



PRATT MUSIC FOUNDATION

Promoting Classical Music In Bloomington-Normal Since 1996

No. 29 – December 2014

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

Left to Right (regardless of row): Kennede Haynes, Angie Guo, Humberto Giles, Madison Robinson, Kristen Higginbothan, Hannah Geraghty, Taylor Blakemore, Alyssa Sigler, Alex Schippert, Meiko Shimoe, Alexis Bowers, Kean Jones, Konnor Bouman, Deonte Mosely, Ayden Mankowski, Aaron Jacobs, Isaiah Crews, Justin Jacobs, Julia Hilt, Selena Aviles, Dana Bays, Samantha Morey, Jocelyn Sullivan, Samuel Skinner, Savion Jackson, Nakiya Rice, Itzel Mendoza, Abbi Rafferty, Jaylin Johnson, Isaac Spencer. *Bringing together 30 scholars at one time proved to be an impossible task, so slight variations in shadow and lighting are the results of photoshopping.*



Pratt Music Foundation Scholars for 2014-15



13 PIANO SCHOLARSHIPS

Shirk Family Music Scholar Isaac Spencer (piano home-schooled Grade 8), **Ruby K. Worner Charitable Trust Scholar** Savion Jackson (piano Cornerstone CA Grade 6), **Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Classical Music Scholar** Deonte Mosely (piano BHS Grade 9), **Jennie and Scott King Classical Music Scholar** Nakiya Rice (piano Irving Grade 5), **Elterich Family Music Scholar** Humberto Giles (piano BHS Grade 9), **Jerry Antonini Piano Scholar** Kean Jones (piano Fox Creek Grade 4), **Sofie L. Eisenberg Memorial Piano Scholar** Meiko Shimoe (piano NCHS Grade 12), **Martinez Family Music Scholar** Aaron Jacobs (piano Colene Hoose Grade 4), **Pratt Music Foundation Scholar** Alex Schippert (piano home-schooled Grade 5), **Minor Myers, jr. Classical Music Scholar** Abbi Rafferty (piano home-schooled Grade 6), **Charles Ives Classical Music Scholar** Taylor Blakemore (piano home-schooled Grade 10), **Barbara Bowman Music Scholar** Angie Guo (piano Benjamin Grade 3), and **Joslin Family Classical Music Scholar** Jocelyn Sullivan (piano Colene Hoose Grade 4).

11 VIOLIN SCHOLARSHIPS

Mozart Classical Music Scholar Selena Aviles (violin BHS Grade 10), **Adolph Buchanan Classical Music Scholar** Isaiah Crews (violin BJHS Grade 8), **Doris J. Strange Memorial Classical Music Scholar** Kennede Haynes (violin NCHS Grade 9), **Beth Newdome Violin Scholar** Dana

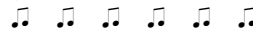
Grade 2), **Darrell Looney Classical Music Scholar** Itzel Mendoza (violin BJHS Grade 7), **McCaughey Classical Music Scholar** Hannah Geraghty (violin Sheridan Grade 4), and **Pratt Music Foundation Scholar** Ayden Mankowski (violin Cornerstone CA Grade 6).



Photo by Glenn Reeder

Aaron Jacobs, a 4th grader at Colene Hoose Elementary School, is a second year Pratt Music Scholar.

The **Pratt Music Foundation** Scholarship class of 2014-15 includes twenty-one students from Bloomington and nine from Normal. Eleven students are studying violin, two study viola, four study cello, and thirteen are studying piano. Thirteen students attend **District 87** schools, ten attend **Unit 5** schools, three attend private school, and four are home-schooled.



The 30 **Pratt Music Foundation** Scholars for 2014-15 is an investment of \$37,500 in the next generation of music in our community.

4 CELLO SCHOLARSHIPS

Darrell L. Matthews Memorial Classical Music Scholar Alexis Bowers (cello BHS Grade 11), **Zuill Bailey Strings Scholar** Samuel Skinner (cello Cornerstone CA Grade 11), **Harriet and Phares O'Daffer Classical Music Scholar** Kristen Higginbothan (cello NC-WHS Grade 11), and **Pratt Music Founda-**

tion Scholar Konnor Bouman (cello Pepper Ridge Grade 5).

2 VIOLA SCHOLARSHIPS

John Borg Viola Scholar Julia Hilt (viola BHS Grade 9), and **Hurst Strings Scholar** Alyssa Sigler (viola BJHS Grade 6).



"If a composer could say what he had to say in words he would not bother trying to say it in music." —Gustav Mahler



The Transforming Power Of Music



"I didn't understand at the time what music would mean to me."

Ramone Pippins sat across from me at the coffee shop as we discussed his life since graduation eight years ago. He shared, "I didn't understand how important music would become in my life."

Ramone was one of the first **Pratt Music Foundation** Scholars in 1997, then a fifth grader at Sheridan School; he kept up his violin lessons for eight years and graduated high school in 2006 with dreams of college football. He played a season at Quincy University, and then dropped out to work and attend classes at Heartland Community College. He also played semi-pro football until he hurt his knee.

"I hadn't given music a thought for three full years, but as I was recovering, I started listening to classical music again. It calmed me; it helped me recover; and it motivated me."

Ramone returned to his violin. He learned drums and found that he enjoyed performing. "I can pretty much pick up any instrument and play it: guitar, piano, bass, drums. I owe that to Miss Ehrlich; she always kept encouraging me. I understand that now."

Ramone has a rapport with the teens at church and they respond well to him; some take turns playing with his group. "I have this dream of planting praise music groups in churches."

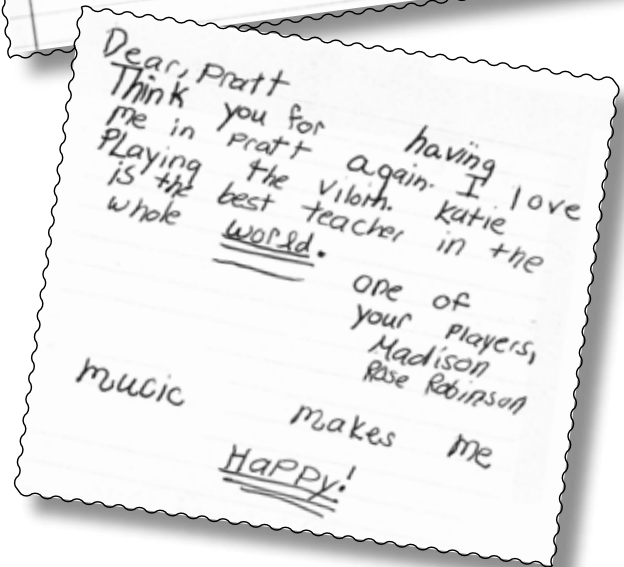
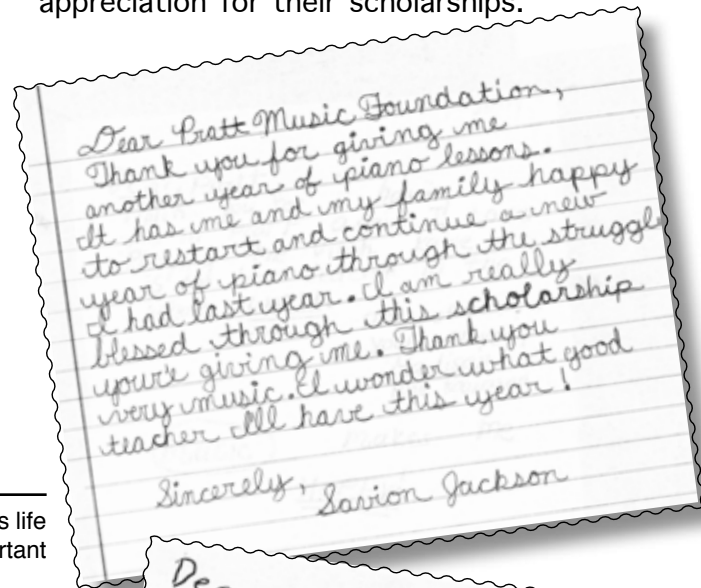


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www.PrattMusicFoundation.com

Pratt Music Scholars write of their appreciation for their scholarships.



NEW SCHOLARSHIPS FOR 2014-15 🎵

The generous support of donors has made possible six new scholarships:

Local members of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity have come together to fund the **Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Classical Music Scholarship** for the coming year.

Retired IWU Professor Emerita of English Barbara Bowman has funded the **Barbara Bowman Music Scholarship** for a piano student for the year.

An anonymous couple has funded the **Charles Ives Classical Music Scholarship**.

Priscilla Matthews, retired librarian from Milner Library, funded two scholarships: the **Darrell L. Matthews Memorial Classical Music Scholarship** (in memory of her husband), and the **Doris J. Strange Memorial Classical Music Scholarship** (in memory of her mother).

Retired ISU Professor Emeritus of Piano Paul Borg, has funded the **John Borg Viola Scholarship**, in honor of his brother, a former instructor in the IWU Preparatory Program.

NEW TO THE PRATT MUSIC FOUNDATION BOARDS 🎵

Jan Scott, retired Unit 5 music teacher, has accepted an invitation to join our Board of Directors; she brings knowledge and experience in music education that will greatly assist our recruiting efforts.

Dr. R. Kent Cook, Professor of Piano and Head of the Keyboard Department at Illinois Wesleyan University has joined our Advisory Committee and provides his considerable expertise in piano talent and instruction.

PRATT MUSIC FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

The **Pratt Music Foundation** supports music education in Bloomington-Normal through classical music scholarships in strings and piano. Pratt scholarships are awarded annually (in July) to talented youth in grades K through 12.

Classroom and music teachers who are aware of a child with talent and financial need who could benefit from a **Pratt Music Foundation** Scholarship may request an application by calling 309-827-5534, or email:

PrattMusicFoundation@gmail.com

🎵 **100%** 🎵

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



Please 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.

