

A Conversation with Norman Krieger

During a break from his touring schedule, acclaimed pianist Norman Krieger answered the Aloha Piano Festival's questions about life as a musician. A native of Los Angeles, Mr. Krieger is one of the most celebrated pianists of his generation, highly regarded as an artist of depth, sensitivity and virtuosic flair.

What inspired you to become a musician?

When I was 5 years old my grandmother inspired me to study the piano. In short, I had to study or I could not play outside with my friends.

What keeps you inspired on discouraging days?

The challenge of giving life to the music from every possible aspect. Being totally prepared to perform.

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

There are too many memorable performances to choose from, but one I shall never forget is my teacher Alfred Brendel performing Beethoven's Op. 111 at Carnegie Hall in 1977. It transcended anything I had ever heard up to that point in my life. (Editor's note: Beethoven's Op. 111 is his Piano Sonata No. 32 in C minor, the last of Beethoven's piano sonatas.)

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

Beethoven

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

The Cello. I would give anything to make a crescendo on one note!

What do you listen to for inspiration?

At this stage of my life I find total silence a great source of inspiration. After silence, the sounds of nature, birds, the wind and the evening sky make me long for music.