



SOUTHERN UTAH UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF PERFORMING & VISUAL ARTS
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SUU'S DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC TO OFFER SCHOOL-AGE YOUNGSTERS FREE PIANO INSTRUCTION

Southern Utah University, Cedar City, Utah: The magic of music has an enormous impact on the imaginations of young minds. The creator of SUU's highly successful "Piano Monster Concert" series, Dr. Christian Bohnenstengel, Assistant Professor of Music, offers parents the unique opportunity of having their elementary-school age children receive free piano instruction. The classes will be taught by SUU students in Dr. Bohnenstengel's Piano Pedagogy program.

Dr. Bohnenstengel is seeking elementary schools students interested in learning to play piano. Each participating student will receive ten free 30-minute lessons taught by SUU music students who will offer youngsters a practical application to beginning concepts and keyboard techniques. The SUU students gain invaluable educational experience while the youngsters discover the fundamentals of piano. Classes will be taught in SUU's Music Building and will begin in September, scheduled for after school.

Requirements are that off-campus, a child has access to a piano (either acoustic or electric) for practicing at home between lessons. Parents will be responsible for their child's transportation to and from SUU, and the cost of the required method book (\$10-\$20). Parents are welcome to observe the lessons. It will be necessary for the child to attend all lessons to ensure the best learning experience for both the child and the instructor. If interested in having your child participate, please contact Dr. Bohnenstengel at either 435-586-1935 or bohnstengel@suu.edu.

Having worked with many area students through the annual "Piano Monster Concert," Dr. Bohnenstengel has watched youngsters in the community enjoy the experience of performing onstage and wishes to offer the opportunity to more children. As of the caliber of Piano Pedagogy students and this new program, Dr. Bohnenstengel states, "I hold my students to the highest degree of professionalism. I will periodically observe the lessons and offer feedback and suggestions."

Christian Bohnenstengel feels equally at home in a wide range of musical genres. He was recently featured as soloist and conductor in Mozart's *Concerto in F Major for Three Pianos*, as musical director and pianist in the musical *Bat Boy* and as arranger and continuo player in a concert version of Jean-Baptiste Lully's *Phaëton*. His avid interest in jazz music has led to collaborations with saxophone player Tom Herb and German trumpet player Christian Eberhard. Praised as "...a master of contrasts..." (Aalener Nachrichten) and for his ability to "...put the audience into a state of sheer awe..." (Gmünder Tagespost), Christian has concertized on three continents, including recitals with flutists John Bailey and Javier Montilla in Venezuela and various solo and chamber music performances at the annual Sommernachtsmusik in Möggingen, Germany.

Christian received his Bachelor of Arts degree, *summa cum laude*, in piano performance from Missouri Western State University. He received Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. His teachers included Jerry Anderson and Mark Clinton, piano, and Quentin Faulkner, harpsichord and organ. He received UNL Hixson-Lied travel grants to study and perform at the Ameropa Chamber Music Festival in Prague and to study with Christoph Lieske at the Internationale Sommerakademie Mozarteum in Salzburg. He also studied in master class settings with Rita Sloan, Blanca Uribe, Ann Schein, and Murray Perahia, among others. Christian is currently teaching at Southern Utah University and is the creator of the "Piano Monster Concert" series. He previously taught at UNL and Doane College.

ABOUT THE COLLEGE

Southern Utah University's College of Performing and Visual Arts is home to nationally-accredited departments of Art and Design, Music, Theatre Arts, and Dance. The College offers 17 degrees, including liberal arts Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science, professional Bachelor of Music, Bachelor of Fine Arts in art and theatre, and Arts Administration Master of Arts and Master of Fine Arts. It houses the Center for Shakespeare Studies, which offers a degree minor. More than 60 full- and part-time faculty and staff teach and mentor over 550 arts majors. Over 1100 students enroll each year in more than 195 arts classes. The College presents 100 performances, lectures, presentations, and exhibitions annually. Its affiliate organizations include the Braithwaite Fine Arts Gallery, Utah Shakespeare Festival, and the SUU Ballroom Dance Company. For more information about the College of Performing and Visual Arts, contact the Office of the Dean (435) 865-8561, or by e-mail at cpvamktg@suu.edu.