History and Lively Arts departments at the university. Her father is a physicist who was educated at MIT and Stanford and who worked for NASA.

"It is second nature for me to be on a college campus," she says. "My Palo Alto neighborhood was called 'Professorville' and was inhabited mostly by Stanford professors and their families in the brown shingle craftsman bungalows that were representative of the area. The neighborhood children would flock from house to house in games of hide-and-seek, or raiding each other's refrigerators. We would all enjoy being caught in conversation by one of the parents and their coterie and would hang around to hear the subtleties of Ulysses, Plato, and Socrates, the discovery of quarks, or our relationship with China being discussed between rounds of croquet or ping pong.

"As I grew taller and taller, I began to spend more time on the Stanford campus visiting my mother, Nan, in her various roles there. I would either ride my bike over or hitch a ride with her and go jogging around Lake Lagunita, work out at the gym, or raid the music library. If it were early morning, I would join the emeritus professors for tea in the political science lounge. Having access to a university as a resource as a young person is an enormous privilege.

"Besides overseeing the Lively Arts at Stanford Concert Series, my mother kept track of visiting lecturers and encouraged us to attend often. Among others, I vividly remember listening to Edward Said, Czeslaw Milosz, Steve Martin, Douglas Hofstadter, Marvin Minsky, Ernst Krenek, Mario Cuomo, Vaclav Havel, and Tom Hayden. At Frost Amphitheatre, I heard many orchestras, the Bolshoi Ballet orchestra, and Mikhail Baryshnikov's White Oak Dance Project.

But, she also enjoys and promotes contemporary music and composers. Mixed in with classical concerts, she has played with revered violin masters such as Joseph Gingold, Nathan Milstein, and Glenn Dicterow. She earned both bachelor's and master's degrees from Indiana University. Orchestral positions with the New York Philharmonic and Seattle Symphony followed, along with a number of smaller San Francisco Bay Area orchestras, the Bolshoi Ballet orchestra, and Mikhail Baryshnikov's White Oak Dance Project.

But, she also enjoys and promotes contemporary music and composers. Mixed in with classical concerts, she has played with Barbra Streisand and the Dave Matthews Band, and currently performs with Paul Dresher's Electro-Acoustic Band and her own ensemble, the Four Horizons Quartet. Because of her interest in contemporary music, she travels to many festivals, takes commissions, and premieres new music.

Her latest album, Dancing Suite to Suite, recently was awarded second place in the Best Classical Soloist Album category in the "Just Plain Folks" 2004 Music Awards. According to Bentley Pollick, the album is very close to a live music experience. It was recorded at George Lucas' Skywalker Ranch Soundstage near San Francisco, where she also has recorded numerous film scores.

In addition to Dancing Suite to Suite, Bentley Pollick has several recordings of original music including Electric Diamond, Angel, Konzerto and Succubus, and Ariel.

Selected CD covers from Bentley Pollick's repertoire.