

Lori Lyons Nuffer grew up in Portland, Oregon where she studied piano with Carmen Zion and French horn with Charles Dietz. At a young age she discovered her love of collaborative piano, in addition to solo work, as she accompanied soloists and choirs.

For many years, though, the piano shared her attention with the French horn as she was selected to play in the acclaimed Portland Junior Symphony under the direction of Jacob Avshalomov. She continued her experiences in symphonic music studying with Don Peterson at BYU and performing for ten years with the Southwest Symphony under the direction of Dr. Ron Garner and Gary Caldwell in St. George, Utah.

For fifteen years Lori has taught beginning to advanced piano students from age four to 88 in her private piano studio. Her studio offers private lessons, group lessons, summer camps and participation in many performing events. Upon moving to Salt Lake City, she finished her degree in piano performance from the University of Utah, studying privately with Jeffrey Price and Dr. Paul Dorgan. Her personal emphasis while completing her studies was to continue the accompanying she had been doing in Portland and St. George. She has regularly played for many of the vocal studios at the University of Utah and in the Salt Lake area. She also performs with other instrumentalists in solo and chamber work and has been rehearsal and performance pianist for stage productions including several for Zero Budget Productions at the University of Utah.

Lori continues to have many musical projects. She is co-director of L'Chaim, a small community choir with Russian and Jewish roots. Through travels to Ukraine she has collected a shelf-full of music by Ukrainian composers and is producing performances of this music. Her love of improvisatory music has led her to be involved with Music for People, an organization that promotes self-expression through music for people of all abilities. She is also a member of the Utah Music Teachers Association and is currently working towards certification by that organization.

For over twenty years Lori has worked as a leader with many youth groups including Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts of America. Her years spent working as a river guide culminated in volunteering as a guide for Splore, a Salt Lake City based organization that provides outdoor experiences for people with disabilities. And she and her husband David enjoy being parents and grandparents to seven grown children and six grandchildren. These experiences of working with children, young people and adults, in addition to helping people to love and play music through her teaching and accompanying, have been the highlight of Lori's life. She is delighted to be teaching at the Salt Lake School for the Performing Arts where she can work with students and faculty who have a passion for the performing arts.