

VAZQUEZ MUSIC STUDIO



**UNLOCKING
THE KEYS**



Vazquez aims to inspire love for music through teaching

Oscar Vazquez Medrano's life changed forever as a young boy when his parents took him to the Palacio de Bellas Artes, a cultural center for the arts in Mexico City.

The equivalent of the famed Metropolitan Opera House in New York City, Vazquez was amazed by the grand sounds played by the orchestra, but particularly, one instrument.

"It was like love at first sight. We were seated in the first few rows and I saw the piano and was just mesmerized, he recalled. The grand piano and its sound were amazing to me, but I was also impressed by the skill of the pianist ...I told my parents I really wanted to try music."

Fast forward decades later, Vazquez is a seasoned musician who plays professionally thanks in part to his lifelong commitment to his craft in music education. In 2023, he and his wife, Krista opened Vazquez Music Studio in Columbus, Nebraska, in hopes they can share their passion for music with future generations.



Oscar with his mother, Maria del Carmen and father, Oscar Vazquez Sr. celebrating his birthday at his grandparent's house in Mexico City, Mexico

In the fall of 2024, Vazquez Music Studio took another step forward when a grant from GROW Nebraska enabled them to move to their current location on the lower level of Pioneer Plaza, 2402 13th Street, Columbus.

"It's filled with colors based on our logo that was designed by our friend and local artist, Yara Ramos Hernandez," Vazquez said.

Additionally, they received a Pramberger Pramberger baby grand piano from an anonymous donor.

"We were very fortunate and are extremely grateful to have received this donation," he said. "We have taken extreme care in preparing it for use in our studio."

Vazquez Music Studio prides itself on providing "piano lessons for students of all ages and levels," but has undoubtedly become a go-to location for youth with musical aspirations.

"When I was a child, I didn't always have quality instruments and teachers," Vazquez admitted. "When I was exposed to really good instruction, it opened a whole new world for me. Today I find my greatest joy in sharing the knowledge I have received over the years."

“*I understand some might not want to follow this as a career, but those who do will gain the knowledge to advance. Students who don't go on to professional music careers will have a better ear and a life-long appreciation for music."*

Vazquez has a rich history with the piano dating back to his childhood in his native Mexico. Even before the concert that "changed his life," he had a teacher when he was 6 or 7 years old who introduced him and his classmates to various instruments.

Vazquez quickly learned the guitar wasn't for him and discovered the piano. It wasn't until after the concert in Mexico City that he began taking piano lessons, but it wasn't smooth sailing from there.

"Of course, it wasn't easy," Vazquez said. "When I started music lessons, I struggled like many beginners do."

But something eventually clicked for the young boy, who practiced for at least one hour each day Monday through Friday at a place his parents had arranged because they didn't have a piano at home. His efforts soon paid off as he became quite efficient playing the 88 keys.

"My teachers told my parents I had a talent for music," he said. "I was playing more difficult pieces than required."

Vazquez was all-in when it came to piano. He studied through high school and eventually earned his bachelor's degree in piano from the National Autonomous University of Mexico. It opened his eyes to his true calling.

"I had this dream in which I wanted to be a performer - that's what I wanted to do," Vazquez said, who has performed throughout the U.S., Mexico and Europe. "But getting the chance to teach in part of a class, I really loved it and decided to switch. I still perform, but I truly enjoy teaching more."

Under the guidance of one of his musical mentors (Slawomir Dobrzanski), Vazquez relocated to the United States to continue his education. He earned his master's degree in piano performance at Kansas State University and a Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA) from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

When it comes to Vazquez Music Studio, don't think of the stereotypical stuffy teaching environments that offer no fun. VMS strives to break the mold, as Vazquez acknowledged he had some



Oscar with his parents outside his school, after passing a level of piano.

good and some not-so-good teachers in his adolescence. He prides himself on his vast knowledge and ability to coach young people to be their best.

"I strive to be a patient and understanding teacher. I want to have a safe environment in which you can play and have a rewarding experience even if you don't have all the knowledge yet," Vazquez said, who also teaches his students how to read music and introduces them to musical history.

"I love teaching kids, maybe because I was an only child growing up. But I love seeing them learn - it always brings back nice memories."

His wife echoed his sentiment, noting Vazquez is not only an accomplished musician but a wonderful educator who can teach lessons in English or Spanish and with the ability to adjust his teaching style based on individual students' skills.



“He has always been a guy kids immediately love,” she said. “When I’ve seen him teaching, it’s clear to me teaching is his primary passion.”

The two work at Central Community College, Columbus as music instructors: Krista full-time and Oscar as an adjunct piano instructor.

They intend to keep growing the studio into a hub for music lessons with various instruments utilizing different educated professionals for those who speak English and/or Spanish.



“There was nothing like that here in Columbus at the time and we saw the potential,” Vazquez said.

As the studio grows, Vazquez’s love for piano and sharing it with future generations will never waver. He still has vivid memories of being a boy taking in the concert in Mexico City and discovering his passion. He wants that for his students.

“I get to experience that now,” he said. “With me helping students pursue an instrument or music in general, it’s a fulfilling experience.”

Oscar, pictured here with Krista and Margot, earned his DMA from The University of Nebraska- Lincoln.

TOP 3 Reasons to Take Lessons at VAZQUEZ MUSIC STUDIO

1

Differentiated Customized Instruction

We tailor lessons based on students’ individual needs and current skill levels. This makes the lessons more engaging and students progress at the speed that works best for them.

2

Learn Music Literacy

This includes how to read music, ear training , and music theory. These are skills that can transfer to other instruments in the future.

3

One-on-One Instruction and Accountability

Every time you come to class, your teacher is there for you, giving instructions, new challenges and immediate feedback. This provides students with another positive adult role model speaking encouragement and positivity into their lives, as they are challenging themselves to learn a new skill.



402-606-1202
vazquezmusicstudio.com
2402 13th Street, Columbus, NE 68601
Lower Level-Pioneer Plaza

