



MINSTREL NOTES

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Award Winners for 2007

Hagood Hardy Protégé Award

Cindy Hong (classical guitar) and **Edward Yang** (piano) are the winners of Hagood Hardy Protégé Awards for 2007. The awards, presented annually by Martha Hardy, in honour of her late husband, are given to those music students who demonstrate hard work and devotion to learning.

Cindy Hong, age 15, in addition to the Hagood Hardy Protégé Award, has won a scholarship in the Peel Music Festival where judges commented on her exceptional technique. She also received the Silver Medal from the Royal Conservatory for exceptional marks in her Grade IV exams. She is a student at the Dixon Hall Music School. Edward Yang, 8 years old, has been studying piano at the University Settlement House for four years. In addition to the Hagood Hardy Protégé Award, Edward won "Best of Class" in this year's Kiwanis Music Festival. He is also a regular performer in the University Settlement House's student concerts.



Cassels Brock Music Award

The winner of the 2007 Cassels Brock Music Award is Na'ama McLaughlin Rock, 11, a student of piano at the University Settlement House. Na'ama, who has been studying at USH for 2 1/2 years is an exceptional performer who already "digs deep into a piece to discover its essence" according to teachers. She also transposes music by sight, a real feat for one so young.



Lister Sinclair Award

The Minstrel Foundation is proud to have been chosen to present an annual award in honour of the late author, broadcaster, historian, and critic, Lister Sinclair. Throughout his long life, Lister Sinclair was a fervent supporter of all the arts in Canada and, in this award, he continues to support arts education into the future. The inaugural recipient of the Lister Sinclair Award for musical excellence is pianist Andrew Wong age 15, a grade 10 student in French Immersion at Nelson High School in Toronto.



In addition to the honour of the Lister Sinclair Award, Andrew has already distinguished himself in performances (solo, chamber music, and accompanist) in provincial and local competitions and festivals. His work has been noted by many professional musicians for his exceptional maturity and technique. Besides his musical accomplishments, Andrew excels in academics and sports. In 2007, he had the highest grade point average in grade 9 and won a coveted mathematics award for excellence. His art works have been displayed in the Halton Arts Show. Clearly, Andrew Wong is a fine choice for the first Lister Sinclair Award.



Spring Gala Raises \$88,000

The 2007 Minstrel Foundation annual Spring Gala, held on May 27th was a resounding success. Two hundred and twenty-five delighted guests enjoyed an evening of music and fine dining at the Granite Club. The evening was capped off with the performance of featured guest artist Louise Pitre, star of Mamma Mia, accompanied by Diane Leah. This year's event raised \$88,000 for scholarships, lessons, and music camping experiences for inner-city children and youth.

The talents of Minstrel "graduates" were apparent throughout the evening. The Thompson Egbo-Egbo Trio provided music during a pre-dinner reception and after dessert. Throughout the evening, there were performances by other recipients of Minstrel scholarships, including jazz pianist Thompson Egbo-Egbo, vocalist Mathew Brown, pianist Eric Tan and cellist Andres Tucci Clarke. The Minstrel Foundation would like to thank the Gala Sponsors, patrons and individual donors who helped make the evening a memorable event and a special thank you to the Co-chairs, Heather Labatt and Inga Welsman for their hard work.

Gala Sponsors 2007		
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Unilock <i>"designed to be a step ahead"</i>	BMO Nesbitt Burns Cassels Brock Lawyers Cornerstone 52 Foundation HSBC St. Lawrence Cement The Hon Margaret Norrie McCain	Denny Hamilton Harvey Kalles Real Estate MASA Frances Price Warner Music

News about our Students

Linda Sun, recipient of the Hagood Hardy Protégé Award in 2006, has received a full academic scholarship to Queen's University. No word on what field of study she's considering but we know she'll go far.

Jack Hang, subsidized student for advanced lessons won a gold star at the Glenburnie School "Performing Art Challenge." His score was 27 out of 30. He was also a featured performer at the Dixon Hall Benefit Concert and the Kiwanis Festival.

Minstrel Scholarship student **Shilin He** took first class honours in her RCM exams. Instructor Gloria Saarinen says that, in the future, "she will make us proud on several levels."

Where Your Money Went in 2006-2007

In 2007, the Foundation Board distributed funds to the following organizations:

- \$5000 to the **Canadian Children's Opera Chorus** to subsidize places for children in the chorus.
- \$12,920 to the **University Settlement House** to provide music lessons for 32 subsidized students. If you wonder what they do there, just refer to Edward Yang and Na'ama McLaughlin Rock, Minstrel award Winners this year.
- \$5000 to the **Pia Bouman School for Ballet and Creative Arts**. To support bursary programs for students to see what dance offers them "emotionally, creatively, and intellectually." Ms. Bouman writes to us that our funds assist students to "enrich their lives through dance, improve their ability to cope, and give them the willingness to accept challenges."
- \$8,128 to **Dixon Hall** for their annual overnight summer camp at Hart House Farm, the RCM Musical Theatre Program,, exam fees for 10 students in the RCM music programme, and fees for four advanced students to participate in a summer course in ensemble playing.
- \$3,340 to the **Regent Park School of Music** to send four students to the National Music Camp.
- \$5000 to the Regent Park School of Music for a summer programme that included music workshops, attending Can Stage productions, visits to local classical music stations, and composition of music and librettos. "I enjoyed every minute of it," writes Christine Nguyen of her stay at the NMC. Other kids commented on the excitement of ensemble work and learning about jazz as well as classical music. The best comment was from aspiring flautist Cullen Shen who outlined a day of music and hard work but then wrote, "I play whatever I want" and "I like kayaking best."

In 2007 The Minstrel Foundation also awarded our first **Web-page Scholarship**, awarded to a student who applied through our website. The first winner is Jillianne Roach, age 15, from the Bishop Allan Academy. Jillianne plans a career in French horn. Her Minstrel award of \$3,208 will assist her in tuition at the Royal Conservatory in piano, French Horn, and musical theory. Along with her musical achievements, Jillianne is an honours student and a valued member of the Cadet Corps. This past summer, Jillianne was at Canadian Forces Base Cold Lake, in Alberta attending the prestigious Senior Leadership course. She was in charge of the band and drum major of her home squadron. Jillian writes: "the most important thing I have been given by your foundation is not money, but the chance to realize the true potential inside of me.....with your ongoing support I know the sky is the limit and I feel I can accomplish so much more than I ever thought possible."

Minstrel Foundation Scholarships

Along with the scholarship to Jillianne Roach, the foundation disbursed \$1,867.01 to assist Andres Tucci Clarke in his first term of a Master's degree in Music at the University of Ottawa. We have been associated with Andres since his studies at the Dixon Hall Music School and watched his progress with pleasure. We are pleased to continue to assist him in his continuing studies.

The board approved \$4,956 in scholarships for three students for advanced summer studies at the Royal conservatory of Music. Students also worked toward Canadian Music Competitions in Sherbrooke, Quebec and master classes to improve reading skills and technique.

The Minstrel Foundation is Celebrating its 10th Anniversary

The Minstrel Foundation for Music & Arts Advancement is celebrating its tenth anniversary. Thanks to your donations, over the last decade we've financed approximately 10,000 music lessons at inner city music schools and provided for approximately 800 students to attend summer music camps. With the support of corporate and private donations raised at our annual spring fundraising musical event, we have in addition to the above covered the costs of instruments, student participation in festivals, books and post secondary tuition for advanced music student studies.

The following is a breakdown of the funds distributed for music and arts programmes:

Regent Park School of Music	\$301,000
Dixon Hall Music School	\$100,000
University Settlement House Music & Arts School	\$36,500
Canadian Children's Opera Chorus	\$8,000
Pia Bouman School of Ballet	\$7,500
Summer Music Camps	\$77,500
Minstrel Scholarships	\$56,700
Hagood Hardy Protégé Award	\$9,500
Cassels Brock & Blackwell Music Award	\$1,500
Freda Clarendon Griggs Piano Award	\$1,350
Other music programmes	\$1,000
Total	\$600,550

The Minstrel Foundation for

Music & Arts Advancement

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR 10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



**Guido Basso & other Jazz Legends
 May 27th 2008 at the Granite Club**

Eric Tan Releases CD

Eric Tan, winner of the 2005 Hagood Hardy Protégé Award, continues to win awards and competitions. This year, he won two First Place awards at the Peel Music Festival, won the under-16 category in the Ontario Registered Music Teachers' Association provincial competition, and won first place in the Canadian Music Competition national finals in Sherbrooke, Quebec. Now Eric can be brought into your home as he has just cut his first CD. Copies can be ordered from the Minstrel Foundation by e-mail, phone or fax for \$18, including tax and shipping by sending us your Visa and Address.



If you would like to make a tax deductible gift at this special time of the year, we have enclosed a coupon for your convenience. Thank You