

Cochlear implants and the piano – Today, January 5

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| Jan 5 | 7:15 AM |
| Wendy C. | has entered the room |
| Wendy C. | turned on guest access |
| Linda B. | has entered the room |
| | 7:30 AM |
| Linda B. | has left the room |
| | 7:40 AM |
| Wendy C. | has left the room |
| | 7:30 PM |
| MatthewM | has entered the room |
| | 7:50 PM |
| JanetB | has entered the room |
| Wendy C. | has entered the room |
| Wendy C. | Hi! |
| | Wendy here. I see that Janet signed on early |
| | you type at the bottom of the screen |
| JanetB | Hi,yes it's Janet here. I wanted to sign in early, in case I had any difficulties. No problems though. |
| MatthewM | Hi Wendy, Janet. It's been a while |
| KathleenM | has entered the room |
| Wendy C. | Hi Kathleen! |
| | Glad you made it |
| | It's 7:51 pm eastern |
| | Matthew , what time is it in Australia? |
| davidh | has entered the room |
| Wendy C. | Hi David! |
| MatthewM | 11:51am, Saturday morning |
| Wendy C. | Glad you made it in here |
| | Everyone, you type what you want to say at the bottom of the screen |
| davidh | hello...is it this easy? |
| Wendy C. | Yes David! |
| | You got it |
| KathleenM | Hi Everyone! |
| Wendy C. | AAMHL uses this chat software for our board meetings |
| | but one nice thing about it is that it also keeps a transcript of our conversations |
| davidh | I am a bit nervous...it reminds me of regular social chats where I had to work hard, but this seems to be easy to get used to...so on to music |
| Wendy C. | Yes, but let's wait for everyone to sign on |
| JoyceM | has entered the room |
| Wendy C. | it's not quite 8 pm yet |
| | Hi Joyce! |
| | Glad you made it |

| | |
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| | you type at the bottom of the screen |
| | So Matthew, I believe Australia is 12 hour ahead of New York? |
| JoyceM | Hi Wendy. I'm glad I made it too. I almost forgot! |
| | 7:55 PM |
| Wendy C. | Yaay! |
| | so we'll wait for about 5 minutes before getting started |
| davidh | btw, before it is over, can this entire chat to saved on computer? |
| MatthewM | 16 hours, I think. 8pm in NY, 12noon here in Syd/Melb, Aus. |
| Wendy C. | No but I can send transcript to anyone who wants it |
| | The chat software produces a nice transcript |
| Kathryn B. | has entered the room |
| Wendy C. | changed the room's topic to <i>January 5 2018 chat discussion on playing the piano with cochlear implants.</i> |
| Kathryn B. | Howdy |
| Wendy C. | Hi ! Is this Kathryn Bakke from Minneapolis? |
| Kathryn B. | Yes, it is |
| Wendy C. | Great! AAMHL on Big Tent tends to be pretty quiet. |
| | I wasn't sure if anyone got the notice there |
| Josh T. | has entered the room |
| Wendy C. | Hi josh! |
| | glad you made it |
| Josh T. | Hi Wendy. Thanks! |
| Wendy C. | We are going to wait for a few more people before getting started |
| | 8:00 PM |
| Wendy C. | Ok, it's 8:00 pm. I'm going to begin by explain how this chat session about and explain how to type and share web link and files |
| JoyceM | Wendy, to begin with, could we ask everyone to indicate whether they currently have a CI (or two) and how long they have had them, or if they are contemplating getting one? |
| Kathryn B. | I've been using a CI Naidain 4 one ear and just got the Naida Link in my other ear. I'd like go know what other experiences have been. |
| Wendy C. | Wait |
| | Let me deal with computer logistics first |
| | So you type your comments at the bottom of the screen |
| | if you want to copy and past a web link here you can |
| davidh | I have had CI for 2 and a half years and used HA in other ear for about 8 years. thus currently HA in one, CI in other. |
| Wendy C. | if you need to log off after this chate, you click on sign out in the upper right corner |
| | it's a bit hard to see but it's there |
| | So . . .to start, Janet Bulani is a piano teacher from Vancouver, Canada |
| JoyceM | I play the piano, have a severe hearing loss, and am contemplating getting a CI, so I'm interested in hearing experiences of people who already have a CI. |
| Kathryn B. | I just got the Niada Link and am disappointed with sound quality. |
| Wendy C. | She is in the process of deciding whether to get a cochlear implant or not. She is concerned about losing the remainder of her residual hearing |
| | So I decide to pull together all the pianist I know who have a CI and ask if they would be willing to spend some time and share their experiences all at once with Janet. |
| KathleenM | Hi Wendy, are we waiting for more people to join? |
| Wendy C. | We can go ahead and get started. :-) |

8:05 PM

JanetB Thank you Wendy. I am also very interesting to hear if anyone teaches piano, and has a cochlear implant.

Wendy C. So What I'd like to have you all introduce yourself. Tell us where you live, and whether you have a CI in both hear, or a CI and HA in one ear and an hearing aid in the other ear.

JoyceM So Kathryn, were you happy with the sound quality of the Naidain 4?

Kathryn B. I would recommend getting the CI in only one ear and a hearing aid in the other ear. I've lost sound quality

Wendy C. Kathleen is the only once here iwth an EAS system from Med-El

davidh I got mine at 65 years old and did not let myself realize that it was and still is a LONG process for brain, ear and machine and I still cannot distinguish where problems lie, including when they are piano. It is a very delicate connection at piano and I cannot easily say DO IT.

KathleenM As you know, Wendy, I just got activated 3 weeks ago. I have a Med-El EAS 24. I played the piano for this first time today and it went really well.

Wendy C. And I am very surprised that Matthew Mack is here! Matt's primary instrument is the cello.

That's good to know, KathleenM

Kathryn B. I don't regret getting the CI for one minute because of improved speech.

MatthewM Indeed – I'm not a CI user, but am naturally very curious in general :) Happy to drop out if we hit our room cap of 12 people.

JanetB Could we also establish, for those that have CIs, are you late deafened, or were you born with hearing issues, or developed hearing issues as a child?

Wendy C. Persoanally I think with regard to program cochlear implants for music, it is a delicate dance

davidh HA in one and CI in other is problem what Kathryn says, as sound quality with HA is worse than CI and yet meshing the two has been a frightful dilemma and I am still working it out. Balance between treble and bass is central issue as is the fact that after 50 years, my left ear is now stronger than my right ear---left ear is CI

JoyceM Improved speech is what I need; but I am reluctant to risk losing my appreciation of my piano music. Others have also recommended just one CI w/HA in other ear.

Wendy C. You need to find a musical audiologist who can program CIs for music

Kathryn B. But the hearing aid gave me beautiful sound and IU miss that.

Wendy C. Joyce, Kathleen has a "hybrid CI" so another thing to consider

acoustic hearing in lower frequencies and bionic hearing in higher notes

davidh speech developed rapidly--musical listening ie phonograph also was a wonder, but the nearness and precision of piano practicing is the biggest burden

Kathryn B. I can play the piano just fine. I just miss the beautiful sound I got with my old aid

JoyceM David, what is the history of you hearing loss and hearing assistance?

Wendy C. Yes, David, most of the time, CIs are not designed for performance. :(

JanetB Do you feel you can hear the piano well enough to teach it?

Wendy C. Joyce, David is a concert pianist.

8:10 PM

Wendy C. here is his website

davidh I lost 90% of left ear at 8 and forty years later lost half of my good ear in an accident.

Wendy C. <http://www.battlemuse.com/>

Kathryn B. I don't have a problem with performance, just music appreciation,

JoyceM David, when did you get a HA or CI?

Wendy C. Daivd, I would say as a professional pianist you are looking for nuance that most CI don't discern well.

Kathryn B. I've learned to adapt to the sound.

davidh I can tell anyone that with will power, things are improved for teaching and most of music...I strangely developed neural fatigue which means that I can seldom work hard at piano more than four hours a day but that could be improving gradually...patience and faith and friends are a must.

Josh T.

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| | I'm Josh Twente, and I live in Iowa. I was born with severe hearing loss which is prevalent in my mom's family. I wore hearing aids from age 4 until 21, receiving an Advanced Bionics implant in my left ear in 2007 (10 years ago this week!) at age 22. My left ear had <5% residual hearing at that time, yet my right ear had 30%. I waited until 2011 to implant my right ear as I too was afraid of losing my residual hearing. My only regret is not getting my right ear implanted sooner! I play the piano, organ and trumpet. I played the violin in late elementary school but quit when my hearing degraded further. |
| JoyceM | For those who have had a CI for several years, have you noticed a greater appreciation of the sound quality over the time you have had your CI? |
| Kathryn B. | There's new software being developed that I tested and VASTLY IMPROVED sound quality, both speech and music. |
| Wendy C. | Joyce, technology keeps improving |
| DavidH | I seem to be adapting but that means living with a degree of percussiveness and volume that is not NATURAL,,,,,the point is that I have forgotten what NATURAL is and that has been a sorrow for twenty years. Adapting is possible but hard |
| KathleenM | Here's my story. I have an acoustic neuroma in my right ear, just got radiation and am losing hearing fairly rapidly, also have major tonal distortion in that ear, cope by using a musician's ear plug to tune out some of the distortion. When not playing the piano or listening to music, I use a hearing aid in that ear. I just got a CI in the other ear. I am profoundly deaf there residual with low register hearing. I kept a lot of it with the implant. All of my hearing losses started 5 years ago with a sudden loss on one side and then gradual loss on the other. |
| Josh T. | I do think my music appreciation increased over the course of a few years. It can take your ear/brain a while to really get the nuances of music. Going bi-lateral was a huge increase in music appreciation and understanding for me. |
| JoyceM | Kathryn, what software did you test? Who is the manufacturer? |
| Wendy C. | Joyce: My current Naidas are a vast improvement over the old body worn processor I had back in 1997 |
| | 8:15 PM |
| Kathryn B. | I don't know. I was testing at the University of MN. |
| Wendy C. | I am pretty happy with the timbre. |
| JanetB | Kathleen, may I ask where you got your hybrid implant? That is what I am after, but I can't find it offered in Canada. |
| Wendy C. | pitch is about 90% there |
| KathleenM | Kathryn, I'm in the Twin Cities also. I've been a Mayo patient, am transferring to the U this month as my insurance changed. |
| DavidH | Doctors never made clear to me what I would hear with pitches. They seemed surprised that I heard a pitch in a test. Now I seem to hear many and it seems to cover more of the keyboard ie treble. If software can unify ears sound and pitch, that would be a major step |
| Kathryn B. | Evelyn Davies was the tester. It was awesome. I will get |
| KathleenM | Joyce, at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN |
| JoyceM | Audiologists I have consulted have advised me to get a full implant since my hearing loss is progressive. It is assumed I will eventually lose even the high frequency if I live long enough! |
| Kathryn B. | weedy the cell phone and email. I'm not good with links. That should have been Wendy. Sorry! |
| Wendy C. | Kathryn, not sure what you are referring to. What cell phone and email? |
| | So David do you hear two different pitches for each note on the piano? |
| | one pitch in the right ear and something slightly different in the left ear? |
| KathleenM | Joyce, the hearing loss in my left (implanted) ear has been stable for 5 years, so we went with the 24 rather than a longer array. I was terrified of losing my low register hearing, as that has been how I hear music, but I'm pleased so far. |
| JoyceM | Wendy, is that what you hear--slightly different pitches in each ear? |
| | 8:20 PM |
| Kathryn B. | Evelyn said the software was very much in the experimental stage. More testing and FDA approval. |
| Wendy C. | Oh no, Joyce. I've heard of folks who have this condition, but not me. |
| DavidH | it varies...when I am tired (I suppose) the CI is close to a half pitch higher than HA which I think is the absolute pitch. But the erratic quality during a day must be biologic...does anyone have the same issue of erratic strength and quality? |
| Wendy C. | Somehow with CIs in both ears, I hear a note more or less the same in both ears |
| Kathryn B. | Sorry, Wendy. Evelyn Davies was the tester when I tried the software. I will get you the cell phone and cell. |

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| JoyceM | Kathleen, good to hear. Since your loss was sudden and mine is progressive, I might not have the same stability as you. |
| Wendy C. | Ok, thanks! |
| JanetB | Kathleen, I'm interested in your comment about your low register hearing helping you hear music. This is my gut feel as well – that because I have perfect hearing up to 500 Hertz, it is helping me with my profound loss from 1000 Hertz and up. |
| Wendy C. | David, please describe the erratic quality. |
| | how is it erratic? |
| JoyceM | That is where CI's help--from about 500 Hz and higher. |
| Wendy C. | Josh – how did notes on the piano sound after activation? |
| | Like you I got one CI first and another CI ten years later |
| | My first Ci was way back i 1997, in my right ear which had not hear sound for other 30 years. |
| | My second CI was in 2008. |
| Kathryn B. | Just to be clear, I could distinguish a second soft instrument with a violin solos. People walking behind me – speech wes as clear as crystal. An organ sounded beautiful. Likewise choral music. |
| JoyceM | With regard to the software still in the testing stage, I have gotten the impression that once you are implanted, you can take advantage of the software advances when they are available. |
| | 8:25 PM |
| KathleenM | Absolutely. Before implant, I had perfect hearing to about 700 hz, less at 800, almost none after that. But i could hear quite a lot of the piano naturally. Very important since I could hear little from my other ear. Too much distortion. I found pieces that were primarily in a lower register or where the top notes were attached to chords, so I could get the sense of the music. |
| Wendy C. | Then in 2010, my first CI in the right failed and I had revision surgery |
| davidh | At its best, for first hour of practice (or less than an hour) is can be exhilarating for richness and CLARITY which I have missed for my whole life--my playing developed clearly because of the lack of clarity. But right ear HA will weaken and balance will be lost and after longer work, CI will weaken a bit and the metallic quality of HA will take precedence. I can make minimal adjustments with strength and am just learning about the Sensitivity program which creates spontaneity. Maybe I am getting used to that and it causes some rebellion against the violence. |
| Wendy C. | Kathleen that is a cool coping strategy |
| KathleenM | thanks |
| Wendy C. | "I found pieces that were primarily in a lower register" |
| | Love that |
| JanetB | Kathleen, your audiogram sounds identical to mine – I can hear up to A above treble C, then nothing. |
| davidh | Kathleen seems to be describing what I am saying. I had no choice in repertoire and balance between hands and registers is an ongoing problem |
| Kathryn B. | Yes. That is true. Since everyone did not respond as well as I did, I urge you to check this out so they can determine who can benefit. |
| KathleenM | Janet, that was it exactly! |
| Kathryn B. | has left the room |
| KathleenM | David, I worked with my piano teacher on balance because it was hard for me to hear it. He helped me recognize some by the feel of what i was doing. that helped. |
| Wendy C. | one thing I am curious is how manufacturer determine what new feature discovered in testing gets included in an upgrade of the processor |
| JanetB | I am still teaching with only being able to hear up to that A (lots of coping mechanisms in place), but my loss is working it's way down the piano. |
| Wendy C. | If I ever meet visit the manufacture of my CI, I will find out |
| JanetB | This is my big question – as a musician, can we reasonably (or ethically?) teach piano when we are not hearing the sounds properly – as seems to be the case with a CI? How do we know what we're not hearing, or that what we are hearing is what the student is hearing? It seems to me that if I get a CI, I need to stop teaching. |
| KathleenM | and David, i realize you are WAY beyond where i am, just mentioning how i coped. |
| | 8:30 PM |

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| Wendy C. | Janet – I can't believe none of the CI center in Canada will do surgery for EAS systems. I will find out what the story is from my contacts |
| DavidH | FEEL means digital hearing and learning. It was and still is crucial as I do not fully trust the dev ices in my head so I go back to when I learned with nothing in either ear...I let my imagination and body sensitivity guide me and it might have worked better than this as a soloist, but I now play with others and it is an amazing joy though still in the early stages. |
| Wendy C. | Wow . That is impressive |
| | Sometimes I don't trust my hearing either. |
| JoyceM | Janet, I think you could probably answer your own question by assessing your students' progress. They would not be coming to you if you were not providing something of value. |
| KathleenM | i agree |
| Wendy C. | David, do you still teach piano at the university in Long Island? |
| DavidH | my recording engineer told me years ago that natural is what you think is natural and it applies to hearing with CI. You do NOT need to stop teachigng as your brain and common sense will adapt even if it takes time and effort |
| Wendy C. | Hear, hear! :-) |
| JanetB | Yes, my students are doing well now, but I fear with the implant, that will all change because I won't be hearing the sounds the same as them – how do I teach beyond the basics – the fine tuning of playing. |
| MatthewM | I have taught despite being hearing impaired. The reality of it is just that it may be harder to give feedback if you're only listening to your students' playing. At a piano, there are other cues you can look for e.g. hand/finger placement, to confirm e.g. wrong notes |
| DavidH | I teach private students at LIU and I have no issues with hearing largely because CI means I communicate easily finally. |
| JanetB | David, I am glad to hear that. |
| Wendy C. | LIU is Long Island University, I think. |
| JanetB | Do students or parents of students question your ability to teach because you have hearing problems? |
| | Well I guess not in David's case – he's really good – but you know what I mean |
| | 8:35 PM |
| Wendy C. | I believe there is another piano teacher out there who teachers with a cochlear implant |
| | Her name is Kay Basham |
| Josh T. | Wendy – your question about features – CI companies focus mainly on speech recognition. I've been involved in over a dozen trials for both devices and software with Advanced Bionics. There does seem to be more focus on music development in the past 2–3 years compared to the first few trials I was involved with. We musicians are a niche group of CI users. Manufacturers have to do the "most good for the largest population", so we don't always get to be front and center of R&D budgets. But they aren't completely ignoring us either. Good things are in the pipeline!! |
| DavidH | feedback is indeed what Matthew says. Understanding the role of ones wrist and arm in shaping a phrase is crucial so we can give more in some ways than others...I have discovered that often, especially as I play difficult repertoire where consciousness of body is crucial |
| Wendy C. | she is in a place called Bettendorf in Iowa |
| MatthewM | I do have a B.Mus, and I've generally been upfront about it, and let my playing and teaching speak for themselves. So far I haven't had any complaints from students/parents. |
| JoyceM | Janet, sound is not the only important aspect of teaching; so is movement and touch, how one prepares, how one practices. . . |
| KathleenM | Janet, do you have hearing loss in one or both ears? |
| JanetB | Both ears – perfect hearing up to 500 Hz, moderate loss at 750, then steeply sloping to profound loss (90–110) above 1000 Hz. |
| | I used to hear perfectly. I started losing my hearing in my 30x |
| | I meant 30s |
| Wendy C. | I'm curious about something |
| KathleenM | that really is identical to my left ear. Right, a whole other story due to the neuroma. |
| Wendy C. | How many of you would be interested in getting together and meet in person? :-) |
| | AAMHL is looking at doing at least 1 meetup this year |
| DavidH | can someone give me understanding re the 22 electrodes. They seem all in the bass or middle register. Yet I am slowly hearing upper register better...do electrodes limit? |

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| Wendy C. | maybe if we can find the funds |
| KathleenM | That would be awesome. Anyone going to HLAA this summer? |
| JoyceM | Sounds good to me. |
| Wendy C. | I have submitted a proposal for a handchime workshop at HLAA |
| | If it gets accepted, I'm going to HLAA |
| JanetB | I have lost 30% of the keys (I hear plink, plink, plink if I listen closely with my HAs, but no tone). And the rest have lost their once resonant sound. I would very much like to meet, but it's a distance thing. How about beautiful B.C. one summer? |
| Wendy C. | BUT, I also heard from HLAA that they are not doing a talent show this year like they did at last year's convention |
| | 8:40 PM |
| Wendy C. | so I have began preliminary talks with the presbyterian church around the corner from the convention hotel in Minneapolis about an AAMHL musical meeutp during HLAA |
| | We'll have to see |
| Josh T. | Minneapolis would be do-able for me. |
| Wendy C. | For those of you not familiar with HLAA, this is Hearing Loss Association of America |
| davidh | Janet, I still hear plings but they seem either weaker or meshing with pitches...especially when playing so something is evolving I hope |
| Wendy C. | this is the large consumer organization in the country for adults with hearing loss |
| KathleenM | Thats disapointing about the talent show. i was looking forward to attending. |
| davidh | I would try to go to HLAA |
| Wendy C. | ok |
| | HLAA's convention takes place June 22-26, I think |
| KathleenM | I am VP of the Twin Cities chapter, will take over as Pres this summer. I know I will be working at the convention, dont know yet what I'll be doing. |
| davidh | I just attended a Cochlear Americas gathering at a local hospital and it sadly was largely commercialized. cynicism is part of our line of defense for sure |
| JoyceM | So, does the piano sound better over time with a CI? Is there greater satisfaction as your brain adjusts to the new reality. |
| Wendy C. | But the other thing AAMHL want's to do is have a musical meetup at the end of August in Silver Spring Maryland, at a community music school |
| KathleenM | Thats the ultimate question |
| Wendy C. | Joyce, that is a good question |
| KathleenM | totally off subject, but i grew up in silver spring! |
| Wendy C. | Well, maybe you can fly into Silver Spring and join us! |
| JanetB | Does anyone regret getting a CI, and not hearing music the same as they once did? |
| Wendy C. | I know you'll be too busy at HLAA to really enjoy making music with other |
| | 8:45 PM |
| Wendy C. | Um, when I was totally deaf, I was more shocked at not hearing voices |
| | 8:45 PM |
| Wendy C. | Especially my daughter who was just beginning to talk |
| KathleenM | probably not this year. Husband lost his job, "restructuring," and we are on a tight budget. wish i could |
| JanetB | Ah yes, if totally deaf I can understand that for sure. |
| davidh | it is more usable for learning but it makes my ear take back responsibility of hearing and that is disorienting still...on the whole, it is surely a blessing and the blatant sounds and civil war can be lived with, but it is a very gradual evolution. |
| Josh T. | The piano did sound better over time, especially the first few years. I do not regret for one second getting both of my CIs. The benefits far outweigh losing what little natural hearing I had left. |

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| JoyceM | David, are you saying you have to exercise greater effort to hear with a CI? |
| JanetB | Did anyone give up perfect hearing in certain pitches, in order to get a CI? |
| Wendy C. | He has to exercise greater effort to perform on the piano with a CI |
| JoyceM | Josh, what is the history of your hearing loss and remediation? |
| KathleenM | I'm only starting, but I'm already pleased with my CI. I can understand conversations better now than before implantation. |
| | yes, I gave up several pitches |
| Wendy C. | I mean to say I believe David has to exert more effort to performing with a CI |
| Josh T. | Born with hearing loss from birth. Wore hearing aids from age 4–21. First implanted in left ear in 2007 and implanted in right ear in 2011. |
| JanetB | Did anyone have perfect hearing and then start to lose it as an adult? |
| JoyceM | Also Josh, how severe is your loss? |
| KathleenM | me |
| | 8:50 PM |
| JoyceM | I think I had a very small loss as a child; it did not become a problem until I was in my 30's. |
| JanetB | Kathleen, you sound closest to my hearing situation. I'm glad to hear the benefit of being able to hear conversations now has outweighed the rest. |
| DavidH | greater ability to weed out the ugly noises which I think most normal musicians weed out early. I think that the loud and harsh and unexpected sounds I hear I would have been used to and not noticed had I heard normally. I certainly need to exert effort as I hear, if anything TOO MUCH and I cannot filter what is me, what is piano and what is atmosphere. It is usually a happy problem but one's emotions still get the better of me at times and I have to fight against a recognition. But it is very seldom now that I let myself ponder that meaningless point. The joy of the experience overwhelms the pain |
| Josh T. | By 21 I had less than 5% residual hearing in my left ear and <30% in my right ear. I had severe–profound sensorineural hearing loss diagnosis by 13 which had progressed from mild when I was originally diagnosed at age 4. |
| JanetB | David, in case I missed it somewhere with so much conversation, what is the history of your hearing loss? |
| JoyceM | Sorry, I think you mentioned that before. I can't keep everyone straight! |
| Josh T. | No worries Joyce! |
| Wendy C. | David – are you hearing the bass and middle registers of the piano better than the higher registers? |
| KathleenM | Janet, I will be deaf in my right ear at some point due to the neuroma and radiation. So the implant is right for me at this point in my life. |
| Wendy C. | Kathleen's, does the acoustic neuroma affect your cochlea or the auditory nerve in your implanted ear? I seem to remember that if you have an acoustic neuroma in one ear, you can't have a cochlear implant in that ear |
| | 8:55 PM |
| KathleenM | my implant is in the other ear. |
| Wendy C. | Ok! |
| DavidH | virus at 8 destroyed most of left ear. Fall off a bike when I got tired of practicing a lousy piece of music and didn't put on helmet left me 'grade B' in other ear...which meant I could get by but barely both socially and musically, I largely became a soloist as chamber groups did not have need for me understandably. Re registers, that was indeed the truth ie bass is best and middle next but the range seems to be widening though strength is still more in bass. Still I SENSE that HA is regaining a bit of its brilliance somehow and whole piano can be thrilling. |
| JanetB | Do those with implants find a difference between recorded music and live music, as far as how well you hear it? |
| Wendy C. | so Kathleen, you are deaf in the right ear and you have the CI in the other ear |
| | David, I'm surprised that you aren't hearing the higher registers. |
| | How many of your 22 electrodes are turned on? |
| JoyceM | I agree with Wendy; CI's are best for upper register hearing. |
| Wendy C. | My implant has 16 electrodes and I think they are all turned on |
| | Ok, we are coming to the end of our "social–musical" hour. |
| KathleenM | Not yet deaf, on my way. Just moderately to severely deaf with terrible tonal distortion in the neuroma ear. I have had several sudden hearing losses in that ear and also a more gradual decline, but the radiation will take away what |

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| | hearing i have left over the next unknown number of months or, if I'm lucky, year. |
| Wendy C. | Two questions |
| JanetB | Joyce, what is the history of your hearing loss? |
| Wendy C. | Question 1) I will send everyone the transcript of this chat. |
| davidh | I have been stupidly afraid to attend concerts very often as I FEAR that I will not hear well. It seems that after 15 minutes my brain gets used to different sounds and I hear better. Re electrodes, a doctor turned off half of them after one year as I said that I felt the sounds. A better audiologist turned them all back on as she said you will never improve unless they are used. I try to not let the inner vibrations disturb me much. they used to thrill me but now I look for normalcy...still, it is at times very vehement to be a sonic punching bag. |
| | 9:00 PM |
| Wendy C. | Do you mind if I provide transcript to others who could not attend the chat but are very interested in this discussion? |
| JoyceM | Very minor loss as a child, did not become a problem until my 30's. Has been a very gradual loss to present time. I initially had a flat loss--the same across all frequencies and both ears--very unusual. Now I have a profound hearing loss in both ears in the highest frequencies, moderately severe in the lower frequencies. |
| JanetB | Okay with me. David, you have a beautiful way of describing things. |
| JoyceM | Transcripts are fine with me |
| KathleenM | I'm fine with that. and i agree about David's descriptions |
| Josh T. | I'm also fine with distributing transcripts. |
| Wendy C. | Also I am toying with the idea of making the transcript in this and similar chats as "valued content" where only dues-paying members have access to them |
| | Question 2) Would you all like to meet again to continue this discussion? I was going to set up another chat for playing the piano with hearing aids but that can wait. |
| davidh | I am starting to talk both pianistically and personally to various groups about hearing loss. I am 68 and am not ashamed or shy as I used to be and as we all are still to some degree. Transcripts are fine. There is much to be discussed. |
| JoyceM | David, what CI's do you have, and when were they inserted? |
| JanetB | Yes I would like to meet again. |
| KathleenM | Meeting again would be great, especially since I'll have more practice with music and CI. |
| davidh | Cochlear America and the precise name I forget. I took my doctors word for it. 2 and a half years ago which is NOT a long time sadly or happily it is the brain that is center, not the device |
| KathleenM | Janet, best wishes in your decision making process |
| davidh | thanks to all |
| JoyceM | Thank you to everyone! This has been helpful for me. |
| JanetB | And me as well - thank you. |
| Wendy C. | How about Friday, February 9 for our next chat on playing piano with a cochlear implant? |
| KathleenM | thanks for including me. |
| | 9:05 PM |
| Wendy C. | February 9 at 8 pm EST |
| | 9:05 PM |
| JoyceM | I'll put that on my calendar |
| Wendy C. | I thought a month would give Kathleen enough time to report back to us |
| | is February 9 a good time for everyone? |
| davidh | I hope I can be there as time passed very fast! |
| KathleenM | Thanks Wendy |
| Josh T. | Sounds good |
| Wendy C. | Awesome! |
| JanetB | I will be back to teaching, after the Christmas break next week - I'm sorry I won't be able to participate - with the time change I wouldn't be available until 10 pm EST |

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Wendy C. | I'll set this event up then. |
| | Ok, Janet, so what is a good time for you? |
| | Are you free on the weekends? |
| | I forgot that you have to go back to work beginning next week |
| JoyceM | has left the room |
| JanetB | Well I teach until 7 or 8 every weeknight, and Saturdays until 1:30. So anytime outside of that I could make it. |
| Wendy C. | Trying to harmonize everyone's schedule is hard |
| | And you are in Vancouver |
| | Which is 3 hours behind New York |
| | let me think about this |
| JanetB | I know, it's just me I think on Pacific ST – yes I'm in Vancouver – so if it doesn't work, I can always read the transcripts? |
| Wendy C. | Well. |
| JanetB | Would a Sunday work? Or later Saturday? |
| KathleenM | I can certainly do a later time if that would help. |
| Wendy C. | Sunday afternoon might work |
| JanetB | Thank you for organizing the chat today Wendy. |
| Wendy C. | the AAMHL board meets Sunday evening once a month |
| | You're welcome |
| | I know getting pianists with CIs to talk would be fun |
| | As for the transcripts |
| davidh | good night to all and my best, |
| davidh | has left the room |
| Josh T. | has left the room |
| Wendy C. | I was going to give access to the transcripts only for dues paying members |
| | 9:10 PM |
| JanetB | Yes, I am willing to join. |
| Wendy C. | Ok. if you can join that will work. |
| KathleenM | how much is it? |
| Wendy C. | \$30 per year |
| JanetB | Will do. |
| Wendy C. | here is the membership form |
| | https://www.musicianswithhearingloss.org/wp/mem... |
| | Thanks everyone. |
| | But for this first chat everyone who participate will have the transcripts |
| JanetB | Thank you! |
| KathleenM | thank you wendy |
| Wendy C. | I'm going to be nice. :-) |
| | Have a great weekend! |
| | bye for now |
| | click on the Sign out link on the upper right hand corner to leave here |
| KathleenM | has left the room |
| JanetB | has left the room |
| JanetB | has entered the room |
| JanetB | has left the room |

