



Bronstein Music Profiles: Steve and Susan Bell

Bronstein Music

363 Grand Avenue
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Over the past few months, we've presented profiles of some of the people who work and teach at Bronstein Music. We continue that series here with profiles of our own husband-and-wife teaching team of Steve and Susan Bell.

Regards,
Don Edwards
Bronstein Music

We'll start with **Susan Bell**. Susan remembers her time at Hillside Elementary School (South San Francisco) like it was yesterday. As a fourth grade student, she learned to play violin. The following year the string program was discontinued, so she learned two other instruments: sax and guitar. She continued her musical studies through school, including her time at South San Francisco High School.

When Susan started to attend Skyline College, she realized that, as a music major, she would need to learn how to play piano. She started taking piano lessons and found that a local church would let her practice on their grand piano. She earned an AA in Music from Skyline and then continued her studies at U.C. Berkeley, where she earned a BA in Music. In addition, Susan earned a Master of Arts in Teaching from Notre Dame de Namur University in Belmont.



While piano has been her primary instrument for some time, Susan is also very well-versed on organ, guitar, and harp (the Celtic variety). She has been the church organist/pianist for St. John's United Church of Christ in

San Bruno since 1987.

Susan began teaching guitar lessons in 1984, and then started teaching general music classes in local elementary schools in 1987. This includes a job at Vallemar School in Pacifica and her current job teaching music at John Muir Elementary School in San Bruno. Over the years, Susan has also taught private students on piano, harp, and guitar. At Bronstein Music, Susan provides private piano lessons.

Susan met Steve when she was 6 years old (Steve was 8). They attended the same church. Neither paid much attention to the other. However, their paths kept crossing over the years - they both attended South San Francisco High School and Skyline College. Eventually, they got interested in each other, one thing led to another, and they got married in 1986. They have two sons and have passed the "music gene" on to both of them. Their oldest son, Douglas, is a fine cello player, and their second son, Scott, is an up-and-coming trumpet player currently attending the Berklee College of Music in Boston on a full scholarship. Susan and Steve are very proud parents.

Steve Bell started his musical studies when he was 10 years old. He learned to play piano, and took private lessons at Bronstein Music. Somewhere along the way, Steve heard a recording of the famous trumpet player, Al Hirt. That was it! Steve knew that he had to become a trumpeter. He started his trumpet training when he was a 7th grader at Parkway Middle School. He continued it at South San Francisco High School and, upon graduation, attended Skyline College where he earned his AA in Music. He continued his education at Fresno State University, and returned to the Bay Area to finish his BA in Trumpet Performance and Teaching Credential at California State University, Hayward.



Teaching has always been a calling for Steve. He started teaching at Bronstein Music in 1992, and two years later started teaching instrumental music at the elementary level in the San Francisco Unified School District, where he remains today. Steve's strong conviction is that fundamental training in music at an early age provides for success and future opportunities for all of his students.

At Bronstein Music, Steve teaches private lessons and group lessons. His private instruction includes trumpet, baritone horn/euphonium, trombone, flute, and recorder lessons. His group instruction includes the Bronstein Music Brass Ensemble, a recurring 8-week class that exposes his students to the art of playing traditional and contemporary brass ensemble music. In December, the brass ensemble performed a concert of holiday music in front of the store.

Steve remains an active performer himself. He has played in a variety of ensembles including such varied styles as 30's/40's big band, funk/soul/disco, and many other commercial and community settings.

Today, Susan and Steve make their home in San Mateo. Their passion for music education is obvious to anyone they meet, and Bronstein Music is lucky to have both them teaching here. To schedule lessons with either Susan or Steve, come into the store or call us at (650) 588-2502 for more information.

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