



PSU Alumnus Publishes Music Education Book for Early Beginners and Children in Special Education

Pittsburg State University alumnus Erman Turkili, of Turkey, published a book last month that is available worldwide. Turkili, who graduated from PSU with a Master of Music in 2007, is a perfect example of the outstanding alumni that Pitt State graduates.

Turkili's book, "First Steps of a Little Artist", applies his unique teaching method that uses symbols and colors to teach piano. His book, which is being sold at prestigious sites such as Boosey and Hawkes and Music Exchange, is designed for very early beginners and children in special education.

"(The book is) designed for very early beginners, children with autism and learning disabilities," Turkili said. "This colorful first piano method applies a brand-new teaching method that can be used by parents, teachers and caregivers with absolutely no musical background. Gently progressing content eliminates intimidation, roadblocks and technical challenges. This book also can be used by anyone who wants to start playing the piano with fun, confidence and motivation, with immediate results."

It was during his time at Florida State University (FSU), where Turkili earned his PHD, where he first became interested in the idea of teaching instruments using colors and symbols.

"I had always thought that playing an instrument is quite hard but also learning notes is another difficulty especially at a young age like 3-4-5," he said. "I had a student at the age of 3. She loved learning how to play the violin but it was very difficult for her to learn the notes. One day, I came up with the idea of "coding" the notes as symbols and colors. This approach worked very quickly and she learned very easily. I transferred this knowledge on the piano and we published our first book on the piano."

Turkili plans on publishing books that use the same method on other instruments.

Turkili said that his time at Pitt State helped set him on the path that has led to his success.

"Pitt State opened doors for me to continue my academic and artist career in US," he said. "One might think that PSU is a small university of a small town. It has a quite strong academic excellence which helped me to shape my life both as an academic and as an artist."





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Turkili stayed on campus during his two years in Pittsburg, and said he enjoyed his experience at Pitt State.

“During the day, I had classes and rehearsals and at night the entire university was mine,” he said. “I was alone in the music department at night practicing and spending time on campus at night by myself was my favorite activity. Also, I loved travelling to different cities in Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma. People are very friendly in Kansas, I never (felt) that I was alone in a different country without my family and friends.”

Turkili said he hopes to visit Pittsburg again one day, and visit with the friends he made during his time at PSU.

“I would like to thank PSU Alumni Center and PSU International Community and a special thanks to Aaron Hurt whose help is endless for all the students,” he said.