

## Sister-Brother Act Earn Foundation Honors

When the Hoang family arrived in the U.S. in 2007, their 16 year old daughter Y had already been playing piano for 8 years and had won first prize at the Bradshaw & Buono International Piano Competition in New York. Her younger brother, Tom, then 11, had taken up piano, violin and guitar in their native Vietnam. But upon arrival in Portland, the family found themselves without access to a piano. "I couldn't imagine I would be able to play piano in America," says Tom, "my parents couldn't afford to buy a piano for my sister and me."

In 2008, however, Y was awarded the Dottie Lambertsen Merit award (or "DLM") when she dazzled the PSF Scholarship Committee with her performance of Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata. The DLM may be awarded to a student or family who demonstrates extraordinary skill along with special circumstances, and in



*Siblings Tom and Y playing at her senior recital.*

Y's case allowed PSF to put a grand piano in the Hoang household.

The DLM was created in 2007 in honor of Dorothy "Dottie" Lambertsen, who had been a long-time volunteer with PSF. "The DLM award is the perfect tribute to Dottie," says Dottie's husband Paul.

the community." Dottie and Paul opened their home to musicians, participated with the music camp "Quisisana on Lake Kezar," and have been a source of inspiration for the young students of the Piano Santa Foundation for years. Paul recalls how Dottie loved all types of music, "She played piano, organ, and was even studying cello at the time of her death." Dottie was the type of person who "looked to fill the need," remembers PSF Founder Mark Mention.

Five years later, Tom Hoang, now 17, is one of the most advanced students in the PSF family. "Tom is a wonderful young man" says PSF Executive Director Sandra Phadke, "He works hard at his music, and always has a great attitude." In addition to winning awards and

accolades as a solo performer, Tom accompanies church choirs, and has played violin with the Metropolitan Youth Symphony. And in 2013, Tom became the next Hoang sibling to be awarded a DLM.

Y, now 22, has graduated from the University of Portland with a minor in music and is starting dental school at OHSU in the fall. Tom is a high school senior this year, and is not sure what he will study in college, but he plans to make sure music is a part of his life forever. "Music is a great way to serve other people. I may not study it in college, but I will definitely keep it with me."

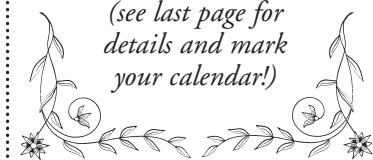
Tom and Y's parents are thrilled with the way things have worked out. "All new immigrants must go through some hard transition but our children's music has filled our days with joy and hope," they observed in letters to PSF, "We are blessed with two children who love music and music always fills the air in our family."

Just the way Dottie would have wanted it.

### Summer Music Fun Saturday, August 10<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!)



"She loved music—her mother was a pianist and music teacher—and she gave her time to music organizations in

# Parrott Creek Child and Family Services Receives PSF Piano Placement Grant

In July, PSF placed a piano with Parrott Creek Child and Family Services. Parrot Creek was the latest community organization to apply for one of PSF's "Placement Grants." According to Paul Lambertsen, a member of the PSF Scholarship Committee which is in charge of placing pianos with organizations, the placement was a great fit. "This group does good work, and it is clear that they are all committed to their mission."

Parrott Creek is a Clackamas County nonprofit dedicated to behavioral rehabilitation; they give boys the tools, skills, and emotional support they

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*"Music is itself an incredible therapeutic presence in anyone's life."*

—Guy Tyler

*Shift Supervisor at Parrot Creek*

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need to change and make better choices. Parrot Creek residents receive individual and group counseling, alcohol or substance abuse

treatment when necessary, and individual and group skill building. According to PSF Executive Director Sandra Phadke, "The location is ideal for one of our pianos. The boys will be able to take lessons, play in groups, practice, and get educational presentations." Guy Tyler, shift supervisor at Parrot Creek, agrees. "For what we have available, [PSF] is providing a huge service to this agency." Tyler adds, while Parrot Creek does not yet offer formal music therapy to its rotating group of approximately 20 residents, "Music is itself an incredible therapeutic presence in anyone's life."

"Now that we have a piano, we have a real community-building focus in our [rec] room. We have some guys struggling with their time here. You can see a noticeable difference in their mindfulness and self-esteem." Mindfulness is a primary focus of Parrot Creek's program. The facility teaches the boys to focus on where they are and what they are experiencing in the moment, as opposed to perpetuating destructive thinking patterns. Tyler believes that "pianos are a great representation of mindfulness practice. It takes all their focus to work on a melody alone...add in a harmony, and it captures their complete attention."

Tyler sees the partnership with Piano Santa extending beyond the piano placement itself. "I am constantly hunting around for teaching material for music. Getting to use the PSF Lending Library is going to be a big help." He adds, "We also hope to bring a few boys to the PSF Holiday Recital. It will be a really cool experience for them to see young people achieving something with the piano."



## 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 . . . . .	Trish Flanagan
Board Member . . . . .	Claudine Elzey
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Board Member . . . . .	Lara Michell
Board Member . . . . .	Ajit Phadke

## The Piano Santa Foundation

PO Box 80214  
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503.245.6269 phone

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## Ready to help? PSF Needs You!

PSF is always looking for volunteers, and your particular skills might be a perfect fit! Here are a few ways volunteers help out to make our organization strong.

**Scholarship Committee**—Reviewing scholarship applications and interviewing candidates. A background in music is a plus but not required.

**Music Library**—sorting and cataloging donated music or

helping to staff the library desk at PSF events.

**Events & Outreach**—planning, photography and video, or handing out programs at events. Or promoting PSF by speaking at local PTAs, distributing posters, or writing articles for the newsletter or website.

*We would love to hear from you at 503.245.6269, or email us at [info@pianosanta.org](mailto:info@pianosanta.org).*

# HELP US PUT A PIANO IN A CHILD'S HOME

**You can put a piano in the home of an eager student. Here's how...**

Please partner with us today to ensure that children who want to play piano *have* a piano. We have set a goal to raise \$6,500 by December 31 to put 10 more pianos in children's homes next year. You can make that happen!

- ★ Your donation of \$650 could cover all the costs to put a piano in a child's home.
- ★ Your donation of \$150 could pay for piano moving.
- ★ Your donation of \$90 could provide an annual piano tuning.
- ★ Your donation of \$40 could provide educational materials.

You are a champion of piano and music. We hope that you will join others and contribute today.



## 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 Streeter

#### *Contributors*

Nancy Ashton

Richard and Janie Cohen

In honor of Cristian Santos

Doris and Mike Durrell

Tina Frost

Claire Galton

RH and Roni Hinkson

Keith Kutler and Stephanie Ricker

Paul Lambertsen

Marjorie McCracken

In honor of Tina Frost

Mark Mention

In honor of Mr. & Mrs. Robert Mention

Laury Riley

The William M. Wise Family

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#### *Supporters*

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Ausplund Tooze Family Foundation

A-440 Tuning

Classic Pianos

Juan Young Trust

Mason Charitable Trust

Monday Musical Club

PDX Advisory Group

Push, Inc.

Yamaha America

## Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

What a great year it has been!

For the first time, PSF partnered with SUN Community School Programs to bring the First Step Keyboard Program to Markham Elementary in SW Portland and Peninsula in North Portland. Thanks to the generosity of Juan Young Trust and Mason Charitable Trust, thirty-six students got the chance to participate in this great opportunity!

For those of you who are hearing about First Step for the first time, this program offers free after-school group keyboard lessons. PSF provides the keyboards, the books and the teacher, and the school provides the space and the students. If you know of an elementary school that might be interested in hosting future classes, please let us know.

In April, PSF also partnered with Beaverton High School to present *A Concert in Vienna*. Student musicians from BHS performed alongside PSF scholarship students for a night of classical music. Tram Bui, the 2011 Grand Scholarship winner, played a wonderful Beethoven sonata and Aveek Ganguly, Founder's Scholarship recipient, was fantastic playing a Chopin nocturne. The night was such a success that we have decided to do it again next year, so keep an eye out for information about *A Concert in Paris* in April 2014!

We have also added three new Board members to the PSF family: Paul Kerkar, Lara Michell and Claudine Elzey. I'm excited to have you meet them at our next student event. Please join us at Central Lutheran Church on August 10 for Summer Music Fun.

And, as always, thank you for your support. None of this would be possible without you.

Sincerely,  
Sandra Phadke



enriching life through music

## Join us at a PSF Event in 2013!

### Summer Music Fun

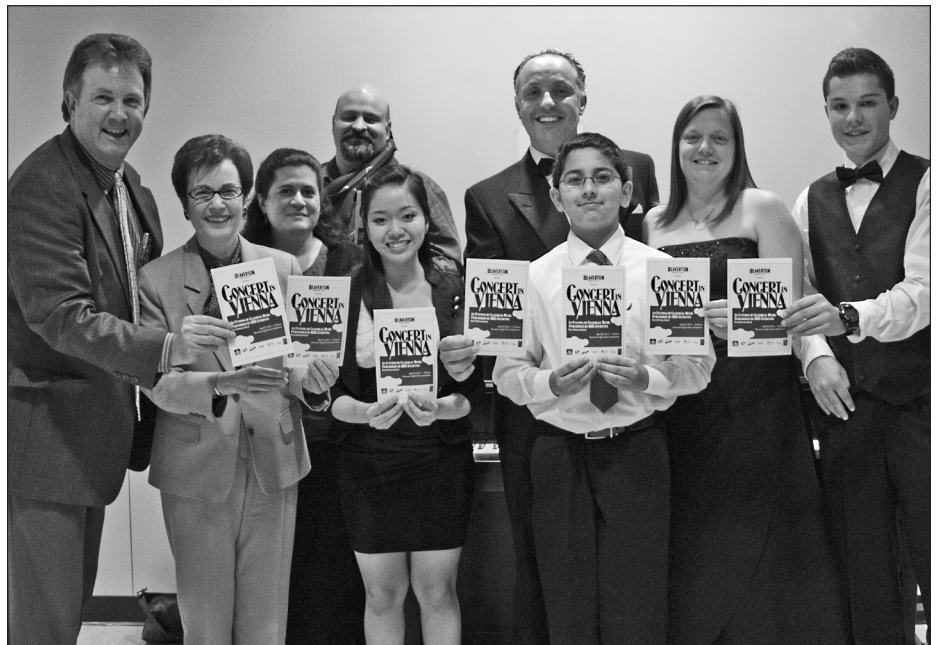
Saturday, Aug. 10, 1:30pm  
Central Lutheran Church  
1820 N.E. 21st Ave., Portland 97212  
*Reception to follow.*

### Dress Rehearsal

Saturday, Nov. 16, 1:30pm  
Central Lutheran Church  
1820 N.E. 21st Ave., Portland 97212

### Holiday Recital

Saturday, Dec. 7, 1:30pm  
Central Lutheran Church  
1820 N.E. 21st Ave., Portland 97212  
*Reception to follow.*



*In April 2013, PSF students performed alongside Beaverton High School musicians to present A Concert in Vienna. Pictured are PSF students, staff and volunteers, as well as Board Members Barbara Platt, Trish Flanagan, Paul Kerkar and Ajit Phadke.*