

# Mom, daughter in piano playing business

By William Avila  
Special to The Indio Sun

On a recent afternoon in her Indio home, Gail Spadaro Sweet sat on the bench of her grand piano playing one epic song after another, her finger-

tips dancing and sometimes smashing the 88 keys of her instrument.

Sweet recounts some of her accolades, including teaching the late Sammy Davis Jr.'s son, Manny, how to play the piano. It's one of many ac-

complishments in her storied life as a concert pianist.

But now Sweet and daughter Judy Sweet Davis, who accompanies her on the keyboard, have brought their business as the mother-daughter duo, Nite-Lite, to the desert from Los Angeles.

Based out of Indio, but playing in La Quinta and every surrounding city, the two have been running their business for nearly a dozen years. From booking to publicity, they do it all from their home.

With more than 550 songs in their musical arsenal, they rummage through page after page of music tucked in black paper folders filling an entire suitcase.

"That's not all. We have the classical music back there," Sweet said pointing to another suitcase in the corner of the living room.

"We can play for three days straight and not repeat ourselves."

Davis, an orchestral keyboardist and accomplished musician in her own right, notes that they play medleys from movie classics, Italian favorites, Jewish music, Spanish love songs, opera arias and classical favorites, among oth-



Jennifer Soltz The Indio Sun

Gail Spadaro Sweet, left, and Judy Sweet Davis, right, of the mother and daughter music duo Nite Lite, play a song together on piano and keyboards on May 29.

ers. The two perform at a variety of events and the rates run anywhere from \$550 to \$750 per night. But it's not always about the money. For their charities of choice — animal rights and senior events — they can accommodate budgets. All they ask for is a good piano.

And as they often play for fun, they may invite a few friends over for a small con-

## ABOUT THE MUSICIANS

**Who:** Nite-Lite  
**What:** A mother-daughter music duo on the piano and keyboard.  
**Contact:** 771-2914 or nitelitemusicduo@verizon.net.  
**Web site:** nitelitemusicduo.com

cert. "It's probably the best concert I've ever attended and that includes the large ones I've paid for," said Cathy Scarms of Palm Desert, who was invited to attend a Nite-Lite small, private party a few months ago.

"They played for a good two hours. They didn't stop. It was one song after another and the way they played together was just wonderful."

The connection while playing, the duo said, is more than just an interweaving of notes.

"We have a very close relationship," Davis said, turning to her mother with a smile. "I always say she's been my mother for several lifetimes."



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