

Thomas Gunther

Chicago, Illinois

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<http://ThomasGunther.com>



PROFILE

- ❖ Over 20 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 Mannheim, 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

❖ 2014-2017 Head of Piano Studies at German International School Chicago

- See attached Letter of Recommendation from the Director

❖ 2014-2017 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*.
- 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, all 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.

German
International
School Chicago

Columbia College
Chicago, Illinois
1997 - Present

Music School
Germany

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FREELANCE COMPOSER AND ARRANGER

- ❖ **At present:** chief composer and arranger for Symphonic Jazz International.
- ❖ **2007:** Arranged *Rhapsody in Blue* for the Chicago Jazz Ensemble.
- ❖ **2006:** Composed and recorded *Boptrilogy* for the Chicago Jazz Ensemble.

Europe and
the U.S.A.

MUSIC PRODUCER

2004-Present: CEO of [MUSICONTIME.COM](http://www.musicontime.com), a music services and production company.

Produced many CD's and songs for others and under his own name using state-of-the art technology. His most recent CD called SPICY JAZZ ADVENTURE was produced, arranged, recorded, and mixed by him. (Please visit <http://www.spicyjazzadventure.com> for more info.)

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.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ Annual appearances in Germany with renowned vibraphone player Dizzy Krusch.

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.

Chicago, IL
1997-present

FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT OF SEVERAL WEBSITES DEDICATED TO MUSIC EDUCATION

[MusicTrainingOnline.com](http://www.MusicTrainingOnline.com) , [TipsForPianists.com](http://www.TipsForPianists.com) , [PianoForLittleFingers.com](http://www.PianoForLittleFingers.com).

He is the creator and owner of the YouTube channel

<http://youtube.com/MusicTrainingOnline> where he posts music training videos he produces related to state-of-the-art Music Production Software, and keyboard

playing.

(Please visit <http://www.ThomasGunther.com> for more info)

Worldwide
2005-present

EDUCATION

1992-1996: State University of Stuttgart/Germany, Masters Degree in Teaching and Performing Jazz and Popular Music. Final Grade: A (a transcription was made available to Columbia College upon hiring).

LIMITED DISCOGRAPHY

- 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"