

BIO FOR NANCY M. WILLIAMS

Nancy M. Williams is a motivational speaker, the Founding Editor of the online magazine, Grand Piano Passion™, an award-winning writer, a pianist, and a hearing health advocate.

As a motivational speaker, she delivered her well-received workshop, *Claiming Your Passion . . . Despite a Hearing Loss*, as a plenary forum at the April 2014 CHHA National Conference in Toronto, Ontario. She will deliver a similar workshop, *Finding Your Calling . . . Despite a Hearing Loss* at the June 2014 Hearing Loss Association of America Convention in Austin, Texas. Past speaking engagements include a combined piano performance and talk on amateur pianists during Chopin's time, to 50 participants at the invitation-only Renaissance Weekend, a humanities conference, in Charleston, South Carolina, in December 2011.

Ms. Williams' online magazine, Grand Piano Passion™, celebrates her two passions, making music despite a hearing loss and studying the piano as an adult. Her personal essays on classical music, hearing loss, and motherhood have been published in various print and online magazines and an essay anthology. In 2009, she was awarded *The Chattahoochee Review's* prestigious 2009 Lamar York Nonfiction Prize for her essay, "Deserting the Piano."

Ms. Williams performs as an amateur concert pianist, and in 2012 she debuted in recital at Carnegie Hall. Upcoming concerts include a September 2014 performance at the New York Public Library's Andrew Heiskell branch, in a concert with the Association of Adult Musicians with Hearing Loss.

As a hearing health advocate, Ms. Williams serves as Board Member and chairs the Board's Marketing Committee of the Hearing Health Foundation, a New York City based nonprofit that seeks to prevent, research, and cure hearing loss. She also writes openly about the challenges of living with hearing loss for her magazine, Grand Piano Passion™.

Ms. Williams spent the first 20 years of her career in management consulting and marketing, where she often presented to executives and employees. She holds a M.B.A. from Harvard Business School and a B.A. in Quantitative Economics from Stanford University, both with distinction.