



**Music Lessons on Piano, Voice, Guitar & Violin**

# October 2025 Newsletter



**Alek Wasserman, Founder**



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

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# Table of Contents

**Student of the Month:**  
**Kenya H.**

**Teacher of the Month:**  
**Peyton Wheeler**

**Life Lessons at the Piano:**  
**A 24-Year Reflection**

**New Piano & Voice Instructor:**  
**Isaac Fulk**

**Lesson Openings**

**Upcoming Events!**

**Page 1**

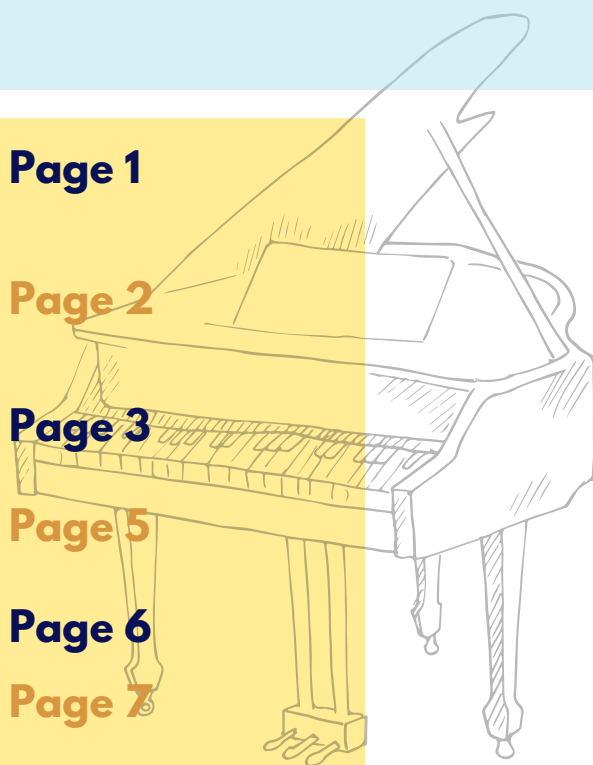
**Page 2**

**Page 3**

**Page 5**

**Page 6**

**Page 7**



# Student of the Month: Kenya H.

Piano Student of Eric Schwartz



**Q: What do you like most about piano lessons?**

A: I love how Mr. Eric guides me through each piano piece. He doesn't make me feel crazy when I mess up. Love how patient he is with me and the different styles and techniques he teaches me. He makes the lessons fun.

**Q: What other activities do you do besides piano?**

A: I am in Martial Arts. I'm a blue belt and working towards black belt.

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

A: At first it was being able to play on the different pianos, but now becoming Student of the Month is my ultimate favorite.

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

A: Bryson Gray, Tyson James, and Alicia Keys!

**Q: Why did you decide to take piano lessons?**

A: I always wanted to learn how to play the piano. I use to listen to music and then try to play those songs on my keyboard.

"Kenya is a hard-working student who is always eager to learn and who strives for perfection in her work. She is dedicated to the piano and always ready and willing to enthusiastically rise to new challenges."

- Eric Schwartz, Piano Instructor



# Teacher of the Month: Peyton Wheeler

Voice Instructor



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

A: Up until about age 16, I was dead-set on being a marine biologist. I toured colleges, researched their programs, and I watched Shark Week every year. It wasn't until the time to choose my college major rolled around that I had a change of heart. With some encouragement from my high school choir teacher, I decided to audition at UNCG for a degree in music! It was there that I found my passion for performing opera. Shortly after

graduation, I began teaching voice. While the journey hasn't always been easy, I am thrilled to be able to share my love of music with others!

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

A: Although it's not everyone's favorite, I have to say I have a special place in my heart for country music, especially the classics like George Jones. When it comes to performing, however, I stick with opera for sure. I am currently having a blast working on "Una voce poco fa" from Rossini's *Il barbiere di Siviglia*.

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

A: Besides my small obsession with sharks, I love to bake! I would say my specialty is French macarons, but most recently I made a red velvet cake!

"Peyton is great because she's able to do so many things with her students. She gives focused vocal instruction to adult singers, but I've also seen her find productive ways to be engaging and fun with younger students. She is a great piece of the TMA puzzle!"

- Alek Wasserman, TMA Founder & Lead Piano Instructor



# Life Lessons at the Piano: A 24-Year Reflection

**If you want to learn life skills, learn to play an instrument - it's that simple.**

**From my first piano lesson at age 7 to my adult life at 31, I have been challenged in more ways than I could have ever imagined.**

**Sure, there are the obvious things: hand-eye coordination, cognitive development, etc. But playing the piano goes well beyond the tropes that we always hear about learning to play an instrument.**

**Even with the best instruction and the highest levels of talent, any musician needs to develop a keen sense of discipline to succeed.**

**If you're going to give an hour-long recital, you're going to need practice for hours every day, starting months in advance.**

**This kind of dedication and resilience is extremely useful to every student who comes across a piano, even if they never plan to pursue music professionally.**



Me in a practice room at the Lawrence University Conservatory of Music in my college days (circa 2013 or 2014).

**I've told this story before, but I'll say it again. When I went through U.S. Army Basic Combat Training, it didn't matter that I was going into a band unit. Every Soldier had to complete "The Forge," a four-day field training exercise with grueling requirements.**

**I was sleep-deprived, marching for miles with a 45-lbs backpack, and my boots were too small so my heels bled. But where did I learn the gumption to keep going till the end? My years of hard-nosed piano practice, of course!**



**I will also add that my motivation was the chance to play in a professional ensemble, the 440<sup>th</sup> Army Band, which was something I had not yet gotten to do at that point.**

**But beyond discipline, music breeds collaboration. Anyone who's ever been in a rehearsal knows that musicians have to work together meticulously to craft a performance. Sometimes this even requires interpersonal skills like conflict resolution.**

**What are you going to do when someone else in your chamber group vehemently disagrees with your interpretation of a passage?**

**Musicians get to experience both the right way and the wrong way to handle these situations, and they grow into stronger people for it.**

**Then there's the traveler's path, as well. Music has a special way of connecting people, as we all know. Many musicians end up traveling significantly to give performances.**

**I've never considered myself to be a major performing artist, but even in my career as mostly a music teacher I've personally given performances in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Ohio, Virginia, North Carolina, Wales, and The Bahamas.**

**Plenty of our instructors at TMA have done the same. For perspective, we have team members from China, Taiwan, Israel, and ten different states. Yet they all found their way to being professional musicians in Winston-Salem.**

**It seems clear to me that while learning to play an instrument is valid just for music's own sake, there is much more for students to gain.**

**Once your student dedicates themselves to a musical lifestyle and starts to play every day, what do you think they might learn about life itself? Where might their love for music take them?**

**This is, for many students, the strongest case for music education. And at TMA, we're happy to help.**

**Musically yours,**



**Alek Wasserman  
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# **New Piano & Voice Instructor: Isaac Fulk**



**Isaac Fulk, TMA Piano & Voice Instructor  
BFA in Musical Theater,  
Mars Hill University**

# Lesson Openings

Program	Day	Time
<u>Piano</u>	Monday	4:00-4:30 PM 4:45-5:15 PM 6:30-7:00 PM
	Wednesday	7:30-8:00 PM
	Thursday	4:30-5:00 PM
	Friday	3:30-4:00 PM
<u>Guitar</u>		
<u>Voice</u>	Monday	4:30-5:00 PM
	Thursday	5:30-6:00 PM
<u>Violin</u>	Saturday	1:30-2:30 PM
<u>Piano (In-Home)</u>	Sunday-Friday	Various Times (Email us!)



# Upcoming Events!

## Fall Recitals

Sunday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>

Times TBD

Temple Emanuel Winston-Salem

Recitals open to all Triad Music Academy child students. Email [alek@triadmusicacademy.com](mailto:alek@triadmusicacademy.com) with any questions!

## Allison Gagnon Piano Duet Masterclass

Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup> @ 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](mailto:alek@triadmusicacademy.com) if you would like to watch!