Sticking with Ingrid Clarfield

Piano instructor gets back to what she loves

By Chris Jordan
Staff Writer

Princeton piano teacher Ingrid Clarfield is known for her big hair and even bigger personality. "You cannot sneak out — you are stuck with me," says Clarfield to a class in the new documentary "Take a Bow: The Ingrid Clarfield Story." "Hopefully, you'll be happy."

Clarfield's students have been happy over the last few decades and are certainly better players, too. Clarfield is nationally recognized for her teaching, but a stroke in 2007 paralyzed much of the left side of her body. "Take a Bow: The Ingrid Clarfield Story," by Seattle filmmaker Lu Leslian, documents Clarfield's brave battle to make a full recovery.

Visit http://www.takeabowingrid.com for more information.

Clarfield has resumed teaching — thanks to the use of students' left hands — and will host the Damien Dixon Memorial Piano Scholarship Recital and Master Class with Professor Ingrid Jacobson Clarfield, from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Saturday (Dec. 3) at the Jacobs Music Company in Lawrenceville.

Dixon, a Clarfield student who won the prestigious Music Teachers National Association Baldwin Piano Competition, died in 2005 of cancer at the age of 29.

The day will feature the world premiere of a work by Ryan Brechmacher of Princeton, first recipient of the Damien Dixon Memorial Scholarship, which supports piano students at Westminster Choir College of Rider University in Princeton.

Clarfield is a professor of piano and coordinator of the piano department at Westminster.

Chris Jordan:
732-565-7275; cjordan@njpressmedia.com