

2017

Excellent Teaching Award Citation for Anthony Padilla

Lawrence University

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2017 UNIVERSITY AWARD FOR EXCELLENT TEACHING

Anthony Padilla

You have been a wonderful teacher of piano since coming to Lawrence in 1997. Your success comes from focusing on both solid technique, founded on rich traditions of technical musical skill, and on encouragement for each student to develop an individual style and artistic voice. The technical skills you develop are based on the great pianistic traditions of the United States, Germany and Russia. Your own training can be traced back through several generations to Franz Liszt, who himself was the artistic grandchild of Ludwig van Beethoven. You hold a Master of Music degree from the Eastman School of Music, as well as a Bachelor of Music degree from North Illinois University. Obviously, your students are benefitting from a long line of the finest traditions in musical technique. The power of your teaching of technique is reflected in such comments from students as "his critique of my technique proved to be very helpful," and "I felt pushed really hard this term, and this was probably my favorite term of lessons." Once students

have become technically proficient, you work individually to develop in each of them a unique style and personality that enables them to create a strong musical message. This involves many hours in one-on-one instruction and a nurturing approach both in and out of the studio. The approach is summed up by one student who commented on liking how you "make maximum musical sense as well as focusing on technique." Your personal mentoring is reflected in the statement "I always liked his willingness to help and accommodate my needs." Your approach is clearly rewarding to your students. One stated, "I always have fun in your lessons." Another rather succinctly described your lessons as "fun."

For your many contributions that have helped make Lawrence an outstanding institution of learning, I am pleased to honor you today with the 2017 University Award for Excellent Teaching.

June 11, 2017