

## Music to My Ears

*By CC Huffhines*

I have loved music all my life and was an avid collector of popular music in my youth. Because of this, when I was in high school, my mother decided I should learn to play the piano. My mother was a piano student all her life, she played the piano at our church. The piano was very important to her.

My piano learning consisted of weekly piano lessons at home. I did learn enough to play a piece by Rachmaninoff at my high school graduation ... not very well, I fear... bobbling over the really difficult passages.

After gaining a certain knowledge of piano playing, I moved on to attending the University of Texas in Austin. At my mother's insistence, I applied for more piano lessons at the University. The musician who tested my ability quickly announced that I had no talent for the piano, that it would be foolish to continue with more lessons.

My favorite pianist today is the Japanese Mitsuko Uchida. Her recordings of the Mozart sonatas are magnificent. She took the road that I knew was a dead-end for me.

That this road to a musical career was quickly scotched was not a true disappointment for me. I enjoyed playing tunes such as "Stardust," but I never believed that I had real talent for the piano, and was relieved not to continue acting as if I did.

Today, I have forgotten all that I once knew about the piano: the fingering of keynotes, even the ability to read the notes of a simple piece. I continue to enjoy listening to music, and have a large collection of classical CDs. That will have to do, on this road not taken by me to playing the piano.