Hoa Giai Ly was introduced to the piano at the age of 5. After graduating with honors in 1992 from the Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC) Conservatory of Music in Piano Performance, she got a Bachelor's Degree in Conducting and Master's Degree in Piano Performance in 1998, and then pursued further study at the Shanghai Conservatory in China. She has performed frequently with the HCMC Ballet, Symphony Orchestra and Opera (HBSO) throughout Viet Nam as well as in China, Hong Kong, and the United States; playing numerous piano concertos with the HCMC Orchestra under the batons of Zhang Xiao Dong (China), Jean Deroyer (France), Franz Rasmussen (Denmark), Colin Metters (England), Minh Cam and Tran Vuong Thach (Vietnam).

Since the age of 16, Hoa began to experience teaching, and substituted for her teacher, Mr Nghiem Phu Phi, in his class of piano in Saigon where he left in 1984. Her undergraduate pedagogic experience was a good preparation for her later teaching career in the Piano Department of HCMC Conservatory from 1992 to 2006, as well as in her private studio in Saigon, and recently in Orange County Conservatory, California. Her students range from 4-year-old who have an early musical interest to adults who play piano in their leisure time as a mental exercise.