

West Essex Tribune

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Ken Elkinson Releases First Piano Solo CD

An old upright piano, abandoned by its previous owner, and a 16 year old neighbor who loved music, were the inspiration for a debut solo piano CD entitled *Midnight Conversation*.

That conversation began in 1977 when pianist Ken Elkinson, a former Livingston resident, was five years old and began to take piano lessons from his 16 year old next door neighbor, who was also his babysitter, Denise Bastanza.

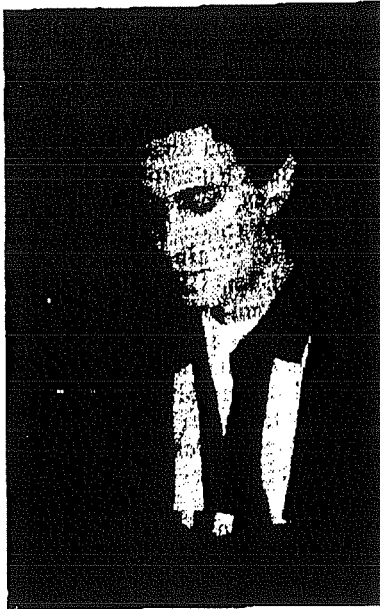
Elkinson, now 24, went on to study saxophone, guitar and bass. All through high school, he played keyboard with three other members of his own band.

Although Elkinson, who graduated from Muhlenberg College in Allentown, Pennsylvania, in 1994, was an international business major, he took many music courses, including improvisation and composition. From Allentown, Elkinson moved to Atlanta where he has lived for almost three years. A digital piano, speakers, CDs, and music stands fill his suburban apartment bedroom. "Having tolerant neighbors and supportive roommates is a prerequisite for being able to compose," remarks Elkinson, who works full time in the insurance industry.

The young man's CD is the culmination of a three year process

which began with the composition of ten original pieces, which he classifies as new age/classical piano. After composing the music, he began the process of producing the professional recording, for which he rented studio space. He formed a publishing company to serve as the business arm necessary for creating the cover art, a company logo, CD distribution and royalties.

Michael Buglio, former music supervisor for the Livingston schools, said "Young musicians like Ken who are so versatile often are motivated to compose their own music. We are always proud to see former students follow a dream to make their mark in the music world."



Ken Elkinson