

Bio: Les Young

Les Young, pianist and arranger, has had extensive experience accompanying musicians and dancers. As one of the "Heymakers" at Austin's Country Dinner Playhouse from 1975 - 80, he worked with many of Hollywood's notable musicians and actors, including Ray Charles, Ann Miller, Mickey Rooney and Myrna Loy. He received a B.A. in music from the University of Texas in 1983, and was fortunate to be at the University of Texas Department of Theatre and Dance as accompanist for Leon Daniellian, former director of the American Ballet Theatre. Mr. Young has served as accompanist for the Joffrey Ballet summer institutes and various Austin area dance schools.

Twice nominated for "Best Musical Director" by the Austin Circle of Theaters, he began playing piano at five years of age, musicals at age twelve, and has performed or directed a musical a year since that time. For the past thirty years Les has been pianist and arranger for the Moonlight Express Orchestra and was well known in Austin as pianist at Little Italy restaurant, where he performed from 1981 - 2001. He currently performs with Swingtime big band in north central Texas and at country clubs and hotels in and around Austin. Highlights of Mr. Young's career include performing at Carnegie Hall with the Texas Suzuki Tour Group, and touring western Europe with Young American Musicians Abroad.