

The Miracles That Bind

by Kenita Gibbins

I took piano lessons from age seven to seventeen. I learned to read music of course, but playing never came easy for me. We have a grandson who can play by ear. He got the talent from his mother's side and not us. I mastered our church's organ to relieve the weekly organist. I also played a glockenspiel in the high school marching band and the timpani in the orchestra. The most fun I had with the kettle drum was when my school partnered with another school and we play Rhapsody in Blue by Gershwin.

Before I went to Poland for the second time, I became determined to play Chopin and Paderewski music on the grand piano in Reymontowka, where my fellow teachers and I stayed during our time teaching the village children English. I don't think I've ever visited a country that enjoys making joy for an audience. Global Volunteers felt honored to join events which had dancers from around the country or visitors from surrounding countries. One night we sat around tables with people from France, Belarus, Russia, Germany, Ukraine and the United States. As we kept time to the music, I couldn't help, but think we have all been enemies from one time to another. Our country manager could speak in all of those languages. The one thing that brings people together is music.

My traveling companion Mickie and I visited her husband's relatives. They lived in France, but worked in Geneva at the World Health and the United Nations. Before going back to their home we went to a restaurant that had a piano playing and singing entertainer. I think he noticed that I was the only one listening to him. I know this because he switched to American songs.

I'm now practicing Christmas Carols. Our oldest son and his wife can sing on tune and we will enjoy the hymns. I know all the words. They will be joining us over the holidays. However, we have to share them with her family. They stay in a hotel. I suppose that keeps things fair.

We must remember that we lose the skills we had when we were young, if we quit serious practicing. Just listening to music can make having to stay home a pleasure.