



Kelly Boyd, owner of *Classical Equestrian, LLC*, and professional instructor, is an accomplished rider and instructor, and throughout her career has successfully developed riders and horses into winning combinations in dressage competitions. She is dedicated to continuing her education through clinic's, as well as USEF/USDF trainer and judges symposiums. In addition to her training and practical experience in the ring, Kelly holds a Bachelor's Degree in Finance, graduating in 1993 from UC Denver Cum Laude.

Kelly has been riding, instructing and competing in Dressage for over 30 years and has studied with some of the top competitors and clinicians in the US and Europe. In 1993, she earned the USDF (United States Dressage Federation) Silver Medal and has won national and regional awards in Dressage and Sport Horse In-Hand at the 2001 & 2006 US Arabian & Half-Arabian Championships.

Kelly audited the first Young Horse Trainers Symposium at Hilltop Farm with clinician Scott Hassler, the President and Director of Training at Hassler Dressage and the current USEF Young Horse Coach. Kelly audited several of Lisa Wilcox's and Ernst Hoyos seminars hosted by NEDA and USDF (Lisa won Team Bronze at the Olympic Games in Athens), and attended the 2006 USDF Symposium with Ingrid Klimke, a two-time German Olympian and World Champion. The focus of this symposium was the importance of cavaletti exercises for dressage, which is something Kelly has always incorporated into her training program. In 2006, she rode in the "Through the Levels" symposium with Steffen Peters (three time US Olympian & Bronze Medalist) and Janet Foy (USEF and FEI 4 Star Dressage judge) on three different horses: Harmony Sporthorses' Mikael and Harmony's FX and her own Oldenburg gelding, Opus 96. In 2010, Kelly received an invitation once again to ride in the "Through the Levels" symposium, this time riding Michelle Guest's Nikko of Noble, a Friesian gelding and Jody Baumgartner's Rosetta, an Oldenburg mare. Through the years, she has continued riding with Stephan Kiesewetter, Christine Traurig, and has attended the 2011 USDF Symposium which featured four USEF National Coaches: Anne Gribbons, Technical Advisor and National Coach; Scott Hassler, Young Horse Coach; Debbie McDonald, Developing Coach; and Jeremy Steinberg, Youth Coach.

Kelly offers a full riding lesson program for riders of all ages and abilities. Her lesson plan is tailored to meet the needs of all ages and riding levels, from beginners to advanced riders, and from children to adults. The riding lessons and training emphasize horsemanship and classical riding as well as focusing on safety and developing confidence. Kelly says, "Because horses don't communicate the way people do, people need training to understand the behavior of the horse, so training the horse and rider is important if one wants to work together to achieve anything - whether it's basic riding or more complicated activities such as dressage. Children should have riding lessons to teach them the importance of caring for their horses as well as the correct way to ride." Kelly's current young students are 8, 11, 12, and 16 years olds.

Kelly's success has been developed through her understanding and use of classical training, using the training pyramid for horse and rider. She does not ride the horse through the rider but instead helps the rider to learn what tools to use to become more effective in communicating with the horse. She is

very good at seeing the blocked areas in a rider that is causing communication problems with the horse, and strives to achieve harmony between horse and rider by balancing the areas that should be focused on. That is: she may need to work only on the rider's position in order to achieve a level of effectiveness there before working on the horse. She tries to balance both aspects of training. Kelly has done extensive research into the biomechanics of the rider's seat, and is able to help her students develop and use their seat more effectively and confidently. She is also very good with mares and sensitive horses – these horses account for more than 60% of the horses with which she works. Kelly finds that incorporating cavalletti and small jumps into the overall program helps to balance the horses overall training and build the horse's topline, as well as enhance the horse's mind. Kelly says, "I strive to make riding fun for everyone; after all, you own the horse because you love him! There is no greater joy for me than to see every horse and rider improve together."