



PRATT MUSIC FOUNDATION

Promoting Classical Music In Bloomington-Normal Since 1996

No. 20 – December 2009

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.

Live..... From The White House

On Nov. 4, 12 Pratt Music Foundation scholars went to the White House to take part in a day of celebration of classical music. Awadagin Pratt was one of four world-class musicians invited to participate, and in turn he invited our scholars, 12 out of only 120 middle and high school age musicians from across the nation.

Here are their reflections on this incredible experience:

Being inside the White House and seeing incredible world-class performers up close was an experience I will never forget. I even had the rare opportunity to see Joshua Bell mess up.
~~ Sam Birsa

We got to see the White House. I mean, Mrs. Obama shook my hand; I was like in shock. Mr. Pratt blew me away. I wanted to like go home and just start practicing.
~~ Ryan Cavallo

The music moved me and strengthened my love for classical music and playing piano. I never intend to stop playing piano.
~~ Reyhana Pippins

The whole thing inspires me to practice more to be great at the cello.
~~ Brandon Churchill

Since I play violin I went to Joshua Bell's class. He was very informal and made the class so much more enjoyable with his easygoing manner. Talking about his past violin experiences really helped me see that he once struggled with practicing and difficult pieces too.
~~ Tess Johnson

A lady came up to me and told me that I'd have to move seats (I was sitting in the front row and at the end of the row). So I moved to the right. The person who needed my seat was Michelle Obama.
~~ Morgan Schaub

I liked all of the individual parts of the concert especially the piece that Mr. Pratt played solo. The only thing I did not like about the trip is that it was too short.
~~ Stephen Cook



Left to right: Brandon Churchill, Morgan Schaub, Andrew Powers, Mikhayla Price-Hutcherson, Ryan Cavallo, Tess Johnson, Reyhana Pippins, Zari Gary, Shelby Bays, Sam Birsa, Stephen Cook, Haden Toohill. Photo by Dennis Powers.

How Was This Trip Even Possible.....

Pratt Music Foundation funds are used only for scholarship support; and when the opportunity to go the White House arose, the first challenge was finding funding to send 12 students and three chaperones to Washington, DC.

Pratt Music Foundation board member Pam Muirhead and her husband Jack immediately stepped forward with funding for plane tickets, which made it possible for us to start the planning process. As word spread about this trip, others in the community spontaneously wrote checks to help: Dave and Katherine Hurst, George and Myra Gordon, Mary Ann Bushman, Richard and Patricia Wilson, Kathleen Davis, Paul and Sandra Harmon, Joy Hippensteele, and Bruce and Linda Unterman.

Finally, Willie Brown at State Farm called, asked how our funding quest was proceeding, and told us State Farm would send a check to complete our travel budget.

Our scholars were on their way!



Music is enough for a lifetime, but a lifetime is not enough for music.

Sergei Rachmaninov



The Cello In The Normal Post Office



The WPA mural in the Normal Post Office points out that music education has long been an important part of our communities. Photo by Marc Miller.

Darius Fox Enjoying His New Keyboard

Darius Fox is in his second year studying piano as a **Pratt Music Foundation** scholar. Teacher Sara Hoffee learned that he was practicing on a 41-key keyboard (with a few broken keys as well), and brought it to the attention of the **Pratt Music Foundation**.

Share The Music was searching for a suitable instrument when local musician Dave Davenport stepped forward. Darius is now practicing on an 88-key M-Audio electronic keyboard with weighted keys and realistic sound. Dave even bought an amplifier to make the system complete before he donated the instrument.

A very special thank you to Dave Davenport!



Photo by Glenn Reeder

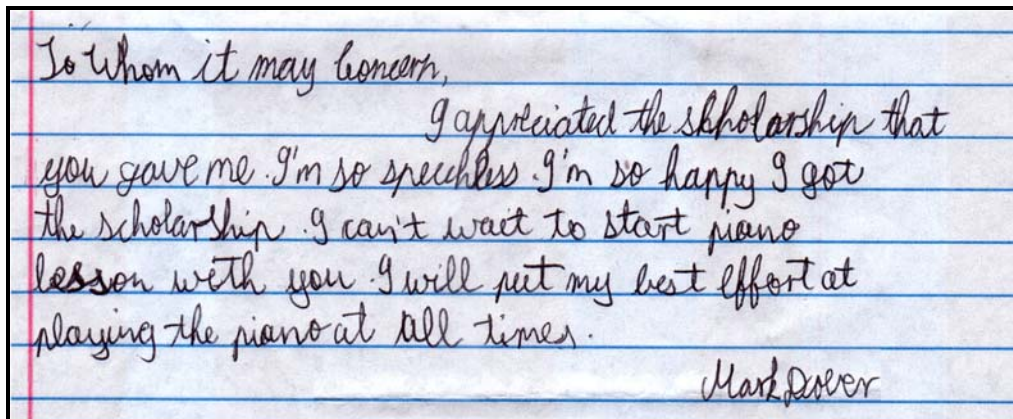
Nurturing Our Pratt Music Foundation Scholars

The **Pratt Music Foundation** is so much more than just a scholarship-awarding organization: We are dedicated to **nurturing** our scholars; to working with them toward success.

- 🎵 **Involvement.** Prospective scholars (not just their parents) are involved from the beginning. Our application includes a narrative section covering the student's interest and commitment to music. A separate *Expectations Form* clearly spells out the responsibilities the student will need to uphold as a **Pratt Music Foundation** scholar.
- 🎵 **Expectations.** Each selected student receives a scholarship award letter which reiterates our expectations. An Expectations Form is included on which students are required to make a commitment to practice, be prepared for lessons, and arrive on time.
- 🎵 **Follow-Up.** The Foundation encourages (with a letter and follow-up) our scholars' teachers to communicate with us about problems (with attitude, attendance, preparation) so that we may intervene before the problem worsens.
- 🎵 **Instrument Support.** The Foundation has partnered with the **Illinois Symphony Orchestra** and the **Music Shoppe** (in Normal) to create **Share The Music**— a recycling project accepting musical instruments and loaning them to students with financial need (not only for **Pratt Music Foundation** scholars, but community-wide).
- 🎵 **Relationships.** Every year, our scholar reception brings scholars and Foundation supporters together for an informal concert with lots of wonderful refreshments provided by the Board and Advisory Board.
- 🎵 **Additional Opportunities.** We serve as a conduit for complimentary tickets to classical music events for our students and their families.

All of our efforts are motivated by a single goal: *to nurture our students as they strive to be the best they can be.*

**A
SCHOLAR'S
THANK
YOU**
Pratt Music
Foundation
Scholar Mark Dover
is an 8th grader at
Parkside JHS in
Normal
and is a first year
piano student.



100%
of your
support
goes to our
endowment;
earnings
are used
only for music
scholarships.



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.

