



## Music Lessons on Piano and Voice

# July 2024 Newsletter



Alek Wasserman, Founder



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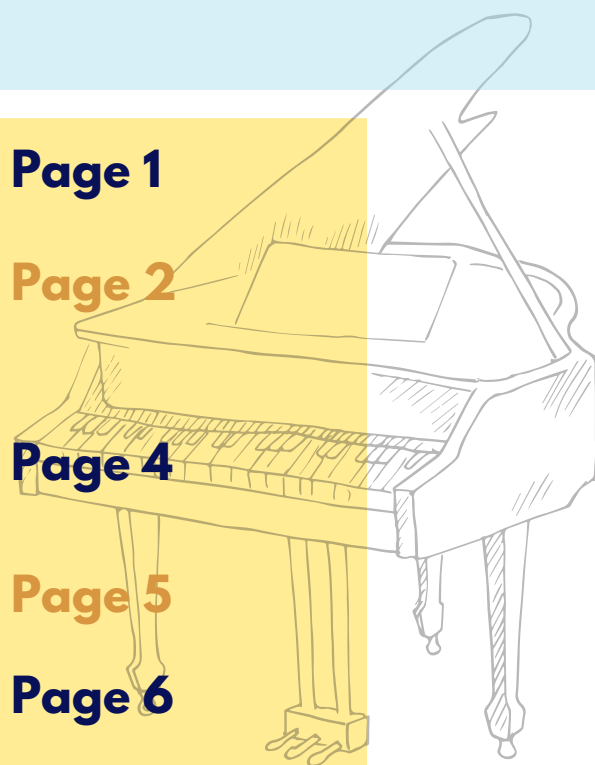
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# Student of the Month: Ziona C.

Voice Student of Laura Carisa Gardea &  
Piano Student of Alek Wasserman



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

A: I like voice lessons because Ms. Laura is so nice! I loved making my own song with her! I like piano because it is fun to play an instrument. Mr. Alek is a great teacher! Music makes me feel joyful! If I ever feel sad then I start singing and it makes me happy!

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

A: I overcame my fears and went first in the recital. I was scared but really proud of myself when it was done!

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

A: Lauryn Hill, Taylor Swift, Alicia Keys, and Miss Laura!

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

A: Well, I want to learn how to sing well and it's really important to know how to play the piano.

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

A: I love swimming, soccer, and I like to play in my mud kitchen.

"From her first lesson, it was evident that music is a love and passion for Ziona! Her natural talent and her ability to bring joy to others with her singing is a gift of inspiration to all who are in her life, including her teachers!"

- Laura Carisa Gardea, TMA Lead Voice Instructor



# The Hard Parts: Music Lessons as a Life Skill



**By Alek Wasserman,  
Triad Music Academy  
Instructor/Founder**

**“I don’t want to practice today!”**

**We’ve all been there at some point, either as a parent or as a musician ourselves. I totally get it. With school, family, and other activities, it can sometimes be difficult to find the bandwidth to practice piano or voice on a regular basis.**

**At the same time, we all know the truth: without regular practice, you just won’t make progress on an instrument. Furthermore, students need to make tangible progress in order for music lessons to be worth their time and effort.**

**There are many factors that play into this issue. One of the main aspects for child students can simply be the fact that they are children. Every parent reading this knows that there are some times where a child will flat out refuse to do what they are told. This even happens with kids who are normally great listeners.**

**At the same time, I think there are some special considerations for today’s students.**

**To dive a little deeper, I am going to rely heavily on my experience as a former public school music teacher. I spent four years in the classroom at a very critical moment in education history; about 1.5 years before the Pandemic and 2.5 years from its beginning to roughly its end.**

**Let’s be clear: we were already living in a pretty modern world before March of 2020. Kids had access to iPads and YouTube and they already didn’t walk to school anymore, just to name a couple examples.**

**My pre-virtual learning classroom experience took place from August of 2018 until March of 2020, and my post-virtual learning experience ran from October of 2020 to June of 2022. To be fair, I left the classroom to start TMA at that point, so I can only speculate at post-pandemic school experiences, but I think we all know where I’m going with this.**

**Student behaviors were already different from what I remembered of my school years in the 2000's, but after we came back to the classroom kids were just not the same.**

**On average, their ability to listen, their willingness to learn, and their social skills had taken a dip.**

**Of course, not every single student was impacted in the same way in those years, but I think it's fair to say that every K-12 student went through the collective stress of that time.**

**The important thing to keep in mind here is that this all ended only about two years ago, so we are still working with students who shared this experience.**

**I truly hope that every child has made a full recovery back to normalcy since that time, and I think that music can play a large role in guiding today's children back towards developing regular life skills.**

**What music shares in common with any other important endeavor in life is that it requires time, consistency, effort, and strategizing. Want to learn that tricky passage in the next week? You're going to have to decide how to break it down to make**

**progress, what your next steps will be, and apply it all over the course of a few practice sessions spread evenly throughout your weekly routine.**

**I happened to be an avid competitive swimmer growing up when I wasn't playing the piano, and it was clear to me at a young age how both activities relied on the same basic principles of personal responsibility and planning. Looking around at the kids I grew up with who partook in both sports and music, I see a lot of successful working professionals now starting families of their own.**

**So in many ways, while musicmaking is certainly a joy unto itself, I think the bigger picture of taking music lessons is building a child into the kind of adult we want them to be.**

**Doctors, lawyers, business owners, and the like all need to exude professionalism in order to succeed in their workplaces.**

**I'd be willing to bet most of them learned these skills at a young age, perhaps even with piano or voice lessons.**

**So the next time your student doesn't want to practice, ask them to think about the bigger picture.**



# Spring Recitals Recap



**Studio of Founder &  
Lead Piano Instructor,  
Alek Wasserman**



**Combined Studios of Piano  
Instructors Natalie Barela, PG  
Hazard & Shannon Lindegren**



**TMA held our annual Spring Recitals on June 2nd  
at Temple Emanuel Winston-Salem. In all, 37  
piano students participated, with some even  
performing for the first time. Bravo, everyone!**

# Lesson Openings

Teacher	Location	Instrument	Day	Time
<a href="#"><u>Hayley Mullins</u></a>	Main Studio	Piano	Tuesday	4:00-4:30 PM
<a href="#"><u>Eric Schwartz</u></a>	Main Studio	Piano	Tuesday	4:30-5:00 PM
<a href="#"><u>Daniel Bukin</u></a>	Raleigh In-Home	Piano	Tuesday	10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
<a href="#"><u>Austin Caldie</u></a>	Main Studio	Piano	Monday	4:30-7:00 PM
<a href="#"><u>Laura Gardea</u></a>	Main Studio	Voice	Thursday	6:30-8:00 PM

**Fully Booked Instructors:**  
**Natalie Barela, PG Hazard,**  
**Shannon Lindegren,**  
**Alek Wasserman & Han Vu**

# Upcoming Events!

## Clara Yang Masterclass

Saturday, August 10th @ 11:00 AM  
Triad Music Academy

**Clara Yang**  
**Head of Keyboard Studies &**  
**Associate Professor of Piano,**  
**UNC-Chapel Hill**



Select Triad Music Academy students will be chosen to perform. Email [alek@triadmusicacademy.com](mailto:alek@triadmusicacademy.com) if you would like to watch!

## Summer Recital(s)

Sunday, August 25th @ 2:00 PM

[Temple Emanuel Winston-Salem](#)

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

\*\*\*Recital may be updated to different times for different teachers' studios, TBD. Any changes will be communicated in advance by email.