

Danli Liang, Biography

I started playing the piano at the age of five. Originally my parents wanted me to play piano because they thought that it would improve a child's IQ. Now at the age of 15, I have grown to love and perform music more than just as an educational tool. When I was younger, my parents always brought me to see concerts of famous pianists. They were very inspiring to me and became my idols. Since then I wanted to be on stage and perform for an audience too. Although practicing can be a bit tedious, playing the piano is my favorite thing to do. I love to wear pretty dresses and perform on stage for an audience!

I would like to thank my piano teachers for providing me with great guidance. I started with Ms. Anna Stal until 2007, and then studied with Dr. Scott McBride Smith, who is currently the piano professor of University of Kansas. My current teacher is Dr. Tao Chang, the piano professor of Azusa Pacific University. Each teacher had an appreciation for music that inspired me to improve over the years. They have helped me win many competitions, including:

- 1st Place of the MTAC State Concerto Competition, 2011
- 1st Place of the San Diego Symphony's *Hot Shots* Young Artist Competition, 2011
- 1st Place in the LA International Bicentennial Liszt Piano Competition and Best Performance of the Concert Etude award, 2010
- 2nd Prize of MTNA Southwest Division Senior Duet Piano Competition, 2010-2011
- 1st Place of the MTNA (Music Teacher's National Association) Junior Solo Piano California State winner, 2009-2010
- 1st Place of H.B Goodlin Scholarship Junior Piano Competition, 2009.

Every summer since 8th grade I have enjoyed going to summer music programs or academies, including the International Institute of Young Musicians in Kansas and the Beijing International Music Festival and Academy, where I studied with Mr. Gabriel Kwok of the Hong Kong Academy of Performing Arts.

I attend the La Jolla Country Day School and will be a junior. I like all subjects. Besides piano, my other passion is visual arts. I love to draw portraits. I have won First Prize in the 2010 *Stars in Our Eyes* poster contest which is sponsored by the La Jolla Rotary Foundation Club, and garnered a \$1,000 college scholarship. I also went to the Idyllwild Summer Arts Academy for drawing and painting masterclasses in the summer of 2011. I am still not sure what I want to be when I grow up, but if possible I would love to double major in the arts and the medical field.