



PRATT MUSIC FOUNDATION

Promoting Classical Music In Bloomington-Normal Since 1996

No. 30 – December 2015

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): Arael Rogers, Kaitlyn Stuart, Freyja Huffman, McKena McClellan, Alyssa Sigler, Maura McNamara, Lydia Langston, Kean Jones, Samantha Morey, Ethan Schuller, Alina Kankowiak, Hannah Geraghty, Isaiah Crews, Abigail Rafferty, Dana Bays, Nakiya Rice, Alexis Bowers, Konnor Bouman, Rhoda Roberts, Itzel Mendoza, Sam Skinner, Xavier Murray, Joshua Rafferty, Ally Edwards, Deonte Mosely, Julia Hilt, Jasil Olabode, Kennede Haynes, Humberto Giles, Jose Espinoza. *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.*



30 Scholars for 2015-16



10 PIANO SCHOLARSHIPS

Charles Ives Classical Music Scholar Deonte Mosely (BHS Grade 10), **Jennie and Scott King Classical Music Scholar** Nakiya Rice (Irving Elementary Grade 6), **Eiterich Family Music Scholar** Humberto Giles (BHS Grade 10), **Jerry Antonini Piano Scholar** Kean Jones (Fox Creek Elementary Grade 5), **Minor Myers, jr. Classical Music Scholar** Abigail Rafferty (Home-School Grade 7), **Pratt Music Foundation Scholar** Ally Edwards (Lexington High School Grade 10), **Sofie L. Eisenberg Memorial Piano Scholar** Jose Espinoza (Evans JHS Grade 6), **Pratt Music Foundation Scholar** Freyja Huffman (Carlock Elementary Grade 3), **Pratt Music Foundation Scholar** Maura McNamara (Home-School Grade 10), **James Raymond Music Scholar** Jasil Olabode (Cornerstone C. A. Grade 9).

5 CELLO SCHOLARSHIPS

Shirk Family Music Scholar Alexis Bowers (BHS Grade 12), **Zuill Bailey Strings Scholar** Samuel Skinner (Cornerstone C. A. Grade 12), **Harriet & Phares O'Daffer Classical Music Scholar** Konnor Bouman (Metcalf Grade 6), **Pratt Music Foundation Scholar** Joshua Rafferty (Home-School Grade 11), **Pratt Music Foundation Scholar** Kaitlyn Stuart (BJHS Grade 7).

12 VIOLIN SCHOLARSHIPS

Adolph Buchanan Classical Music Scholar Isaiah Crews (BJHS Grade 9), **Mozart Classical Music Scholar** Kennede Haynes (NCHS Grade 10), **Beth Newdome Violin Scholar** Dana Bays (NCWHS Grade 9), **Edmondson Family Music Scholar** Samantha Morey (BJHS Grade 8), **Darrell Looney Classical Music Scholar** Itzel Mendoza (BJHS Grade 8), **Joslin Family Classical Music Scholar** Hannah Geraghty (Sheridan Grade 5), **Pratt Music Foundation Scholar** Lydia Langston (Central Intermediate Grade 6), **Barbara Bowman Music Scholar** McKena McClellan (Metcalf Grade 8), **Pratt Music Foundation Scholar** Rhoda Roberts (Home-School Grade 12), **Pratt Music Foundation Scholar** Arael Rodgers (BJHS Grade 7), **Pratt Music Foundation Scholar** Ethan Schuller (NCHS Grade 11), **Pratt Music Foundation Scholar** Xavier Murray (Parkside JHS Grade 6).

3 VIOLA SCHOLARSHIPS

John Borg Viola Scholar Julia Hilt (BHS Grade 10), **Hurst Strings Scholar** Alyssa Sigler (BJHS Grade 7), **Bray-Thomas Family Music Scholar** Alina Jankowiak (BHS Grade 9).

The **Pratt Music Foundation** supports music education through classical music scholarships for elementary and high school, awarded annually.



Kaitlyn Stuart is in the seventh grade at Bloomington Junior High School. She is a first year Pratt Music Scholar.

Photo by Darlene Miller

The **Pratt Music Foundation** Scholarship class of 2015-16 includes 20 students from Bloomington, 5 from Normal, and one each from Green Valley, Lexington, Carlock, Washington, and Gridley. Ten students are studying piano, 5 study cello, 3 study viola, and 12 study violin. Thirteen students attend District 87 schools, 7 attend Unit 5 schools, 4 are home-schooled, 3 attend private schools, one attends the University Lab schools, and one attends CUSD 7.

The thirty **Pratt Music Foundation** Scholars for 2015-16 represent an investment of \$37,500 in the next generation of music in our community.



"Music develops analytical thinking because it requires students to be creative. They don't just regurgitate memorized facts. They have to apply those facts." —Dr. Kevin Strother





Left to Right: Zuill Bailey Strings Scholar Samuel Skinner, Mozart Classical Music Scholar Kennede Haynes, and John Borg Viola Scholar Julia Hilt.

Three Pratt Music Scholars Attend JWU Chamber Music and Cello Camps

The summer Chamber Music and Cello Camps at **Illinois Wesleyan University** are immersive experiences: students spend their time learning and building skills, carrying their instruments from place to place and breaking into music on a moment's notice. The experience is literally life-changing.

The **Pratt Music Foundation** was able to send three of our scholars to these music camps: Samuel Skinner attended the Cello Camp; Julia Hilt and Kennede Haynes attended the Chamber Music Camp.

We hoped that the experience would be transformative, and the scholars confirmed it. Samuel Skinner said, "I gained a deeper understanding of balance between parts and how they fit together in melody and harmony." Julia Hilt commented, "Attending this festival helped me develop and improve as a violist." Kennede Haynes said, "Now I can take everything I learned and apply it outside of camp."

Music Camp Executive Director Lisa Nelson expressed her own evaluation, "I watched all three of these students work their hearts out practicing, learning, and performing. They loved this camp, and we loved having them here."

Appreciation From Our Scholars

Every year, **Pratt Music Foundation** scholars write to tell us of their appreciation for their scholarships.

- ♪ My favorite musical artist is the violin player Lindsey Sterling. It is my goal to be just like her. You have allowed me to join Pratt and achieve this goal. --Samantha.
- ♪ When I was told I was accepted in the Pratt Music Foundation, I cried tears of joy because of your wonderful family. This program has helped me keep my head up high in a lot of bad situations. --Nakiya.
- ♪ I'm grateful to have one-on-one lessons with a teacher that really cares about my learning and improving. --McKena
- ♪ I am very grateful to be given the chance to take piano lessons with more regularity this year. --Maura
- ♪ I will do my best to learn and practice well. I hope to make you proud of what I will accomplish through your grant. --Lydia
- ♪ I absolutely love performing and my family loves it too! They cheer me on as I play duets with my dad. We like to keep going faster and faster until someone messes up. --Kean
- ♪ I enjoy playing the cello. This scholarship means the world to me and I will not let you down. --Joshua
- ♪ I was scared at my first recital but then I loved it. My teacher wants me to do my best. She makes learning violin fun. --Hannah



SHARE
the **MUSIC**

Pratt Foundation Music Scholar Nakiya Rice started studying the piano in the 4th Grade in 2012. Music has become an important part of her life, and now in sixth grade she has added the saxophone and band to her interests. **Share The Music** was able to provide her a quality saxophone. **Share The Music**, a partnership of the **Pratt Music Foundation**, the **Illinois Symphony Orchestra**, and the **Music Shoppe in Normal**, recycles serviceable musical instruments and places them in the hands of music students who could not otherwise participate in band or orchestra.

ONE SCHOLAR'S STORY

Tess Johnson started as a Pratt Music Scholar in 2006 and studied the violin for five years. She graduated from Bloomington High School in 2012 and started Illinois Wesleyan University that fall.

Although she now majors in art, she has not abandoned music: she plays in an occasional concert and every year in the **Sounds of Christmas** at State Farm. Tess recently recalled her time as a Pratt Scholar, "The Pratt Scholarship helped me in so many ways: to improve my skills, to appreciate music, and just with the support it gave me. I'm not sure I would be where I am today without that help." Tess will graduate in May with a BFA in Graphic Design and expects to pursue a career in the graphic arts.



♪ NEW SCHOLARSHIPS FOR 2015-16 ♪

The generous support of donors has made possible the creation of two new annual scholarships:

James Raymond appreciates music and plays the piano for his personal enjoyment; his wife Pamela is an **Illinois Wesleyan University** graduate who plays the organ at church. They both appreciate the power of music and have funded the **Raymond Family Music Scholarship**.

Both Robert Bray and Marcia Thomas know that their children greatly benefitted from music in their lives, and have together established the **Bray-Thomas Classical Music Scholarship** in order to give others the same opportunity.

In addition, five donors have continued their support from last year for: the **John Borg Viola Scholarship**, the **Charles Ives Classical Music Scholarship**, the **Edmondson Family Music Scholarship**, the **Darrell Looney Classical Music Scholarship**, and the **Barbara Bowman Music Scholarship**.

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 both elementary and high school.

Classroom or music teachers 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.

