

LIVIN' AND LOVIN' LIFE AFTER 50



THE BANKER WITH THE BEAT

BY DAVID LAURELL

WITH AN ESTABLISHED BANKING CAREER AND WELL INTO MIDDLE AGE, STEVE HALL FOUND HIMSELF DISILLUSIONED WITH THE CORPORATE WORLD. A CONSTANT AND NAGGING LITTLE VOICE KEPT TELLING HIM THERE WAS SOMETHING ELSE HE SHOULD BE DOING. STEVE HEADED THAT VOICE, MADE A LEAP OF FAITH, "BEAT" IT OUT OF THE BANKING BIZ, AND AT THE AGE OF 61, IS TODAY AN INTERNATIONAL STEINWAY ARTIST, WHO HAS PLAYED THOUSANDS OF CONCERTS AND SOLD NEARLY TWO-MILLION ALBUMS.

My life was all about the corporate structure for 25 years," says Steve, a classically trained pianist who has been playing since he was five-years old. "My wife

and I were raising kids, and on weekends I would play at parties, or weddings, and at church. I was in my mid-40s and my wife was pregnant with our third child. It wasn't by any

means the right time to leave an established career, but I just couldn't take the corporate pressures anymore. It just wasn't what I wanted to do for the rest of my life."

Steve says the nagging little voice pushed him into some heavy duty prayer that in turn made him focus on his gift to touch and inspire people with his music. "We're all given gifts and our biggest challenge is to determine what our gifts are and then to go after them," Steve says matter-of-factly. "You've got to listen to yourself."

Upon graduation from the University of Southern California, with a major in history and a minor in music, Steve's pragmatic streak had led him into the banking business where he worked his way up the corporate struc-