

Piano Lessons

Students create music for relaxation, practice in the Memorial Student Center

By CHRIS MARTIN
Staff writer



CHAD MALLAM/THE BATTALION

"I get a lot of compliments when I play," Durham said. "Sometimes I get nervous, though, and I have trouble playing for a large crowd." Durham understands why so many people enjoy studying while he plays, but said it doesn't quite work for him.

"Some people like to have it in the background — just how people like to listen to the radio when they read," Durham said.

"Personally, I couldn't do that because I'd pay attention to the music than to what I was studying. But every once in a while I like to have something soft in the background. It helps you relax."

Although personal satisfaction is a major motivating factor for playing in the MSC, Durham admitted it also helps him with the opposite sex.

"One of my favorites to play is 'Angel Eyes' by Jim Brickman," Durham said.

"A lot of girls like to listen to that one. That's a real plus. One time I went there with a girl I was dating last semester — it was our one-month anniversary of dating — I played the piano in there for her. She hadn't heard me play the piano before."

Cynthia Zuniga, a sophomore international business major, enjoys studying in the MSC Flag Room for the wide variety of sounds that pass through.

"I only stay to study if people are playing," Zuniga said. "I get distracted if people are talk-

ing or walking around. The music helps me to block out the noise of people walking by or conversations. I like the atmosphere. If I go to the library I'll fall asleep."

Zuniga enjoys the variety of music played in the Flag Room.

"People mostly play classical music or Broadway songs," Zuniga said. "If I recognize it I'll sit down."

As a music lover, Zuniga admires the skill of those who play for Flag Room patrons.

"I would definitely play if I had the talent," Zuniga said. "It's the perfect place to play on weekends. It's great that it's open for people to use."

Not everyone who plays in the MSC is looking for an audience.

Tony Hung, a junior biomedical science major, enjoys playing in the Flag Room and back area of the MSC, but not for an audience.

"I don't play very often — about once a month," Hung said. "I usually play when there aren't many people around. I get nervous sometimes."

Hung thinks the music is an asset to the atmosphere of the MSC.

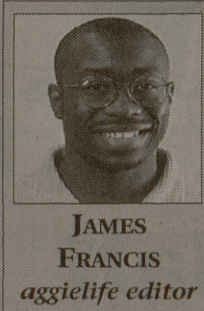
"Most people are there relaxing. I think music helps that," Hung said.

While some play for glory, some to show off and some just to pass the time, Hung makes no apology for his reason.

"It's fun," Hung said.

Students should seek to regain lost talent for music appreciation

Everybody loves to hear a good song, whether on the radio, in the form of a music video or played live at a concert. And while students allow the symphonic reverberations to send chills down their spines and prick up their ears, many times they are enthralled with the music because they are remembering a time when they used to play an instrument.



JAMES FRANCIS
aggiefLife editor

found within the Yellow Pages of the telephone book.

The point is, if an individual has the chance to regain a musical talent or learn an instrument for the first time, he or she should not hesitate to accept the challenge.

Instead of regretting a former music endeavor, people should be able to look back on life and say they never let music get too far out of reach.

Whatever instrument you used to play or always wanted to learn, take the time to acquire the necessary skills that will enable you to become familiar with the instrument of your choice.

Music provides students with a chance to develop intricate trade skills and display personal expression.

So the next time you enter an elevator, turn on your car stereo or even hear a jingle for a television commercial, think of how important music is and how great it would be to find yourself in its path of devoted listeners and players.

James Francis is a junior English and journalism major.



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