



# June 2023 Newsletter



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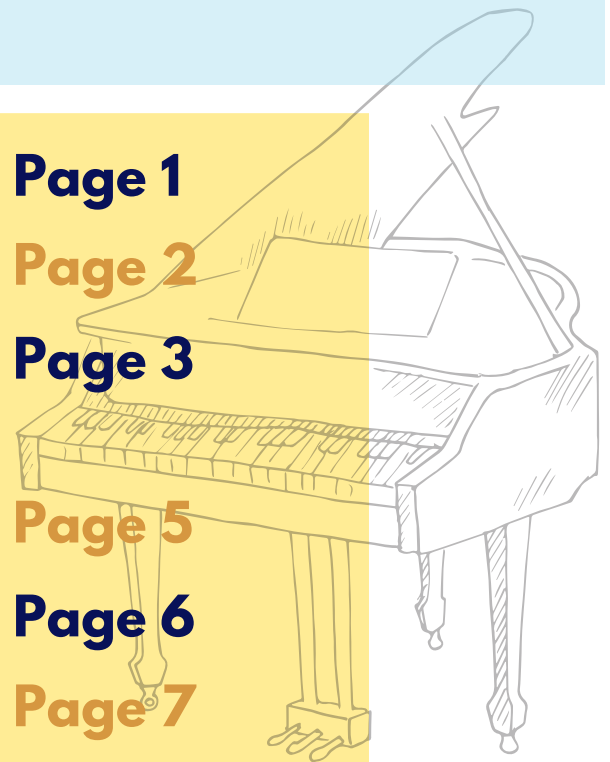
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# Student of the Month: Margot P.



**Q: What do you like most about playing the piano?**

**A:** The piano is really fun. I have always liked the way it sounds in classical music. I like learning how to read and play the music. It makes me more confident.

**Q: What do you like most about being a Triad Music Academy student?**

**A:** I like my teacher, Alek, and learning the piano. I have a lot of fun in class and playing at the recitals. The practices are really great and I have learned a lot.

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

**A:** I like Mozart and Beethoven. I also like the Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra and have an album of theirs I listen to a lot.

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

**A:** I decided to take piano lessons because I like the way the piano sounds in music and it seemed like a fun thing to learn.

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

**A:** I do drama and I love to do all kinds of art. I take classes for both.

# New Piano Instructor PG Hazard



## PG Hazard

**MM in Collaborative Piano,  
UNC School of the Arts  
BA in Music, Florida State  
University**

Triad Music Academy has the absolute honor of welcoming a new instructor to our staff, PG Hazard! I am very excited for our students to have the opportunity to learn from PG; she is a wonderfully dedicated pianist with a very different perspective on the instrument, focusing largely on ensemble playing. Check out what PG had to say about working with students:

**“I think music is for everybody. That’s my philosophy - I want to make sure that everyone can enjoy and appreciate music. I think some people give up on playing the piano too early in their journey because it is so challenging, but really they can overcome it. I use my experience having taught myself in my performance career to relate to students’ desire to learn and to overcome challenges.”**

**PG’s passion for overcoming the obstacles of piano playing aligns heavily with my own.**

# New Piano Instructor PG Hazard, cont.

To give you an idea of just how fortunate we are to have PG as an instructor, here are some of her current professional appointments:

- Adjunct Professor of Piano, High Point University
- Director of Traditional Music, Sedge Garden United Methodist Church
- Staff Pianist, UNCSA School of Drama
- Collaborative Piano Faculty, Brevard Music Center

She has also worked for the UNCSA School of Music, the Palm Beach Opera, Florida State University, and Stetson University.

On a personal note, I have known PG for several years. She and I graduated from UNCSA together and we have collaborated professionally for performances at Sedge Garden United Methodist Church. She is someone that I trust to work with all Triad Music Academy students, which brings me to my next point.

Over the summer, I will have a couple of short absences between my military obligations with the 440th Army Band and a family obligation. PG will start out by subbing in for me during some of that time to keep the normal lesson schedule flowing.\* She will then be accepting new students into her studio this fall!

\*Current students and their parents will receive an updated Summer Semester Calendar to reflect these changes.

Lastly, I would like to take this time to let parents know that Triad Music Academy is fortunate to be growing in our mission to develop lifelong piano players. 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 continue their piano journey with us.

-Alek Wasserman

# What is Your Student Learning?



By Alek Wasserman,  
Triad Music Academy  
Instructor/Founder

Being a former public school music teacher, I understand how important it is that parents know what their children are learning. This month, I'd like to briefly cover the curricula I use with piano students.

In the world of piano teaching, there are three major levels of skill progression: elementary, intermediate, and advanced. Each of these can be further divided into early, middle, and late. Piano method books typically carry students from their first lesson into the early- or middle-intermediate levels. Late-intermediate and advanced students typically play standard piano repertoire rather than following a method book.

Generally speaking, there are four types of piano method books. Each method is defined by the way that it introduces note reading and hand placement at the beginning of a student's piano journey.

Intervallic piano method books introduce note reading by focusing on the distance between notes. These method books start on the black keys and gradually move around the keyboard. If your student uses *The Music Tree*, they are learning from an intervallic book.

I find *The Music Tree* to be a great fit for students ages 7 and below. The modified note reading at the beginning of this series makes it manageable for younger students who are often learning how to read music at the same time they learn to read English. Additionally, the first book does not use the thumb or pinky, which makes the music more adaptable for smaller, developing hands.

Middle C method books are based around placing the right thumb on Middle C, and the left hand typically on the B next to it. If your student uses *Faber Piano Adventures*, they are learning from a Middle C method book.

# What is Your Student Learning?, Cont.

In my experience, the Piano Adventures books are great for engaging students ages 11 and above because they can play music that they recognize early on in their studies. To be even more specific, I use the editions of this series written for older children and for adults.

Multikey method books are tonally-based, meaning that they are built around playing in different keys for different pieces of music. I do not currently teach out of any true multikey piano method books. However, I do use The Russian School of Piano Playing as a supplement with some students. This book is not technically multikey, but it is very similar to multikey method books.

Lastly, some method books fall under the umbrella term of being "eclectic," which means they are influenced by at least two of the previously-mentioned method book categories. Naturally, there are many different ways this can look.

The eclectic book I use is called Piano Safari. It starts out very similarly to an intervallic book, but quickly turns into a sort of hybrid between Middle C and multikey. The modified reading introduction has faster pacing than a fully intervallic book, but slower pacing than a Middle C book. This combination places Piano Safari in a unique position to serve students ages 8-10.

Of course, it must be said that not every student fits neatly with every method book. Some students work well with a book outside of their typical age categories. Other students have transferred into Triad Music Academy from other studios with different books. There are also advanced students who learn best with standard piano repertoire in place of method books.

If you have any questions about piano method books, even if you are not a Triad Music Academy parent, please reach out to me via [alek@triadmusicacademy.com](mailto:alek@triadmusicacademy.com) or (336) 497-1136.

# Lesson Referral Program



**Music is better with friends!**

**Current students and families:**

**For the rest of Spring Semester (now through June 11th), receive 25% off your next month's tuition when a student you refer signs up for lessons at Triad Music Academy!**





**PIEDMONT**  
Music Center

# Summer Sessions

**Summer Buddies!  
Pre-Owned Essex  
Grand & Upright**



**Special Summer  
Session pricing for  
TMA Students.**

**Call or come into  
the store to see  
all we have  
available for you!**

**The Perfect  
Pairing for the  
Summer Season.**

**A TMA Student  
and a piano that  
will take them  
to the next  
level.**



**Summer Buddies!  
Pre-Owned Boston  
Grands designed by Steinway**

**June 2023**

# Upcoming Events!

## **Triad Music Academy Summer Semester Recital**

Date TBD

Piedmont Music Center

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

## **Ieva Jokubaviciute Masterclass**

Saturday, Sep 23rd @ 4:30 PM

Piedmont Music Center

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