

Thomas Gunther

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EDUCATION

1992-1996: State University of Stuttgart/Germany, **Master's Degree in Teaching and Performing Jazz and Popular Music, with emphasis on piano and keyboard performance. Final Grade: A**

Teachers: Jamey Aebersold, Bill Dobbins, Paul Schwartz, Frank Sykora, Dizzy Krusch, and many others.

PROFILE

- ❖ Over 30 years of experience teaching piano/keyboards (drums & vibes till 2002), band coaching, and diverse music-centered classes of all ages and skill levels.
- ❖ Creator of music video tutorials for keyboardists and music technology related software.
- ❖ Consistent and active involvement in music curriculum development (University/College).
- ❖ Ability to compose and arrange music in a variety of contemporary styles and instrumentations like jazz, pop & rock.
- ❖ Professional pianist versed in performing and recording acoustic and electronic keyboards in many different styles.
- ❖ Accomplished international recording artist, arranger/orchestrator, and music producer.
- ❖ Leads and participates in several accomplished bands in Germany and the USA.
- ❖ Ambassador for the student exchange program between **Columbia College Chicago** and **Pop Academy in Mannheim, Germany**.

MISSION AS AN EDUCATOR

To utilize experience as a composer, arranger and pianist/keyboardist with technical knowledge of music theory to guide and encourage students to become inspired, skillful and professional musicians.

MUSIC EDUCATION SKILLS

- ❖ Passionate educator who knows how to motivate and guide students. (Testimonials attached or provided upon request, available for viewing at PopJazzKeys.com/student-testimonials.)
- ❖ Innovative course and curriculum designer.
- ❖ Skilled and experienced teacher for traditional and contemporary music, focused around the practical needs of today's music student.
- ❖ Experienced in using computer technology in the classroom.
- ❖ Knowledgeable about most state-of-the-art music software. Expert in utilizing Apple computer for music performance and production, with emphasis on *Finale* and *Logic Pro* software.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

❖ 1997-present: Professor of Music at Columbia College Chicago

Piano & Keyboard Private Lessons, Band & Ensemble Coaching, General Music Theory, Pop/Jazz Theory, Pop/Jazz Arranging, Pop/Jazz Keyboard, Technology For Musicians, Fundamentals Of Arranging, Music Fundamentals and Musicianship.

Prior to 2014:

- Author of music theory book *Pop-Jazz Theory* by Thomas Gunther.
 - Served as a member on the curriculum committee responsible for the new Contemporary Urban Music Program.
 - Developed syllabi for classes: Pop-Jazz Theory, Pop-Jazz Arranging, Pop-Jazz Keyboard, Fundamentals Of Arranging under supervision of the director of the Urban Music program.
 - Taught and developed courses in music theory, ear-training, keyboard harmony, group and private piano lesson, combo, improvisation, pop arranging, computer music lab.
 - Responsible for the student exchange with the German Pop Academy Mannheim.
 - Directed numerous student shows in the music and theater departments.
- ❖ **2014-present:** Founder and Instructor for keyboard studies at **German International School Chicago** (Letter of recommendation is attached or can be provided upon request).
- ❖ **1980-1986** Taught private lessons drums and vibraphone
- ❖ **1992-1996** Taught introductory and advanced group and private keyboard lessons to children and adults at the Tübinger Music School in Germany, as well as privately.

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FREELANCE COMPOSER AND ARRANGER

- ❖ **2012-2015:** Principle pianist and composer/arranger for Symphonic Jazz International.
- ❖ **2007:** Arranged *Rhapsody in Blue* for the Chicago Jazz Ensemble.
- ❖ **2006:** Composed and recorded *Bop-trilogy* for the Chicago Jazz Ensemble.

MUSIC PRODUCER

- ❖ **2004-present:** Owner of Record Label *Thomas Gunther Music Productions*
- ❖ Produced, arranged, recorded, and mixed many CDs. Most recent CDs include ALLE JAHRE WIEDER (2018) (GermanChristmasSongsCD.com) and SPICY JAZZ ADVENTURE (2016) (SpicyJazzAdventure.com).
- ❖ Composed, recorded and produced a lot of other music not available on CD yet, but accessible at ThomasGunther.com/music.

PIANIST/KEYBOARDER (SECONDARY INSTRUMENTS: DRUMS AND VIBRAPHONE)

- ❖ Performed and recorded with many well-known musicians and groups in Europe and the United States such as Buddy DeFranco, Dino Saluzzi, Lee Konitz, The Chicago Jazz Ensemble (1997-2010)
- ❖ Performed drums in several jazz and pop bands in Germany
- ❖ Appeared on many CD's as a leader and sideman, including Kenton A La Russo (Chicago Jazz Ensemble), The Windy City, Gunther/Lehel Quintet featuring Orbert Davis. (See also *limited discography* below for more.)
- ❖ Leader of *The Thomas Gunther Taste Of Chicago Sextet* -Toured Germany in 2002, sponsored by the German-American Institute, CD produced and recorded live by SWR Radio/Germany.
- ❖ Leader and/or member of several Chicago bands showcased at ThomasGunther.com under *bands*.
- ❖ Annual appearances in Germany with legendary German vibraphone player Dizzy Krusch and Peter Lehel.

MUSIC ENGRAVER

- ❖ **2004-Present:** Chief music engraver for The Chicago Jazz Philharmonic.
- ❖ **1997-2001:** Engraved music for John Blane's Music Preparation, a Chicago-based company that provides music engraving for Hell Leonard, Warner Bros., and other top music publishers.

FOUNDER OF SEVERAL WEBSITES DEDICATED TO MUSIC EDUCATION

MusicTrainingOnline.com , TipsForPianists.com , PopJazzKeys.com,
PianoForLittleFingers.com. <http://youtube.com/MusicTrainingOnline>

AWARDS

- 1984:** Best percussion duo at German National Music Competition for the Youth (Bundespreisträger *Jugend Musiziert*)
- 1992:** Winner of 2nd place for best Pop Band of Germany at Yamaha's World Music Competition.

LIMITED DISCOGRAPHY

- 2018** Alle Jahre Wieder – produced by Thomas Gunther
- 2016** Spicy Jazz Adventure – produced by Thomas Gunther
- 2014** Swing Fever Song (single), **2015** Superstar Gene (single)
- 2004 - present:** Numerous productions published online
- 2004** The Thomas Gunther Trio Swingin' Big At Willowbrook
- 2003** Thomas Gunther's Taste Of Chicago Quintet Live In Germany
- 2002** Chicago Jazz Ensemble: "Kenton A La Russo"
- 2001** Jens Bunge Meet You In Chicago **2000** The Jazzmates: "Jazz 'n Samba" **1999** Lehel/Gunther: "The Windy City" **1998** Bogie: "Hanna"

Learn more about Thomas at

ThomasGunther.com
[linkedin.com/in/thomas-gunther/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/thomas-gunther/)