

Meet the Musicians

Betsy Hines, Piano



Q: What instrument do you play?

A: I play the piano, keyboard, and celeste.

Q: When and how did you get started in music?

A: Most of my Burleson aunts and uncles could play "Maple Leaf Rag" on the piano. I couldn't resist picking out melodies by ear, which I started when I was about two years old. My first lessons were in Lubbock, Texas with Mrs. Cecile C. Meskimen, when I was seven years old.

Q: When did you begin playing with the SOST?

A: My first performances were with Mr. Arnold Whedbee and Maestro Edvard Fendler. At that time, we were called the Beaumont Symphony Orchestra.

Q: Educational Background?

A: I hold the Bachelor of Music degree in piano pedagogy from the University of Texas.

My principal teachers there were Emmett Vokes and Rita Pisk; my principal master classes were with Jean

Casadesus. My Master of Music degree in applied piano is also from the University of Texas, as a student of William Doppman. Finally, I hold the Doctor of Education degree from the University of Houston, with specialty in curriculum and instruction.

Q: Who has been your greatest influence in music?

A: Certainly all the choir directors that I've accompanied, all of my various piano teachers, and Broadway and television producer/director Charles R. Meeker.

I'd say the most influential was Dr. Morris Beachy, University of Texas. At the piano, I was influenced by the playing of Rudolf

Serkin, Rubenstein, and Peter Nero.

Q: What is your "day job?"

A: I've recently retired from the Mary Morgan Moore Department of Music at Lamar University. My day job now is to play my Steinway as much as I want.

Q: Hobbies or activities outside of SOST?

A: I enjoy gardening, reading, and traveling.

Q: Favorite music?

A: My favorite music depends on the day and the weather. I love to play Mozart and Beethoven. I enjoy listening to David Benoit. I especially like performing excellent pop charts with our orchestra.