

# SAMA Monthly

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## Student of the Month Dominic C.

Dominic C., a voice student of Scott Flanagan and guitar student of Jake Ramirez, is always prepared & works hard during each lesson. Improving constantly from hard work and dedication, Dominic has recently been accepted as a SAMA Elite member. You can see Dominic perform next at the Back-to-School recital, August 11th. Way to go, Dominic! Keep up the great work!



## REMINDERS:

### ► AUGUST 11TH

Back to School Recital  
**LOL Comedy Club**  
618 NW Loop 410 #312, San Antonio, TX 78216  
Call the studio to verify your recital performance time.

### ► AUGUST 12TH

We will be moving to **Braun Pointe** - 9910 West Loop  
1604 N Suite #103, San Antonio, TX 78254

### ► SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT:

Congratulations to SAMA violin student, Adrianna L.! Over the summer Adrianna has published her first book: *The Adventures of Hayden and Nikki: The Meeting*. For more information about the book or to find out how to order yours visit: [facebook.com/adrianna.m.lockhart](https://facebook.com/adrianna.m.lockhart)



## The Importance of Listening



When you think about practicing, what activities come to your mind? Perhaps you think of clapping out difficult rhythms, identifying hard to read notes, or playing with a metronome. Does

listening to music come to your mind? It should! Listening is an incredibly important and helpful part of practicing. Listening to the music you are learning will give you something to compare your sound to and will help you to know when you have done something correctly and when you have made a mistake.

If you learn songs out of a book that comes with an accompanying CD, make sure you use it! First, listen to the song enough times that you could hum or sing the tune by heart. Then, try playing the song yourself a few times. Once it feels comfortable, play the song along with your CD. If you sound out of tune or play an incorrect pitch, while the CD plays it

perfectly, you will definitely hear your mistake and be able to identify where it happened! This makes it much easier to go back and correct the mistakes. If your song or music book does not have an accompanying CD, try doing an internet search for a professional or an advanced student playing the same piece as you. Then follow the same steps.

You can also practice your listening skills during your lessons. Ask your instructor to play your song for you so you can hear how it should sound. As they play, think of adjectives that describe the way they sound. Was it smooth and gentle?

Aggressive? Energetic?

Whatever words you come up with, try to think of them as you play! Strive to make the song sound as close to your instructor's version as possible.

Practicing your listening skills and holding yourself to the high standards that you hear from professionals will help you become an even better musician and performer. Good luck!

-Bethany Raynes

