



MINSTREL NOTES



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Fall 2004

"Music at Twilight" - Big Success

It was perfect summer night in June for the foundation's annual "Music At Twilight" gala which raised \$85,000 for children's music programming. More than 175 people attended the event, hosted by Dr. Peter and Susan Schaal in the garden of their heritage Rosedale home. The garden sparkled with lights and huge vases of cut flowers stood at every corner. Beth Harrington was guest host and MC for an evening of food, fun, and entertainment.

Guests were greeted with champagne from Jackson-Triggs wines who donated all the wines for the dinner. Then, along with canapés, they listened to musical performances from the children of the Dixon Hall Music School choir, the University Settlement House Music School and Gloria Saarinen's Mid-Summer Music by the Lake programme - organizations supported by the foundation. After a beautiful dinner served by Yorkshire Pudding Catering, there was music by Minstrel Foundation Scholarship Student Thompson Egbo-Egbo, a student in music at Humber College, and a vocal solo from Matthew Brown, a rising musical theatre performer, who is a former student assisted by the foundation.

After the performances, a spirited live auction led by Robert Pilon who, at the request of one of the guests, sang a beautiful a cappella rendition of Danny Boy. At the end of the live auction, the evening ended with a stunning visual and music performance by Lister Sinclair and Gloria Saarinen presented to slides of paintings by Ted Harrison. These stirring scenes of Canadian nature were the perfect ending to a wonderful evening.

The total revenues from the evening including ticket sales, auction receipts, and donations were \$105,000. Costs were kept to \$19,000, including generous donations by Yorkshire Pudding, Chairman Mills, Sobey's and Jackson-Triggs. The evening sponsors were RBC Financial Services and Unilock. Our thanks to everyone, including the Minstrel Foundation Volunteers who helped make this evening such a resounding success.

Mei Ye Wins the First Cassels Brock Music Award

Mei Ye, 14, a student at the Dixon Hall Music School for the past four years, is the first recipient of the Cassels Brock Music Award donated by the law firm and to be awarded annually.

Mei was presented with a plaque and a check for \$500 at the annual "Music at Twilight" event in June. Mei, who has also attended the Midsummer Music by the Lake summer programme, assisted by the Minstrel Foundation, has completed her grade 6 piano at the Royal Conservatory of Music. She is currently studying the viola and music theory which will enable her to head into higher studies in music. Her talent and hard work have been rewarded with the Cassels Brock Award and, as she heads to high school, she plans to continue her musical education there and at the Dixon Hall Music School.

Andres Tucci-Clarke Finishes First Year University



Cellist Andres Tucci-Clarke, 19, one of the first students to receive university assistance from the Minstrel Foundation, completed his first year in music studies at Wilfred Laurier University, attaining a B average overall. Along with music theory, ear training, music history, and psychology, Andres had private lessons, and played in the WLU Orchestra and the Chamber Music Orchestra.

Andres' talents were recognized early and, over the past 8 years, the Foundation has had the pleasure of watching him achieve his musical goals. He has received several scholarships, including one to Wilfred Laurier along with a Departmental bursary. The foundation paid tuition costs not covered by the scholarship and that enabled Andres to spend his year studying, practicing, and performing.

It is exciting to see students like Andres moving up and succeeding through the programmes Minstrel funds. Andres plans to become a music educator and is well on his way. He is already sharing his talents with other young aspiring musicians as a volunteer in the Toronto Summer Parks School Program. The Minstrel Foundation salutes Andres for his achievements. We are proud that we have, with the help of generous donors, been able to assist him over the years. This fall, we will, once again, be able to help Andres as he continues his university career.

Alumnus Gets TV Role



Matthew Brown, recent graduate of the Randolph Academy of Musical Theatre, has been selected for a major role in the new CTV sitcom, "Instant Star", to air in January 2005. Matthew began his musical career at the Dixon Hall Music School at age 5. Those who attended the Minstrel Foundation Gala will recall Matthew's superb renditions of popular show tunes. Rhythm and Blues, and jazz often accompanied by Thompson Egbo-Egbo.

Music at Twilight in Pictures



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