

MUSIC IS PART OF ME

Carlanne Herzog - March 2024

The donor, Carlanne Herzog, has chosen to commemorate her gift by writing the legacy statement below.

At this point in my life, to travel back to my childhood encompasses many years of living. It was in Colorado Springs where I completed high school and having determined that I wanted to become a high school teacher, I applied to several colleges with a strong record for training future educators. I was an advanced seamstress and a musician with many years of piano skill and education behind me.

My experience at UNC was one of expanding vistas in what would be possible for me. Music continued to play a role in my coursework with piano lessons and regular hours of practice. I clearly remember humming ascending and descending chords while walking across campus to one or another music theory class.

My high school teaching career was at Aurora Central in the Home Economics Department. As a teacher on a tightly budgeted salary, I was not able to afford a piano. However, after a few years of serious and determined saving, I purchased a spinet piano for my apartment and started to play again. I was thrilled to learn that my fingers had “memory” and it wasn’t too many months before I could play again with fluidity and true enjoyment.

After finishing a Master's degree at UNC in 1972, I married and with my petroleum engineer husband, we headed overseas to No. Africa. And YES, my piano was in the shipment! In setting the scene for you, we were living in a 1 sq. mile-wide encampment of the Sahara Desert on the Mediterranean coast with negligible resources and few available goods. My piano teaching “career” didn’t take long to get started when a friend asked if I’d teach her children to play piano! Within two weeks, I had 12 students. I found I enjoyed helping children learn about the piano and they were so thrilled when they could play even a simple tune!

Upon leaving Libya, my spinet piano was purchased by a grateful expatriate. In Corpus Christi, TX., my husband purchased a Yamaha Baby Grand for me. It was only a year until we were transferred to London. I found a piano teacher who really put me through my paces with expanding my repertoire. She introduced me to ragtime and improvisation. I had an opportunity to accompany an orchestra in rehearsal for a pre-London musical show. It seemed my piano had become what I call a “skill” in my suitcase.

We also lived in Norway, where I taught and took piano lessons. I became church pianist there. After living in Houston for several years (and continuing with my piano teaching there), we decided to retire to Vermont. My pianistic horizon expanded once again when I became part of a trio with a cellist and violist to join in for 5 years at the Lake Placid Chamber Music seminar summer sessions.

In looking back over the decades of my life, how grateful I am that I had such a solid grounding in music theory and an excellent piano Professor at UNC. Habits established there have stood me well. Because I was a first-generation child to go to college, I want to create the Carlanne Herzog Music Scholarship to help give this opportunity to someone else so their music skills can flourish. I think it’s wonderful that there are now a number of fine Steinway pianos waiting to be played in the Music department. I am excited to establish this scholarship for an enthusiastic and deserving pianist.

Carlanne Herzog