

The sound of music

Pianist-turned-entrepreneur aims to fuel her students' 'creative energy'



Nyschia Cook, of, instructs Sofia McNeil

Nyschia Cook has always had a passion for music. While majoring in music at Central Piedmont Community College, other students would ask Cook to teach them how to play the piano. What started as a part-time venture has evolved into a successful career. Cook's company, Piano Passion, has more than 100 students on its roster.

Cook's love affair with the piano began at the age of 17. "I was originally a voice student. My instructor didn't teach me how to read music, so I bought a music book and taught myself," she recounts. "I later applied what I learned from the books to the piano." The transition from voice to piano was easy for Cook. Little did she know that the songs

she had learned to play were considered difficult. Cook used those pieces to gain admission to the music program at Central Piedmont. When Cook decided to pursue instructing full time, she polished her talent by taking piano pedagogy classes. There she learned how to instruct others to play piano.

The majority of Cook's students are children who take Piano Passions' voice, guitar and violin lessons. "I want students to become creative individuals musically," she explains. "We have two formal recitals a year. When my students perform and feel the positive response from the audience, it fuels that creative energy." ■

For more information about Piano Passion, visit the website at www.pianopassionnc.com.



Rosari Simone plays the violin.



Michele Harris, one of Piano Passion's instructors.