

## Grand Scholarship Winner has History with PSF

Since the founding of the Piano Santa Foundation, very few students have been awarded multiple scholarships. Tram Bui, the 2011 Grand Scholarship winner, is one of those remarkable young musicians.

Even before Tram's family moved to Oregon in 2004, she had already established that she had a gift for music. After watching her father, who had been playing guitar since he was 13, and her older brother, who played the keyboard, Tram started group keyboard lessons. Shortly thereafter, she won a keyboard competition sponsored by Yamaha. She remembers never having had "as much interest in anything" as in music.

After her family immigrated to the United States from Vietnam, they looked for a way to continue her music education, and eventually found their way to the Piano Santa Foundation. "This was one of the best things that I had never imagined to have happen to me," says Tram about her Standard Scholarship. She later held the Stepping Stone Scholarship from 2009 until 2011. It was then, at the age of 16, that she became the latest PSF Grand Scholarship winner, making her only the third person in history to have held three different PSF scholarships. And as anyone



*Tram Bui, 17, winner of the 2011 Grand Scholarship Competition, at home with her PSF grand piano.*

who has attended the last several PSF student recitals knows, Tram has developed into an extraordinary musician.

Today, she serves as the vice-president of her high school class, and is in National Honor Society (with a 3.94 GPA) at Grant High School in Portland. Tram accompanies both her church choir and her high school choir, the Royal Blues, and still finds time to practice piano two hours on most days! She emphasizes the importance of sticking with practice, despite the distractions. "In a student's teenage years, it becomes harder to keep it up and persevere," but she is quick to assure that "music helps your memory, and makes your inner self stronger.

Even if it doesn't end up being your interest, it can help you find your interest."

Tram hopes someday to at least minor in music, and to continue to be an example for other young artists. "Music doesn't only help you grow as a musician," she notes, "but it also makes you into a more mature person. It helps your memory, it helps your discipline, and it helps you learn to interact with other people." Ultimately, Tram believes she is headed to Pre-Med or Biology as a major because of her interest in the life sciences.

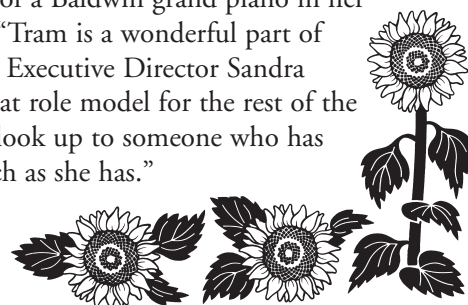
For winning the Grand Scholarship competition, Tram was awarded the use of a Baldwin grand piano in her home for two years. "Tram is a wonderful part of the PSF family," says Executive Director Sandra Phadke. "She is a great role model for the rest of the students. It's easy to look up to someone who has accomplished as much as she has."

### Summer Music Fun

*Saturday, August 11<sup>th</sup>*

Please join us for some great music at our free Summer Music Fun Recital!

*(see last page for details and mark your calendar!)*



# PSF Music Library Reaches 1500 Titles!

Mendelssohn's *Songs without Words*, highlights from *The Lion King*, and *The Gershwin Collection* are just a few of the new titles available in the PSF Music Library. The Library Committee has recently finished the process of adding new titles and cataloging a large number of new donations. As a result, the PSF Music Library has now reached approximately 1500 titles.



Board Member Phillis Whitmore and volunteer Dawn Bergstrom staff the library at a PSF event.

PSF Board Member Phillis Whitmore and the volunteers of the Library Committee meet for several hours every few months to catalog new donations. Says committee member Dawn Bergstrom, "It's great that our community is so generous with their donations; it has been a big project but hasn't really felt like work to me." Dawn adds "I love looking at music books... they're like reading novels and inspire me to play my piano more at home!"

Thanks to a generous grant, PSF was also able to fill a large gap in its offerings by purchasing a number of urtexts (unabridged, unedited versions of a composer's manuscripts), including the Beethoven Sonatas and Chopin Etudes.

Because urtexts and other advanced classical titles are more

expensive than the more common popular music compilations, it is especially important for PSF to have a large selection in our Library. Many students would have difficulty obtaining these types of books on their own.

"Now that the Library has expanded," says PSF Executive Director Sandra Phadke, "we also want to start looking at offering it as a resource to other community organizations." PSF hopes to partner with local arts and music nonprofits in the coming year.

The Library is available by appointment, and during student events each year, to all PSF students, their families, mentors and sponsors, as well as all former PSF students and their families.

## Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to report on several exciting changes happening at the Piano Santa Foundation. PSF is now on Facebook! Check out our page, and "Like" us to get the latest updates on PSF programs and events.

We are now offering Merit Extensions to existing scholarship students. This expansion of our programming could potentially allow a student to stay with PSF for 11 years, from age 7 through age 18. Any student who currently holds a PSF scholarship in good standing is eligible to apply for a Merit Extension.

In September, be on the lookout for a new version of our website ([www.pianosanta.org](http://www.pianosanta.org)). In addition to an updated look and feel, PSF will now be able to accept donations via PayPal and offer expanded access to the Music Library. I hope you will find the new pages informative and easier to use.

Please join us for our next student event, Summer Music Fun, on August 11, and as always, thank you for your continued support.

Sandra Phadke



### 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,
- (2) **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 website for information.

### PSF Board & Staff

Founder . . . . .	Mark Mention
Executive Director. . .	Sandra Phadke
President . . . . .	Barbara Platt
Secretary . . . . .	Phillis Whitmore
Treasurer . . . . .	Ajit Phadke
Board Member . . . . .	Trish Flanagan
Board Member . . . . .	Kathryn Poleson

### The Piano Santa Foundation

PO Box 80214  
Portland, OR 97280  
[www.pianosanta.org](http://www.pianosanta.org)  
503.245.6269 phone

*News Notes is published by the Piano Santa Foundation. © 2012 Piano Santa Foundation. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in any way without the written consent of the Piano Santa Foundation.*



# West Women's and Children's Shelter Receives PSF Piano Placement Grant

In 2011, PSF awarded the use of a piano to the Salvation Army West Women's and Children's Domestic Violence Shelter. This was the latest in a series of similar grants to local organizations in furtherance of PSF's mission of "enriching life through music."

For more than 30 years, the West has been serving victims of domestic violence in the Portland area. The shelter's mission is to "create a safe nurturing environment for survivors to realize their potential for healing and growth as we work together to end domestic violence." Having had the PSF piano for almost a year (as of press time), the West reports that they use it for resident parties, volunteer luncheons, and visiting performers. In the future, they also hope to expand their offerings to include music therapy in their children's program.

Residents at the West also use the PSF piano for personal

use. Especially those that have had a past history with playing piano, says the shelter's Director, Fay Schuler. "The piano helps them reconnect with their identity."

As a longtime victims' rights advocate, new PSF Board Member Trish Flanagan feels, "bringing a sense of joy and beauty into such a crisis-oriented environment is a wonderful way for our organization to contribute to the community."

Piano Placement Grants are a major part of the Piano Santa Foundation's programming (along with our student scholarships and the First Step Keyboard Program). Over the years, PSF pianos have resided at Portland-area organizations such as Camp Angelos, Arin's House, the Hill House, and the De Paul Treatment Center, to name a few.

If you know of other community organizations in the Portland Metro area that might benefit from a PSF piano grant, please call our office at 503.245.6269.

## 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

#### *Benefactors*

Carol Ratzlaf

In memory of John and Eileen Gibson

Sharon E. Streeter

In memory of Doris Jewett

Steven and Deborah Wynne

#### *Contributors*

Valerie Stinson

Marjorie McCracken

In honor of Tina Frost

Janet Leigh and Mark Gaudin

Claire and Zanley Galton

Roni and RH Hinkson

Paul Lambertsen

Laury Riley

Lisa Caballero

Nancy Ashton

Storry Norman

In memory of Peg Norman

#### Anonymous Donations:

In memory of Heidi Jayne Snyder

In memory of Bryan Albrechtson

In memory of Mrs. Randjelovic

In memory of Lonny Booth

In memory of Sharon Dyche

#### *Supporters*

Marjorie Fairly

Betty Balmer

Patrick Caplis

Dan and Jan Blair

### Corporations and Foundations

Ausplund Tooze Family Foundation

A-440 Tuning

Classic Pianos

Monday Musical Club

## Ready to help? PSF Needs You!

Share your love of music and make a difference in the lives of young musicians. PSF is always looking for volunteers. Below are just a few areas where you can help.

**Scholarship Committee:** The scholarship committee reviews scholarship applications and interviews candidates. A background in music is a plus but not required.

**Library Volunteer:** Library volunteers sort and catalog donated music and help staff the library desk at PSF events.

**Events:** Volunteers are needed for event planning, photography and video, staffing receptions and handing out programs.

**Outreach:** Get the word out! Volunteers can speak at local PTAs, put up posters, and write articles for the newsletters or the website.

If you are interested, please contact us by calling 503.245.6269 or email us at [info@pianosanta.org](mailto:info@pianosanta.org).





PO Box 80214  
Portland, OR 97280

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PERMIT NO. 2358  
PORTLAND, OR

---

enriching life through music

## Join us at a PSF Event in 2012!

### Summer Music Fun

Saturday, Aug. 11, 1:30pm  
Central Lutheran Church  
1820 N.E. 21st Ave., Portland 97212  
*Reception to follow.*

### Dress Rehearsal

Saturday, Nov. 10, 1:30pm  
Central Lutheran Church  
1820 N.E. 21st Ave., Portland 97212

### Holiday Recital

Saturday, Dec. 1, 1:30pm  
Central Lutheran Church  
1820 N.E. 21st Ave., Portland 97212  
*Reception to follow.*



*2011 Piano Santa Foundation Holiday Recital*

---