

Mary Beth von Rohr, Perschbacher, Whritenour

My mother was a piano teacher so I naturally took to the piano like a duck to water. I remember, when I was in 2nd grade, I played the piano while the rest of the class marched around the room.

When I was a junior and senior in high school, I was a pupil of Dr. Clarence Shepherd who was a professor at Carroll College in Waukesha, so I played in recitals at that school. But I ended up going to University of Wisconsin-Madison where I was a pupil of Gunnar Johansen who had recently come over from Denmark. He had a photographic memory and was quite remarkable in that regard. He was a great teacher and had me learn Liszt's Piano Concerto No. 1, and I was privileged to play it with the concert band at that school.

After graduation in 1943, I did various things and for a while taught piano at Michigan State University in East Lansing, Michigan where I also pursued a Master's Degree. There I studied with Maurice Dumesnil who had come from the Conservatory in Paris, France. He also was a wonderful teacher and pianist.

Not long after, I was married, joined the MacDowell Club and held every position on the board except treasurer. I didn't want to handle money.

After I married, I joined my husband on many business trips and we went around the world twice...South America, Africa, Europe, Asia, etc.

He passed away in 1992 and in 1995 I married Vernon Whritenour and lived in Florida and Wisconsin which is what I do now. He also passed in 2008 so I'm a widow again but at 92, I feel I've had quite a life!