

Cochlear implants and the piano — Today, April 4

Apr 4	7:40 PM
davidh	has entered the room
davidh	I forgot how to chat but it looks easy enough. I'll stay
	7:50 PM
ford	has entered the room
ford	I'm actually a guitarist possibly getting a CI in one ear within next 6 months...just thought I would lurk
Kathleen M.	has entered the room
davidh	a big issue is percussiveness
	7:55 PM
ford	so everything sounds uniform and flat? no dynamics? I have sesorliner loss... so my low frequencies are mild... I would be going for a hybrid If loss LF loss everything above about 2k is gone
Kathleen M.	Hi Ford, I have a hybrid, the Med-El EAS. Just got activated almost 4 months ago
davidh	not after a while but by percussiveness I mean that the liveliness of the CI has made every piano sound a physical experience it doesn't seem to matter what the volume is, but it is a very slow path for the better...I am sure we have different issues, but I have only one CI what is a hybrid?
Pat D.	has entered the room
Pat D.	Hi everyone. Is anyone there?
ford	hmm.. my left ear is worse but right ear also profound...but the better ear... i guess you could turn it off while playing during the learning period hybrid means the sensor is only put in about half way...hopefully preserving the low frequencies
	8:00 PM
ford	used to be a craps shoot...but I hear that the tech is getting much better
Pat D.	Hi Ford – I'm confused. Do you have a CI or a hybrid?
davidh	I am still experimenting with when to use one, when HA plus CI and when to use both. Fatigue sets in but no doubt two together is best for at least four hours a day if not more.
ford	some chance of losing everything in the ear but they are getting better at it from what Ive read
Wendy C.	has entered the room
Wendy C.	Hi!!! Wow we have a large crowd today!
Angela	has entered the room
Pat D.	Hi Wendy
ford	I don't have either... I use regular HA's presently...but just got evaluated and recommended a "hybrid" CI in my left ear
Wendy C.	Hi Angela! Glad you were able to make it!
ford	wow
Wendy C.	Ok – let me sort of introduce everyone
ford	I guess it is the same fatigue we all feel just trying to follow conversations :-) ok

Angela	Hi Wendy. Hello to everyone.
Wendy C.	I'm Wendy – president of the Association – I live in Gaithersburg MD, and play viola, piano and also ring handbells
	My piano skills are a bit rudimentary
davidh	the use of one of each seems ultimately a good thing as far as natural, beauty and clarity but it takes the musicians efforts more than the docs
Wendy C.	David Holzman is a concert pianist with one cochlear implant and one hearing aid?
	he is from Long Island, New York
davidh	thanks and best to all
Wendy C.	Kathleen Marin hails from suburbs of Minneapolis. She is newly implanted with a EAS system from MedEI
	My bilateral CIs are from Advanced Bionics
	David's is from Cochlear
	Kathleen's EAS is from Med–EI
	8:05 PM
Wendy C.	EAS is electro acoustic system, meaning lower frequencies is hearing aid (acoustic) and higher frequencies is electric (CI)
ford	ok -- what I have been calling a hybrid
Kathleen M.	Hi. I have CI in 1 ear, HA in the other, going deaf in that ear also.
Wendy C.	Pat Dobbs hails from Madison, New Jersey not far from New York City
	And Angela is Angela Hill from Norfolk, Virginia
	Angela is a pianist and has bilateral Med–EI Cis
	Ford, please tell us more about yourself
	where do you live and have you decided on which CIs to get?
	EAS is the "official" name for hybrid, I think
ford	I'm a bassist/guitarist/composer living in central calif
Wendy C.	Near Sacramento?
	Cool!
ford	used to gig alot but preently am down to solo guitar
	near yosemite
	can't really hear in combos any more
Wendy C.	Ok, I know where that is (vaguely! Visit Yosemite.
ford	jazz player mostly
davidh	WAS YOUR hearing loss gradual or sudden?
Wendy C.	Yeah, hearing loss tends to adversely affect your ability to hear in ensembles
Kathleen M.	I just attended a concert today with guitar and recorder. I could hear the guitar pretty well
Wendy C.	Good for Kathleen!
ford	gradual -- I was professional working for 20+ years and audio engineer -- I think the engineering with headphones did me in
Wendy C.	For me, timbre is very close to what it was when I was wearing hearing aids
ford	my loss went from mild to profound in the last 12 years or so
Wendy C.	Ford, sounds like you have "music-induced" hearing loss.
ford	I would guess
Wendy C.	There's a conference on music induced hearing loss happening in June
	8:10 PM
davidh	wendy- what do you mean that timbre is close to HA

ford	obviously pretty scared about losing any ability to hear music... but at this point family life needs to take precedent the idea of a CI is pretty new for me
Wendy C.	That's a smart assessment, Ford!
	So my hearing loss was flat and same across all frequency ranges
ford	ok mine a waterfall with LF not terrible and HF gone
Wendy C.	I wore Phonak hearing aids for many years before losing it all when I was 35 (back in 2006). not a waterfall – that is called ski-slope high frequency hearing loss, I think.
ford	this conference in june is east coast correct? yes -- ski slope!
Wendy C.	It is in Chicago http://www.aes.org/conferences/2018/hearing/
ford	i'll look for details...oh thanks
Wendy C.	Audio Engineering Society has a special interest group on music induced hearing loss and some big names in the audio engineering and audiology professions will be there
Kathleen M.	Ford, as a wearer of the EAS system, here's my story. I can hear up to about the 2nd F above middle C with the acoustic part of the CI. It comes in quite nicely. I am gradually learning to hear music with the CI part. Timbre not good yet, some notes on pitch, others not. I also lost about 40 dB of hearing in the lower frequencies during implantation, but can still hear music with the HA part.
davidh	my sense is that CI is hearing much more treble than three months ago and that the sounds are finally even brilliant, but I may be confusing interaction with HA. This is 2 1/2 years together
ford	thats helpful
Wendy C.	So Ford, what I mean when I say timbre is almost the same as it was before, I mean that when I hear guitar, piano, viola, violin, etc. they sound similar to how they sound before I lost my hearing completely.
	8:15 PM
ford	hmm.. I understand that it is new way of learning to hear... and I guess it would take many years to really adapt
Wendy C.	But different people have difference experiences with CI
Pat D.	wendy – was that always the case or did you have to work at it?
Wendy C.	so many variables to hearing with a CI!
ford	is there a program you can use to develop better hearing with CI...or is it like physical therapy that requires lots of followup visits..? I'm 4 hours away from house clinic in LA -- I have been self programming my HA's for past 8 years
Wendy C.	Pat – I had two difference experiences with both ears. My right ear (profoundly deaf), never had any amplification when I was growing up. So when I got my right ear implanted, timbre came back slowly and pitch took much longer.
davidh	it is a three-way street between brain, ear and finger...the frustrations at the slowness are great, but they can be overcome with steady work
ford	really have had a hard time finding an audiologist that even begins to understand the musicians midset
Wendy C.	I didn't touch my violin for six months. I spent a lot of time just playing scales on the piano and waiting for pitch to come
Kathleen M.	David, I'm finding that my treble notes are coming in sooner than the base notes with the CI. Was that your experience?
Pat D.	Kathleen – that was not my experience as base came in before treble.
davidh	not at all! it was the opposite and I assumed it was because the electrodes were all low frequencies. So the change lately maybe my brain more than my machine
Wendy C.	But the activation on my left ear went much better. I was hearing higher pitches on the viola very soon after activation. Timbre came back faster and pitch was faster.
Pat D.	I am bi-lateral with Cochlear processors
Kathleen M.	thanks. I can hear bass with the HA component, but I'm getting noise and buzzing from the CI part. annoying
Wendy C.	So Pat, in my experience, rehabilitation is dependent on auditory memory, programming and similar how your ear interacts with the cochlear implant

8:20 PM

davidh the buzzing was more than a year...it is still there where I hear something new, but the pitches seem to be overcoming it, particularly when my brain tells my ear what to hear

Wendy C. Kathleen, did you ask your CI audiologist to widen the IDR and reduce compression on the CI program?

Pat D. Wendy – agreed. My audiologist is not interested in spending time on programming my CI's for music.

Wendy C. Pat – contact Brad Ingrao – maybe he can help

ford music and speech really are different animals

Wendy C. he's out in California, but maybe he can help

Pat D. Wendy – thanks

ford I've kind of had to find a middle ground with my HA's and as my hearing got worse..give up on the music aspect in favor of speech

Wendy C. I'm not guarantee he will be able to help you, but he knows music and he knows CIs

Kathleen M. I see my audie next week. I will ask about IDR and reduce compression. Sadly, I had to change audie due to insurance, and I am her first patient with EAS

ford where is he

Wendy C. Ford, I'm impressed that you program your HAs

ford ?

davidh when I see audiologist in a month I will see if she can create a special program PURELY for my practicing my piano. Nothing is more tiring for me than that and I feel as you do that she probably cant do it.

ford not too hard coming from an audio engineering background... and as a programmer for my livelihood

but it all takes so much time to get a handle on

very much a moving target all the time

Wendy C. Ford – <http://e-audiology.net/>

that is the link for Dr. Ingrao

ford thanks

Wendy C. he plays saxophone

Pat D. David – I would be interested in if your audiolgoist can do that? Where do you go for progamming (we're kind of neighbors)

Wendy C. he helped to write our book so I think he would be willing to talk about his experiences

Pat D. Thanks Wendy

Wendy C. he lives in Long Beach, California

He might be attending the HLAA (Hearing Loss Association of America) convention – I think he is on the HLAA board

8:25 PM

Wendy C. Besides Kathleen and me, who else is attending the HLAA convention?

davidh NYU Hosp 660 1st Ave. I am not completely satisfied and there was someone there a year ago who was researching music and CI but he seems to have left due to money problems. I know that I am teaching them much as with medications and my neurologists...the brain needs for a musician are different.

Wendy C. Angela, are you still there?

Pat D. unfortunately I can't goto HLAA this year.

Wendy C. You've been pretty quiet!

Sorry Pat! I'll miss seeing you

Pat D. Thanks David.

Angela Yes I am Wendy. Just that when I want to type something the lower bar blocks my typing once I get to the second line.

Wendy C. Which browser are you using?

I'm on Google Chrome

ford try not using the browser full screen

Wendy C.	By the way, please don't log in on an Ipad
	this chat software is built for laptops and desktops
davidh	I get the feeling that the variations in our needs are at least as much as the similarities, which is not surprising
Pat D.	agreed
ford	yes not surprising
Wendy C.	David, you are a professional musician. Your needs are at a higher plane than mine
Angela	That answers my question. Smile. I am using my iPad. So sorry. Also using regular Google and not Google Chrome. Sorry for any misspelled words as after the first line I can not see it.
ford	this world and experience is so subjective
Angela	Going to transfer to my computer.
ford	agreed Wendy -- I pretty much play for fun only these days
Kathleen M.	About how long, how many months before sounds come in on pitch?
	8:30 PM
Wendy C.	I'm trying to take the music theory certification that the Handbell Musicians of America have. I passed the level 1 theory exam which had an aural test
	I'm not sure I can pass the level 2 aural test
	*test, but I am going to try
Kathleen M.	Good for you!
Wendy C.	Kathleen – I think it depends on the person where pitch perception is concerned
	I know with my very first speech processor back in 2007, it took several months and even when I upgraded to a BTE speech processor, I knew it was several steps off
Angela	has left the room
Wendy C.	I got my second CI in the left ear around 2008. I think pitch is better now
Angela	has entered the room
Wendy C.	when I listen to classical music on the radio, it sounds pleasant.
davidh	it was six months for sound and another six months for an octave or so. but I cannot really understand what I hear with one ear or two as there seems a secret link which my brain is master of. I try to write about it but it is still a work in progress.
Angela	Okay this is better. Thanks Wendy. I am back in service. smile
Kathleen M.	I'm playing scales, returning to simpler music to play, listening to CDs, going to concerts (chamber or solo instruments). Anything else I should be doing?
Wendy C.	the melodic contour is coming, but I still can't do melodic dictation
	If I tried doing melodic dictation, I am sure I'll be at least half a step or more likely, one step off
	Kathleen, keep doing what you are doing now. I'm sure Angela will agree with me
	Angela, how does pitch and timbre sound with your Med-EL CIs?
Angela	I am sorry I am late in the conversation. But just wanted to say that I started out bi-modal, wearing a CI in my right ear (as of 2012) and still wearing a HA in my left ear. Over time, I actually liked this combination. Then 2015 I went bilateral. I have a blog for those who want to know about my journey back to music for the first 18 months after being implanted back in 2012
Kathleen M.	ok, good to know. It sounds like I need to have patience and expect improvement over several months or years
	8:35 PM
Wendy C.	Yes Kathleen, this takes time
	I wish I could tell you that I can do melodic dictation after 8 years with my CI (and I have the latest CIs from Advanced Bionics), but I can't say that I can take musical dictation with confidence.
davidh	I am realizing that I am still afraid to hear complex music. When I hear orchestral music, it is chaos but with a few repetitions, clarity begins to enter meaning I can hear harmonic motion, a bit of counterpoint, and even something as basic as meter takes a bit of effort. That though is like practicing and helping your ear...hearing harmonic motion and meter ie upbeats etc
Angela	

	Wendy, my pitch and timbre is getting better with time since being bilateral. I am told that my singing on pitch is not as far off as when I was bi-modal. Still needs work, but I am much farther along in my music journey. Still able to play and appreciate the piano. In fact, this past Sunday I played for a small church service.
Wendy C.	it's really 8 years in the left ear and about 11 years with my right CI
	Thanks Angela! I know I can sing in tune during Catholic Mass but I still can't sing chromatic intervals
	Fortunately church hymns are not as difficult as oratorios. (smile)
	Angela, can you provide the link again to your CI journey and give our chatters the password?
Pat D.	David – I'm wit you – afraid to hear complex music too.
davidh	what I mean is that it is always easier to do what you know. the fear and the chaos can be to a valuable degree overcome. That goes for chamber music if you have good friends playing with you.
Angela	It will get better Wendy. Continue to look for those a ha moment with music appreciation.
	8:40 PM
Wendy C.	I think I prefer listening to chamber music over symphonic music. I can hear a symphonic work and it doesn't sound bad, but I can't pick out more than the melody and the bass accompaniment
	David, I'm impressed if you can hear the harmony.
davidh	do any of you need a break after an hour's work? I do and I am getting used to it.
Wendy C.	An hour's work at the piano?
Kathleen M.	I'm not quite up to an hour yet. It's hard work!
Angela	Sure. It is www.http://angelasciblog.com/ Password is 2012 Again, it has not been updated in years. This only shares my journey of the first 18 months of being implanted in my right ear. I was implanted in that ear July 2012, activated August and back on the piano in October of that same year.
Wendy C.	Actually I need a break after practicing no matter which instrument I'm practicing :-)
davidh	yes...and now I learn to stop for 15 minutes, take devices out and do something else before getting back
Wendy C.	Thank you Angela!
	Ok . . I have a question for everyone.
	Our Association is thinking of having an in-person meetup October 5-7.
	Was wondering if anyone in this group might be interested
	I prefer not to sign a rental agreement unless I can find 10 folks to attend. :-)
	So let me know if you have questions
Pat D.	I'm pretty sure that I will not be available on those dates.
Angela	http://angelasciblog.com/ This is the corrected website. Password again is Hear2012 If you have trouble accessing it please let me know.
davidh	I would be interested but could not guarantee
Wendy C.	Thank, Pat!
	Thanks Pat – yeah, part of the problem is there are folks who don't know what their schedule in October looks like
Kathleen M.	I would like to, but probably won't be able to travel that far.
Wendy C.	I'll put the registration information up next week
Angela	As long as that weekend does not fall on a weekend my husband works then not a problem at all. He currently works every other weekend.
Pat D.	The Adult School is scheduling me for workshops on hearing loss and it will be sometime in October.
Wendy C.	What is the Adult School, Pat?
	8:45 PM
Pat D.	The local adult education platform
Wendy C.	Just tell them you are not available October 5. (Just kidding)
	Oh, the local adult education community. Is that affiliated with the local community college?
	*college?

	Ford, I have a question – do you still do audio engineering?
Pat D.	Yes – it's affiliated with the local 2-year colleges
Wendy C.	Question for Ford – When you set up microphones for musical ensembles, how do audio engineers determine how many microphones are needed?
Pat D.	great question Wendy
Kathleen M.	Question for everyone. Do you change the settings on your CI when you practice? Volume, sensitivity, etc?
Wendy C.	Kathleen, I do
ford	It really depends on the space...I have historically gone with a mic on every instrument... or jsut a space stero mic on the ensemble...
Wendy C.	What is a stereo mic?
	8:50 PM
ford	but truthfully it has been 10+ years since I did sound reinforcement...and now with in-ear-monitors and the like...it is a different world
Wendy C.	Kathleen: When I got my CI, my audiologist at Hopkins set up a program for speech and a program for music.
	after a while I decided to use the music program for every day conversation
ford	a single mic with a left and right side...channel... so you simulate a person standing in front of the group
davidh	I put both setting at 1 and I do not know whether sensitivity helps or hurts. the strange thing is that I think that the regular settings or 4 or 5 might be the ultimate goal andit just takes getting used to. It is very confusing and many factors such as fatigue, overhearing, pitch come into play. I tend to keep them low when practicing...when listening they are much higher
Wendy C.	Thanks Ford!
ford	or sometimes two mics crossed over each other
	but really best for acoustic situations
Wendy C.	So Kathleen – I have program 1 for everyone conversation, and program 2 for music practice
ford	with amplified instruments and drums it can get more comlicated
	complicated
Kathleen M.	I was told Med-El doesnt do special music programs. Ive also tried lowering the volume and sensitivity to try to minimize the buzzing sound
ford	hey all -- I have to run but this is great -- I look forward to more chats
Pat D.	Wendy – you use your music setting for every day conversations – wow!
Wendy C.	program 2 is the same as program 1 except for the fact that it is set to 50% mic and 50% auxiliary (for using assistive listening devices)
Pat D.	Bye Ford
Wendy C.	because I use and ALD system to practice
Pat D.	looking forward to talking again
Kathleen M.	Bye Ford
Wendy C.	I use the Companion system from Etymotic Research
davidh	sensitivity seems to widen pitches which is bad, but sounds are arriving faster.
Wendy C.	Bye Ford!
	Ford – to exit, click on the "Sign out" link on the upper right corner
ford	has left the room
Wendy C.	Glad you enjoyed our chat!
	We'll have to stop at 9 pm
Pat D.	Wendy– Really – you use an ALD fr practice. What about when you're not practicing – do you still use an ALD?
Wendy C.	but I am glad to hear that Kathleen is progressing!
	8:55 PM
Wendy C.	For viola lesson and handbells practice, I use an ALD.

	when I am not practicing I take the ALD off
Angela	At this time, I do not when practicing. However, in the beginning of my CI journey I did.
Wendy C.	for every day conversatio around the house I don't need the ALD
	*conversation
	I have more stringent requirements for listening when it comes to practicing/rehearsing music, thus the need for the ALD
Pat D.	Wendy what are the changes in the music when using an ALD?
Wendy C.	For viola: – I want to hear the sympathetic ringing on the strings – on my viola when I play any note that is an octave of one of the 4 string, it rings.
	When it rings I know I am playing in tune.
	and I don't want to have to lipread my teacher during lesson, so he wears one of the transmitters too
Pat D.	Wendy – that's so smart. I never thought of using an ALD while playing. I'll try it to see how it sounds.
Wendy C.	For handbells – if I am rehearsing, I don't want to lipread the director so the director wears one of the transmitter.
	And I clip the three other transmitters on the notebook for the ringers playing the high treble bells
	9:00 PM
Wendy C.	Sometimes my director has me ring the lower bells or the bells just above middle C. But most of the time the melody is in the high treble so I know if I can hear the melody, I won't get lost during rehearsals
	When I am conducting, I clip the transmitter to the high treble bells too so if I lose my place in the music I can find it. (Smile)
	I do find myself trying to be better at score study and trying to memorize passages so I can have better eye contact with my ringers
Pat D.	how many mic's can your system handle?
Wendy C.	My system has 3 transmitters and one receiver
	this is from Etymotic Research
	I wrote a review about it in our recent newsletter
Pat D.	thanks will check it out
Wendy C.	it's 9:02!
	Thanks everyone!
Pat D.	Oh – that's why I'm turning into a pumpkin!
Kathleen M.	Thanks
davidh	Good night to all and my best.
Wendy C.	Which night is better for you all – Wednesday evening or Sunday evening?
Pat D.	Thanks Wendy – Night all and nice chatting with you all.
	Wednesday evenings
Wendy C.	I'm trying to decide when to schedule May's chat
davidh	either
Kathleen M.	Either for me
Wendy C.	Ok!
Angela	Good night everyone. Wednesday evening.
Wendy C.	Maybe I'll alternate between Wednesday and Sunday
davidh	has left the room
Pat D.	Night all
Wendy C.	take care everyone!
	good night!
Kathleen M.	has left the room

Angela has left the room

9:20 PM

Pat D. has left the room

Wendy C. has left the room