

Dear Parents, Teachers & Students,

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Dana Benner and I am excited to be returning as the professional photographer for the upcoming 2026 Crescendo International Music Competitions and Crescendo Little Mozarts Competitions at Carnegie Hall. I will be photographing each student during their live performance onstage, and a photo package will be available for purchase.

To place an order:

1. Print out the photo order form attached here and also available on the Crescendo website under Recitals/Photo Order Form: <https://crescendocompetition.org/>
2. Fill out **ALL** your information. Remember to check the **TEXT or NO TEXT** box for your photo package. Please note all photos are printed according to your TEXT/NO TEXT selection. Photo packages cannot be split half with text and half with no text. TEXT is printed on the Upper Right Side of all photos. Please review sample photo on the Photo Order Form.
3. Mail your order form and payment prior to your student's recital date. Please read carefully and follow the detailed instructions on the order form. If you are placing an order from outside the United States, please email me at: portraitsbydana@hotmail.com for payment options and shipping fees.
4. Orders received **30 days** after your student's recital date will incur a **\$15 Late Retrieval Fee**.

IMPORTANT TO NOTE:

Photography services for the 2026 Crescendo recitals will be provided at the Carnegie Hall venue. Carnegie Hall does not permit any images to be captured or recorded (stills or video) in the Recital Halls, except by the Crescendo Music Competition appointed Still Photographer (Dana Benner). Only the appointed professional photographer is allowed by Carnegie Hall to take still photography of the students. Video recording of any kind within the venue by the appointed photographer or the audience is strictly prohibited. The Still Photographer (Dana Benner) is not permitted by Carnegie Hall to accept orders within the venue on the day of the performance.

Photos are taken from the rear of Weill Hall and Zankel Hall (one photo/ one angle only as per Carnegie Hall regulations) Therefore it is very important to **COMPLETELY PULL BACK LONG HAIR & BANGS** away from face so optimal image can be taken. All photos are taken in profile, **RIGHT SIDE** of face needs to be visible. **NO REFUNDS** are given. Please review the sample photo on the Photo Order Form.

If **NO** announcer is present at your child's recital, I may need your help in identifying your child so you receive the correct photo package. If this is the case, I will email you after the recital date to review an attached contact sheet. You will need to email back your child's name and the file number that corresponds with their image. The file number appears underneath the image. Images on the contact sheet are quickly selected for reference purposes only. Images of your child are **NOT SHARED** in any other way.

NO proofs are provided. I carefully review all images and use my professional judgement in selecting the **BEST** image for package printing.

Students playing instruments other than the piano or students who are singing, please stand in the **MIDDLE** of the stage and face **OUT TOWARDS** the audience for the best subject lighting. Students standing far to either side of the piano fall into deep shadows. Students **playing in a DUET**, please have the smaller student sit on the piano bench closest to the front of the stage. If this is not possible, make sure the piano benches are at slightly different distances from the piano, not directly side by side so the

photographer can see both students' faces. Students **performing Trios/Quartet** please do not stand in front of your fellow musicians. If a student is performing with a music stand, make sure it is not directly in front of their face, especially when sitting. The photographer needs to have a clear view of all students performing onstage to capture optimal images of everyone.

Parents, family, and friends of students, if at all possible, please **DO NOT SIT** in the two center seats (black chairs) of the front row in Weill Hall. These two seats are 6 inches higher than the other seats and it does obstruct the view for optimal images for the photographer. Please note as hard as I try not to get audience heads in your photo, sometimes it is impossible to do if there are patrons sitting in the front row of the recital hall. Therefore, please be aware that audience heads may appear across the bottom of your final photo package. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

If you have not placed your photo order prior to your student's recital date, it is okay. I will photograph all of the students during the Crescendo recitals. Not to worry, your child's image will be taken. Photo orders are preferred prior to your recital date; however, orders are accepted afterwards. Orders placed and received **30 days** after your recital date will incur a **\$15 Late Retrieval Fee**.

As the photographer, I know everyone is excited to see your students' photo from their special day. Please allow **6-8 weeks** to receive your photo package in the mail. An email will be sent once your completed photo package is mailed. All photo packages mailed within the USA are sent USPS First Class/ No Tracking. Photo packages mailed outside the USA are sent USPS First Class with Customs Tracking only.

I look forward to capturing your student's special moment in photos. Congratulations and I will see everyone at Carnegie Hall!

Sincerely,
Dana Benner/ Crescendo Competitions Photographer
portraitsbydana@hotmail.com