



February 23, 2009

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**Salem to Offer Professional Certificate in Injury-Preventive Keyboard Technique
*First Program of its Kind in the U.S.***

WINSTON-SALEM, NC – Salem College and its School of Music will offer a new certificate program in Injury Prevention Keyboard Technique beginning in the fall of 2009, according to Dean of the College and Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs Ann McElaney-Johnson.

The certificate program — the first of its kind to be offered at a U.S. college or university — is subject to final approval by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). Students interested in the program will apply through the Fleer Center for Adult Education at Salem College.

Studies show that between 50 and 75 percent of keyboardists in the United States are dealing with the effects of injuries related to their playing, and that female musicians are statistically twice as likely to develop playing-related injuries as male musicians. The new Salem certificate program will address the needs of traditional-age and adult students seeking keyboard degrees; keyboard students who want a “gap year” between degrees to be retrained; professional teachers and performers who wish to learn how to teach the injury prevention techniques to others; and injured students, teachers, professional performers and church organists/pianists whose careers and studies have been affected by playing-related pain, fatigue and/or dysfunction.

The method to be taught in the new certificate program is the Lister-Sink Method, developed by Salem music professor Barbara Lister-Sink and outlined in her CD *Freeing the Caged Bird: Developing Well-Coordinated, Injury Preventive Piano Technique*. According to Lister-Sink, “This method is one of the only consistently successful methods developed in the late 20th century to convey effectively the biomechanical knowledge, sensations and coordinations necessary to prevent injury and to promote consistently good coordination and development of full artistic potential.”

Certificate courses will include Injury Preventive Keyboard Technique, Pedagogy of Injury-Preventive Keyboard Technique, Keyboardists’ Injuries/Causes and Cures, the Alexander Technique and Applied Piano Instruction.

While residential certificate candidates will receive face-to-face training, students who do not live within commuting distance of Salem may take a hybrid form of the courses using a combination of residency on campus and webcam technology. It is anticipated that students may earn their certificates in two to four semesters, depending upon courses chosen.

Founded in 1772, Salem is the nation’s oldest continually operating institution for women, offering 30 undergraduate majors for women, coeducational graduate studies and programs for men and women ages 23 and over. For more information about the new certificate program, contact the Fleer Center for Adult Education at (336) 721-2669 or visit www.salem.edu.