



Chris Duncan at the piano

WINNER: **MUSIC** **CONSERVATORY** **of TEXAS**

IS YOUR CHILD A BUDDING VAN CLIBURN? A future Yo-Yo Ma? If so, the Music Conservatory of Texas can help your blooming musician realize his or her dreams. Established in 2000, the Conservatory provides an environment based on educating students of all ages and levels on the basics of music: understanding musical rhythm, the printed language of music; and how to read music.

Located on north Preston in Frisco, the Music Conservatory of Texas just opened a second location in Flower Mound.

"Parents like the Conservatory because their children are learning about music through the exceptional, educational materials we provide," stated Chris Duncan, Conservatory president. "And, the kids enjoy it because they are learning about the kinds of music they like the best. For example," Duncan explains, "many students bring in their favorite CDs so the instructors can teach them what to listen for in each song. Then, the teachers help their students chart out and learn about what the notation would look like (chords and harmonic progressions) that their favorite groups are using."

Although piano lessons are still the most popular, the Conservatory offers other music lessons sure to please each of their 300 students. Voice, guitar, violin, drum, banjo, mandolin, blue grass fiddle and cello lessons are taught by university-trained teachers. "Most of our teachers are completing advanced degrees at universities throughout Texas," said Duncan, "and really enjoy sharing their love of music with our students."

A wide variety of group and private lessons are offered. Private lessons include piano, classical and electric guitar, electric bass guitar, voice, violin, Suzuki violin, fiddle, drums and percussion. Music theory (understanding the way music is put together) is included in private lessons for students in kindergarten through 12th grade and adults.

"Our group and private lessons are designed to compliment each other," stated Duncan.

The Frisco Association of Arts Program, which supports all area art programs, is offering a scholarship for the Musical Explorers Class and the Percussion Lab this year through the Conservatory. The Musical Explorers Class is designed for students five to nine years old and focuses primarily on voice. Students may also sample piano, guitar and drum. The percussion lab scholarship will teach basic snare drum techniques and other hand-held percussion instruments. The Conservatory plans on offering a scholarship each year to students with the help of the Frisco Association of Arts Program.

Many of the Conservatory's students have taken lessons there for five years and have significantly improved their musical skills. Several are considering majoring in music in college. "We're helping these students prepare for the auditions that the universities require of those interested in a musical education," said Duncan.

"For someone to be really successful," said Duncan, "they have to want to practice and they need to learn that the effort will reap rewards. They also have to have a natural instinct for music and love the challenge of learning an instrument. To succeed, it takes an inner desire to continue year after year and excel."

Congratulations to The Music Conservatory of Texas, the Best of Business 2004 winner in Education.