

BETTY TODD SMITH, NCTM, MM

Betty Todd Smith began her journey in piano with lessons taught by Adah Coe, Rosalie Talbot, Miriam Spindler-Lynch, Dr. Ron Rathbun, and Eugene Pridonoff. She presented yearly solo recitals during her college years. She holds the Bachelor of Arts in Piano Performance from Abilene Christian University and the Master of Music in Piano Performance from Arizona State University. Betty taught class piano at Arizona State University and Tulsa Junior College. She founded and directed the piano and preschool music programs for Tulsa Institute for Music Education, Inc., a school based on the Suzuki philosophy of teaching music and offering instruction in piano, violin, cello, flute, guitar, fiddle, and preschool music. Betty provided the music program for Undercroft Montessori School in Tulsa, OK for 8 years, and has taught piano and Musikgarten at Agape Montessori, Small Beginnings, and Pembroke Hill in the Kansas City area. She is active in Suzuki and traditional piano instruction and has obtained Suzuki training through all piano levels at various institutes in the United States and Canada. She is a Permanent Nationally-Certified member of the Music Teachers' National Association, Former District One President for Kansas Music Teachers' Association, and an active member of Kansas City Music Teachers' Association. She is also a member of Federated Music Teachers. She received the Steinway Top Teacher Music Award in 2016 and 2021. She was honored in receiving the Francis Clark Center Power of a Piano Teacher Recognition in 2022. Betty adjudicates piano auditions throughout the US for various organizations. She enjoys ensemble performances and presenting lectures, master classes, and workshops for teachers. Betty trained in Kindermusik, Musikgarten, Music Mind Games, and obtained a copyright for an innovative music curriculum designed to teach young children rhythmic concepts based on Montessori principles. Betty currently works with Merrienan Melodies as an editor, consultant, and writer.