

## *Music has no boundary*

For Thuy Quynh, music is the closest thing to her soul. Music is a field that she is passionate about and feels a long-lived attachment. She graduated with high distinction from Venice High School in Los Angeles with a Presidential Award for Excellent Performance. After her graduation, she had many career options such as becoming a medical doctor and university professor like her sister. However, when she received a scholarship to attend Juilliard School of Music in New York, without hesitation she left her family in Los Angeles to pursue a musical career in a Center for Culture and Art in the United States.

Upon completion of her study at Juilliard, Thuy Quynh continued her higher education with a Master degree in Mannes School on Music and a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in City University of New York.

Currently Dr. Thuy Quynh is a professor at Hunter College as well as at International Keyboard Institute and Festival in Mannes College of Music in New York City.



Thuy Quynh said that she loved the opportunities to inspire her students and share her knowledge after many years of her own study with famous pianists such as Jerome Rose, Bella Davidovich, Jacob Lateiner, Andras Schiff and Garrick Ohlsson.

*Teaching brings me great joy of being able to share my learning experiences and my love for great music with others. Teaching is invaluable to me because I also learn so much from the students as well. The great pianist Arthur Schnabel used to say that he learned more from his students than they learned from him.*

In regard to the importance of music in education, in Dr. Thuy Quynh's opinion, learning music is as important as learning other subjects such as science or mathematics.

*Music is a very important aspect of a child's education. Music can greatly contribute to a child's development. Some scientists believe that there is a correlation between music making and brain development. In 1999, Neurological Research ran a journal article which cited that high school music students have shown to hold higher grade point averages than non-musicians in the same school. Many educators have linked active music making with increased language development, math ability, and better social behavior in children. Furthermore, music is an art form that encourages the development of creativity and inspiration, two traits that are important for a child's development. The idea of music being an important part of the complete education has existed from the time of the ancient Greece and the Renaissance Period. For every cultivated person, learning to play an instrument or read music was considered as essential as learning to read and write.*

Although she has performed all over the United States and in European countries such as Hungary, Germany, Switzerland, Austria and France, her performance in Vietnam in a fundraising event for disable children in 2007 was most touching and memorable for her.

*When I was in Hanoi, performing at the Grand Opera House for the Hanoi Relief Association for Handicapped Children, I met the children of the special music school who were visually disabled yet who played music with such joy and love. I was very moved to see how music transformed and enriched their life. My benefit concert*

*earned money for the organization and I was very happy to have been able to contribute in my modest way to the education and well-being of those children.*

*Also, I have been told after many performances that my music moved the audience and listeners to tears. For me, to be able to share the gift of music and affect the audience in such a deeply personal and emotional way is one of the highest rewards of performing music.*

Thuy Quynh said “we are living in a diversified society in which interactions, communications and cooperation are exchanged between people from different races, ethnicities, religions and education levels. Music is a bridge that connects and links those individuals together and music is also an important mean to bring people closer to each other in seeking peace and happiness.” She recalled an international performance, where music had broken down ethnic, cultural and language barriers.

*At my concert in winter 2009 at the Berlin Konzerthause with the Berlin University Orchestra, I performed in front of an audience of almost a thousand people, who defied the coldest weather in sixty years to attend my concert. I and my audience did not speak the same language, but I have a great feeling that I was able to use music to communicate with them. I do not have enough words to describe the vibrant and electrifying atmosphere of understanding, appreciation, compassion and all kinds of sublime and elevated sentiments that filled the concert hall after my performance of Chopin Concerto No 1. It was a direct communication of sounds, feelings and music, there were no linguistic or racial barriers, no screens or obstacles between me and the audience.*

For Thuy Quynh, music reflects our life, and in order to express one’s feelings through music, the artist must feel the richness of music in their soul. Becoming a great artist needs more than devoted practice. A successful performance requires the artist to understand the profound meanings of a work, its music style, historical and cultural context as well as the circumstance under which the music was written. She says:

*Music was not created in a vacuum but is a reflection and summation of the human experience, expressed through the medium of sound. The creation of music is affected by the historical events, by what is going on in the world, as well as what is happening in the composer’s private life, reflecting the composers characters and beliefs, and expressing his or her thoughts, passion, yearning, and mood. For example, upon hearing news of Poland’s failed revolution against Russia, Chopin was in despair and poured his emotions into many of his works at the time, among which was the passionate, heroic and stormy “Revolutionary Étude.”*

She continues:

*The classical music repertoire is extremely rich and varied, and it encompasses a whole breath of human experiences. It is a tremendous responsibility on the part of the musician to absorb the message, immerse oneself in the music and understand the music deeply in order to project the meaning of the music to the audience. Music is a universal language that transcends language and cultural carriers. Music making with high artistic inspiration can be more profound than words have the power to describe.*

Thuy Quynh was born in a family with a rich tradition in music. She is the niece of famous pianists such as Ton That Triem, Ton Nu Y Lan and Ton Nu Nguyet Minh.

She started learning piano when she was four years old. When she was 6 years old, she attended the Hanoi Conservatory of Music. She had her first stage performance at the age of 9. At 13, she was awarded a scholarship to study at Gnessin Conservatory of Music in Moscow, an internationally recognized institution for talented students. She followed her family to the United States at the age of 15.

Thuy Quynh received many highest honor awards such as the Artist International Presentation, Bellflower Orchestra, The Artists of Tomorrow Competition of the Brentwood-Westwood Symphony Orchestra, and International Concerto in San Francisco. She also performed solo with the San Francisco Orchestra, Westwood Orchestra, and Bellflower Orchestra (USA) and some other orchestra. She often performs for radios and piano shows.

You can listen to her performance at [www.quynhnguyen.com](http://www.quynhnguyen.com)