



Music Lessons on Piano, Voice, Guitar & Violin

September 2025 Newsletter



Alek Wasserman, Founder



[triadmusicacademy.com](https://www.triadmusicacademy.com)

**895 Peters Creek Parkway
Suite 203
Winston-Salem, NC 27103**





Table of Contents

Student of the Month:
Porter K.

Teacher of the Month:
Eric Schwartz

Studio Updates: 200 Students & Keyboard Lab

Summer Recitals Recap

Lesson Openings

Upcoming Events!

Page 1

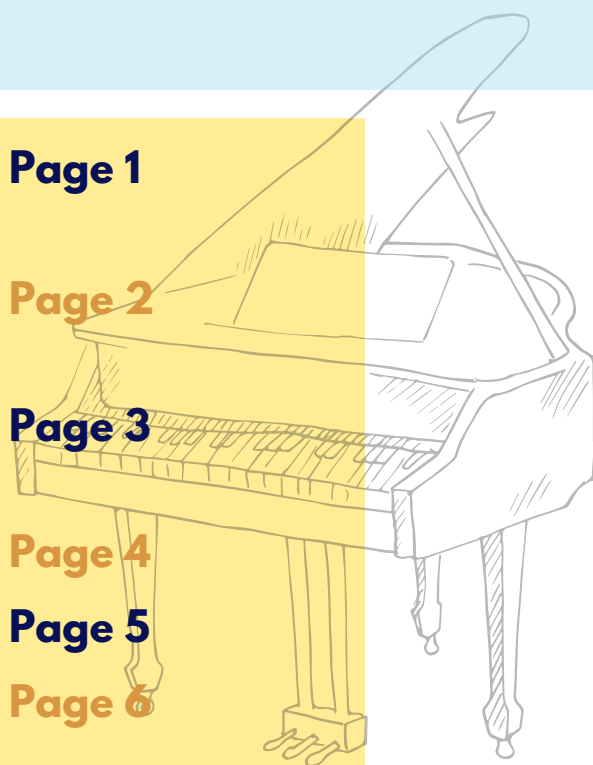
Page 2

Page 3

Page 4

Page 5

Page 6



Student of the Month: Porter K.

Piano Student of Hayley Mullins



Q: What do you like most about piano lessons?

A: I like getting to learn new songs.

Q: What other activities do you do besides piano?

A: I do nerf and I want to take taekwondo soon.

Q: What has been your favorite experience with Triad Music Academy?

A: Honestly, the recital, everything about it.

Q: Which musicians do you look up to or like to listen to?

A: My daddy.

Q: Why did you decide to take piano lessons?

A: So I could learn how to play piano better, learn new songs and figure out how a piano works inside.

"Porter is always enthusiastic and has a million questions about everything music, whether it's the mechanics of the piano or how we notate things! He has a particular talent for rhythm and is eager to learn new ways of making sound at the piano. With his energy and curiosity, I am sure he has a future as a musician!"

- Hayley Mullins, Piano Instructor



Teacher of the Month: Eric Schwartz

Piano Instructor



Q: How did you decide to become a professional musician? What did the journey look like for you?

A: I always knew I wanted to be a professional musician. I actually wanted to be a heavy metal superstar back in my youth, but a formative experience with the musical Les Miserables at age 14 led to my focus gradually shifting from rock to musical theater to classical music. I attended the Cleveland Institute of Music as a composition major as an undergrad and then moved to New York City to embark on career as a freelance

composer/pianist, eventually attending New York University for graduate school. After a decade in NYC, I relocated to lovely North Carolina to take a position as the Music Director for the School of Dance at UNCSA.

Q: What is your favorite type of music to listen to? What do you like to perform?

A: I am still a heavy metal guy through and through. I am listening to the band Machine Head as I type this. That said, I adore classical music (both the old kind and the contemporary kind) and have dedicated much of my professional life to that world.

Q: Do you have any hobbies or special interests outside of music?

A: It isn't "outside of music", but my primary hobby is my podcast, Heavy Metal 101. It is what I do to decompress after hours of dissertation work.

"TMA is extremely fortunate to have an instructor like Eric. His combination of composition, improvisation, and music education skills is a rare blend. Eric's students succeed with a diverse set of interests at the piano, and they all seem to love making music."

- Alek Wasserman, TMA Founder & Lead Piano Instructor



Studio Updates: 200 Students & Keyboard Lab

The winds of change are blowing at TMA! We are beyond fortunate to report that we've eclipsed the 200 student mark and we've added a Keyboard Lab in Studio C.

On a personal note, I am extremely grateful to the Winston-Salem Community for continuing to support our mission of providing curriculum-focused, results-based music lessons.

While this growth for TMA is obviously great news for my family, it is also promising for TMA students and parents.

Music teachers don't generally speak openly about the business end of things, but the reality is that with the new resources coming in, TMA can focus on upgrades for our students.

One great example of this is our new Keyboard Lab, assembled by Head Piano Technician Austin Caldie.

With our six new keyboards and auxiliary equipment, we have expanded lesson planning capabilities during our small group



Students focus during the first class taught in our new Keyboard Lab on August 9th, 2025.

makeup classes, a free and unlimited resource for our students.

Additionally, the Keyboard Lab gives us the ability to organize permanent group classes or one-off deep dives in the future. Some ideas we can try include introductory piano classes (think "dipping your toes" for new students), or keyboard-based music theory instruction.

Thank you again to our students, parents, and community members for their continued support! - Alek Wasserman, TMA Founder

Summer Recitals Recap

We held our annual Summer Recitals on Sunday, August 10th, 2025. We were fortunate to have two rounds of child recitals in addition to our annual Adult Student Recital. Bravo to our piano and voice students for their efforts!



**Round 1: Piano & Voice Students of
Hayley Mullins, Peyton Wheeler, Josh
Waldron & Shannon Lindegren**



**Round 2: Adult Piano Students of
Daniel Bukin**



**Round 3: Piano Students of Austin
Caldie, Eric Schwartz &
Alek Wasserman**

Lesson Openings

Program	Day	Time
<u>Piano</u>	Monday	4:45-6:45 PM & 7:15-8:00 PM
	Tuesday	5:00-8:00 PM
	Wednesday	3:30-4:00 PM
	Thursday	6:00-8:00 PM
<u>Guitar</u>	Friday	3:30-4:00 PM & 5:30-6:00 PM
<u>Voice</u>	Saturday	10:45 AM - 2:00 PM
<u>Violin</u>	Saturday	9:00-10:00 AM & 10:30-11:00 AM
<u>Piano (In-Home)</u>	Sunday-Friday	Various Times (Email us!)

Upcoming Events!

Fall Recitals

Sunday, November 23rd

Times TBD

Temple Emanuel Winston-Salem

Recitals open to all Triad Music Academy child students. Email alek@triadmusicacademy.com with any questions!

Allison Gagnon Piano Duet Masterclass

Saturday, December 6th @ 3:00 PM

Triad Music Academy

Dr. Allison Gagnon
Collaborative Piano Department
Chair, UNC School of the Arts



Select Triad Music Academy students will be chosen to perform. Email alek@triadmusicacademy.com if you would like to watch!