



instructor corner

Mark Salazar, B.M., Guitar Instructor

Developing Good Habits

Whether you are starting to learn an instrument or already have years of practice under your belt, you should know the importance of good habits and a good space to improve focus. Having a goal to work towards could look like anything, from the time you set aside for practice to the space where you practice and what you practice. These are some habits that are known to give you motivation and foster consistency in your daily life as a musician.

When you are trying to establish a time, you should choose a time that works for you and strive to stay consistent with it. The reason for this is you want to teach yourself how to show up for your practice and dedicate your time to learning. It's closely related to studying any subject or even training for a sport. Give it a couple of weeks, and it becomes a habit; give it a couple of months, and it becomes an integral part of your life.

The next one is space - where do you practice? I've had a student tell me they practiced on the floor in their closet. Generally, you want to have a spot where you can focus and have fewer distractions. For example, if your chair is too high, the guitar can slip from your lap, or if you sit on the floor, you can develop poor posture while you perform. For guitar (depending on whether you use a guitar strap), you should use a chair along with a music stand and a metronome. This generally makes practicing more enjoyable because there are fewer distractions, and the learning process becomes smoother.

Lastly, you should have a solid idea of what to practice, or practice with a goal in mind. I've been guilty of forgetting what to work on when I get home. Does that sound familiar? This is something every student struggles with at the beginning of their music journey. It's usually a good

idea to keep a practice journal to track your progress, keep notes on what you and your teacher worked on, and organize assignments. I learned this from a former teacher, and it changed my practice routine during my time at the university. Learning to keep a practice journal is worth it because you will learn faster as you continue to improve and stay organized. Additionally, you get to see your milestones along the way and recognize how far you've come.

In conclusion, to stay organized, motivated, and consistent, you need a good space to practice, find a suitable practice time and stick with it, and practice with a goal in mind.

upcoming events



MAR
3

Student Appreciation Day
March 3rd
3-7pm



MAR
11-16

SAMA will be closed for
Spring Break



MAR
12

Student Bands performing at
Guitar SA Summerfest Fundraiser
@ Chicken N Pickle (5:30pm)



MAR
23

Jonathan Curtis's Birthday



MAR
25

Randy Naranjo's Birthday



MAR
25

Student bands performing at
Spurs Courtyard (5:30pm)



MAR
29

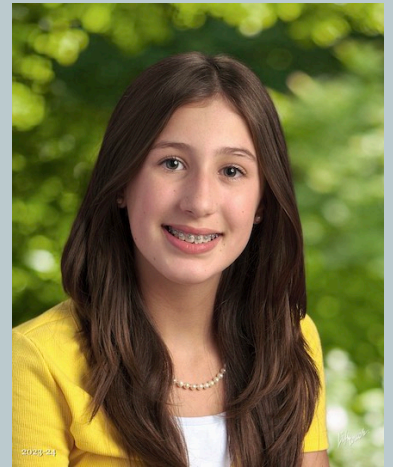
SAMA band "Intrepid"
performing at Teen Night at
the McNay (6pm)



student of the month

“ Rory R.

is an exemplary and model student. Through her determination she has made stunning progress over the years, going from her cautious first-ever recital performance and her newbie first musical theatre audition to having paid gigs and being a part of the Wonder Theatre's 'Premier' group of elite young performers. Rory is the confident captain of her own life and holds herself accountable for taking the steps necessary to continue to progress. On top of her musical and theatrical achievements, she's a hilarious happy-go-lucky character which makes her shine both on and off the stage.



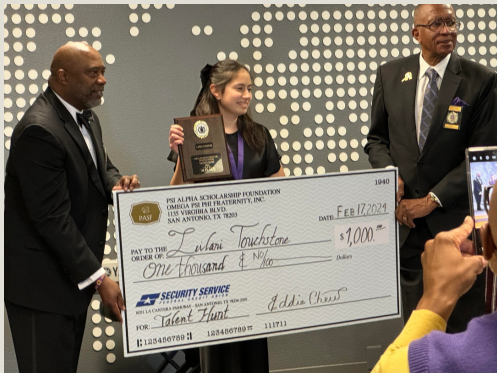
Khadijah Jabbar, B.M., Voice Instructor

STUDENT APPRECIATION DAY

MARCH 3
AT BRACKENRIDGE PARK

samusicacademy.com/studentday

Student Accomplishments



Congratulations to Leilani T, student of Maria Crystalia, for winning 1st place at the San Antonio Area Chapters of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity's Talent Hunt Competition!



Congratulations to Kyle Jacob E, student of Maria Crystalia, on placing 3rd at UTSA's Hodge Piano Competition!



Congratulations to Saydee R., Kyler B., Penelope M., Diya R., Delilah Z., Nyah B., and Liv R., students of Khadijah, for being cast in "Finding Nemo, Kids" at the Wonder Theatre.



Congratulations to SAMA voice instructor, Sarah Miga, on the birth of her daughter Georgiana!