



It is very exciting and satisfying to see dreams come true! The Dorothy Taubman Seminar which was founded in 2003 by four of Dorothy Taubman students had its home in New York for 5 years. The founders were Maria del Pico Taylor (myself), Sondra Tammam, Father Paul Maillet, and Eleanor Hancock whose untimely death was a great loss to all of us. Our home in New York for the last 3 years was the Rose Studio at Lincoln Center.

The day Professor Harvey Wedeen asked me if we would consider making Temple our new home and creating a very different kind of Taubman Seminar is still vivid in my mind. After all, Dorothy Taubman was Visiting Professor of Piano at Temple and it was only fitting to establish an in depth program for her work. His introductory remarks immediately caught my imagination. He expressed that he was tired of seeing teachers attend all kinds of piano workshops, take copious notes and yet not be able to transfer the theoretical information to their hands or to their student's hands because of the lack of expert practical guidance. He added: "Why not create a different seminar where hands on sessions are the centerpiece and where the participants will truly learn as much as possible in a practical way?" At this point, after Father Paul had accepted a Seminary position in California, Sondra Tammam and I had officially become the Directors of the Seminar.

Professor Wedeen's challenge resonated deeply with us and the new Taubman Seminar was born! The New York seminar had been a wonderful showcase with guest artists, concerts and workshops on a multitude of topics. However, for the new Seminar at Temple we would embark in a different journey to unravel the amazing pianistic discoveries of Dorothy Taubman and to share her legacy in depth with performers, students and teachers. The date was the summer of 2008 and in five years the dream has become a beautiful reality.

When we presented the plan to Associate Dean Beth Bolton she embraced it with open arms. Dean Robert Stroker offered his full support and the last 5 years have been rewarding beyond description. We have seen many injured pianists recover and go on to very successful careers. We have seen many students of the seminar make remarkable progress in their playing and in their teaching. We have seen professionals from several areas outside Philadelphia enroll in the seminar.

We have seen wonderful demonstrations for the teaching of children presented by Maria Hubler, a Temple graduate who has been on the seminar faculty since we moved to Temple. We

have established a six level certification program from the Taubman Seminar and this summer we will salute our first graduating class.

The seminar is now ready for national outreach and this summer we have scheduled it for a whole week with access to on campus accommodations for guests. A new feature will be 'The Inspirational Hour' featuring former students of Dorothy Taubman in master classes. They will also share briefly what the Taubman experience meant to them. The first 2 guests are Jonathan Feldman Head of the Collaborative Program at Juilliard, at the Academy of the West, on faculty at the New England Conservatory and an international collaborative faculty performing pianist and Daniel Epstein, recording artist, Professor of Piano at Rutgers University and at the Manhattan School of Music.

Who do we have to thank for all of this? I personally feel an enormous debt of gratitude to Temple University, to Professor Harvey Wedeen, to Dean Robert Stroker and to Dean Beth Bolton for their unfailing support of this work since the onset. Those of us who go back a long way know that the Taubman work was not always understood or accepted. It has taken a few years for the world to comprehend the enormous legacy of Dorothy Taubman. Now, however, when I travel all over the world from Brazil to Serbia and Sondra Tammam works with students in Israel, and both of us work with pianists all over the USA, we see that people are clamoring for this knowledge.

However, Temple colleagues caught the vision early and embraced us with open arms when many were not sure what to think about this lady from Brooklyn. You were visionaries and you helped us to make it happen. Because of this, I want you to know that you have our eternal gratitude and my iron clad commitment to make you all proud.

Happy 5th Birthday

Temple Dorothy Taubman Seminar and many more!

Maria del Pico Taylor, Professor of Piano, Temple University
Artistic Director, Latin Fiesta
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