

A Brief Conversation with Susan Duehlmeier

Concert pianist Susan Duehlmeier recently took time away from her busy teaching schedule at the University of Utah to answer our questions about life as a professional musician. Dr. Duehlmeier is Professor, Piano Area Chair at the University and has a rigorous recital and concert schedule.

In addition to her university teaching, she maintains a class of private students who have won prizes in all major statewide competitions, as well as national and international competitions. She also co-chairs the SummerArts Piano Festival and Competition, which provides performance and educational opportunities for pianists in Utah.

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

What inspired you to become a musician?

I had a mother who had always wanted to be a pianist but didn't have the opportunity to study. Because she provided me the opportunity and because of her passion for music, it became an important part of my life. I had many opportunities to perform and had such inspiring teachers, I wanted to pursue a career as a performer and teacher.

What keeps you inspired on discouraging days?

Gratitude for the beauty and inspiration that music has brought into my life and the amazing opportunity to perform with friends whom I admire. Observing the progress of students and the joy music has brought to them is also an inspiration.

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

Garrick Ohlssen's Chopin recital at Libby Hall was a highlight. His imagination and beautiful sound transformed the music.

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

My duo-piano partner, Bonnie Gritton. It is a joy to perform with her.

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

Trumpet or bagpipes.

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

Physician.

What do you listen to for inspiration?

I attend as many "live" performances as possible.