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## **Annual Gala raises \$95,000 for Student Programs**

The Minstrel Foundation's annual fundraising gala was held on June 7, 2005 where more than 200 people met in Dr. Peter and Susan Schaal's candlelit garden for an evening of wine, music, and dining. This sold-out event raised over \$95,000. While enjoying the fine wines of Peller Estates winery, guests browsed through the large selection of silent auction items. For those who preferred something a bit stronger, Glenfiddich Scotch conducted blind tastings and samplings of their single malt scotches. Guests were also able to purchase raffle tickets with the first prize a stunning pair 4<sup>th</sup> century Roman Constantines earrings from Fortune's Fine Jewellery.

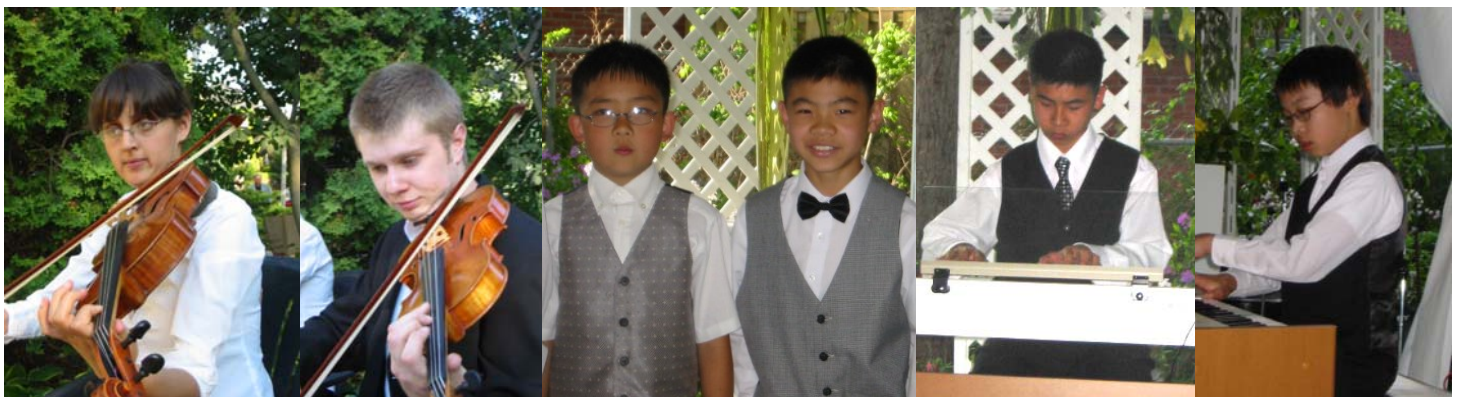
Before the sumptuous dinner catered by Yorkshire Pudding, guests were treated to performances by The Minstrel Foundation scholarship students and the students of Dixon Hall and University Settlement Music Schools, organizations supported in part by the Foundation.

The beautiful and talented Beth Harrington hosted the evening and Robert Pilon conducted the live auction that included, at the audience's request, a solo performance of his own. Mr. Pilon led a spirited auction for items that included a week in Marbella, a golf week in Hilton Head, South Carolina and an opportunity to appear in the television series "Missing." Afterwards, award winning jazz pianist and composer Nancy Walker and Her Trio entertained underneath the stars.

The Minstrel Foundation is sincerely grateful to "Jazz at Twilight" evening sponsor, UNILOCK Ltd. and also its corporate sponsors, St. Lawrence Cement, MASA, EMI Music Canada, Universal Music, The Cornerstone 52 Foundation, McCarthy Tetrault Foundation, ATPH, Cassels Brock LLP, and First Asset Advisory Services.



Ann Yardley with her students



## Eric Tan wins Hagood Hardy Protégé Award

Pianist Eric Tan, aged 12, is the 2005 recipient of the Hagood Hardy Protégé Award. Eric received his award from Mrs. Martha Hardy in June at The Minstrel Foundation Gala. Eric has been a student at Dixon Hall Music School for the past 6 years.



Attendees at previous Minstrel Foundation galas will remember his remarkable performances.

Eric, who also composes music, has completed 9 levels of the Royal Conservatory program with First Class Honors on every exam. In the spring of 2005, he was awarded first place in the Concert Class at the Davenport Music Festival and three first places in the All TV Festival of Music. Eric is a student in the gifted program where he composed the school song, won first place in the 2004-5 Grade 7 Canadian National Mathematics League Competition and also he plays in the jazz band. In her presentation, Martha Hardy praised Eric for his talent and his hard work.

## Exciting Fall Programs

In August, The Minstrel Foundation passed funding requests from Dixon Hall and the University Settlement Music Schools. Dixon Hall received \$30,000 to subsidize music lessons, instruments, and access to cultural and concert events for 71 students. Currently, the waiting list for instruction at the school has skyrocketed to over 100 children. University Settlement House received \$9300 for their subsidy fund and to finance the children's choir program that helps to foster self-esteem, self-discipline and the importance of teamwork for the 19 students involved.

## Cassels Brock Award goes to Irene Shao

Irene Shao, a 16 year old piano student studying at the University Settlement Music and Arts School is the 2005 recipient of the Cassels Brock Music Award. Irene is currently studying for her ARCT in piano performance having successfully completed her grade 10 piano and Grade 5 Music History and Analysis. Irene is a committed performer whose playing has the power to communicate depth, emotion and her love of music. The Cassels Brock Award, given to a student who has demonstrated through dedication a commitment to music was presented to Irene by Mr. Jim Parks.



## Freda Clarendon Griggs Award Winners - Becky Song & Jack Hang

Becky Song and Jack Hang both students of the Dixon Hall Music School were the 2005 recipients of the Freda Clarendon Griggs Music Award. Jack has been studying piano for two years and has achieved first class honours in his grade 4 RCM exam and is currently working at



the combined grade 5 & 6 level. Becky has impressed her instructors with her ability to handle technically challenging repertoires which has resulted in a second and third place awards in the junior piano division at the Davenport Festival of Music.

### Quotes from Students

*"I am proud of learning at Dixon Hall.....This school is really helpful to our whole community and to me."*

*"Piano is a way where I can relax and express my inner self. It has given me the benefit and support I've needed to achieve my self-confidence."*

## Another Summer Finished

Summer 2005 was a great time for kids at camp. Once again, the Minstrel Foundation sent 12 students from the Regent Park School of Music to receive training in music, drama and art for two weeks at the prestigious Erin Gilmour Arts Camp at The Bishop Strachan School.

19 students from Dixon Hall Music School attended a week at the Royal Conservatory of Music Summer Camp (formerly Midsummer Music camp in Oakville) where they received training in performance and theory as well as master classes for advanced students. Along with the musical training, everyone also enjoyed the outdoors, attending concerts and performances, and meeting other budding musicians and artists.

This year, five students attended the Royal Conservatory of Music Theatre Camp. This nine day creative fun-filled camp included classes in singing, dance and drama. As this is a new program it was the first year that Dixon Hall students participated. It was a great experience.

Dixon Hall organized an overnight camp for ten youngsters and three staff at the Hart House Farm. While there's plenty of time for music practice, the emphasis here is on relaxation and enjoyment of the Ontario countryside. Bob McKittrick, Director of Dixon Hall Music School says that *"many of the children sponsored this year will be attending a music camp for the first time in their lives. The impressions they are left with are long lasting and memorable."*

## Six Receive Scholarships for Advanced Study

For the third year, The Minstrel Foundation has provided much needed scholarship assistance to post-secondary students studying music. Andres Tucci Clarke who is completing a degree in performance music at Wilfrid Laurier University receives assistance from The Foundation for his tuition, books and music. Andres is member of Wilfrid Laurier University Symphony Orchestra and Chamber Ensemble. For the past two years, he was volunteer faculty at



the Toronto District Board Summer Strings camp and this year was hired as paid faculty.



Thompson Egbo-Egbo, a student in the Jazz music program at Humber College is well-known to Minstrel members for his delightful piano performances. Thompson is in the final year of his program and plans a career in performance. He is already developing a following in Toronto. He recently participated

in the TD downtown Jazz Festival in addition to organizing and conducting a two month in house day camp for students of Regent Park School of Music.

The Foundation assists Matthew Brown who recently graduated from the Randolph Academy for Performing Arts in musical theatre. Matthew had a part this summer in *"Five Guys Named Moe"* and is currently appearing in the television drama *"Instant Star."* Andreas, Thompson and Matthew are all "graduates" of the downtown music schools that are assisted by The Minstrel Foundation. We have followed these young men for several years and are pleased to have assisted them in realizing their dreams for careers in music and drama.



In addition, The Foundation approved three scholarships for advanced students, Jack Hang, Eric Tan and ShinLin He to study at the Royal Conservatory of Music under the guidance of Gloria Saarinen. All three students have successfully competed and performed in festivals and concerts as well as demonstrated the focus, desire and eager determination to get as much as possible from their lessons no matter how hard they are pushed. Recently, Jack Hang came first in the junior class, and Eric Tan came second in the senior class at the Glenburnie Festival in Oakville.

### Bravissimo!

Moshe Kim, a most gifted Dixon Hall Music School graduate who received 98% on his ARCT examination, has had to retire from the Hart House Orchestra, hang-up his cello and close his piano. Moshe has been accepted into the University of Toronto's PHD program and will be conducting research on neurodegenerative diseases at The Hospital for Sick Children.

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Gala**

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