

Nancy Hallman



Fascinated by the power of language, Nancy is intrigued by words and the way we wield them in our lives: “I adore words..they are endlessly fascinating to me. We use them for humor and for beauty, for expressing love and pain.”

A life-long lover of nature, writing and music, Nancy enrolled in TCU’s MLA program as she navigated life-changing shifts with her family. One of her writing projects is a children’s book about a “differently-abled” parakeet who finds a new way of moving through the world; currently in the illustration phase, she plans to self-publish it later this year.

Nancy received her Bachelors of Music from North Texas State University after completing her first two years at Southwestern University. Her first job as a music teacher at All Saints Parish Day School brought her to Fort Worth, where she met her husband, Bill, and then continued to teach piano lessons and provide piano accompaniment while raising her family.

Her role as a piano accompanist to vocalists highlights her collaborative and supportive spirit: “I enjoy being part of a team, being in the background and creating space for the one on center stage. I can give them time to breathe, to cover them when maybe they aren’t at their strongest, and to highlight their areas of strength. I love helping ‘raise the temperature’ and manage the energy of the piece, letting the vocalist soar.” Nancy’s strengths translate beyond musical performance – she always lends a steady hand, loving support, and an intelligent, humorous wit to any situation.

Raised in Albany, Texas, Nancy grew up spending as much time outside with animals and nature as possible. Whether riding her horse Sleepy all over town or raising calves for the stock show, Nancy spent her childhood fully immersed in adventure and escapades. Equally passionate about music, Nancy grew up playing the piano and added the cornet to her instrumental repertoire for the high school marching band. While there are too many musical favorites for her to choose from, some of those at the top of her list include singers Bonnie Raitt, James Taylor, and Carole King; cellist YoYo Ma; singer and actress Audra McDonald; baritone opera singer Jubilant Sykes; mandolin player Chris Thile; and jazz pianist Brad Mehldau.

Nancy’s love for nature, writing and music is surpassed only by her love for her family – her loyal, steady and fun-loving nature makes her a devoted mother, grandmother, sister, and friend to those lucky enough to have her in their lives. The first female member of the Arlington Heights Cribbage Club, she is looking forward to continuing to write stories, play the piano, care for her family, honor her husband’s memory, and support the arts and TCU.

