



PRATT MUSIC FOUNDATION

Promoting Classical Music In Bloomington-Normal Since 1996

No. 24 – December, 2011

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.

Isaac Spencer, Nathaniel Parson, Haden Toohill, Isabelle Jacobsen, Shelby Bays, JD Martin, Rob Reinbrecht, Emmalie Parson, Tess Johnson, Yea Jee Suh, Julia Hilt, Andrew Powers, Leila White, Myung Wan Suh, Kaylin Richards, Stephen Cook, Samuel Skinner, Alexis Bowers, Ethan Weniger, JaKiah Jolly.

The Pratt Classical Music Scholars 2011-12

The 20 scholars for the year include students from Bloomington, Normal, and LeRoy studying piano, violin, viola, and cello. They attend Unit 5, District 87, LeRoy District 2, ISU Lab Schools, Cornerstone Christian Academy, and three are home-schooled.



Awadagin Pratt and the ISO in Concert

Awadagin Pratt returned to Bloomington-Normal in mid-October as guest artist for the Illinois Symphony Orchestra. He played Grieg's *Piano Concerto* under the direction of Donato Cabrera, the first of four candidates to audition for the ISO's currently vacant music director position. Awadagin and the ISO arranged for the twenty current Pratt Music Scholars (and accompanying parents) to attend the October 14th concert. During the intermission, he greeted the scholars and heard their thoughts on their music educations.

Pratt Scholar Andrew Powers, in his eighth year studying piano, said, "I appreciated that the ISO reserved seats for the scholars near the front, so we could watch Awadagin while he played."

Five Pratt strings scholars played in the lobby of the Performing Arts Center as concertgoers arrived. Pratt

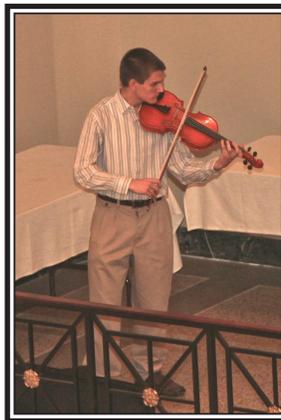
Sweet Memories Photography



Mildred and Awadagin sharing a special moment after the concert.

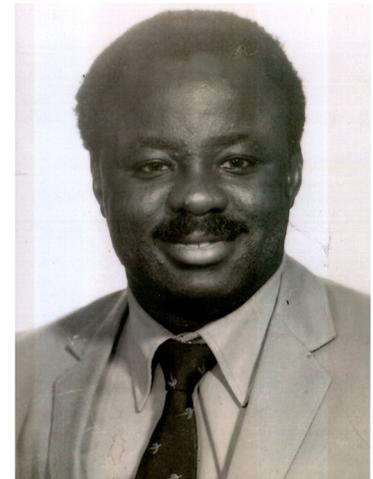
Board Member Patsy Bowles commented, "What could be more natural than students providing music in the hour before the concert? It was delightful!"

Students playing before the concert were Ethan Weniger, Leila White, Julia Hilt, Samuel Skinner, and Alexis Bowers.



Pratt Music Scholar Ethan Weniger plays his violin before the symphony.

Sweet Memories Photography



Pratt family photograph

Dr. T. A. E. C. "Ted" Pratt

Dr. Pratt was born in Freetown, Sierra Leone in 1936, and educated on three continents-- Africa, Europe, and ultimately North America. Indeed, he was the first person from Sierra Leone to earn a Ph.D. in Nuclear Physics. He had a long-standing love of classical music that he shared with his children, and he was their first music teacher.

When Dr. Pratt died in October 1996, the **Pratt Music Foundation** was established in his memory to share his love of music with future generations.



"I would teach children music, physics, and philosophy; but most importantly music, for in the patterns of music and all the arts are the keys of learning." paraphrased from **Plato's Republic**.



Scholars express their appreciation:

Sweet Memories Photography



Pratt Music Scholar Alexis Bowers plays her cello in the lobby before the symphony.

10 REASONS To Support Pratt Scholarships

10. Our Generous Patron Awadagin Pratt donates not only his time and talent, but also all his expenses, supporting four benefit concerts over the past 12 years.

9. Strong Community Support for our mission of promoting classical music in Bloomington-Normal.

8. Annual Grants help expand our reach by making scholarships available immediately while we continue to build our endowment.

7. Our Endowment Strategy smoothes out the effect of the economy and ensures a consistent, predictable budget.

6. Nurture For Scholars makes ours more than just a dollar-based scholarship program. Students receive, as needed, instruments, repair, restringing, and music books, concert tickets, and even an occasional lift to lessons.

5. Program Growth as we continue to support deserving, existing scholars, and recruit new ones every year. We have grown from three scholarships in 1998 (our 1st year) to 20 in 2011-12.

4. Every Dollar Goes To Program;

Pratt Music Foundation board members and **Illinois Wesleyan University** underwrite all non-program expenses (accounting, fund-raising, postage, printing).

3. Our Student Population reflects the diversity of our community.

2. Need-Based Scholarships awarded on the basis of financial need, motivation, and talent. Our scholars could not afford private lessons without our support.

1. Needs Unmet Elsewhere: Music lessons improve overall school performance; public schools cannot provide individualized instruction; a talented student who does not start by fifth grade would struggle to catch up musically.

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

Dear Pratt and all Associated Parties,

I am incredibly grateful that you have selected me as a recipient of your scholarship. With the help of said scholarship you are helping me reach my highest ability in music, and reach my goals in life. Because music is what I want to do with my life, your scholarship not only helps me now, but allows me to do the most with my life. You have made me immeasurably grateful.

Truly yours,

Rob Reinbrecht
Rob Reinbrecht

Dear Pratt Music Foundation,
Thank you very much for accepting me. I will soon be a more experienced and more advanced musician. I will soon grow and prosper as a person and violinist. I can't even explain my gratitude. This will help me put my dream into action. One of my dreams that is, I dream of being a professional violinist! So I want to once again say Thank You. Thank You!
Quinn Kelly

Dear Pratt Music Foundation,
I'm really glad I get to keep taking lessons at IWU. Thank you for the scholarship. I love it there. Thank you for also giving me a named scholarship. I'm happy that it was singled out for something special. Thank you.
Thanks again,
Clayia Izzi

Thank You Pratt Music Foundation!

Dear Pratt Music Foundation,

Thank you for giving me an amazing scholarship. This scholarship is a very big leap for my music career. Music is very important to me and I think that this foundation has helped me realize that more than before.

I am very excited and can't wait to start these classes. Thank you again and I can't wait to see you.

Sincerely,

Julia



The Benefits Of Music Education

The benefits of music education can be broken down into three categories of development. First is **intelligence**: the promotion of creative thinking, reasoning skills, and retention of knowledge. Second is **emotion**: experiencing empathy towards other cultures, higher self-esteem and coping with anxiety. Third is **socialization**: the development of concepts of teamwork, commitment and leadership. Music education builds lifelong skills

and carries many rewards for the future development of students. Here are just two from our list of twelve (the complete list is on our web site).

Music promotes standards. A mistake is a mistake; an instrument is in tune or not, notes are well-played or not. Dedicated hard work produces a successful performance. Music teaches the value of sustained effort to achieve excellence and the concrete rewards of hard work.

Music teaches craftsmanship as the student studies how details are carefully put together and what constitutes good (as opposed to mediocre) work. When applied to a student's own work, these

standards demand new levels of excellence.



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www.PrattMusicFoundation.com



Awadagin Pratt Benefit Concert!

September 22, 2012

Presser Hall, IWU



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.

