

A Brief Conversation with Bonnie Gritton

Concert pianist Bonnie Gritton took time away from her busy teaching and performance schedule to answer our questions about her life as a professional musician.

Dr. Gritton has been a full-time tenured faculty member at the University of Utah for many years. In 2005, she reduced her load to half-time (Adjunct Professor) to be able to have more time for teaching and performing.

Dr. Gritton will be performing in the Aloha International Piano Festival finale concert, “Witches, Wizards and Wonders” on Saturday, June 13 at 7:30 p.m.

What inspired you to become a musician?

I begged my Mother to teach me piano when I was four. The rest is history!

What keeps you inspired on discouraging days?

I get discouraged about many things in life but music always cheers me up.

What is the most memorable performance you have ever seen and why?

Murray Perahia. He plays with such understanding and heart. It was the most moving performance I've ever heard.

If you could perform with any musician, living or dead, who would it be?

Renée Fleming or Dawn Upshaw.

If you could master another instrument, what would it be?

Cello or voice.

If you could not be a musician, what other profession would you choose?

I'd be a designer (interior or clothing).

What do you listen to for inspiration?

I get my inspiration from quiet moments. I hear music sometimes 14 hours a day. Having a few moments of absolute silence is wonderful.