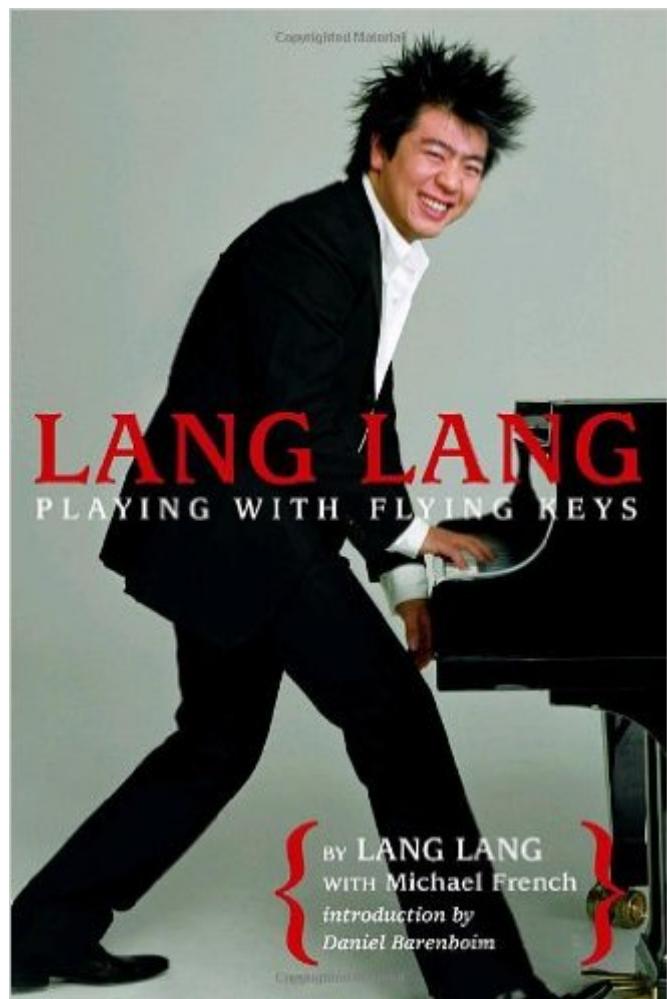


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# Lang Lang: Playing With Flying Keys



## **Synopsis**

HE STARTED LEARNING to play the piano when he was three years old in Shenyang, China. Today he is one of the world's most outstanding pianists. In this engrossing life story, adapted by Michael French, Lang Lang not only recounts the difficult, often thrilling, events of his early days, but also shares his perspective on his rapidly changing homeland. He thoughtfully explores the differences between East and West, especially in the realm of classical music and cultural life. Shining through his rags-to-riches story of a child prodigy who came of age as a renowned musician, Lang Lang's positive spirit, his dynamic personality, and his enduring passion for music will inspire readers of all ages. Includes a 16-page photo insert.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 900L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 215 pages

Publisher: Delacorte Books for Young Readers; First Edition edition (July 8, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0385735782

ISBN-13: 978-0385735780

Product Dimensions: 5.9 x 0.8 x 8.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.6 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (16 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,210,775 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #77 in Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Music > Classical #298 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Musical #1547 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Multicultural

Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 4 - 7

## **Customer Reviews**

The name Lang Lang should be a household word by now. Performing in the Bird's Nest for the Opening Ceremony at the Beijing 2008 Olympics, over 34.9 million viewers in the U.S. alone tuned in to watch. For many, this was their first introduction to the musical phenomena from China. At only 26 years of age, Lang Lang has accomplished more than many twice his age. Starting at a young age, when most of us aren't even out of diapers yet, Lang Lang showed an affinity for the piano. Not being able to reach the pedals, and needing pillows under him to reach the keys, Lang Lang was a prodigy. Coming from a humble background from the city of Shenyang, located northeast of Beijing,

the only chance of any future in classical piano for Lang Lang would come if he could gain acceptance to the conservatory in Beijing. But he would have to place in the top eight to win one of the precious scholarships. Lang Lang's family could ill afford for him to attend without the scholarship. His family had sacrificed everything for him to get this far. His father left his job in Shenyang to travel to Beijing to be with Lang Lang. Lang Lang's mother remained in Shenyang to be the breadwinner of the family and support both Lang Lang and his father. Spurred by his father's demand to be the best and Number 1, Lang Lang enters piano competitions, aspiring to be the best in China, then Europe, and ultimately the world. After winning the prestigious Tchaikovsky prize in Japan, he is admitted to the prestigious Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia. While there, he continues his training, awaiting his lucky break into the world of classical piano. **LANG LANG: PLAYING WITH FLYING KEYS** is a truly inspiring story.

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