

## Songs from Brazil

Guests of the Piano Santa Foundation's upcoming "Music in Your Future" event will be treated to an exciting blend of Latin rhythms and stirring, Brazilian vocals. Featured artists Portlanders Nancy Curtin and pianist Steve Christofferson not only get pulses moving with "Songs from Brazil" but offer an excellent opportunity for students to see how artists collaborate.

The event highlights the music of renowned Samba artists like Jobim and explores the basics of how a pianist works with a vocal performer. After the performance, Curtin and Christofferson will share stories of the role music has played in

their lives. Often, the piano-vocal combination can provide strong motivation for young students to move beyond solo piano and apply their skills to experiencing the joys of working musically with others.

"Music in Your Future" also features a recital by the PSF scholarship students, prior to the Curtin and Christofferson performance. The concert begins at 1:30 PM Saturday, April 2, 2005 and lasts approximately 1 ½ hours. The event will take place at Central Lutheran Church, 1820 NE 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue in Portland. We hope you'll join us for an engaging and memorable event. 🎵



Featured artist Nancy Curtin performs "Songs from Brazil" at the "Music in Your Future" event April 2nd at 1:30 PM.

## Music Link Program Connects More than Teachers and Students

Synchronicity and music are so frequently linked that it's tempting to take for granted that where there is music there will be serendipitous connections. Yet the relationship between the Oregon Music Teachers Association's (OMTA) Music Link program and PSF provides many examples of music's positive influence.

Music Link is a national program that recognizes and nurtures musical talent in students with need. Locally, the program awards lesson scholarships from a volunteer pool of OMTA teachers. Eight years ago, Music Link connected with PSF, whose high standards in selecting scholarship students have been recognized as automatically qualifying them for the Music Link program. OMTA can even help students attain the basic pre-qualification standards for a PSF scholarship.

Oregon Music Link chair Mary Hulme finds the relationship mutually beneficial. "We provide lessons, and PSF provides pianos. We're always happy to work with PSF students," she says, "because we know they already have a serious interest in piano, have need, and have support from

parents and the community. This makes them ideal candidates for Music Link."

Teacher Marjorie Fairly greatly appreciates PSF and Music Link. "My piano students aren't from wealthy parents, so the scholarships these two organizations give is

really helpful." Fairly's experience instructing PSF students has been a positive one. "PSF has high expectations that its students will practice, and that

**Link...continued on page 2** ▶

## Music Works in Mysterious Ways

### Vocational Rehabilitation Through Music

Jim Walraven's story demonstrates music's power to connect us in unexpected and meaningful ways.

As a child, Jim played the organ for a few years but soon moved on to other interests. Music was in his soul, though, and he reconnected to it when he took up the double bass in high school. "It was very late to decide on a career in music," he says, "but I went to San Jose State and majored in music." He became, in his words, "good enough to audition symphonically, but not good enough to play professionally."

So, once again, music faded to the background, and Jim became an account-

tant. "That seemed to be the end of music for me," he says, "but then in 1996, I developed retinopathy, and became legally blind." Jim was forced to give up his career. He had to figure out what to do with the rest of his life and decided to enter the seminary.

While earning a Master's degree at Multnomah Seminary, Jim's love for music took on a new and unexpected direction. "When I got involved in worship, music had a place in my life again." He then began taking piano lessons on a weighted keyboard.

**Rehab...continued on page 2** ▶

# Classic Pianos Sale Benefits PSF *PSF Program Basics*

Classic Pianos helped the PSF wrap the year up in style with a generous contribution from their holiday sale. Classic's donation will bring music into the lives of families and the community by directly supporting the PSF.

The southeast Portland company has supported the PSF program through the years, allowing the foundation

to expand its benefit to the community and enhance the program in many ways. "It's wonderful to see a business be as successful as Classic Pianos is, knowing the kind and generous people who are involved. They are very good at their business and share their good fortune with the community," PSF president, John Watson, says.

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— **John Watson, PSF President**

Helping the PSF program is important to the staff at Classic, too. "It's important to us to invest in our community and its youth by supporting the work of The

Piano Santa Foundation," Classic Pianos' general manager, Rick Zackery, explains. "By supporting PSF, we are able to help put music into part of our community not served by any other program

and who, in general, would have little musical opportunity."

The PSF staff and volunteers wish to express our most heartfelt thanks to Classic Pianos for their donation and look forward to a continuing partnership that helps brighten the lives of many Portland families with the gift of music. 🎵

The Piano Santa Foundation (PSF) was formed in 1994 to promote and enhance music education for children in the Portland Metropolitan area.

## Our Program

The PSF program offers some unique ideas! We developed a Standard Scholarship that puts a piano in the home of a student and family for 1 to 3 years. The scholarships are based on merit and need and are open to students ages 7 to 13. From our fleet of thirty pianos, we match the piano with the student's current skill level. Standard Scholarships are awarded year-round.

Our Grand Scholarship recognizes the need in our community for a young artist who is serious about their studies to have the opportunity to use an artist-quality grand piano in-home for two years. The Grand Scholarship is open to students ages 12-16 and is awarded to the student who can benefit most from the opportunity.

We also support music programs in our community through piano placement grants. Also, our Web page offers scholarship information, music challenges and information about upcoming events. See our Web page for more details, or call us at the number listed below.

## PSF Members & Staff

<i>President</i>	John C. Watson, Jr.
<i>Founder/Director</i>	Mark Mention
<i>Budget/Finance</i>	Scott Tevault, CPA
<i>Merchandise/Sales</i>	Anne Mileham
<i>Newsletter</i>	Nanci Hamilton
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To be removed from the PSF mailing list, please call the above number.

## Rehab... *continued from page 1*

The keyboard did not provide the touch and tone Jim really needed. His neighbor knew about the PSF and encouraged him to see if they could help with vocational rehabilitation.

After careful consideration of his application, the PSF agreed to award Jim a piano grant to support his pursuit of his new vocation. Jim has been thrilled with the opportunity: "The touch of a real piano is so much better than a keyboard. It is much more conducive to composing and

creative thought because the piano has a genuine acoustic sound and much more subtle dynamic shading and expressiveness."

Jim is now pursuing a doctorate in religion at the Institute for Worship Studies. He currently volunteers as the music director for his church, which enables the congregation to have a music program. Jim saved enough money to purchase a piano of his own, and the PSF piano has moved on to another grant placement. 🎵

## Link ... *continued from page 1*

certainly supports teachers."

Teacher Molly Rodway finds the connections the two programs make going beyond simply lining up students, teachers and pianos. Recently, her student received a surprise PSF scholarship piano December 24, to the delight of all. Rodway continues to teach PSF students and introduce new ones to PSF as well.

The recent addition of PSF staff allows the foundation to work more strategically at a higher level with the resources of both programs. PSF is working with schools to promote its scholarship programs in areas where Music Link resources are available to benefit the community. 🎵

Special thanks to Sherman Clay/Moe's for hosting the PSF Grand Scholarship Event.



# Scholarship Highlights

Grand Scholarship student Eugene Bistolas was among a select group of pianists chosen to perform at Nordstrom's. Eugene is involved in music at his high school and has received other recognition for his music abilities.

Kai Talim will play Mozart's Concerto No. 12 with the Rose City Chamber Orchestra May 29. Also, after winning a competition December 4, Kai's jazz group will travel to Idaho in February to compete.

## Mentor of the Year: Chloe Tirabasso

Most students in the PSF program have mentors to help support their scholarship. Usually, those mentors are adults—the demands on a young student's time are simply too great to serve in this capacity for another student. Yet, the PSF made an exception this year, and the results have been wonderful. We would like to take this opportunity to thank a young mentor who has shown special dedication to her supporting role in the scholarship of

one of our PSF students.

Chloe Tirabasso is a young woman with a sense of responsibility and desire to give back to her community. A music student herself, Chloe—through her piano teacher—heard of another student who was in need of a mentor for the PSF program. Deciding she would like to encourage the younger student in her scholarship efforts, Chloe took on the role of mentor and has been an important part of that student's support system ever since.

She meets with the student a minimum of four times a year and goes beyond the basic requirements of writing thoughtful assessments of the student's progress to helping



*Brother-sister duet delights audience at PSF holiday recital.*

provide inspiration and motivation for her student as she continues in her studies. The student and PSF appreciate the care and dedication Chloe provides as a mentor.

And so it goes. Music is the connection through which we may add grace notes to another's life...and our own. 🎵

# Grace Notes

Our heartfelt thanks go to the following individuals, businesses and foundations for their support of the PSF program in 2004, as well as to the many anonymous donors who made generous contributions. Your support has made all the difference.

## Individuals

### Benefactors

Carol E. Ratzlaf [2003-2004]

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## Corporate Donors & Foundations

Classic Pianos

Mildred Chapman Foundation

Lake Oswego Junior Women's Club

Juan Young Trust

AOH Foundation

John Watson

Beaverton Rotary

# Calendar of Music Events

The following are local music events of interest to families, some of which have free and reduced-cost options. Please see individual Web sites for specifics.

## Spring

**March symphony story times at Hillsdale Library** · Oregon Symphony · [www.orsymphony.org](http://www.orsymphony.org)

**March & April concerts** · Metropolitan Youth Symphony · [www.metroyouthsymphony.org](http://www.metroyouthsymphony.org)

**March & April concerts** · Children's Museum · [www.portlandcm2.org](http://www.portlandcm2.org)

**March & June performances** · Oregon Symphony for Kids · [www.orsymphony.org](http://www.orsymphony.org)

**March & May student dress rehearsals** · Portland Opera · [www.portlandopera.org](http://www.portlandopera.org)

**April 2 "Music in Your Future" event** · PSF · [www.pianosanta.org](http://www.pianosanta.org)

**April 30 "Imani Winds" family concert** · Chamber Music Northwest · [www.cmmw.org](http://www.cmmw.org)

**May 29 Rose City Chamber Orchestra** · [www.rosecity.org](http://www.rosecity.org)

**June 10 & 11 "A Night at the Opera" performances** · Portland Symphonic Girlchoir · [www.girlchoir.com](http://www.girlchoir.com)

## Summer

**August 6 "Summer Music Fun" event** · Piano Santa Foundation · [www.pianosanta.org](http://www.pianosanta.org)

**August 7-13 Mel Brown's Teen Jazz Workshop at Western Oregon University** · [www.wou.edu](http://www.wou.edu)

**Summer concerts in the parks** · Portland Parks & Recreation · [www.parks.ci.portland.or.us](http://www.parks.ci.portland.or.us)

**Summer concerts on Sauvie Island** · Kruger's Farm Market · 503.621.3489

## Fall/Winter

**November 12 "Dress Rehearsal" student performance** · Piano Santa Foundation · [www.pianosanta.org](http://www.pianosanta.org)

**December 3 "Holiday Recital" student performance** · Piano Santa Foundation · [www.pianosanta.org](http://www.pianosanta.org)

## Ongoing

**Pacific Crest Wind Symphony** · [www.pcws.org](http://www.pcws.org)

**Rose City Chamber Orchestra** · [www.rosecity.org](http://www.rosecity.org)

**Rock & Roll Guitar for Teens, 4-6 PM Wednesdays & Thursdays** · Artichoke Music · [www.artichokemusic.com](http://www.artichokemusic.com)

**Jazz for Kids, 7:30-9:00 PM Tuesdays & Wednesdays** · Jimmy Mak's · [www.jimmymaks.com](http://www.jimmymaks.com)