

About the Artist - Dr. Jody Graves

Jody Graves maintains an exciting, diverse and active performing career, and is recognized nationally as a distinguished artist and teacher of piano. Her recital engagements as a soloist and collaborative pianist take her across the United States and abroad. She has performed concerts in Austria, Norway, France, Scotland, Ireland, Germany, Japan, and in May 2006 toured in the Persian Gulf serving as a Cultural Ambassador for the U.S. State Department. The Middle East Tour, with the Sapphire Trio, included concerts in Bahrain, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. The press reviews have called their performances “*exciting...imaginative and compelling.*” In April, 2010, she was a judge for the National Palestinian Piano Festival in Jerusalem, and following that event toured the West Bank region with the Sapphire Trio performing concerts and giving master classes. The Sapphire Trio returned to the Middle East for a concert tour and master classes in April, 2011, and Dr. Graves will return to the Middle East and tour that region with the Sapphire Trio again in March 2012.

Dr. Graves is in great demand as an adjudicator for piano competitions and festivals. Each season takes her across the country as an MTA clinician, and she has an active schedule each year as a workshop presenter and master class teacher. Dr. Graves has been a presenter at the *National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy*, and has been a presenter and performer at numerous *State and National Music Teachers National Association (MTNA)* conferences. Recently Ms. Graves was a presenter at the National MTNA Conference (Milwaukee) in 2011. She has served as a judge for the *International Piano Competition* at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York, and also served on the faculty with Dr. Alexandra Ngyuen for the Eastman Summer Session titled ‘*Plays Well With Others*’, featuring sessions on collaborative arts performance. Additionally, Dr. Graves has authored articles for the *American Music Teacher* and *Clavier* magazines.

Ms. Graves completed her third recording project ‘*Whispers of Light*’ in 2007, featuring the music of Edward MacDowell, Rachmaninoff and others. She has performed solo and chamber recitals across the country at university guest artist series and community concert events, and has been a featured performing artist several times on public radio. In the 2011-12 season she will be a soloist with the Mid-Columbia Symphony and the Butte Symphony. Ms. Graves is the pianist with the nationally acclaimed *Sapphire Trio*. They have been featured guest artists at the *National MTNA* conference in Seattle, WA and the *International Clarinet Festival* in Tokyo, and were featured again in concert at the *ICF* in Los Angeles in 2011.

Ms. Graves is especially interested in promoting concert art music, creating unique and contemporary ways to foster a collaborative experience between artist and listener, and is dedicated to maintaining the life of music in our schools and culture. Ms. Graves is recognized for her creative ability to engage the audience during her concerts with anecdotes, historical perspectives and humor. She has been referred to by the press as “Victoria Borge” in reference to her engaging humor from the stage. She holds a Doctorate Degree in Piano Performance and Literature from the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York and her Masters degree from Catholic University in Washington D.C. Dr. Graves is an Associate Professor of Piano at Eastern Washington University, in Cheney, WA.

You can find additional information about the artist at www.drjodygraves.com or www.sapphiretrio.com

