

LIBERTY LIBERAL ARTS ACADEMY

Alina Sutterlin Bio

I have a Bachelor's Degree in Piano Performance and Pedagogy from the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre. I have been teaching piano privately for 18 years in the USA, and I taught for 6 years at Klaipeda Eduardas Balsys Gymnasium of Arts in Lithuania. My teaching has a combination of both aspects: Traditional Russian piano school and American piano teaching. I consider my background of two different styles a real asset in teaching.

I am a member of the ISMTA (Illinois State Music Teachers Association) and I attend lectures, workshops, and conferences to improve my playing and my teaching on a regular basis. I consider teaching piano an ongoing learning process.

My teaching is based on classical repertoire. I strongly believe that classical music helps the most to develop as a pianist. I wouldn't say that my students only play classical pieces. We do work on popular, jazz, church music, or whatever they prefer. I always pay close attention to music reading skills, good pianistic technique and basic theory / music history knowledge. I encourage my students to play at recitals and festivals (American Grands, Festival of Illinois Federation of Music Clubs).

Opportunities to participate in exams include:

- ISMTA AIM program
- Carnegie Hall "the achievement program"

Whether my students want to play just for pleasure, or want to study piano more seriously I would like to bring out the best of their abilities. My husband and I are raising 4 children in Geneva, IL.