to know is when is the last lesson of the year?** Hannah is 9, in 3rd grade, and has com-

pleted 4 years of piano study. We have learned the benefits of practicing and the joy of new songs that are fun! She likes the learning to be easy and the playing to be easier! Working at it is the challenge for her. 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! Despite her wishes to get through it fast, she has persevered to the last lesson! Good for you Hannah!



## TIMOTHY LOGAN

**I like to move forward and keep improving my piano skills!** Timothy is 14, in 7th grade, and has

completed 7 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 particular about finding the right song in order to be interested in it. He really gets excited finishing each piece and going on to the next one! Good work this year Timo!



## ASHER MCNIEL

**I missed all the studio decorations when we were online and am so glad to be back!** Asher is 14, in

8th grade, and has completed 6 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 does not choose the easiest road in his music and works hard when he needs to. I appreciate his tenacity! Asher, I am truly proud of how far you have come this year. Congratulations!



## BENJAMIN MCNIEL

**How many piano dollars do I have now? That's really why I am here.**

Benjamin is 12, in 6th grade, and has completed 3 years in our studio. He comes to his lesson each week ready to show me his progress! He works hard at his music and continually shows depth of understanding as he plays with enthusiasm and energy! His wit is vastly understated as he has a sly reply to just about everything! He springs into lessons every week with a big hello, is ready to count his piano dollars, and reach his next goal! You have accomplished so much this year Benj!



## SELAH MCNIEL

**But why do I have to count?**

Selah is 9, in 4th grade and has completed two years of piano study. She completed her second AIM exam with flying colors! She has persevered through a difficult year and continued to grow musically and meet all her goals. We enjoy a lively commentary through her lessons with her interacting with every detail of the music. She is extremely musical and expresses her music with understanding and artistry. I love her smile when she plays well and she knows it! Way to go Selah!!



## JOEY MIKSON

**My sister will be excited I am playing Disney songs!**

Joey is 16, a junior, and has completed 5 years of piano study. He is a talented musician and has grown in his note reading so much this year. He has loved his music and has had to really work at his piano goals. This year his commitment to practicing and being serious about his accomplishments has skyrocketed. I couldn't be prouder of this young man! 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 a wonderful year of music. Congratulations!



## MICHAEL MLOT

**I can be indecisive a lot, but I do like a good beat in the songs I play.**

Michael is 13, in 8th grade, and has completed 4 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. We have had some big challenges with online lessons, but succeeded at them all. He constantly is learning how to fit everything in 😊 Michael, you have accomplished a lot in piano and I am so proud of you.



## ESTHER RAKOW

**When do I get new songs?** Esther is 9, in 4th grade, has completed 5 years of piano study in

our studio. She works hard to accomplish her music and it shows! She is ready to show me her improvements 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 LOVE our duet Yesterday this year! Esther, we have had a wonderful year together. I am so proud of you!

## ALEX RAMIREZ



**I am excited to be playing the Star Wars Theme this summer!!!** Alex is 10, in 4th grade and has completed his 2nd year of piano study in our studio. We have had a very chal-

lenging year with online lessons, but I am amazed at his perseverance! His love for music is so very evident and he comes to his lessons ready to learn and play his music. His mom has been a crucial part of the online lessons and I salute her dedication! Great job this year Alex

## NORAH RAMIREZ



**I love playing This Land is Your Land as part of my summer music!** Norah is 8, in 3rd grade, and has completed her 2nd year of piano study in our studio. She has worked hard this

year as we spent most of the year online. She has a joy in her music making and loves her successes. Coming back to the studio has been a great delight and she has really enjoyed playing on the studio piano! She has done an amazing job on her recital pieces this year. I am so proud of your piano accomplishments this year Norah!



## MAGDALENA SCHAVE

**I LOVE the fun music the most!** Maggie is 12, in 7th grade, and has completed 4 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. This year she is playing her second recital duet! She gets excited for group lessons, spending piano dollars, and achieving her goals. Hopefully the group lessons will return next year! Maggie, thank you for a great year!



## MATTHEW SILETZKY



**Do I have to practice all the pages of this song? Really?!** Matthew is 9, in 4th grade, and has completed 4 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 did a great job with his AIM solos this year. Matthew, you always amaze me with how talented you are and what you are able to do. Good job this year meeting your goals!

## LORA VODICKA



**I love adding piano to all the art in my life!** Lora is returning to piano after 15 years of pursuing college and career. She was in our studio until 2006 and we are so excited to have her back and playing the piano for her sheer enjoyment. She is the model of what we all hope piano lessons will be for our children. She is the CEO and owner of Innovation Arts Connection which is a community-based dance program with a "studio feel." Lora has spent the year challenging herself to reclaim her piano skills and it has been such a joy to spend time with her again. Great job this year Lora!



## DEBI INCH



**This year has been a huge challenge for our studio and I am delighted that in spite of all the difficulties, musical study ALWAYS gives us the joy in life!**

I have been teaching piano for 35 years, all of which has taken place here in West Chicago. I have been active in the National Music Teachers Association for 27 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.



## LISA SOPPI

**Online lesson, in person lessons, it doesn't matter to me. I just enjoy the lessons.** Lisa is

13, in 8th grade, and is completing 7 years of piano study. She is always excited about new and challenging music. She completed level 5 AIM this year which was a BIG accomplishment. She has been very committed to her music and completing it. She loves her ensemble music and just really enjoys the recital season. We chose a "beautiful music" duet this year and are really enjoying it! Congratulations on all your successes this year!

## JIMMY WDOWIARZ



**When can I play this song the way I want to play it?**

Jimmy is 8, in 2nd grade, and has completed 4 years of piano study. He has made great strides in his commitment to practice this year. He loves to express his music his own way, showing me how well he can play his songs! He has done a great job memorizing music, completing his first AIM exam, and composing music. He has a LOT of ideas about what sounds good and what doesn't sound good. Jimmy, I am very proud of your accomplishments this year!



recital  
SPRING 2021



## JESSICA INCH SILETZKY

**I missed taking the portraits this year and look forward to seeing all the growth in everyone in the coming year! It is a joy for me to take videos in the studio and produce a lifelong memory!** As a profes-

sional 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 10 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.

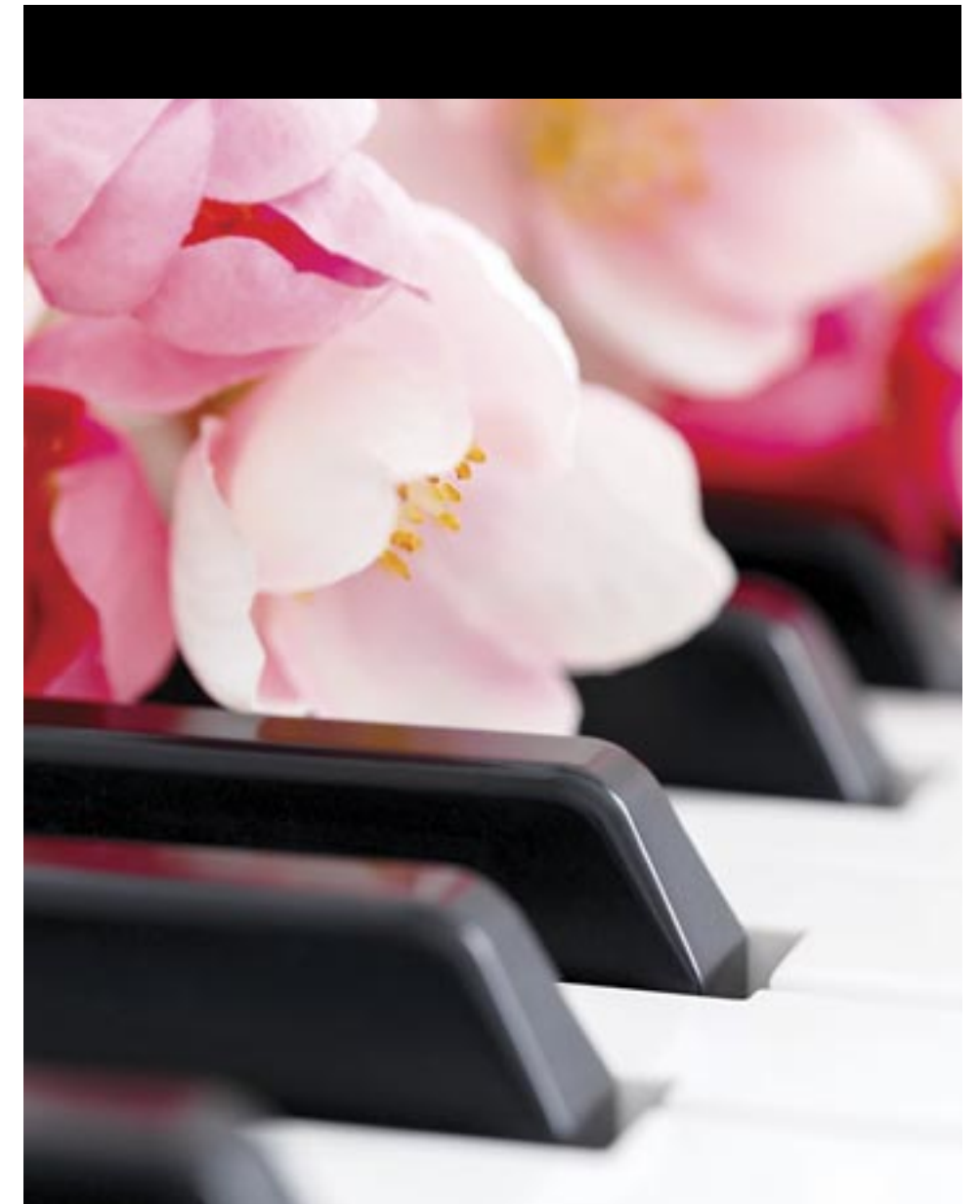
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