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PRESTIGE Music Academy

MARCH
2025



March Monthly Newsletter



Meet Our Instructors

A Studio Update:

Welcome to our newest students!



Meet Alaina
Voice

Alaina is a voice instructor currently completing her last semester for her Bachelor's in Music at Arizona State University. She completed two years toward a Vocal Performance degree at Grand Canyon University, where she gained experience in piano, theory, sight reading, and conducting. She continues to expand those skills at ASU by performing in their Concert Choir. Alaina has extensive audition and performance experience, including groups such as the Arizona All State Honor Choir, the Arizona All State Jazz Honor Choir, and GCU's Critical Mass. She has also performed in musicals, including playing Ariel in The Little Mermaid. Alaina hopes to help students of all experience levels, from beginners to those wanting to perfect their sight reading skills for upcoming auditions.

Visit our website for a full list of instructors
www.prestigemusicacademy.com

HELLO PRESTIGE FAMILIES!

WE ARE OFFICIALLY IN MARCH, WHICH MEANS SPRING IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER AND IT IS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH!

IN THIS EDITION OF THE NEWSLETTER, WE WOULD LIKE TO HIGHLIGHT SOME OF THE AMAZING WOMEN WE HAVE HERE AT PRESTIGE. YOU'LL NOTICE ALL OF THE STUDENT AND STAFF SHOUTOUTS THIS MONTH ARE WOMEN!

In this Newsletter:

1. Staff Spotlight – Alaina
2. A Studio Update
3. Welcome New Students
4. Spotlight on Jennifer Leitch
5. March Student of the Month
6. Famous Women in Music History

- NEHEMIAH B.
CAEL D.
HADI F.
RAFAEL F.
FAITH F.
ALEXA F.
ELIANNA F.
JASON F.
ANGELLYN H.
RACHEL K.
ALDER M.
MICHAEL M.
LILY M.
CALEB M.
JOSHUA M.
DOUG P.
PRESTON P.
MADILYN P.
PIPER P.
LOLA R.
ARTHUR S.
STEPHEN S.
TRISTIN S.
KILLIAN S.
KASSIANI T.
NICHOLAS T.

TOP PRIVATE MUSIC LESSONS IN PHOENIX
[@prestigemusicacademy](https://www.prestigemusicacademy.com) | jleitch@prestigemusicacademy.com

**IN HONOR OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S MONTH,
PMA WOULD LIKE TO SPOTLIGHT ITS OWNER AND
SHINING LIGHT, JENNIFER LEITCH.**

JENNIFER, A WEST TEXAS NATIVE MOVED TO NORTHERN ARIZONA, WHERE SHE EARNED HER UNDERGRADUATE AND MASTERS DEGREES IN VOCAL PERFORMANCE. HER PASSION IS IN OPERA AND HAS PERFORMED IN VARIOUS OPERAS AND HAD THE HONOR OF PERFORMING OPENING CEREMONIES FOR THE DIAMONDBACKS. SHE USED HER GIVEN TALENTS TO TEACH OTHERS TO ACHIEVE THEIR VOCAL DREAMS. AFTER HER DAUGHTER, MAGGIE, WAS BORN, SHE TAUGHT PRIVATELY FROM HER HOME AND IN 2007 HAD A VISION OF OPENING A BUSINESS THAT WAS A ONE STOP PLACE FOR FAMILIES TO ENROLL IN MUSIC LESSONS, AND FROM THERE, PRESTIGE MUSIC ACADEMY WAS BORN!

STARTING OUT WAS A CHALLENGING ADVENTURE: FINDING A PLACE THAT WOULD LEASE TO A BUSINESS WITH NO EXPERIENCE, ACQUIRING THE NEEDED EQUIPMENT TO GET THE DOORS OPEN, HIRING VARIOUS DISCIPLINED INSTRUCTORS, AND FINDING WAYS TO MARKET OUR LESSONS. WE STARTED OUT WITH 6 PRIVATE STUDIOS AND HAVE SINCE EXPANDED TO 11. JENNIFER HAS DONATED AND CONTRIBUTED TO VARIOUS NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS AROUND TOWN. WE HAVE BEEN THROUGH A LOT IN 17 YEARS, BUT WE ARE STILL GOING STRONG.

**THANK YOU JENNIFER FOR YOUR WONDERFUL CONTRIBUTIONS
TO MUSIC AND TO ENRICHING THE LIVES OF FAMILIES ALL
OVER PHOENIX!**



**WOMEN'S
HISTORY
MONTH**

**Famous Women in Music
History**

- Have you ever wondered why pianists have to perform their recitals without music? You can thank a woman for that one! The first pianist to begin systematically performing memorized recitals was a woman by the name of **Clara Wieck-Schumann (1819-1896)**.
- As crazy as it may sound, in the 1800s piano was considered an acceptable instrument for a woman to play, but the violin was not. French violinist **Camilla Urso (1840-1902)** was the first female to be accepted into the Paris Conservatory and would later be the first woman to perform as a solo violinist in America.
- **Sister Rosetta Tharpe (1915-1973)** is known as being the first woman to perform with electric guitar, and is also widely considered "the Godmother of Rock n Roll."
- **Viola Smith (1912-2020)** was the first female drummer to gain popularity in the USA with a career that lasted a lifetime.

**Congratulations to Our February
Student of the Month:
Clara W!**

Clara is a piano student of Dan. She has been taking lessons at Prestige for over a year and is a Rock Star on the Musical Ladder.

"Clara is an excellent reader! She shows up well-practiced, and is now playing her pieces from memory."

Teachers: Don't forget to make your student of the month nominations. Check your email for the nomination form!

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