

Tabitha Czapla Kaminski

Objective

To inspire students to have a love and appreciation for music and playing the piano and to help students achieve their musical goals and become independent learners, confident performers, and successful musicians

Education

- 9/91-6/95 Honor student at Covenant Academy in Tonawanda, NY
- 9/95-6/03 Home-schooled under Western New York's Teaching Parents L.E.A.H. (Loving Education At Home) in Amherst, NY; special studies in piano, music theory, composition, art and literature
- 8/03-12/03 Studied piano under the instruction of Dr. Judy Lively at Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, AZ
- 1/04-12/04 Studied piano under the instruction of Dr. Andrea Fennig at Paradise Valley Community College in Phoenix, AZ
- 1/05-5/05 Studied piano under the instruction of Dr. Walter Cosand at Arizona State University; received associates' degree
- 7/06-9/07 Studied piano and theory privately under the instruction of Ashley Bradford at Master's Music Academy in Mesa, AZ
- 10/08 Became a Nationally Certified Teacher of Music (NCTM) through the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA).
- 8/08-5/11 Took various music classes at Mesa Community College in Mesa, AZ and studied private piano with Professor Ruth Yandell for one semester
- 1/11-5/13 Obtained Bachelor of Arts Degree in Piano Performance at Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, Arizona, under the instruction of Dr. Juan Hernandez

Educational Achievements

- 9/91-6/95 Received the Headmaster's Academic Excellence Award for maintaining straight A's for four consecutive years at Covenant Academy in Tonawanda, NY
- 9/95-6/02 Awarded numerous Academic Achievement Awards while home schooling for accomplishments in English, science, history, spelling, reading and writing

2/98 Won a 1st place award in Public Speaking at the Instructive Competition Convention in Clarence, NY

Music Awards, Recitals, and Competitions

3/94-3/02 Achieved a Superior rating 9 consecutive years in the Junior Festival, sponsored by the National Federation of Music Clubs in Buffalo and Rochester, NY, and performed in 5 Honors Recitals held in the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library Auditorium

5/96-5/99 Performed at many L.E.A.H. Home School talent shows and functions in Buffalo, NY

12/96-12/02 Gave numerous concerts in many nursing homes and retirement residences, including Weinberg Campus, Schofield Residence, Blocher Homes, Brompton Heights, Beechwood Resident Home, Amberleigh, and Wedgewood, all located throughout Western NY

2/98 & 3/99 Won Best of Show in General Music Division; won 1st place in piano solo, Instructive Competition in Clarence, NY

1/98-3/00 Performed in numerous Student Recitals held at Baird Hall, University of Buffalo in Buffalo, NY

12/98, 12/01 Invited to perform at The Episcopal Church of the Messiah's Christmas Eve service in Norfolk, Virginia

6/98 Special guest performer at Judith Karmi's Studio of Amherst's Annual Piano Recital, Daemon College in Amherst, NY

8/98 Was a special guest on Tri-State Christian Television's live show "Celebrate" in Clarence, NY, where she gave her testimony and performed an original piano composition; also performed at Ransom Creek Music Festival in Clarence, NY

12/98 Performed in the Amherst School of Music's Christmas Recital at St. Mary's of the Angels

3/99 Was chosen for an Honors Recital at the Burchfield-Penney Art Center at Buffalo State College in Buffalo, NY (Music Teachers Association District 10, NYSMTA)

6/99 Gave a piano concert at the Jewish Center in Buffalo, NY, and was also a special guest performer at Salem Church in Tonawanda, NY

7/99 Received a AAA rating in an adjudication, and was awarded 2nd place in a private competition for the American Guild of Music National Convention & Concert

5/00	Competed in the Kiwanis Music and Dance Festival of Niagara Falls; was awarded 2nd and 3rd place in two categories
7/00	Was awarded a partial scholarship to attend Eastman School of Music Community Education Division in Rochester, NY
2/01	Was accepted into The Chromatic Club of Buffalo in Buffalo, NY
12/00-6/01	Performed in various recitals in Howard Hanson Hall and Kilbourn Hall at The Eastman School of Music Community Education Division
7/00-6/01	Maintained a 4.0 grade average in piano, music performance, and theory while attending Eastman School of Music
5/01	Was awarded the Certificate of Merit in recognition of outstanding achievement in the Preparatory Music Department at The Eastman School of Music
6/01	Competed in the Junior All-Star Competition in Rochester, NY and was awarded 2nd place in the Advanced Division
11/01	Performed in an informal recital at Christ Clarion Presbyterian Church in Rochester, NY
01-03	Transferred to Nazareth College's Preparatory Music Department to continue studying with current teacher

Additional Awards

Tabitha has won various art contests throughout Western NY, including several local area businesses and the Buffalo News. She has also participated in the Pentel of America art contest, which is judged in Tokyo, Japan. Throughout a period of 5 years, she was awarded a Gold Medal, two Bronze Medals, and the Pentel Award in this contest.

Work Experience

- Assistant art teacher at Covenant Academy in Tonawanda, NY
- Assistant art teacher at Daniel's School of Art in Amherst, NY
- Employee at Holcomb's Know Place, a teacher supply store located in Amherst, NY,
- Private piano instructor in Amherst, NY
- Private piano instructor in Gilbert, AZ, where she taught private piano in her home studio and in students' homes throughout the East Valley
- Played keyboard for the youth and college group bands at Scottsdale First Assembly, Dream Center
- Taught piano lessons through Dream School of the Arts, located at Scottsdale First Assembly in Scottsdale, AZ
- Played keyboard for various worship bands at Living Word Bible Church in Mesa, AZ

- Led worship with her husband at The Spiritual Freedom Church in Scottsdale, AZ
- Has accompanied and lead worship at various churches throughout the East Valley
- Piano Instructor at Experience Arts School in Mesa, AZ, where she taught group and private piano lessons, as well as theory and music history
- Served as an accompanist for various musical theatre classes at Experience Arts School
- Piano instructor at Master's Music Academy in Mesa, AZ, where she taught private lessons and group theory and performance master classes

In 2006, Tabitha and her husband, Mike, founded KaminsKEYS Piano Studio in Gilbert, AZ, where Tabitha has taught over 60 students throughout the past 5 years.

In October of 2008, Tabitha became a Nationally Certified Teacher of Music (NCTM) through the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA).

In the spring of 2011, Tabitha and her husband, Mike, launched East Valley School of Music, networking with other teachers to offer private piano, guitar, bass, and voice instruction. Tabitha is currently the secretary and events coordinator of East Valley School of Music, as well as the primary piano instructor for intermediate and advanced students.

Professional Memberships

- Music Teacher's National Association
- Arizona Music Teacher's Association
- East Valley Music Teacher's Association

References

Dr. Gary R. Fisher, Nazareth College,
Rochester, NY (585) 889-5313

Dr. Judy Lively, Grand Canyon University,
Phoenix, AZ (602) 249-3300

Dr. Andrea Fennig, Paradise Valley Community College,
Phoenix, AZ (602) 252-5034

Joani Castillo, Experience Arts School,
Mesa, AZ (480) 464-3967

Ashley Bradford, Master's Music Academy,
Mesa, AZ (480) 641-9654