

For my oral history project, I would like to interview a teacher either in a public school setting, or a private and collegiate level piano teacher. I feel that as a music education and piano major, I should have an inside view of not only the life of a music teacher, but also the teaching philosophy and journey to their current position. I am hoping to either be an elementary music teacher or a piano teacher after I graduate, and a firsthand interview with questions I may have for the possible life ahead of me would be extremely interesting and insightful. Some questions that I would like to ask would include subjects such as musical roots from childhood, college education, teacher influences, performance experiences, teaching experiences prior to their current position, the progression from their post-college endeavors to their current career, and maybe even some questions about how they juggle personal lives with their incredibly busy professional lives. I would also like to ask a few general questions about their daily schedules. If they have a more irregular schedule, I would ask about how they handle organizing everything and keeping track of priorities. For elementary school teachers, I might focus more on gauging curriculum and monitoring class progressions for future teaching purposes. For piano teachers, I may focus more on finding out how they built their reputations and studios within either a private or collegiate setting.

Three people that I might be interested in interviewing are Peg Banks at Riverside Elementary, Catherine Kautsky at Lawrence University, and Catherine Rollin, the piano pedagogue and method book editor and writer. I met Peg Banks when I needed to do my professional development activity hours during my first semester freshman year. I went to Riverside Elementary for her Thursday morning strings lessons. The lessons were in groups and of all different ages levels, and instruments. I really enjoyed watching her teach, and I found it fascinating that she originally began as a performance major for both her undergraduate and

graduate level degrees. I would want to question her about how she came to be an elementary strings teacher after pursuing a more performance oriented career. Catherine Kautsky is a piano teacher at Lawrence University, and is also a main organizer for study abroad programs for pianists. I would like to interview her especially because she offers a different piano teaching perspective than one I might have at Westminster. An interview with her might also include some questions regarding organization of study abroad programs and how to be a driving force in starting programs such as these. Catherine Rollin would also be a great choice when thinking along piano pedagogy lines. She is a great and well-respected pedagogue, writer, teacher, and editor. It would be fascinating to ask her about her teaching styles and how she developed her teaching philosophies. My private piano teacher has connections and is actually good friends with Catherine Rollin, so I would have a connection in contacting her. When I learned about Catherine Rollin and her connection to my teacher in piano pedagogy, I was hopeful that someday I might get to meet her. This project would be the perfect opportunity.