



Music Lessons on Piano and Voice

May 2024 Newsletter



Alek Wasserman, Founder



triadmusicacademy.com

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





Table of Contents

Student of the Month: LiLie P.

Page 1

Voice Lessons: The Next Frontier

Page 2

New Instructor: Eric Schwartz

Page 3

Annie Jeng Masterclass Recap

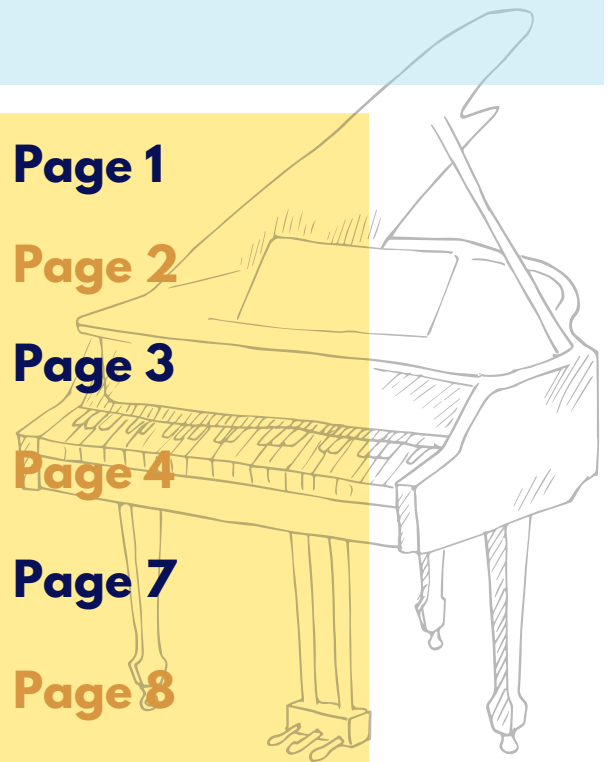
Page 4

Lesson Openings

Page 7

Upcoming Events!

Page 8



Student of the Month: LiLie P.

Piano Student of PG Hazard &
Voice Student of Laura Carisa Gardea



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

A: I like piano because it's so fun and entertaining! I like taking voice lessons because I want to be a great singer.

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

A: My favorite experience is working through the hard parts of playing music and never giving up!

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

A: I love listening to Taylor Swift and Michael Jackson! For classical music, my favorite composer is Vivaldi.

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

A: I want to be a great artist like Taylor Swift who can sing and play an instrument.

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

I take art classes at Sawtooth School for Visual Art and I take swimming lessons at Salem Swim & Gymnastics.

“LiLie has been incredibly motivated, musical, and creative in our lessons. She consistently comes to lessons well-prepared and most importantly we have a lot of fun learning about music!”

-PG Hazard, TMA Piano Instructor



Voice Lessons: The Next Frontier



By Alek Wasserman,
Triad Music Academy
Instructor/Founder

Triad Music Academy is now offering voice lessons! We will feature our new [Lead Voice Instructor, Laura Carisa Gardea](#), in next month's newsletter, but I wanted to use this month's issue to discuss our vision for voice lessons.

The first question is: how did we land on voice for our second instrument after the piano? There are a few reasons, the first being that singing and piano pair together quite well. The human voice accompanied by the piano is a combination you can find in a litany of different musical styles. Jazz, classical, pop, country, and worship music are just a few prominent examples.

Secondly, it was really important to me that we chose an instrument with which I was familiar. I am by no means qualified to teach voice lessons myself, but I did take some choir and vocal studies classes from high school through undergrad and my master's. All this is to say that we can maintain the same quality and breadth of programming with voice that we've had with the piano.

Thirdly, when looking for an instructor for another instrument, I wanted someone who was knowledgeable, professional, and a great fit to work with our students. Laura has been all that and more! In fact, she has already written her first lesson for the student portal, entitled "[Vocal Hygiene: Caring for Your Instrument.](#)"

This brings me to my next point: TMA has found success by offering our students a clear path to long term musical skill development via our four pillar offer:

1. Weekly Lessons
2. Recitals & Masterclasses
3. Online Supplemental Lessons
4. Unlimited Lesson Support

Thanks to Laura's dedication and collaboration from the moment she signed on, we are already building the same infrastructure for our budding voice lesson program.

If you are interested in booking a slot for voice lessons, please email me at alek@triadmusicacademy.com.

New Piano Instructor: Eric Schwartz



Eric Schwartz

**PhD in Music Education,
UNC Greensboro (in progress)
MA in Music Composition,
New York University
BM in Music Composition,
Cleveland Institute of Music**

Triad Music Academy welcomes one of our most qualified piano instructors to date, Eric Schwartz!

Eric further diversifies our roster of piano instructors with his triple background as a pianist, composer, and music educator. While his original music has been published and recorded in both the US and the UK and even performed in Australia, the bulk of Eric's professional background has come in the form of dance accompaniment.

Eric has served as the Music Director at the School of Dance of the UNC School of the Arts since 2011. He has held previous dance accompanying positions at the following institutions:

- Wake Forest University
- Hunter College
- New York University
- Adelphi University

As a seasoned music educator, Eric has plenty of teaching experience. He currently teaches courses at Wake Forest University and Davidson County Community College.

Additionally, Eric maintained his own private piano studio in New York City for nine years before coming to Winston-Salem.

Beyond his teaching experience and musical credentials, I was personally impressed with Eric's non-dogmatic approach to teaching the piano and music education, in general. I think he will shine in particular as a fit with adult students and older children. Eric self-described his teaching approach like so:

“To my mind, the single most important thing in the teaching and learning of music is joy. I want my students to learn to love playing the piano, and to love making and learning about music more generally.”

For those who don't know, it is actually fairly rare within the field of piano education for a teacher to have studied in a formalized, academic music education program. Eric and I discussed many facets of piano teaching, and I think his greatest strength lies in his willingness to help students achieve their own goals, rather than predetermining the entire piano lesson experience from a cookie-cutter perspective.

Of course, Eric and I also discussed piano technique and tension-free playing, which is a priority for our entire teaching team. Eric and I connected in that we have both recovered from poor piano technique in the past to lead successful piano-playing lives.

With his unique background and the dynamic mock piano lesson that Eric taught me, I am convinced he will mesh well with transfer students who come into TMA looking for another teacher's piano approach.

Finally, all new TMA instructors must pass State, Federal, and National Sex Offender Registry background checks in order to be welcomed onto the team. It is my priority to ensure your student's safety and wellbeing as they pursue their lifelong piano playing journey with TMA.

If you are interested in piano lessons with Eric, please reach out to me via (336) 497-1136 or alek@triadmusicacademy.com and we'll be more than happy to get you on his schedule!

**-Alek Wasserman
Founder & Lead Instructor**

Annie Jeng Masterclass Recap

On Saturday, April 13th, we welcomed UNC Greensboro Assistant Professor of Piano & Piano Pedagogy Annie Jeng for a masterclass. Three students played from the studios of Lead Piano Instructor Alek Wasserman and Piano Instructor PG Hazard. All three performed well and learned interesting new ideas about musicality and piano technique. Bravi tutti!



Lesson Openings

Teacher	Location	Instrument	Day	Time
Laura Agner	Main Studio	Piano	Sunday	11:00 AM - 2:15 PM
Daniel Bukin	Raleigh In-Home	Piano	Tuesday	10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Austin Caldie	Main Studio	Piano	Sunday	1:15-1:45 PM
Laura Gardea	Main Studio	Voice	Thursday	5:30-8:00 PM
Eric Schwartz	Main Studio	Piano	Tuesday	5:30-8:00 PM

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

Upcoming Events!

Updated: TMA Spring Recitals

Wasserman Piano Studio:

Sunday, June 2nd @ 1:30 PM

Piano Recital (All Other Instructors):

Sunday, June 2nd @ 3:00 PM

Temple Emanuel Winston-Salem

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

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 if you would like to watch!