

FACTOID #1

Thomas was born in the Philippines where during pregnancy his mother constantly played music, sang karaoke, and other family members played guitars and keyboards. Thomas began reading, spelling and memorizing things very young. By the age of 2 he had the flags and countries of the world memorized, along with the 50 US States, all Japanese prefectures, etc. He was always good at remembering details. By the age of 3 he was reading/writing English and by 4 he was reading/writing Japanese. He always had a fascination with books and learning. We got him physically active with tennis, golf and baseball as a 3 year old and after going to the Japanese school he was able to jump rope like a boxer by the age of 4. At 5 we enrolled him in piano lessons and he excelled. After coming to the US in 2018, his spelling abilities surfaced when he won his school spelling bee, the county spelling bee and took 10th place at his first Arkansas State spelling bee in 2019. He cried a little after losing but vowed he was going to win it the next year. The next year he won both school and county bees again, and this time he won the Arkansas State Spelling Bee in Feb 2020 just like he said he would. On Feb 19, 2020 Thomas was interviewed live on KARK 4 and FOX 16 for winning the Arkansas State Spelling Bee. He also met Governor Asa Hutchinson, had pictures taken with him and then toured the capitol building. He went on to memorize the Periodic Table of Elements, developed an interest in playing chess, likes puzzles of all types, along with an interest in MineCraft and Roblox video games. He has a fascination with designing amusement parks and really likes Silver Dollar City in Branson, MO.

FACTOID #2

Thomas is an accomplished pianist having started lessons at 5 years old in Japan and which he continues to this day. He always had an interest in music and performing. He began singing before he could talk. He's been told he has a "perfect pitch" ear. He has been performing for live audiences for years. In the Philippines at the age of 7 he performed solo in a couple large local shopping malls. His repertoire includes Classical for the most part but he enjoys all kinds of music from the 60's to current Pop songs. Along with winning piano competitions at University of Central Arkansas in 2019, 2020, and 2021, Thomas has been performed solo recitals at Good Samaritan and Mount Carmel Senior Centers, the West Shores Senior Center in Hot Springs, Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, and Christ of the Hills United Methodist Church all in Hot Springs Village, Rockefeller Cancer Institute at UAMS, Westover Hills Presbyterian Church in LR, HSMC Honors Recitals, The Muses Theater, and Westminster Presbyterian Church in Hot Springs where his piano teacher, Kristen LaMadrid, is the Musical Director.