

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, PIANO SANTA!

This year the Piano Santa Foundation is celebrating the 25th Anniversary of our first piano placement scholarship. Since then, hundreds of students have participated in PSF programs, and many of them continue to accomplish incredible things. Over the years, we have been lucky enough to get to know some talented young people!

We checked in with a few of our graduates recently, and asked them to share some thoughts about their time with PSF.



Photo from an early PSF recital.



Tram
Bachelor of Science
in Biology

"I really enjoyed the community at PSF throughout grade school. It was meaningful to have a community of people interested in my music education and peers who shared the same passion."



Aishani
Studying Computer
Science and Music at
University of Portland

"I will always be grateful to have been part of such an inspiring organization where they work so hard to provide piano students with the training and resources they need."



Sara Beth
Studying Piano Pedagogy
(focus in Jazz Piano) at
Wheaton College in Illinois

"Piano Santa played a crucial role in my musical journey... the community spurred me on and challenged me to be the best musician I could be through their constant support and encouragement at recitals and other events."



Thien-Y
Dentist

"[Being in the PSF program gave me] access to a piano so that I could practice and opportunity to perform in front of an audience during quarterly recitals--giving me a purpose and goals to work towards as well as building my confidence before the public."

Music Man: PSF Board Member John Jaqua

John Jaqua has a long, rich history with music, and he's thrilled to be bringing his experience to the Piano Santa Board of Directors. "I know how much music can do for kids," he says, "I see it all the time, and I want to see it happen more!"

John has performed as a tenor in operas and musicals such as *La Boheme*, *Carmen*, *Don Giovanni*, and *West*

Side Story, been a select member of the Robert Shaw Chamber Choir, taught music at Catlin Gabel School, and has taught piano, voice, music theory, improvisation, and composition.

He went on to found CHORDination in 1984, recognizing that there was an unmet need in music
continued on page 3

Performance Artist

David Chvorun is, in a lot of ways, a normal American teenager. He enjoys playing sports like basketball and volleyball with friends, enjoys just hanging out with them, and enjoys going to the gym (although he says he rarely has time for that). He's also a brilliant pianist, as audience-members at Piano Santa Foundation recitals can attest.

"I was always very impressed by David's playing," PSF Board Member Ajit Phadke remembers, "but when David played Rachmaninov's Musical Moments at a recent PSF event, it just seemed like he had taken it to a whole new level."

The heights he has reached are no surprise to David's parents. Says his mother Luda, "We are amazed at how much hard-work David puts in." His teachers have observed that David's passion for music, specifically his passion for performing music, is as natural for him as breathing. His mother adds "He sometimes practices well into the night, which doesn't bother us... but we know he needs sleep for the next hard and busy day ahead of him!"

David grew up attending a Russian-speaking church, and even as an 8-year-old, he was always comfortable playing piano and singing solo songs before the congregation of 700 people. Building on that experience, he recorded a CD of Russian songs in a professional studio when he was eleven. He also started accompanying a violinist friend who had grown up on the same street. "We played in church and even started a YouTube channel. People loved it!" says David. One of those videos, "Song from a Secret Garden," has almost 60,000 views!

David joined the Piano Santa family in 2017 via the PSF Founder's Scholarship. With it, he won the use of a grand piano in his home for 2 years. David has now performed in several PSF recitals with other students. "What



PSF Founder's Scholarship Recipient David Chvorun.

the [PSF] program does is amazing. The recitals give me performance experience and prepare me for future competitions."

And the past year has certainly been filled with competitions and other musical challenges. He was one of several winners of the Monday Musical Club scholarship competition, received first place in an OMTA scholarship competition, and then participated in the Steinway Competition. He received an Honorable Mention for the Young Artists Competition in Washington, and then won second place ("Alternate") at the Oregon MTNA Senior Performance Competition in Piano. David writes "I was overflowing with joy because getting second place in the top piano competition in Oregon was something I have never even dreamed of, but it became a reality."

David's performances have also continued to expand in scope and variety: "I actually just recently got back from Minnesota," he reports, "where there was a huge Christian youth conference and where I got to play in front of thousands of people." In addition to his classical piano studies, he accompanies choirs, music groups, and in a newly-formed piano quintet. David also just completed OMTA Syllabus 10!

When asked about his future plans, David replies "My main focus in college would probably be something in the business world, but my passion for music will never end."



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) **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
President Claudine Elzey
Secretary Phillis Whitmore
Treasurer Davina Doby
Board Member . . . John Jaqua
Board Member . . . Ajit Phadke

The Piano Santa Foundation

PO Box 80214, Portland, OR 97280

503.245.6269 phone

You can support PSF with a donation of any size at www.pianosanta.org

News Notes is published by the Piano Santa Foundation. © 2019 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.

education: someone to handle the business side of music lessons. "In the beginning, there were some teachers who wanted someone else to do the organizational stuff like recitals, billing, policies. And students had trouble finding teachers, screening teachers, making sure the teachers were doing their jobs well."

Throughout everything, John has maintained a vision of music making people "better than they would have been if they hadn't gotten into music."

Piano Santa's focus on integrating music into the whole of a student's life is another passion for Jaqua, who is also an Eagle Scout and a nationally licensed soccer coach. "I recognize that there are other things, but I also get what part music can play in a well-rounded life!"

What does he think he can bring to the PSF family? "I feel I know what the organization is trying to accomplish. I trust Claudine [Elzey, PSF Board President], and I know Sandra [Phadke, PSF Executive Director] is



PSF Board Member John Jaqua.

honest, knowledgeable, empathetic. It's nice to be a part of an organization that knows itself, and is helping kids, and helping their parents, while the kids master piano."

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

Edgar and Amanda Aponte
Barbara Berg
Dan and Jan Blair
Barbara Brown
John Burton
Lisa Caballero
Patrick Caplis
in memory of Eric Dash
Mark Clift
Richard and Janie Cohen
in honor of Cristian Santos
JoAnn and Jon Crabtree
Curtis Dahl
in memory of Anthony J. Dahl
Steve Dauenhauer
Mary Dooney
Stephen and Nancy Dudley
Michael and Dory Durrell
Pauline Eidemiller
Claire and Zanley Galton
Anastasia and Andrew Gianopoulos
Frances Greenlee
in memory of Annie Mention
Lorna Grohman
Janet Harmon
Steven and Rachel Heller
Chris Helmers and Wendy White

Joel and Margaret Hernandez
Michael Hoban
Katherine Hopkins
Nadine Johnson
Paul and Dianne Kerkar
Paul Lambertsen
Janet Leigh and Mark Gaudin
Lois Lasley
in memory of Harold Lasley
in memory of Barbara Neuschwanger
Juliana Lee
Margaret Littlehales
Alice Lyle
in memory of Aurora Underwood
in memory of Betty Balmer
Marjorie and Richard McCracken
in honor of Tina Frost
Anne and Stephen Mileham
Margaret Moore
in honor of Nellie Tholen
Elaine Murphy
Allen and Martha Neuringer
David and Teresa Newton
Denali Porter
in memory of Anne Collins Mention
Carol and Walter Ratzlaf
in honor of Eileen and John Gibson
Laury Riley
Laurie Rutenberg and Gary Schoenberg

Nils Anders Sandkvist
Evelyn Schein
in memory of Alvin L. Schein DMD
Sharon Streeter
Scott Tevault
John Watson
in memory of Christine Malmquist
Elizabeth Willis
in memory of Marjorie Pine
The Wise Family
in honor of Mark Mention
Scott Witscher and Abbie Rankin
Kay Wolfe
Steven and Deborah Wynne
Stephen Young
Gail Zuro

CORPORATIONS AND FOUNDATIONS

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



PO Box 80214
Portland, OR 97280

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Portland, OR
Permit No. 24

enriching life through music



PSF students at the 2018 Piano Santa Foundation Fall Showcase.

Upcoming 2019 Events

Fall Showcase
September 21, 2019, 10:30am
Classic Pianos
3003 SE Milwaukie Ave.

Holiday Recital
December 7, 2019, 2:30pm
Taborspace (Copeland Commons Room)
5441 SE Belmont St.
