



PRATT MUSIC FOUNDATION

Promoting Classical Music In Bloomington-Normal Since 1996

No. 26 – December 2012

The **Pratt Music Foundation** identifies children in Bloomington-Normal with 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.



Photo by Glenn Reeder and Gordon Redding.

Kaylin Richards, Rob Reinbrecht, Isaac Spencer, Alexis Bowers, Selena Aviles, Franke Tiede, Shelby Bayes, Annalise Jacobsen, Mark Dover, Deonte Mosely, Nakiya Rice, Marquise Bonaparte, Kennedy Lovell, Emma Papineau, Savion Jackson, Samuel Skinner, Julia Hilt, Isaiah Crews, Josiah Henry, JaKiah Jolly, Melody Kramme, Isabelle Jacobsen, Kennede Haynes.

The Pratt Classical Music Scholars 2012-13

The 23 scholars for the current year include students from Bloomington, Normal, and Gridley studying piano, violin, viola, and cello. They attend Unit 5, District 87, ISU Lab Schools, Cornerstone Christian Academy, and two are home-schooled.

Board Profile:

MENAH PRATT-CLARKE

Mildred Pratt loved sending personal "thank you" notes to each and every supporter of the **Pratt Music Foundation**. With Mildred's passing, her daughter, Menah, looks forward to that responsibility. We thought you would like to know a little more about Menah.

Dr. Menah Pratt-Clarke has been on the **Pratt Music Foundation** Board since our beginning in 1996. Menah grew up in Normal where she excelled in tennis, violin, and academics. She received a BA and MA in Literary Studies from the University of Iowa. She attended Vanderbilt for an MA and PhD in Sociology, followed by a law degree. After experience in a law firm, she became University Counsel and Assistant Secretary at Vanderbilt. In 2004, she joined the University of Illinois where she is now Associate Chancellor, and Associate Professor at the Institute of Government and Public Affairs where she teaches a course in law and race.

She and her husband Obadiah live in Urbana with their two busy teenagers: Emmanuel and Raebekkah.



Pratt Family Photo

NINE New Endowed Scholarships

Over the course of the past year, nine donors have established endowed scholarships in the **Pratt Music Foundation** program. Their generosity assures that these scholarships will continue for decades to come.

Dr. Jerry Antonini established the **Jerry Antonini Piano Scholarship**; its first recipient is **Kennedy Lovell**, 1st year piano (1st grade, Oakland Elementary).

Laura and Kenneth Berk established the **Sofie L. Eisenberg Memorial Piano Scholarship** (in memory of Laura's mother); its first recipient is **Melody Kramme**, 1st year piano (10th grade, Bloomington HS).

Judie Bey and Gary Hoover established the **Mozart Classical Music Scholarship**; its first recipient is **Selena Aviles**, 1st year violin (8th grade, Bloomington JHS).

Pamela and Jack Muirhead established the **Adolph Buchanan Classical Music Scholarship** (in memory of her father); its first recipient is **Isaiah Crews**, 1st year violin (6th grade, Bloomington JHS).

John Elterich and Karen Schmidt established the **Elterich Family Music Scholarship**; its first recipient is **JaKiah Jolly**, 3rd year cello (8th grade, Evans JHS).

Scott and Jennie King established the **Jennie and Scott King Classical Music Scholarship**; its first recipient is **Nakiya Rice**, 1st year piano (3rd grade, Irving Elementary).

Darlene and Marc Miller established the **Miller Classical Music Scholarship**; its first recipient will be named in the Fall of 2013.

Eric O'Daffer, Sue Thornquist, and Sara Marberry established the **Harriet and Phares O'Daffer Classical Music Scholarship** (in honor of their parents); its first recipient is **Deonte Mosely**, 1st year piano (7th grade, Bloomington JHS).

Awadagin Pratt and Menah Pratt-Clarke established the **Pratt Family Scholarship**; its first recipient will be named in the Fall of 2013.



"Music is a higher revelation than philosophy." Ludwig von Beethoven





Mildred Inez Sirls Pratt
1928-2012

Dr. Mildred Pratt died August 6, 2012. We will miss her caring smile and cogent insights. She left these words for all of us:

"I wish you, your family, friends, and all on planet Earth peace and meaningful lives."

Thank you very much for giving me this scholarship to study violin when my mom took me to the symphony. I want to play. I am excited to start my lessons.
sincerely Frankie

Thank you for giving me another chance to improve in music. I have always been looked at as different but when I pick up my violin that doesn't matter anymore. Music challenges me and makes me feel proud that I have made something of myself. I can't express my feeling through word but my violin is the paper, my bow a pencil, the notes are my words. Everytime I'm feeling unheard or invisible I just pick up my violin and play. Once again thank you for giving me another chance to improve in music.

Dear Pratt Music Foundation,
I thank you deeply for the scholarship. I will do my best to attend lessons, practice regularly, be on time, demonstrate progress through out the year and notify my teacher if a lesson must be missed.
from your humble student
Isaac J. Spencer

Thank you
Shelby Bays
Shelby Bays

Our Board considered how to express our deep appreciation for your support for our mission: we found that our scholars say it best.

AWADAGIN PRATT

Master Class:

Awadagin Pratt arrived for the Benefit Concert a day early specifically so he could visit with music students on the Illinois Wesleyan University campus. Dr. R. Kent Cook made all the arrangements so that, on Friday afternoon, five students could participate in one-on-one evaluation, constructive criticism, and discussion of their selected pieces. The master class format is a time-honored teaching technique (invented by none other than Franz Liszt!) which challenges and develops piano students to be the best they can be.



Photo by Sweet Memories Photography

Sarah Muehlbauer, a sophomore piano major, listens as Awadagin evaluates her technique.

The Pratt Endowment: How We Support Classical Music Education

From 1996 to 2012, the Pratt Music Foundation awarded 202 scholarships with a total value of \$190,287. In our most recent award year, half of our scholarships were funded by earnings from our endowment and half were funded by direct grants from individuals and businesses. In the summer of 2011, our endowment balance was \$273,190. Through the course of 2012, nine donors each pledged \$25,000 to endow named scholarships; the Pratt Gala Benefit Concert in September raised \$31,005. As of this writing, the Endowment is approximately \$539,000.

Its earnings will support 20 scholarships annually. We receive between 40 and 45 applications for scholarships every spring. We awarded 23 scholarships this year. Each year, we recruit deserving music students, and every year we have more applications than available scholarships. Your continued support and donations remain critical to enabling the foundation to provide opportunities to deserving children.



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www.PrattMusicFoundation.com

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

