

July 8, 2002

To Whom It May Concern:

I have studied with Michael Smolens for a little over three years, a short time to achieve such significant and lasting gains in my musicianship and creativity.

During this time I received private piano and voice lessons and attended two semester-length classes.

Areas covered in piano lessons:

Piano technique
Theory
Improvisation
Sightreading

Areas covered in voice lessons:

Technique
Improvisation
Indian Classical Raga

Areas covered in the two semester-length classes:

All skills listed above
Arranging
Ensemble work

Today I am singing with a jazz a capella group where I continue to apply what I have learned from Michael. He provided me with tools and techniques that I can always use, especially when I need to break down chords and difficult rhythms or face an array of other musical challenges! My study with him has deepened my understanding of musical structure and composition and has improved my ability for critical analysis of both jazz and classical music forms.

Michael Smolens IS music. I can't recommend him enough!!

Regards,



Rae Anderson