



**Building Lifelong Pianists**

**December  
Newsletter:  
2023 Year in  
Review**



**Alek Wasserman, Owner**

 **Triad Music Academy**

 **@triadmusicacademy**

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

**212 N Broad Street  
Winston-Salem, NC 27101**





# Table of Contents

**Student of the Year:**

**Reid Wilson**

**2023 TMA Year in Review**

**Meet the TMA Family!**

**New Piano Instructor: Austin  
Caldie**

**Holiday Piano Sale**

**Myrown Brown**

**Masterclass Recap**

**Upcoming Events!**

**Page 1**

**Page 5**

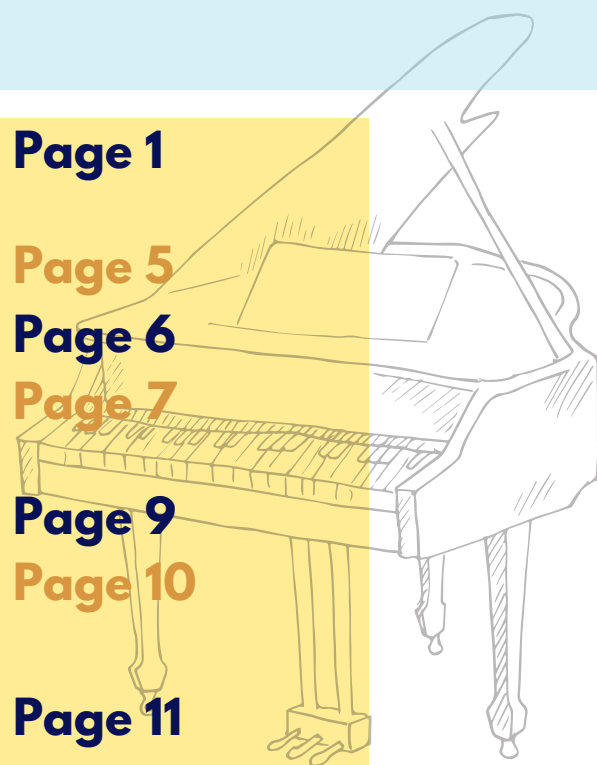
**Page 6**

**Page 7**

**Page 9**

**Page 10**

**Page 11**



# Student of the Year 2023: Reid Wilson



## Reid Wilson, Pianist

Chosen for his consistency and enthusiasm, Reid Wilson is Triad Music Academy's inaugural Student of the Year for 2023. Reid is a student of Founder & Lead Instructor, Alek Wasserman.

In his first full year of piano lessons, Reid:

- Performed in a Triad Music Academy Masterclass under Duke University Professor of the Practice, Ieva Jokubaviciute
- Completed Faber Accelerated Piano Adventures for the Older Beginner, Book 1
- Performed in two Triad Music Academy recitals

# Student of the Year 2023: Reid Wilson

Reid also worked heavily with Instructor Shannon Lindegren. Here's what his instructors had to say about his dedication to lifelong piano playing:



“Reid is the kind of student who inspires. His enthusiasm inspires other students to want to learn more. His determination inspires others to want to practice more. And his smile inspires us as teachers to continue spreading the absolute joy of playing the piano.” - TMA Instructor Shannon Lindegren

“Reid’s greatest strength is his commitment to playing the piano. He is always open to trying new ideas and using his intellect to guide his exploration of the instrument. Reid treats his learning like the journey that it is.”  
- TMA Founder & Lead Instructor  
Alek Wasserman





# Student of the Year 2023: Reid Wilson

**Q: What does it mean to you to be named Triad Music Academy's first-ever Student of the Year?**

**A:** I was surprised and honored to be named TMA student of the year. Being given this title will help motivate me to continue working hard and challenging myself to become a better pianist.

**Q: How long have you been playing the piano, and what is something you've learned that really stands out to you?**

**A:** I started playing the piano about a year ago. Since I started, I have learned so much more than I expected. I have learned everything from rhythm, note reading, dynamics, determining the correct beat, and so much more! Learning to incorporate all



of these things has improved my ability to play harder music.

**Q: What is your favorite aspect of playing the piano, and why?**

**A:** My favorite aspect of playing the piano is learning the music of familiar songs. I find it fun and rewarding to hear the pieces played in action.

# Student of the Year 2023: Reid Wilson



as it will improve my performance on how I play my music

**Q: What are your other interests and activities aside from playing the piano? Do you know what you want to do when you grow up?**

**A:** I am interested in other activities including Tennis as my main sport. I also have a passion for cooking and culinary experience. I practice Tennis and cooking whenever I can.

**Q: What is the biggest challenge you've overcome on your piano journey so far?**

**A:** The biggest challenge I have had so far is playing the correct rhythm on my pieces. I see that every piece has its own different type of rhythm that makes the piece sound different from the others. I continue to work on this challenge



# 2023 TMA Year In Review



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

**Triad Music Academy's first full year in operation was a smashing success! By the end of 2023, we will have accomplished the following:**

- **Five total studio recitals (four child and one adult)**
- **Three masterclasses with guest piano faculty from UNC School of the Arts, Duke University, and Winston-Salem State University**
- **Added five new piano instructors to our team: PG Hazard, Shannon Lindegren, Natalie Barela, Han Vu, and Austin Caldie**
- **Opened a second piano studio at [Piedmont Music Center](#)**
- **Grew our active student count from 33 to 84 (at time of writing). Students came from Forsyth, Davidson, Davie, Guilford, and Stokes Counties.**

**Most importantly, we've been fortunate to contribute to the Winston-Salem community by**

**promoting lifelong piano playing.**

**When I started TMA in April of 2022, I never imagined that we would be able to attain so much, so quickly. I knew that the City of Arts & Innovation was a great place to be a pianist, but there was no way for me to anticipate the level of passion and engagement that this community has provided us.**

**I would like to thank all of our students, parents, and teachers for their commitment to our lifelong piano playing idea.**

**Another huge thank-you goes to Piedmont Music Center and their owner, Chris Fulk, who have provided us with our musical home.**

**Here's to even more pianistic growth as we head into 2024!**

**Musically yours,**

**Alek Wasserman  
TMA Founder & Lead Instructor**

# Meet the TMA Family!



L to R: Lew Wasserman, Adam Tomcheck, Angel Perocho, LiLie Perocho, Alek Wasserman, Ian Wasserman, and Jean Kies

**On November 3rd, Triad Music Academy became a family-owned business! Founder & Lead Instructor Alek Wasserman married Angel Perocho at Temple Emanuel in Winston-Salem.**

**Angel is originally from the Philippines and works as a special education teacher for Lexington City Schools. She holds a Doctor of Education degree in Educational Management from Misamis University.**

**Her daughter, LiLie, joined the TMA family as a student this fall, taking lessons with Instructor PG Hazard. LiLie is a wonderfully gifted visual artist and hails originally from the Philippines, as well.**

**They were joined for nuptials by Alek's parents and two of his brothers, who came in from Wisconsin and Kentucky.**

**We are so happy to be growing and sharing our biggest moments with the Winston-Salem community!**



# New Piano Instructor Austin Caldie



## Austin Caldie

**MM in Piano Performance,  
Columbus State University  
BM in Piano Performance,  
UW - Eau Claire**

**We are excited and fortunate to welcome our newest Piano Instructor, Austin Caldie! A unique addition to the team, Austin's main professional focus is his work as a piano technician; in this capacity he provides TMA with the rare opportunity to teach our students about the inner workings of their instrument.**

**As the previous Head Technician of Piano Perfect in Waverly Hall, GA, Austin had the opportunity to tune, voice, and regulate pianos for the following institutions, among others:**

- Schwob School of Music
- Auburn University
- East Carolina University
- The Columbus Symphony
- RiverCenter Performing Arts Center

**Austin is equally skilled as a pianist and teacher, as well. In the interview process, he demonstrated a fierce commitment to artistry and keyboard technique.**



# New Piano Instructor Austin Caldie, cont.

Austin had this to say about his approach to piano teaching:

"Throughout my life, I have been guided by the principle that participating in the culture of classical music is one of the best things a person can do, not just for themselves, but for the entire world around them. I aim to transform each of my students into world-class pianists, but more importantly, I will encourage their positive holistic growth as citizens through the many lessons that music has to teach us.

Whether it's working on body mechanics with advanced adult pianists, or relaying technical knowledge of the instrument, I am honored to share my knowledge with the piano community of Winston-Salem through Triad Music Academy."

I am personally impressed by how well Austin's beliefs align with the rest of our teaching team.

Austin will specialize in teaching adult students, older children, and intermediate and advanced pianists for TMA.

If you are interested in taking piano lessons with Austin, please reach out to me directly at (336) 497-1136 or [alek@triadmusicacademy.com](mailto:alek@triadmusicacademy.com) to get started!

In addition, Triad Music Academy endorses Austin as our preferred piano technician! He will be offering discounted rates of \$175.00/piano tuning for TMA families, \$25.00 off from the usual ~~\$200.00~~ value!

To reach out to Austin for your discounted piano tuning, please email him at [austincaldie@gmail.com](mailto:austincaldie@gmail.com) and include your student's name and their teacher's name in the email.

\*\* All TMA instructors must pass State, Federal, and National Sex Offender Registry background checks.

-Alek Wasserman, TMA Founder & Lead Instructor

TMA

# Holiday Sale

Give the gift of music this, and all future holiday seasons with a new to you piano.

 **PIEDMONT**  
Music Center

336-724-9612  
[PIEDMONTMUSICCENTER.COM](http://PIEDMONTMUSICCENTER.COM)





# Myron Brown Masterclass Recap

On November 4th, four of our elementary-aged students performed in a masterclass taught by Myron Brown from Winston-Salem State University. Our pianists learned new practice techniques and musical ideas. Congrats to our lifelong piano learners on their commitment to their piano education journeys!



# Upcoming Events!

## **UPDATED: Wasserman Studio Fall Recital**

Saturday, Dec 9th @ 4:00 PM

[Piedmont Music Center](#)

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

## **UPDATED: Hazard & Lindegren Studios Fall Recital**

Saturday, Dec 9th @ 5:30 PM

[Piedmont Music Center](#)

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