

A Grand Achievement for Portland Pianists

Talented young pianists in the Portland area have a wonderful new opportunity. With the addition of a second, artist-quality grand piano, PSF will offer a Grand Piano Scholarship every year! Until 2005, the foundation's sole grand piano was offered on a biannual scholarship basis. The new piano joins PSF's other grand in adding prestige to the fleet of 35 scholarship pianos.

PSF's two Grand Piano Scholarships each place a piano in a student's home for two years at no cost to the family. The Grand Scholarship is awarded every spring through a competition and is available to Portland-area students ages 12-16. This year's competition takes place May 20.

It has been a ten-year dream of PSF founder/director Mark Mention's to offer

the more sophisticated instruments to gifted performers who otherwise would not have the chance to practice on them. "This means so much to the students and to the program as a whole," he says of the grand piano.

Grand pianos of the caliber PSF offers can cost as much as \$50,000—out of reach for most families. For advanced-level pianists, however, a grand piano's value is immeasurable: "The use of a grand piano allows for significant performing



Photo by Danielle E. Levario © DANIELLE@Mistywillowcreek.com

Grand Scholarship teachers Kelli Brown Stephens (left) and Paula Watt (right) with PSF director and founder Mark Mention.

April Event Features Local Recording Artist/Engineer

Professional pianist and recording artist Dave Lee will perform for "Music in Your Future" at 1:30 PM Saturday, April 1, 2006, at Central Lutheran Church in Portland (1820 NE 21st Avenue). After the performance, he will offer his expert insight into the recording process and the ways musicians can make a living in music.

Many students find recordings of themselves useful in advancing their technique or simply as unique family records. Students will want to make the best possible recordings of their own performances for personal use or as demos for competition, scholarship, or college-entrance requirements. In today's technologically advanced world, Lee emphasizes the importance of high-quality recordings, whether done in students' or teachers' homes or in a professional studio. His knowledge in this area will be

relevant and helpful for students interested in music.

Lee also will share his expertise on how students can gain experience performing for live audiences. For almost 16 years, he worked as a pianist at Nordstrom. During that time, he helped establish and coordinate the Nordstrom Community Talent Program, which gives student pianists the rare opportunity to perform in public. "There aren't many places where kids can have their families and friends hear them play in public, besides recitals," he says of the program's significance.

To make a living doing what he loves, Lee combines an active schedule of live performance, recording (of himself and of other artists), and technical consulting. "I can't stress diversification enough," he says of his approach to making a viable career out of music.

His music has aired in 38 states and on syndicated and Internet radio formats. He owns his own digital recording studio and has produced CDs for many artists, as well as several of his own music. Lee performs regularly at the Portland City Grill and the Multnomah Athletic Club in downtown Portland.

"Music in Your Future" is an annual event that presents the talents and expertise of musicians, vocalists, and other entertainers from the community to show young musicians the ways artists apply their talents in real-world settings. The program will begin with one of PSF's grand scholarship pianists, followed by Lee's performance. Rounding out the schedule will be a recital featuring the PSF scholarship students. The event will last approximately one hour and will be followed by a reception. 🎵

Haydn Piano Concerto Showcases Talent from Two Local Groups

The Rose City Chamber Orchestra (RCCO) and PSF have joined together this year to offer a young piano soloist a rare opportunity to perform a concerto. This special event takes place Sunday, April 2, at 3 PM at Colonial Heights Presbyterian Church (2828 SE Stephens St, Portland). Tickets are \$7-\$10 general admission and free to those 18 and under.

This year, PSF hosted a juried piano concerto competition with the winner receiving the opportunity to play the Haydn concerto in a public performance with RCCO. Thirteen-year-old PSF scholarship student Kai Talim of Portland won the competition.



PSF student Kai Talim will perform the Haydn piano concerto with the Rose City Chamber Orchestra April 2.

Talim will be familiar to those who attended last year's RCCO-PSF concerto performance: he was the selected soloist for Mozart's Concerto for Piano and Orchestra in A major, K.414, which he performed from memory in its entirety. This young man is one to watch, and both PSF and RCCO are delighted to be playing a role in providing both the community and Talim with this exceptional performance experience.

To see a clip of Talim's 2005 concerto performance, please visit the PSF website at [www.piano-](http://www.piano-santa.org)

[santa.org](http://www.piano-santa.org). For more information about RCCO's concert schedule, visit www.rosecity.org. 🎵

PSF 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. 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.

PSF Members & Staff

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To be removed from the PSF mailing list, please call the number above.

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progress and really generates exciting developments in these performers," Mention explains. He also points out the significance of the Grand recipients as role models in the PSF scholarship program: "They motivate and inspire the other students to ascend to that level."

PSF's "grand" teachers also provide expert insight into the importance of a high-caliber instrument to students' ability to advance their technique. "It would be a dream come true to see Shelley benefit from and more fully realize her potential with this wonderful opportunity," said Paula Watt of student Shelly Lawson's bid for a Grand Scholarship. Kelli Brown Stephens also strongly supported her student's need for an advanced instrument through the Grand Scholarship: "Tony's playing has progressed at an extremely rapid rate.... His potential to make an impact on the musical community is great," she said.

Watt and Brown's students also thoughtfully expressed their reasons for wanting the Grand Scholarship. "At

this stage of my playing...I feel I am restricted in my growth.... My instrument lacks important features that are present on grand pianos...making it difficult to learn my pieces properly," said Lawson, PSF's 1998 Grand recipient. Song, PSF's 2002 Grand recipient, said: "I want to become a concert pianist.... and a grand piano would give me a lot of benefits... for what my repertoire demands." And Song's demanding repertoire has earned him many opportunities and awards, including an appearance as the featured soloist when he plays Brahms Concerto No. 2 with the Columbia Symphony this April 21 and 23.

Supporting Song, Lawson, and its other Grand students in their quest for a greater level of artistry is what this PSF scholarship is all about, and dreams really do come true through this unique program. 🎵

Teachers currently on PSF's mailing list will find a Grand Scholarship application enclosed. Teachers who did not receive a copy and would like one are invited to contact PSF.

Teaching from the Heart

Portland piano teacher Barbara Parker currently teaches two PSF scholarship students, as well as several other students on scholarship. Daniel Swayze, PSF's 2005 Grand Scholarship recipient, wasn't even aware of the scholarship opportunity until Parker encouraged him to apply. "She goes all out for her students.... I couldn't have asked for a better teacher," he says.

Swayze is indeed fortunate to work with Parker, who has more than 40 years of teaching experience and who knows firsthand a scholarship's value. "My family didn't have a lot of money, but I got a scholarship and took lessons." She later studied under Nellie Tholen at Lewis and Clark College and pursued her own music career playing for Oregon Ballet Theater, the Oregon Symphony, and the Seattle Symphony.

Parker speaks highly of her PSF

students. Neither had much formal training before beginning lessons with her. Swayze was self-taught, and the other student only had used a keyboard. "They are both naturally gifted," Parker says, "and both are now making excellent progress with direction. I love kids, and I am at a time in my life that I can give back what I once received: an opportunity to help children."

In addition to teaching students how to bring music to life, Parker also instructs in music theory and history and helps prepare them for their syllabus exams. "I belong to Oregon Music Teachers Association," she says, "and we do things to enrich our students." She also readies them for the annual OMTA festivals, where many of her students have won trophies.

Swayze appreciates Parker's high expectations and teaching methods.



Teacher Barbara Parker with PSF scholarship students Daniel Swayze and Tram Bui.

"She's very straight forward and very specific about what she wants," he explains. "It's easy to learn from her teaching style."

And it's easy to see Parker puts her heart into teaching. 🎵

Grace Notes eee

Our heartfelt thanks go to the following individuals, businesses and foundations for their support of the PSF program in 2005, as well as to the many anonymous donors who made generous contributions. Your support makes all the difference.

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PSF Needs

Volunteer & Paid Opportunities

PSF plans to expand in the next year. We are currently looking for:

VOLUNTEER POSITIONS

Public Relations—We need someone with experience to help produce press releases and develop strategies for paid promotions;

Fundraising—We need additional help with grant writing. Anyone with experience in strategic development also would be welcome.

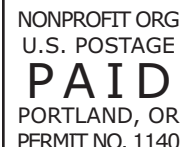
FUTURE PAID POSITIONS

Piano Teachers—If you are a piano teacher interested in helping PSF in a volunteer or part-time paid position, please contact us by email with your contact information and background experience. Morning hours are best for PSF operation needs.

Executive Director—As funding allows in the next year, PSF plans to hire an executive director. Please let us know of your interest and experience so when the actual hiring process begins we can notify you.

Piano Santa Foundation
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Return service requested



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 websites for specifics.

PSF EVENTS

All PSF events are free and open to the public. Performances are on Saturdays at 1:30 PM at Central Lutheran Church, 1820 NE 21st Avenue, Portland. Visit www.pianosanta.org for more details.

April 1 Music in Your Future
August 5 Summer Music Fun
November 11 Dress Rehearsal
December 2 Holiday Recital

COMMUNITY EVENTS

SPRING

March 1, 8, 15, 29
Symphony Story Times · Belmont Library
Oregon Symphony
www.orsymphony.org

March 17 · 7:30 PM
Skyview Spring Concert
Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall
www.metroyouthsymphony.org

March 19 · 7:30 PM
PCWS & Three-Leg Torso concert
Lincoln Hall, PSU · www.pcws.org
Pacific Crest Wind Symphony

April 8 · 7 PM
Viennese Ball
Thomas Jefferson Jr High · Vancouver
www.metroyouthsymphony.org

April 21 & 23
Columbia Symphony · Tony Song
Brahms Piano Concerto No. 2
www.columbiasymphony.org

April 22
Spring Family Concert
The Old Church, Portland, \$5
Chamber Music Northwest
www.cmnw.org

May 11
"Don Giovanni" student dress rehearsals
\$10/\$12, Portland Opera, 503.321.5261
education@portlandopera.org

Spring concerts
Portland Symphonic Girlchoir
www.girlchoir.com · 503.226.6162

SUMMER

Summer Concerts in the Parks
Lake Oswego Parks & Recreation
www.ci.oswego.or.us/parksrec/

Summer Concerts in the Parks
Portland Parks & Recreation
www.parks.ci.portland.or.us

ONGOING EVENTS

Chamber Music Northwest / www.cmnw.org
The Children's Museum / www.portlandcm2.org
Oregon Symphony / www.orsymphony.org
Pacific Crest Wind Symphony / www.pcws.org
Portland Symphonic Girlchoir / www.girlchoir.com
Rose City Chamber Orchestra / www.rosecity.org
