



PRATT MUSIC FOUNDATION

Promoting Classical Music In Bloomington-Normal Since 1996

No. 23 – August, 2011

The Pratt Music Foundation identifies children in Bloomington-Normal with the talent to excel and who need support in order to pursue their talent. The Foundation selects, nurtures, and provides scholars with music instruction from the Illinois Wesleyan University Music Preparatory Program.

2010-11 Scholars

(Left to right)

Yea Jee Suh, Ethan Weniger, Myung Wan Suh, Andrew Powers, Isaac Spencer, Ryan Cavallo, Samuel Skinner, Brandon Churchill, Isabelle Jacobsen, Shelby Bays, Stephen Cook, Kaylin Richards, Haden Toohill, Mark Dover, Nathaniel Parson, Tess Johnson, Alexis Bowers.

Not Shown:

Ashtyn Rankin, JaKiah Jolly.



Photo by Willie McCauley

THE O'DAFFER CLASSICAL MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP

The Pratt Music Foundation is very pleased to announce the addition of the Harriet and Phares O'Daffer Classical Music Scholarship for 2011-2012.

Harriet O'Daffer was born during the Depression. Her aunt sponsored her piano lessons as she was growing up. As an adult, she often played piano in the family home. It was Harriet's leadership by example that fostered the love of music to her children.

Phares O'Daffer played in the school band and felt strongly that his own children should be able to play a musical instrument as well. Today, not only do the O'Daffers' grown children (Eric, Susan, and Sara), but their grandchildren all include music as an integral part of their lives.

The O'Daffer children were contemporaries of the Pratt family and feel both a respect and an affinity to them and their accomplishments. They have created this scholarship to honor their parents, and they naturally wanted to have it focus on the gift of music.

The Harriet and Phares O'Daffer Classical Music Scholar for 2011-12 is Isabelle Jacobsen, a fifth grader at Metcalf School.



Scholars Expected To Adhere to Standards:

The Pratt Music Foundation has the following standards for its scholarship recipients.

Attendance: Attend lessons regularly, be on time, and notify the teacher if a lesson must be missed.

Practice: Practice regularly, and be well-prepared.

Musical Achievement: Demonstrate progress throughout the year and participate in recitals.

Appreciation: Write a thank you note (from the scholar) to the Foundation.

We feel it is important that our scholars understand not only the wonders of music, but also the importance of character.

BAROQUE'N CONSORT, A Wonderful Surprise!

From their letter: "We formed Baroque'n Consort some 22 years ago to play and sing Renaissance and Baroque music. Over the years, we have accumulated funds for instruments and music; we now have a surplus and we want to use it to support your program to help children form a life-long love of and participation in music."

Members Mike McNeil, Jack Kjeldgaard, Beasley Leffew, Suan Guess-Hanson, Julie Prandi, Kris Byrns, Suzanne Kaehlert, and Susan Trotter sent their check for \$1000 to support our endowment. **A big Thank You to this very special group of musicians!**



Welcome Gigi!

The Board of the Pratt Music Foundation named Gigi Miles a Director at its March meeting. Gigi has served on our Advisory Board since 1999. We are pleased to have her serve in this new capacity.



A Scholar's Heartfelt Answer:

Why is music important to you?
Music gives me a way to express myself. It has also helped me to understand what it means to be dedicated to something. I have come to love my instrument through long hours of practice, and the reward of performing for others. Music brings joy to me and to the people around me.

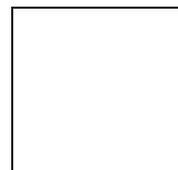


Help us be good stewards of our funds and of the environment. If you wish to be removed from the Pratt Music Foundation mailing list, please email prattmusicfoundation@gmail.com or call 309-827-5534.





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No. 23 August, 2011 c/o Illinois Wesleyan University
PO Box 2900, Bloomington IL 61702-2900

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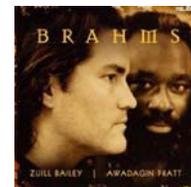
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AWADAGIN PRATT PERFORMS OCTOBER 14 WITH ILLINOIS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Our patron, Awadagin Pratt, will be guest artist at the Illinois Symphony Orchestra's season opening performance October 14 (Friday night) at the Bloomington Center for the Performing Arts. He will play Grieg's *Piano Concerto*, one of the most popular of all piano concertos. Guest conductor Donato Cabrera is one of five candidates for the position of music director for the Illinois Symphony Orchestra. Call the Box Office 309-434-4277.



Awadagin Pratt's latest CD — *Brahms Works for Cello and Piano* (with Zuill Bailey) has been on Billboard's Top Twenty Classical chart for eleven weeks now. Greg Trubowitsch on Amazon said, "An audiophile's dream disc, a music lover's dream performance." Look for it on Amazon and iTunes.

Awadagin On The Pratt Music Foundation's Mission:

Awadagin summed up our mission in an interview with the *Juneau Empire* when he played in Alaska this spring: "We gave scholarships to 20 kids last year. We have no staff; our income goes to the kids. The program is not designed to create the next Mozart, but helps the kids to keep in touch with music for the rest of their lives."

September 2012: Pratt Benefit Concert

Awadagin's benefit concerts here in Bloomington-Normal have truly been moments to remember. Now, Awadagin is working on a date in September 2012 for his next Pratt Benefit Concert. True to form for Awadagin, we anticipate a very exciting and surprising evening!

Newly Selected: 2011-12 Pratt Music Foundation Scholars

The **Pratt Music Foundation** board awarded 20 classical music scholarships at its June meeting. Our scholars for the coming year include students from Bloomington, Normal, and LeRoy studying piano, violin, viola, and cello. They attend Unit 5, District 87, LeRoy District 2, and three are home-schooled. The **Pratt Music Foundation** received and considered a total of 40 applications; as always, there were more qualified applicants than scholarships available. The scholars selected are:

Shelby Bays (violin) is a 10th grader at NCWHS (**Hurst Strings Scholar**).

Rob Reinbrecht (cello) is a 10th grader at U-Hi (**Zuill Bailey Strings Scholar**).

Tess Johnson (violin) is a 12th grader at BHS (**Beth Newdome Violin Scholar**).

Stephen Cook (cello) is a 12th grader at BHS (**Pratt-Clarke Music Scholar**).

Ethan Weniger (piano) is a 12th grader at U-Hi (**Awadagin Pratt Piano Scholar**).

Kaylin Richards (piano) is a 3rd grader at Fox Creek Elementary (**Shirk Family Music Scholar**).

Isabelle Jacobsen (piano) is a 5th grader at Metcalf School (**Harriet and Phares O'Daffer Music Scholar**).

Nathaniel Parson (piano) is a 6th grader at Sheridan School (**Joslin Family Classical Music Scholar**).

JaKiah Jolly (cello) is a 7th grader at Evans JHS (**Elterich Family Music Scholar**).

Alexis Bowers (cello) is an 8th grader at BJHS (**McCauley**

Classical Music Scholar).

Samuel Skinner (cello) is an 8th grader at Cornerstone CA (**Ruby K. Worner Charitable Trust Scholar**).

Myung Wan Suh (violin) is an 8th grader at Kingsley JHS (**Dr. Mildred Pratt Classical Music Scholar**).

Haden Toohill (violin) is a home-schooled 12th grader in LeRoy (**Eric Dean Tapley Classical Music Scholar Music Scholar**).

Andrew Powers (piano) is a home-schooled 12th grader in Normal (**Minor Myers, jr Classical Music Scholar**).

Isaac Spencer (piano) is a home-schooled 5th grader in Normal (**Awadagin Pratt Piano Scholar**).

Also named as **Pratt Music Scholars** were:

Yea Jee Suh (violin) is in 10th grade at U-Hi. **Emmalie Parson** (viola) is a 5th grader at Sheridan School. **Julia Hilt** (viola) is a 6th grader at BJHS. **Leila White** (violin) is a 6th grader at BJHS.

JD Martin (piano) is a 7th grader at Chiddix JHS.



"When words fail, often music can speak."

Hans Christian Andersen, The Thirty-Second Evening of *Picturebook Without Pictures*, 1847.

