

Music No Matter What

"Having a PSF piano means everything to me right now. With most of my time spent inside the house, I don't know what I would have done without a piano. Having a piano helps me to keep mastering my pieces and improving my piano abilities despite such stressful times in the world."

This is what our students are saying about playing piano during the COVID-19 pandemic. I wasn't sure what I would hear as I sat down to call and check in on all of the Foundation's students, families, and student mentors; these are tough times for everyone. But, as I had hoped, our students are turning to their pianos and to music for consolation.

We all need music right now. Music provides a focal point for young students' attention and energy when the world around them seems chaotic and unpredictable. Music grounds people and it brings them together — even when social distancing keeps us apart.

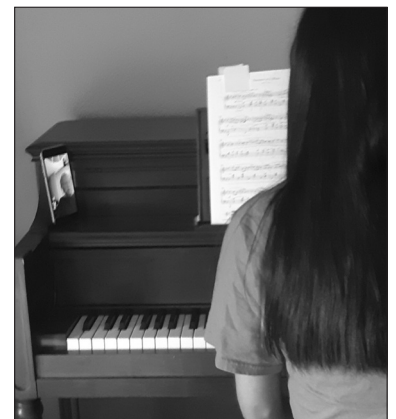
Like many arts organizations, we had to cancel several events this spring. Some of our students posted parts of their prepared pieces on our Facebook page...their hard work and dedication are evident.

Over the past 25 years, our community of supporters has provided refurbished pianos to young, aspiring pianists who didn't have the means to secure a piano on their own. Our supporters have also allowed us to offer a piano music lending library, host amazing student recitals, and place pianos in community centers. Our story is inspiring... however, the future is uncertain.

You can help. I am personally inviting you to join our Board of Directors in supporting our students during these times of uncertainty — by contributing to our annual matching gift challenge. Make a donation by June 15 and it will be matched by our Board up to \$2,000.

Your support is more important than ever before. As a small organization, donations of any size make a BIG difference. We, like many, are struggling to stay on course. Please consider a donation of any amount to help us continue our mission.


Sandra Phadke
Executive Director



PSF students taking online piano lessons

SUPER VOLUNTEER:

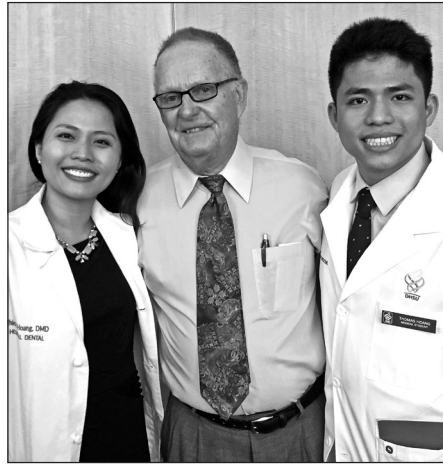
Paul Lambertsen

The first time Paul Lambertsen heard a PSF student, it “knocked my socks off.” At the time, Paul’s wife, Dottie, was the program chair for the Eastmoreland chapter of the Oregon Symphony Auxiliary and had invited a PSF student to perform at their holiday meeting. Afterwards, he remembers thinking, “Wow. What a program PSF must be!”

Paul and Dottie attended a PSF recital in 2000, “We were immediate fans of the program and accepted [PSF Founder Mark Mention]’s invitation to serve as volunteers on the Scholarship Committee.” And the rest, as they say, is history.

Paul is PSF’s longest-serving volunteer, and now chairs the Scholarship Committee, whose members review applications, match students with the appropriate pianos, and conduct home visits with the students and families. “We get to know the student and their families better.” Paul explains, “After nearly 20 years, it is still a joy to make these visits.”

And, of course, Paul has attended almost every recital. “I marvel at how these young students can memorize long, complicated arrangements and play them without music in front of them. Personally, I was a failure at music lessons,” he admits, “I took a grand total of 17 piano lessons myself!”



Former PSF students, Y and Tom, with Paul Lambertsen. “He’s been so kind, and generous, and has made tremendous impacts on my family and many other young students like us.” - Y

Among his many contributions to the organization, Paul played a key part in developing the concept of a student notebook, which is something every new PSF student now receives. “Paul is the soul of Piano Santa” says Executive Director Sandra Phadke. “He is a cheerleader for the students; he really cares about them, and he really wants them to prosper.”

“PSF students are special,” Paul observes. “It has been exciting to see many of our students not only excelling at playing the piano, but excelling in athletics, academics, and student leadership.” Thinking back over his years volunteering with PSF, he is proudest of the organization’s impact on so many young musicians. “Many have been accepted into fine colleges and universities. There are many, many success stories.”

PSF Musician on the Move

Felix Tse started playing piano when he was 5 years old, and for years all he had to practice on was a piano that had been built from parts off of other used pianos! He applied for and won the PSF Grand Scholarship Competition in 2016 and stayed with the program when he completed his initial scholarship in 2018. “The grand piano, then the upright extension, all of this allowed me to practice and get where I am today. Everything that I’ve accomplished in the last four years would not have been possible without PSF.”

Last year, if you found the only piano in Nepal, there was a chance you might find Felix playing on it! For the past three summers, Felix, was lucky enough to go

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PSF Program Basics

PSF was created in 1994 to provide music education opportunities for children, particularly in underserved populations, in the Portland metropolitan area. The three main focuses of our programming are

- (1) **Merit and Need-Based Scholarships:** placing pianos in students’ homes,
- (2) **First Step and Second Step Keyboard Programs:** offering group piano lessons to elementary-aged children, and
- (3) **Community Placement Grants:** placing pianos with deserving community organizations.

In support of these programs, we provide in-home piano tunings and maintenance, offer educational opportunities, and sponsor student recitals throughout the year. Please see our website for information.

PSF Board & Staff

Founder Mark Mention
 Executive Director . . Sandra Phadke
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You can support PSF with a donation of any size at www.pianosanta.org

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on medical volunteering trips to a number of different countries. During one of these trips, Felix found an old upright piano. He thought the piano was "really neat because I had never seen any other pianos in Nepal." A few local children asked Felix to play something for them, and afterwards, he taught about 15 of them some simple pieces on the piano and even transcribed some of their songs so they could learn them later.

The location might have been surprising, but not the result: Felix, now age 18, is always looking for ways to use his music to give back to the community, no matter what community he happens to be in. One year, he volunteered to play during lunch hour for seniors at a Meals on Wheels program. "Usually I would stick around and talk with some of the seniors there," says Felix, and one of them, he remembers, told Felix about how much he wanted to learn an instrument as a kid but never could afford the instrument or the lessons. "I just felt really glad then that I was fortunate enough to be able to learn not one but two instruments."

After receiving the grand piano from PSF, Felix continued entering and succeeding at competitions; he placed third in the American Protégé International Concerto Competition, won the Monday Musical Club Competition, and placed third at the Central Oregon Symphony competition!



Felix Tse performing at a PSF Recital

Felix thinks he is proudest of his performance of the first movement of Tchaikovsky's First Piano Concerto with the Central Oregon Symphony. To get ready, he had practiced 14 hours a week from August to December to perfect his performance. But, despite all that preparation, it was almost a disaster. "I came down with a wrist injury the night before," he explains "but I had come too far to quit..." Felix was able to ice his wrist and make it through two performances! "It was quite a thrill ... There's nothing I wouldn't do to have that experience again."

GRACE NOTES

Our heartfelt thanks go to the following individuals, businesses, and foundations for their support of PSF programs, as well as to the many anonymous donors who have 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.

INDIVIDUALS

Barbara Berg
Lisa D'Arcy
 in memory of Clarice D'Arcy
Steve Dauenhauer
James and Mary Dooney
Stephen and Nancy Dudley
Michael and Doris Durrell
Charlene Dunning
Linda Friedman
Claire and Zanley Galton
Lorna Grohman
Janet Harmon
 in honor of Jessie Underhill
Christopher Helmers and Wendy White
Sarah Helmers
Katharine Hopkins

Keith Kutler and Stephanie Ricker
Paul Lambertsen
 in memory of Dottie Lambertsen
Lois Lasley
Fern Momyer
 in memory of Marlene Grate
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Allen Neuringer
Nadenia Newkirk
 in memory of Colleen Metcalf
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Susan and Michael Stone

Nancy Stone
Scott Tevault
Ermine and Susan Todd
John Watson and Kris Tent
Elizabeth Willis
Kay Wolfe
Steven and Deborah Wynne

CORPORATIONS AND FOUNDATIONS

A-440 Tuning
Classic Pianos
The Monday Musical Club
Oregon Arts Commission
Fred W. Fields Fund of the Oregon
 Community Foundation
Yamaha America

Special thanks to CHORDination for inviting PSF to present at their recitals. CHORDination - Harmony in Music Education, Chordination.US, offers at-home lessons in drums, guitar, voice, and piano.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

enriching life through music



PSF Students at the 2019 Piano Santa Foundation Holiday Recital

**Upcoming
2020 Events**

Fall Showcase
September 12, 2020, 10:30am

Holiday Recital
December 7, 2020, 10:30am