

Go for Baroque

FEATURE STORY: PEGGY PAYNE THE PAYNE OF PLAYING THE PIANO

Writers get writer's cramps, runners get splints, but what might a musician, specifically a pianist, get after practicing for hours, literally "on end"?

Peggy Payne might not have a word for it, but she knows how to deal with it. "The realization that I spend my life sitting down brought about the necessity for an exercise program. Now exercise is my favorite pastime."



As Principal Keyboard for the *Oklahoma Symphony* since 1972 and now with the *Oklahoma City Philharmonic*, Payne has the experience and successes to prove she does more than just a little bit of sitting. Not only have her years as an orchestra pianist brought more than a dozen critically acclaimed solos, but Payne has appeared as guest artist with the *Orchestra Sinfonia de Xalapa* in Mexico, the *Oklahoma Symphony*, the *Oklahoma City Philharmonic*, *Ballet Oklahoma*, the *Tulsa Philharmonic*, and the *Lawton Philharmonic*.

Member and manager of **Go for Baroque**, an ensemble specializing in its own sounds from Baroque through contemporary, Payne has a personal repertoire ranging from Bach to Chopin to Gershwin. Payne has been active in teaching the musicians of tomorrow, maintaining a studio of 35 students per week for the past 25 years and is adjunct piano faculty of Oklahoma City University. She has also appeared as guest lecturer at several academic institutions as well as designing and implementing curriculum using the arts as a vehicle for education.

But she still manages to find time to work out at the spa and to take exhilarating walks with her dalmatian, Kindle. "To reach the end of the day and still feel good and have the physical stamina to practice after I finish teaching is a joy I will never give up," she said. "I never realized how much I really demanded from my body to perform and teach. My body is the mechanism with which I produce the sounds and musical ideas that are inside of me."

Payne will be performing with **G4B** (date) at (time) at (location). For more information, visit goforbaroque.org or call 405-840-0278.