

Gifted young musicians add jazzy tone to April event

Special guests Ben Darwish, piano, and Kate Davis, bass and vocals

This year's "Music In Your Future" event, which will be held April 12, will include performances from two of Portland's most talented young jazz musicians, Ben Darwish and Kate Davis. PSF students will also perform. The event is free, open to the public, and will be followed by a reception.

Ben graduated from Lincoln High School and is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree at the University of Oregon. He has played with Kevin Mahogany, Paul Mazzio, Duffy Bishop, Esperanza Spalding, and others. He was also the recipient of the 2003 Jazz Society of Oregon Young Musician Scholarship.

Ben frequently performs with his own piano trio in Portland. He says, "One of my goals is to push the barriers of the

piano trio, to include influences of music that we have listened to growing up and to spark the interest of other young people who wouldn't normally listen to a piano trio."



See Kate Davis at our April event.

Kate Davis is a young bassist and singer. A junior at West Linn High School, she is getting excellent experience working with some of Portland's high-profile musicians, such as Tom Grant, Ron Steen, Randy Porter, and others. Kate recommends

that young music students who aspire to perform at a professional level stay focused and dedicated to practicing their instrument. "Get the best teachers you can afford, and listen to as much music as you can," she suggests.

Following their performance, Ben and Kate will discuss how their musical careers have developed. This will no doubt provide insight for any young musician. The performances are sure to be inspiring as well.

The first half of this event, performances from PSF students, will run approximately 45 minutes. The second half features our guest musicians and is scheduled from 2:15 to 3 p.m.

Join us at this free event Saturday, April 12 at 1:30 p.m. at Central Lutheran Church in Portland (1820 NE 21 Avenue).

New teaching program expands mission

Piano Santa Foundation (PSF) is proud to announce the launch of the First Step Piano Program, an after-school class being offered in Title One schools. This program, funded in large part by a grant from the Juan Young Trust, gives first-time students a chance to learn basic piano skills.

PSF selected Beaverton's Fir Grove Elementary School to be the first school to participate, and

classes started March 18. Initial response to the program has been positive, with classes filling up quickly and additional students already on a waiting list.

Karla O'Hagan-Hawley will teach the initial First Step classes. She has a master's in education and is currently working toward a music therapy degree at Marylhurst University.

PSF's expansion from scholarships to teaching will help bring music opportunities to families that otherwise would not have them. PSF will encourage students who complete the introductory courses to continue their lessons with local piano teachers in the area. Piano teachers in the Beaverton area are encouraged to contact PSF and ask to be added to the referral list.

Arin's House receives piano grant

Arin Jameson had many qualities parents love to see in their children: kind, compassionate, giving. "His enthusiasm for life was contagious," his mother Allyson Jameson says. "If he saw somebody having a hard time, he'd figure out a way to help."

Four years ago, when he was in high school, Arin was in a fatal accident. He never had a chance to give all he had to offer.

Allyson sat down with his friends, and they worked together to create Arin's House, described on its website as "a home away from home for students 6th-12th grade during the critical, unstructured, and unsupervised hours after school and on some weekends."

Teens come to Arin's House to do homework, create music, participate in community service, and involve themselves in other healthy, educational pursuits. "We don't charge kids for coming here," Allyson says. "Instead, we ask that they pay it forward by volunteering for community service projects. Not everybody has money, but everyone has time."

Thanks to a grant from PSF, Arin's House has added a piano to its music program. Four rooms of



PSF piano provides student opportunities to practice and perform.

Arin's House make up an impressive music suite for youth who are passionate about music. In addition to six guitars—both acoustic and electric—congas, an organ, and PSF's piano, Arin's House also has an entire recording studio. A volunteer works with youth to help them learn to record and mix their own music.

Mondays through Thursdays, teens come together to make music, and two Saturdays a month the sessions go until nearly midnight. To find out more about Arin's House, go to www.arinshouse.org. Visitors are always welcome, and volunteers are always needed. 🎵

Dottie Lambertsen Merit Award

PSF has created a special Dottie Lambertsen Merit Award. Long-time volunteer Dottie Lambertsen passed away in 2007. She was an admired and beloved volunteer. Dottie and her husband Paul became inspired to volunteer when they first became aware of the Piano Santa Foundation in 2001.

The Dottie Lambertsen Merit Award will be given out by the scholarship committee to either students or families in need. It is designed to recognize and reward merit and is not limited to our standard scholarships.

This merit award is particularly suited to Dottie, who often volunteered whenever and wherever needed. While Dottie is not with us to participate directly, her spirit lives on in this award.

Program basics

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 35 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 young artists who are 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 annually to the student who can benefit most from the opportunity. The Grand Scholarship is competitive, and a jury selects the recipient. There is no income requirement for the Grand Scholarship.

We also support music programs in our community through piano placement grants.

Information/Applications

More information, scholarship applications, and news about upcoming events can be found at www.pianosanta.org or by calling PSF at 503.245.6269.

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PSF student wins statewide piano competition

From the dark passages of Mozart's *Piano Sonata in A Minor K310* to the fluid passages of Menotti's *Ricercare and Toccata* from the *Old Man and the Thief*, Kai Talim's musical abilities impressed the judges of the Music Teacher National Association's (MTNA) annual student competition. The judges awarded him first place in the junior division in Oregon, and he went on to place third in the regionals. Kai and teacher Kelli Stephens chose Brahms's *Rhapsody Opus 79, Number 1* for his third piece.

Preparing months in advance gives Kai confidence when he performs, but he admits he still gets nervous. To ensure this doesn't affect his playing, he takes the advice of friends and eats bananas to battle nervousness.

Kai's talents have not gone unnoticed, and he has performed piano concertos twice with the Rose City Chamber Orchestra, a very notable accomplishment for

someone who entered high school this year. Playing with others comes naturally to him since he and his sister, Kelly, often play together at home. A talented violinist, Kelly, 12, also recently took first place in state in the MTNA's annual competition.



Kai and his sister Kelly win piano and violin state competitions.

Kai says he loves playing solo because it allows him more freedom in what he can do. He and his teacher are deciding what he will work on next.

Note: Kai's sister Kelly was one of the youngest violinists playing in the junior division, which made placing first especially exciting. She chose to perform Zigeunerweisen's *Pablo de Sarasate*, Bach's *Sonata*

nota #3 Allegro assai, and Bartok's *Romanian Dancer*. She is in sixth grade at Cedar Park Middle School.



Grace notes

Our heartfelt thanks go to the following individuals, businesses, and foundations for their support of the PSF program in 2007, as well as to the many anonymous donors who made generous contributions. Your support makes all the difference. If your name is missing from this list and you wish to be added, please call our office, and we will be sure to make the correction in our next edition.

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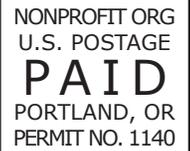
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Announcing Portland's First Annual Sight-Read-A-Thon

You have heard of walk-a-thons and read-a-thons. We are introducing a sight-read-a-thon.

PSF has developed a fun way to help students increase their sight-reading skills while raising funds to make in-home piano placement scholarships available to students who want to learn to play piano but have no instrument. This is also a wonderful way to get back into playing piano for adults or older students.

Sight reading is a great skill for all musicians. Just like learning to read words more quickly, sight reading helps to improve reading skills in music. Because it is a skill students must develop on their own, piano teachers strongly encourage and recommend it.

Here is how the sight-read-a-thon works. Participants will spend time between April 12 and August 2 working on their sight-reading skills. They will gather pledges from two to five people, usually family and friends, for the amount of time they spend at their piano increasing their sight-reading skills.

The participant will then collect pledges and send them into the PSF office or bring them to the August 2 PSF event. As an added bonus, PSF will give away a limited number of music books—free—to participants who turn in pledge funds.

In sight reading, the student plays through an entire song at the first viewing of the piece. The student must choose a piece at his or her appropriate level to achieve the read-through at first look.

See the insert in this newsletter for more details and instructions on getting started!
You can also download information and applications at our website www.pianosanta.org.
