**Margarita Divinskaya**

Pianist from Ukraine, Margo Divinskaya has been successfully teaching, performing and making piano arrangements for over 27 years. Her work history has names of art organizations like Kiev State Children’s Music School, Houston Ballet and HB Academy, High School of Performing and Visual Arts, Society for the Performing Arts, Regional Dance America Festivals, City Ballet of Houston, Jeoffrey Ballet Schools of New York and San Antonio, Pittsburg Ballet Theatre School, Twin City Ballet of Monroe, Company on Stage in Houston, Memorial School of Music and others. Over the years she had the privilege to work with great artists like Evgeniy Zaitsev, Clara Cravey, Steven Brule, Margo and Dennis Marshall, Victoria Vittum, Lasaro Carreno, Stanton Welch, Dominic Walsh, Martine Harley, Claudio Munoz, Shelly Powers, Janie Parker, Down Scannell, Lauren Anderson and many more.

Margo started her education in Children’s Music School at the age of 7. She took up to 6 subjects a week there for 7 years. Her first teacher, Olga Lotova, a dedicated professional, encouraged her to go to Kiev State R.M. Glier College of Music. When in College, Margo began taking lessons from Roman Gindin, well known teacher, music editor and soloist of Ukrainian National Philharmonic. He helped her to gain a deeper understanding of a wide variety of piano repertoire, especially music of Romantic composers. In her last year, she studied with Valeriy Kozlov, professor of piano in Kiev State Conservatory, a great interpreter of Mozart, Schumann and contemporary composers, who is now an Honored Artist of Ukraine and serves as a Juror for many National and International piano competitions.

After graduating with a Bachelor’s Degree in Piano Performance and Pedagogy, Margo began working as a teacher and pianist at the Children’s Music School, where she taught piano to all levels of students, played solo and chamber repertoire, accompanied choir and many instruments of the orchestra. In 1992 Margo moved to the USA and began working as an independent teacher, pianist and arranger. In 1998-1999 she was on the National Honor Roll awarded by the National Piano Playing Auditions. Her students regularly participated and received high grades in tests and events conducted by Music Teachers Association, UIL Texas State Solo-Ensemble Contests and HISD. In 2007 three of her long time students won third place on the International level Odyssey of the Mind competition by writing and performing music for an original musical play. She believes that music lessons are beneficial for all students, no matter how talented they are or how far they want to go in the music field. Some of her former students decided to choose music as their profession and others simply continue loving and enjoying it.

Presently Margo is a pianist at the Artisan School of Dance in Cypress, Texas and teaches independently and in music schools. She hopes that her lessons will help each student discover their potentials, sharpen their creative and logical skills and build a lifelong love and appreciation for music.