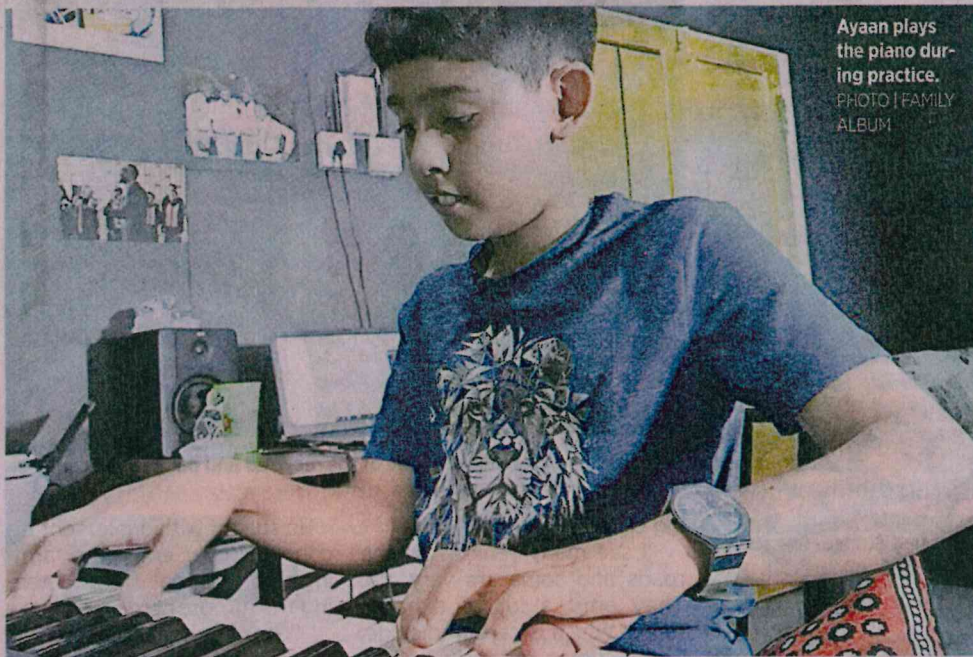


Feature



Passion: Ayaan hopes to inspire the world through his music



Ayaan plays the piano during practice.
PHOTO | FAMILY ALBUM

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Ayaan Allarakhia, 12, tries to jog his memory on when he first learnt that he had a special gift of music. "It all started at home. When I was around four years old, I began playing randomly, just pressing keys on this small piano which had been a birthday gift. Although it did not come out perfectly, I knew at that very moment that I had interest in music," he narrates.

Ayaan, a pupil at Aga Khan Academy Mombasa, continued to practise consistently, getting better by the day. With time, he started composing his own songs.

His teacher, Mr Philip Mbinji was quick to notice Ayaan's gift and he decided to help him nurture his music skills.

In 2017, Ayaan took part in the Kenya Music Festival for schools where he not only

reached nationals but also emerged winner in the Under-14 category.

Today, Ayaan has written and recorded very many songs which he shares with his fans on his YouTube Channel.

Does he struggle with finding the write lyrics to write a song?

"I write songs based on the way I feel and the things that are happening around the world and how I can change them. I draft my ideas and think of ways that I can make them better. I also consult my teacher," says Ayaan.

One of his most memorable performances was when he sung on stage during the school's third TEDx event. He got an opportunity to sing on stage with backup singers.

"It felt good to be on stage. I had seen other musicians perform during TEDx events and wished to be there like them. That day, my dream came true," he recounts.

He performed a self-composed song title, "I take a vow."

"I take a vow is a song about speaking for the voiceless. The message is mainly on human rights especially children rights," Ayaan explains.

Recently, he sang a jingle for Supa Loaf bread company and it got aired on radio!

According to Ayaan, music helps him relax. Playing piano makes him feel proud of himself and boosts his confidence. This, he says, has also helped him improve on his academic performance.

He is grateful to his parents who have encouraged him both in his studies and in music.

"I am thankful for my parents. They have always supported me whether I need materials for my studies or for my music," says Ayaan.

He hopes to be a musician in future and inspire young people to express themselves through singing.