

# The Mercury News

The Newspaper of Silicon Valley

MercuryNews.com

## **Back at the piano, loving it: Grant allows Santa Cruz woman to attend to Princeton symposium**

*By Bonnie Horgos | Santa Cruz Sentinel*

*Posted: July 17, 2012 - MercuryNews.com*

SANTA CRUZ - When both of the musicians slated to perform at the Golandsky Institute masterclass were sick, Lynn Kidder knew she needed to seize the opportunity. The 57-year-old approached the director, requesting to perform Brahms' Intermezzo Opus 118 No. 2.

"I love that piece of music, but my hands were shaking, which is not normal for me," Kidder said of the performance. "Still, I was reveling in the music."

The Santa Cruz resident said the performance was especially moving due to the fact that she picked up playing piano three years before after a 20-year hiatus.

"The piece touches my heart more profoundly than anything I've ever played," Kidder said. "For my first performance a few years ago when I started playing piano again, I closed with that piece and I was crying. I didn't intend to, but it was so beautiful, and I was so grateful to be able to have a part in that beauty, to experience it and share it with others."

Recognized for her passion in piano, Kidder was recently awarded a Professional Development Grant from the Cultural Council of Santa Cruz County.

The grant allowed Kidder to attend the Golandsky Institute at Princeton University in July for an annual symposium that trains pianists in a virtuoso technique known as the Taubman Approach.

"The symposium was fantastic; I learned so much," Kidder said. "One of my favorite parts was the technique clinic, where you took in a problem part of a piece and they could show you a different way of using your hands. All of a sudden you can play it, and you're like, 'Wait a minute, did I just do that?'"

Kidder stopped playing piano around 25 years ago due to mercury poisoning she experienced from her dental work. The ordeal was debilitating, leading to chronic fatigue and loss of cognitive skills.

"I had gone stupid; I couldn't read English or music," Kidder said. "I knew where middle 'C' was on the piano, but didn't know what the other keys were or what to do with them."