

Piano Santa Foundation Awards 100th Student Scholarship

PSF was proud to deliver a piano to our 99th and 100th scholarship winners, Kamara and Christopher McMichael, in December 2008. For 15 years, the Piano Santa Foundation (PSF) has been awarding in-home piano placement scholarships to talented students in the Portland Metro area.

Christopher, 9, a student at Davis Elementary, loves jazz and was the first of the siblings to start piano lessons after their grandmother sent them an electric keyboard to play on. Within just a few months, big sister Kamara wanted to try, too. The children credit their mother's love of music as a reason they stuck with piano. Three years later, Kamara and Christopher were still playing, but, because their keyboard did not have enough keys or any pedals, they had to rely on their imaginations to play more advanced pieces. They had decided to make the move to a real piano when they heard about the programs at PSF.

Sandra Phadke, PSF Executive Director, says "It is great that Christopher and Kamara are so talented and enthusiastic. Hearing them play their new piano is a real treat."

The two performed in their first PSF event at the Spring Recital in April. Kamara was nervous, she says, but Christopher just thought the experience was fun.

Kamara, 15, is a sophomore at Reynolds High School and a member of her school's "Pro Cantorum" Choir which performed at Carnegie Hall in March. Her mom, Holley, says Kamara "has



Kamara and Christopher McMichael, recipients of the 99th and 100th PSF scholarships, show off their skills on their newly placed piano.

been in love with music since she was born." In fact, the whole McMichael household shares a love of music, with two pianists, a singer and a saxophone player in the family. Holley says that music "really grounds them and gives them a wider understanding of...just everything."

These scholarships were not without some controversy, however—both Christopher and Kamara want to be the 100th scholarship winner. Christopher, in particular, is adamant that since he is almost 10, being the 100th scholarship winner would be fitting since the numbers 10 and 100 are so alike. So, who is the 99th and who is the 100th scholarship winner? When asked for comment, Sandra says with a smile, "I'm sorry, those records are confidential."

Holiday Recital Saturday, Dec. 5th

To hear Christopher and Kamara and many other great young PSF musicians, please join us for our free Holiday Recital.

Saturday, Dec. 5th at 1:30 pm
Central Lutheran Church
1820 NE 21st Ave., Portland

New this Summer: Second Step Keyboard Class!

Piano Santa Foundation is proud to announce this summer's launch of the Second Step program. This follow-up to the popular First Step Keyboard Program offered in 2008 and 2009 in two Beaverton

elementary schools offers a more advanced curriculum, building on the basics covered in First Step. With smaller classes, the 10-week Second Step course is designed to give each student more individual attention and

will explore more complicated music.

PSF deeply appreciates the support of the Mason Charitable Trust in making the Second Step program a reality.

First Step Program Expands to McKay



Following a successful year at Fir Grove Elementary, PSF began offering the First Step Keyboard Program to students at Beaverton's McKay Elementary School in 2009. First Step is a free 10-week after-school course offering interested students the opportunity to learn the basics of piano. Carol Droz, McKay's music specialist says, "The children who are enrolled at our school would not have this kind of an opportunity without First Step."

In the class, students learn a variety of skills, from the basics of hand position to reading music. At the end of the course, students are given the opportunity to perform solo pieces at a recital for friends and family.

PSF began offering the program in 2008, in an effort to address the chronic underfunding of the arts in public schools. "Our goal," says PSF Executive Director Sandra Phadke, "is to lay the groundwork for a lifetime love of music. I hope they not only enjoy the class, but that some of the kids stick with piano after First Step is done."

With generous funding provided by the Juan Young Trust, PSF will have brought this class to 96 students by the end of 2009. PSF hopes to continue offering First Step in other schools in future years and has introduced a summer follow-up program, called Second Step in 2009.

As Ms. Droz puts it, "the best part is that the knowledge and skills they are gaining, as well as the love of music that is being nurtured, can never be taken away... thank you, Piano Santa Foundation, for giving these children a chance to achieve success in something that will stay with them for their entire lives."



Allison Bote, First Step Music Teacher and Carol Droz, McKay Elementary Music Specialist.

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) **Scholarships:** placing pianos in students' homes for up to three years, (2) our **First Step and Second Step Keyboard Programs:** offering group piano lessons to elementary-aged children, and (3) **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 web page for information.

PSF Board & Staff

Founder Mark Mention
Executive Director Sandra Phadke
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STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS



Joseph Kang, a Grand Scholarship recipient, recently won \$1,000 from the Monday Musical Club for his performance of Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata in C-Sharp Minor, 3rd Movement.

Stepping Stone Scholarship recipient, **Kai Talim**, won the Portland Youth Philharmonic (PYP) Piano Concerto Competition held this spring. Kai will be performing Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 4 with the PYP Orchestra at their upcoming November concert.

Stephen Lam, a Grand Scholarship recipient, was awarded the Gates Millennium Scholarship for full tuition to Johns Hopkins University. The highly competitive Gates scholarships, established in 1999, are awarded to 1,000 students each year on the basis of academics, leadership potential and community service.



Joseph Kang at the PSF 2008 Holiday Recital.

PSF Welcomes New Executive Director

In October of 2008, PSF welcomed Sandra Phadke as its new Executive Director. As Executive Director, Sandra's responsibilities include planning all PSF events, supervising all committee assignments and working with the Board of Directors to forward PSF's mission of "enriching life through music."

Sandra's previous work experience includes being vice president of a software company, an accountant, and a project manager. Her education background is varied, with a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration and—most recently—certification as a pastry chef! "I've had a lot of great experiences in my life," Sandra says. "I've been really lucky."

A love of music and a desire to help the community originally brought Sandra to PSF. "It is a shame that arts education in the schools is so underfunded, but that makes the equation very clear for us: the more children we can help, the richer our community becomes, and the better off we all will be." She started out consulting with PSF on computer projects, then worked as Administrator before the Board promoted her to Executive Director. PSF Founder, Mark Mention, says "Sandra's organization, systematic style and attention to detail has already proven

to be a great benefit to PSF."

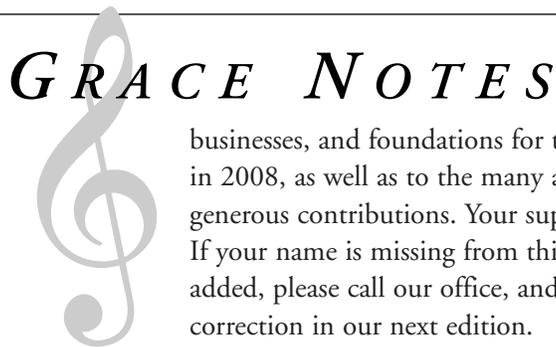
Sandra describes her priorities as "focusing the organization on our core programs: scholarships and our new keyboard programs in the schools." She believes PSF should grow the number of active scholarships, as well as expand the First Step Keyboard Program. Mark looks forward to Sandra's

contributing to "PSF in our key areas of growth, combined with fiscal conservatism." This summer's launch of the Second Step program is the result of grant work and research Sandra completed in early 2009. Beyond those priorities, Sandra believes, the details are critical but the focus should be on having fun. "Music brings so much joy to so many people."

Welcome, Sandra!



Sandra Phadke looks forward to continuing her work with PSF.



Our heartfelt thanks go to the following individuals,

businesses, and foundations for their support of PSF programs in 2008, 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.

Individuals

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Get Involved!

There are many ways you can help PSF bring music into the lives of children in the Portland area...

Time to volunteer? PSF has opportunities for volunteers in a wide range of areas such as event planning, public relations and working with our library and scholarship committees.

Spread the word! Is there anyone you know who could benefit from a PSF scholarship or grant? Please let them know about our programs.

Gifts of Music: PSF is always looking for donations of good quality pianos and new or gently used music books for our music library.

 Please contact us by calling 503.245.6269 or email us at info@pianosanta.org 

enriching life through music

PSF Fall Benefit Concert Coming in October

Music in Your Future

Saturday, October 3rd, 2009, 3 pm
Central Lutheran Church
1820 NE 21st Ave., Portland
Price: \$10

Please join us Saturday, October 3rd for an afternoon of wonderful classical music featuring:

Susan Smith (piano), pianist with Third Angle New Music Ensemble, Piano Area Coordinator at Marylhurst University and frequent soloist. Susan has appeared with the Oregon Symphony as well as the San Diego Chamber Orchestra, Palomar Symphony, and San Diego Symphony.

Kelly Talim (violin), Chamber Music Northwest Young Artist Fellow and winner of the Vancouver Symphony's Young Artists Competition.

Kai Talim (piano), Chamber Music Northwest Young Artist Fellow, winner of the Portland Youth Philharmonic Piano Concerto Competition, and PSF Grand Scholarship winner.

There will be a reception following the music program. To order tickets, please return enclosed insert or contact the PSF office at info@pianosanta.org or 503.245.6269.

All proceeds from this benefit concert go directly to pay for the costs of our scholarship program.



Kai Talim and his sister Kelly Talim will perform October 3rd in a special benefit concert for PSF.