

# Thomas Gunther

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Official Website: [ThomasGunther.com](http://ThomasGunther.com)



As of June 2019

## PROFILE

- ❖ Over 30 years of experience teaching piano and diverse music-centered classes.
- ❖ Consistent and active involvement in curriculum development.
- ❖ Ability to compose and arrange music in a variety of styles and instrumentations, including musical theater, classical, jazz, fusion and pop.
- ❖ Professional pianist versed in playing acoustic and electronic keyboards.
- ❖ Accomplished international recording artist, arranger and orchestrator, producer.
- ❖ Leads and participates in several accomplished bands in Germany and the USA.
- ❖ Ambassador for the student exchange program with the Pop Academy in Manheim, Germany.

## MISSION AS AN EDUCATOR

To utilize experience as a composer, arranger and pianist 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.
- ❖ Innovative course and curriculum designer.
- ❖ Skilled teacher of traditional and contemporary music with a focus on 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, including Finale and Logic Pro. Expert in utilizing Apple computer for music performance and production.

## EXPERIENCE

- ❖ **2014-present: Founder and Instructor at German International School Chicago** (a letter of recommendation can be provided upon request).
- ❖ **2014-present: Classes at Columbia College**
  - Pop/Jazz Theory, Pop/Jazz Arranging, Pop/Jazz Keyboard, Technology For Musicians, Fundamentals Of Arranging.
- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **1992-1996**
  - Taught introductory, advanced group, and private keyboard lessons to children and adults at the Tuebinger 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:** CEO of [MUSICONTIME.COM](http://MUSICONTIME.COM), a music services and production company now called Thomas Gunther Music Productions.
- ❖ Produced many CD's and songs for others and under his own name using state-of-the art technology. His most recent CDs ALLE JAHRE WIEDER ([GermanChristmasSongsCD.com](http://GermanChristmasSongsCD.com)) and SPICY JAZZ ADVENTURE ([SpicyJazzAdventure.com](http://SpicyJazzAdventure.com)) were produced, arranged, recorded, and mixed by him.
  - ❖ Composed, recorded and produced lots of other music not available on CD yet, but accessible on his website [ThomasGunther.com/music](http://ThomasGunther.com/music).

## PIANIST/KEYBOARDER

- ❖ 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)
- ❖ 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](http://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 AND PRESIDENT OF SEVERAL WEBSITES DEDICATED TO MUSIC EDUCATION

[MusicTrainingOnline.com](http://MusicTrainingOnline.com) , [TipsForPianists.com](http://TipsForPianists.com) , [PopJazzKeys.com](http://PopJazzKeys.com), [PianoForLittleFingers.com](http://PianoForLittleFingers.com). He is also the creator and owner several music education related YouTube channels such as <http://youtube.com/MusicTrainingOnline> where he posts music training videos that are often supplementary to his music training related websites.

## EDUCATION

**1992-1996:** State University of Stuttgart/Germany, Masters Degree in Teaching and Performing Jazz and Popular Music. Final Grade:

## LIMITED DISCOGRAPHY

- 2018** Alle Jahre Wieder – produced by Thomas Gunther
- 2016** Spicy Jazz Adventure – produced by Thomas Gunther
- 2014** Swing Fever Song, **2015** Superstar Gene
- 2004 till 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"

You learn more about Thomas  
and his work at  
[ThomasGunther.com](http://ThomasGunther.com)