

Christy Sawyer Private Piano



When I was six, my mom made me take piano. I did not like it and begged to quit. After finishing the three months of lessons my mom required, I was allowed to quit. A year later I found myself pining to play the piano. To my great joy, my mom and dad said yes, and they again enrolled me in private lessons. My studies were classical, theory and the very beginnings of Boogie Woogie – to my Classical teacher’s chagrin! I had many happy years of learning and growing musically.

After graduation from high school, I traveled from California to Oklahoma, where I attended undergraduate college, majored in Psychology and minored in Music Technology. There I had the privilege of taking private piano to learn improvisation, lead sheets and some jazz.

I had a wonderful three years under this tutelage.

By this time I had bought a beautiful Arabian horse (always being horse crazy). I packed up my horse and we traveled East to The University of Kentucky where I obtained a Masters Degree in Clinical Social Work. As an internship I played piano as therapy for the patients at a large state Psychiatric Hospital. Some of the Psychiatrists and Nurses brought out their fiddles, and bongo’s and we had a regular jam session in the patient group area! Some of the patients who were previously unable to force a smile got up and danced!

Upon my 1997 return to California, I worked as a Social Worker running music groups as well as didactic groups for the patients. During this time, I started teaching piano part time and played in several wonderful church bands with the most extraordinary musicians. I also had a little home studio and burned my own CDs.

I love teaching piano. The students become “My kids” and we all work together for recitals and other performances. It brings my heart joy to help students of all ages create music and express themselves doing so. I believe all styles are significant. A student can explore different types of music and even create their own style. I teach classical, boogie-woogie, improvisation, lead sheets, and theory. I look forward to helping you on your musical journey!

