

# PRATT MUSIC FOUNDATION

Promoting Classical Music In Bloomington-Normal Since 1996

No. 22 – December, 2010

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.

## *Catching Up With Awadagin:*

*Playing November 10 at Carnegie Hall:*

After we print this, but before you receive it, Awadagin will have played in concert at Carnegie Hall.



Photo by Kathryn Havens

### *New Brahms' CD Coming in 2011:*

Awadagin has just finished recording his new CD of Brahms' **Sonatas for Piano and Cello** with cellist Zuill Bailey.

### *Benefit Concert To Be Here In 2012:*

The Pratt Music Foundation has started initial planning for Awadagin to return to Bloomington-Normal for a benefit concert. It promises to be an exciting event!

### *The Critics Evaluate Awadagin:*

He's a *virtuoso*; his technical ability alone makes him a world-class pianist. He plays a repertoire of true classics: Beethoven, Rachmaninoff, Mussorgsky, Bach, and others. But his overriding talents are interpretation and audience engagement. Robin P. Robinson (*Emerge* magazine) said Pratt "challenges the establishment and fans alike, forcing them to rethink the way music is perceived and heard." James Barron (*New York Times*) called Pratt "a hot young pianist with a big sound and a knack for tackling fast, risky passages." Robert Mann (*Naumburg Foundation*) said he "has a rare gift. Very few artists create a sense that the music is theirs." Awadagin himself commented on engagement:

*"The best sign of the audience's engagement is the absolute silence in the hall while I'm playing. You can hear the music traveling into the listeners' ears and their consumption of it. That's the sign of complete engagement and the best response."*

He performs virtually every month of the year (in addition to his duties as Associate Professor of Piano and Artist in Residence at the College Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati). He was one of four artists selected for the White House Classical Music Day in 2009. He is the Artistic Director for the **Next Generation Festival**, a chamber music event in Pennsylvania. He and acclaimed cellist Zuill Bailey perform duo piano/cello recitals across the country.

Awadagin has philanthropic side as well. He regularly performs benefit concerts for the **Pratt Music Foundation** and other organizations around the world, generously gives of his time, and personally funds an annual **Pratt Music Scholarship**. His unselfish support is one of the reasons why the **Pratt Music Foundation** is able to accomplish its mission for Bloomington-Normal young aspiring musicians.

## NEWLY NAMED SCHOLARSHIPS

In appreciation for the tireless commitment and support that she has given the **Pratt Music Foundation**, the Board of Directors created the **Dr. Mildred Pratt Classical Music Scholarship** and named Bailei Johnson (9<sup>th</sup> grade BHS) its very first recipient.

John and Karen Elterich created the **Elterich Family Scholarship** in 2009 in memory of his father, and have renewed their grant for 2010-11.

Good friends created the **Eric John Tapley Classical Music Scholarship** last year in his memory and they have renewed their support for 2010-11.

Willie McCauley has renewed his funding for the **McCauley Classical Music Scholarship** for 2010-11.

Friends and family created the **Beth Newdome Violin Scholarship** for 2010 and their support will continue through 2012-13.

A generous anonymous donor funded a scholarship for 2010-11 in memory of her father who played the violin. Ethan Weniger (U-High 11<sup>th</sup> grade) is the recipient.



Isaac Spencer, a 4<sup>th</sup> grader in Normal, played at the annual **Pratt Music Foundation** scholar reception. He is the **Awadagin Pratt Piano Scholar** for 2010-11.

Photo by Glenn Reeder



*"[Music] takes us out of the actual and whispers to us dim secrets that startle our wonder as to who we are, and for what, whence, and whereto."* –Ralph Waldo Emerson, *Journals*, November 8, 1838



# Pratt Music Foundation Scholars for 2009-10

(Photograph taken at annual reception for scholars February 21, 2010)



Photo by Glenn Reeder

**Left to Right:** Ryan Cavallo, Zari Gary, Darius Fox, Morgan Schaub, Tess Johnson, Brandon Churchill, Kaylin Richards, Haden Toohill, Reyhana Pippins, Andrew Powers, Isaac Spencer, Shelby Bays, Mark Dover, Nathaniel Parson, Alexis Bowers, Stephen Cook, Bailei Johnson. *Not Pictured:* Mikhayla Price-Hutcherson.

## Why Music Lessons Are So Important

The benefits of music education fall into four categories:

- **Success in learning.** Music education builds study and cognitive skills, and self-confidence.
- **Success in society.** Music reinforces cooperation, discipline, and self-sufficiency.
- **Success in developing intelligence.** Music students score better in IQ and aptitude tests.
- **Success in life.** Music education teaches critical analysis, problem solving, perseverance, and a drive for excellence.

The **National Association for Music Education** has an excellent brochure titled *The Benefits of the Study of Music* and we've posted a link on our website.

Jan and Ken Holder's daughters are now grown, and the beautiful piano they once practiced on sat unplayed. The Holders contacted **Share The Music**, who identified a young student— **Pratt Music Foundation Scholar Kaylin Richards**— as needing a piano. On a Sunday afternoon

in September, six helpful men from Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church arrived with a truck, carefully loaded the 300 pound instrument on board, and in less than an hour Kaylin was able to practice her lesson on her new piano.

*A big thank you to Ken and Jan!*

**Share The Music** is a partnership of the **Illinois Symphony Orchestra**, the **Music Shoppe in Normal**, and the **Pratt Music Foundation**.



Photo by Darlene Miller

## Announcing: 19 Pratt Scholars for 2010-2011

Andrew Powers (piano) is a home-schooled 11th grader in Normal. He is the **Minor Myers, jr. Classical Music Scholar**.

Brandon Churchill (cello) is in the tenth grade at NCWHS. He is the **Zuill Bailey Strings Scholar**.

Ryan Cavallo (piano) is in the 10th grade at U-High. He is the **Joslin Family Classical Music Scholar**.

Tess Johnson (violin) is in the 11th grade

at BHS. She is the **Beth Newdome Violin Scholar**.

Shelby Bays (violin) is in the 9th grade at NCWHS. She is the **Hurst Strings Scholar**.

Haden Toohill (violin) is a home-schooled 11th grader in Leroy. He is the **Eric Dean Tapley Music Scholar**.

Stephen Cook (cello) is in the 11th grade at BHS. He is the **Pratt-Clarke Music Scholar**.

Alexis Richardson (cello) is a 7<sup>th</sup> grader at BJHS. She is the **McCauley Classical Music Scholar**.

Kaylin Richards (piano) is in the 2nd grade at Oakdale School. She is the **Shirk Family Music Scholar**.

Nathaniel Parson (piano) is in the 5th

grade at Sheridan School. He is the **Ruby K. Worner Scholar**.

Mark Dover (piano) is in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade at NCWHS. He is the **Elterich Family Music Scholar**.

Isaac Spencer (piano) is a home-schooled 4th grader in Normal. He is the **Awadagin Pratt Piano Scholar**.

Bailei Johnson (violin) is in the 9th grade at BHS. She is the **Dr. Mildred Pratt Classical Music Scholar**.

Myung Wan Suh (violin) is in the 7th grade at Kingsley JHS.

Ashtyn Rankin (cello) is in the 7th grade at BJHS.

Ethan Weniger (violin) is in the 11th grade at U-High.

Yea Jee Suh (violin) is in the 9th grade at U-High.

Isabelle Jacobsen (piano) is in the 4th grade at Metcalf.

Samuel Skinner (cello) is in the 7th grade at Cornerstone Christian Academy.

### 2010-2011 Scholar Demographics:

6 in District 87, 5 in Unit 5, 3 in ISU Lab Schools, 1 in private school, and 3 are home-schooled. 7 play piano, 7 play violin, and 5 play cello. 9 live in Normal, 9 live in Bloomington, and 1 lives in Leroy.



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