

SAMA MONTHLY

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Student of the Month - William C.
William is always prepared for lessons. No matter how busy he is with school and his many other duties, he always finds time to practice piano with an admirable discipline. He has an extremely positive attitude and is independent in finding new ways of overcoming obstacles, such as learning more demanding pieces and conquering the difficulty of performing in public. William is an exceptionally perseverant student who never gives up regardless of how difficult a task may be. In

recent months, William's discipline and positive attitude have helped him achieve an enormous improvement in his piano technique, sight reading abilities, and public performance skills. Great job, William!



---WELCOME---

Brooke Balbuena!

Brooke studied at the pre-college division at Eastman School of Music, earning the Eastman Preparatory Diploma in Piano with honors in 2000. From there she went on to earn a Bachelor of Music in piano from McGill University in Montreal. She then returned to Eastman School of Music in 2005 to pursue her Masters in Music Education. Brooke loves choral music and currently sings with the San Antonio Choral Society. She has also served in the United States Army for six years and has deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. She currently lives in San Antonio with her husband John, his daughter Molly, and their dog Nola.



INSTRUCTOR CORNER

Welcome to a new year, SAMA students and families! With a fresh start after the break, it's time to jump back into chasing your dreams and improving your talents and abilities. Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to take on the most terrifying beast, the most unpleasant monster of all: **PRACTICE!**

"Is that really it?" you might ask. "Are you seriously going to say the 'P' word again?" you exclaim in disbelief!

In a word, yes. The only thing standing between you and your musical performance dreams is a mountain of practice, spread out in small chunks of time over the next few weeks, months and years. Don't look too far ahead, however. It can really make it tempting to quit if you think of all the work ahead. Does anything really come for free or without hard work and determination? Sorry to say it, but no. Is it worth it? For those of you who love music, the answer comes back in a resounding "YES!"

I've said it before and I'll say it again...create incentives along the way. For example, did you finish all your practicing today? How about all week long? Did you practice on every practice day? If yes, give yourself or your music student a small prize.

"Isn't that cheating or something?" you ask. Not at all! Little rewards along the way will lead to success much better than having no rewards at all until you reach your goal.

Good luck, and happy practicing!

-Mark Campbell
Piano Instructor



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