MTNA
MUSIC TEACHERS NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

Meet the Entrepreneur: Anna Fagan
MTNA Business Digest
Volume 4, Issue 4
July 2025



Combining Two Passions—Teaching and Travel

Hi! I'm Anna Fagan, and five years ago I had been teaching both private and group lessons in my home for a little over 30 years. And then, as all of you remember, COVID happened, and if you wanted to continue teaching, you went online. So, I did—and I discovered that I really enjoyed the online teaching.

As 2020 came to an end, my husband was laid off from his job at Disney, and we decided to go ahead and kind of fast-forward some plans that we had: to move out of our 2,400-square-foot, four-bedroom home—into this motorhome! We got rid of all of our stuff. We gave it away, sold it, and we have just a 10x10 storage unit. This has been our home now for the last four years! Come on in, and I'll let you have a peek at my piano studio.

Initially, my teaching space was a set of bunkbeds with a few drawers underneath. My very handy and creative husband removed all of that, which created the perfect space for my Clavinova CSP-150 digital piano, and all the other things that I had been using to teach online from our home.

There are really just four things that any teacher **and** their student need to begin teaching online: a piano or keyboard, a device with a camera and a good microphone so you can connect with each other, basic working knowledge of a platform like Zoom, and good internet service. Everything else that you see here in this photo is "icing on the cake!"
For me, some of those extras that make my teaching more comfortable are:

- A large external monitor, to see things like Vivid Practice (how I share lesson notes, videos, etc., with my students); SproutBeat for music theory games and worksheets; the Piano Adventures Teacher Atlas; and many other online resources
- An iPad, with the forScore app so I can share a score with my student and mark it up with an Apple pencil during the lesson
- An Audio Technica BPHS1 headset, for crystal clear audio
- Two Logitech Webcams, so I can share overhead and side views of my hands on my digital keyboard

- An M-Track Duo Audio Interface, to connect my headset and my Clavinova to my MacBook Pro
- A Logitech MX Bluetooth Keyboard and an Apple Magic Trackpad

Of course, internet service is a major concern, as my husband also works remotely. We have hotspots from Verizon, AT&T, and T-Mobile, as well as Starlink Satellite Internet. When we arrive at a new location, I go online and check speeds with each of these (using Speedtest.net) to see who will provide us with the best service. For teaching, I look to have download and upload speeds of at least 10 Mbps.

Currently, I teach Monday through Thursday and have 25–30 students all over the country. I keep my schedule in Eastern time, which means that, for instance, the student that I teach at 8:15 P.M. when I'm in Florida becomes a 5:15 P.M. lesson when we are living in Pacific time! Yes, it's a little confusing for me at times…but all part of the adventure. I host two or three online recitals each year, with both live performances and videos recorded from students.

As far as RV living, my husband does all the driving, and I do all of the trip planning. We move locations about every two to three weeks, which gives us one or two full weekends to explore the area we are in. Of course, we each take a few full weeks off each year to really enjoy some special places around the country. I plan our travel days to be no more than 3 ½ hours of actual driving time. Over the last four years, we've stayed at vineyards, working farms, an alpaca ranch, museums, churches, and occasionally a Cracker Barrel parking lot, in addition to traditional campgrounds and RV Resorts.

Our motorhome has most of the same conveniences of a traditional house. The kitchen is small, but has a full-sized refrigerator and freezer, an induction cooktop, Ninja Flip oven and convection microwave, and coffee makers. We have two full bathrooms with a washer/dryer, and a queen-sized bed. Three televisions inside, and one outside. Our cat Cinder travels with us and seems pretty happy with RV life…except on travel days when she hides under the bed. We flat-tow a Kia Soul.

My husband and I knew nothing about living and traveling full time in an RV before setting out on this adventure, but we have found YouTube videos as well as real-life experience to be excellent teachers.

If you have additional questions about how to combine teaching online and traveling in an RV, I invite you to connect with me through my Instagram account (@rvpianoteacher), or email (anna_fagan@hotmail.com). I really love meeting with teachers as we travel, so please let me know if we will be somewhere near you!

BONUS VIDEO: Click here for an additional video where Anna demonstrates a few things she does in a typical online lesson.