



# MINSTREL NOTES

December 2018

[www.minstrelfoundation.org](http://www.minstrelfoundation.org)

## Programs Update

Programs supported by the Minstrel Foundation all report waiting lists for assistance. We try to raise our grants to meet the need.



June Concert at USMS

This year we gave \$10,000 to the **Regent Park School of Music** and \$33,000 to **University Settlement House Music School** for lessons to local children. **Pia Bouman's School of Creative Movement** received \$7,000 for bursaries. Bouman reports that, in addition to children in the very earliest stages of dance, a number of students participated in the Royal Academy of Dance and took ISTD exams. The Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing (ISTD) is one of the world's leading dance examination boards.

Meanwhile, the Hammer Band, Moshe Hammer's **Violence to Violins** project continues to reach more and more youth at risk in the all-important early and middle-school grades. We gave \$10,000 to keep this terrific program growing.

The Canadian Children's Opera Chorus allows children and youth to participate in the arts. The CCOC has also launched an outreach programme in schools for children who are not able, for many reasons, to audition for the chorus itself. The Minstrel Foundation has agreed to become a major supporter of this programme for \$5,000, known as **OPERAction KIDS**, this year, thanks to you.

None of these programmes would be possible without your donations. We anticipate requests from them, and more, next year. Your donation makes a big difference in a child's life.

## Camp Update

Summer camp is as Canadian as Beaver Tails, but the chance to combine music training and a good time doesn't happen all the time. Minstrel Foundation campers bunked out at Hart House, played on Lake Couchiching and rocked at Harbourfront. Who says learning isn't fun?



DHMS students at Hart House March Break Camp use Skype with Syrian Refugee School

One of our most popular camps is **Dixon Hall Music School's** overnight camp at Hart House farm, home to 45 campers this year. A chance to leave the city, cook your own meals, snuggle and giggle comes twice a year at March Break and the summer. This year March Break students made friends through Skype with a class of students in a Syrian Refugee Camp in Azraq, Jordan and have continued to use Skype to keep up their new friendships. In the fall they sent home made decorations to brighten their modest library. What a chance to learn about other children forced to leave their homes under very dangerous circumstances.

The DHMS Summer Camp is so popular that we have been asked to sponsor a third week in 2019.

(continued)

## Camp Update (from page 1)



Students at National Music Camp

The National Music Camp near Orillia is a chance to work with some of the best teachers in Canada and this year we sent a record number of students (twenty-eight). This is an advanced camp for kids who love music. It's the chance of a lifetime as well as a week outside the city.

Twelve students enjoyed a week at **Music By the Lake**, another advanced music camp where fun happens and technique improves. While Back in Toronto we sent 36 students to the **Harbourfront Camps** and another 19 to the **Girls' Rock March Break Camp**. Is the next Ariana Grande in that group? Could be. So you may be hearing a star in the making.

## Youth Jazz Canada

This year The Minstrel Foundation gave scholarships to 8 students to attend the Youth Jazz Canada Workshop from July 2<sup>nd</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup>. Our scholarship winners joined students attending from across Canada, the USA and around the world. This workshop is a grand opportunity for students to develop their talent, network with peers and be mentored by very accomplished musicians.

## Vivid Ma, Hagood Hardy Award Winner



Visiting  
Martha Hardy



Post performance at  
Holiday Stars Gala

Minstrel members have watched the rise of 18 year old Vivid Ma for the past ten years. The winner of this year's Hagood Hardy Protégé Award, Vivid is currently in the Piano Performance Programme at the University of Toronto. Vivid began her musical studies at the University Settlement House and continued there until graduation. She has completed her Grade 10 exams at the Royal Conservatory and is the winner of more than 19 awards for her accomplished piano performance.

The Minstrel Foundation is pleased to support her studies at the U of T.

## More Research Supports Benefits of Music Education



Research undertaken by the University of Southern California and reported in the science journal "Neuroscience News" again points out the benefits of musical training for the young.

The scientists used several scientific techniques, including neural, emotional, cognitive, and social development measures. Results showed that music training accelerates maturity in areas of the brain responsible for sound processing, language development, speech perception and reading skills. "Together these results demonstrate that community music programs can offset some of the negative consequences that low socioeconomic status can have on child development" said Dr. Assal Habibi, the lead author and assistant research professor of psychology at USC.

A link to their work is on our website.

**MINSTREL FOUNDATION**  
FOR MUSIC AND ARTS ADVANCEMENT

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## Holiday Stars Gala Nets Over \$100,000

It was a perfect night awash in stars and tinsel for the Minstrel Gala at Casa Loma. Kids of all ages were delighted by the huge sugarplum fairy dancing on a giant Christmas tree in the Great Hall as Liberty Grand elves served up newfangled sugarplums to a laughing chatting crowd of 300.



After the food came, the entertainment kicked off with the Octava vocal ensemble singing Christmas Carols. The evening Emcee Farah Nasser of Global TV introduced Nick Di Donato, President and CEO of Liberty Entertainment who welcomed the guests. Minstrel scholarship students Vivid Ma and Maxwell Tong dazzled with their renditions of Chopin and Rachmaninoff. Alumna



Thompson Egbo-Egbo, seen regularly around town, accompanied Liz Rodrigues with "Under The Tree" and the event ended with the super-popular light and magic of Dr. Draw Electric Violinist. One very small guest, turned out in sparkly dress and matching bow sighed over the dessert cheese cake pops "This is the best Christmas party in the world."



She didn't know that the evening wouldn't be possible without the special sponsorship of Unilock, the Barry and Laurie Green Family Trust, and the Honorable Margaret Norrie McCain. We also have a special thanks for the volunteers, especially the students from Junior Achievement, Minstrel Committee members and all those who showed up to make the evening such a success. Over \$100,000 was raised which will go to Minstrel funded music camps, programs, scholarships for children and youth. Do kids want music, art and dance? Most of our programs have waiting lists so those donations go immediately to work. A Good Time for a Good Cause: in short, the Minstrel Gala was the perfect beginning for anyone's holiday season.



# 2018 Award Winners

## LOIS CALLANDER SCHOLARSHIP

**Maxwell Tong**, a 16 year old grade 11 IB student who speaks English, French and Chinese has completed his ARCT exams (Professional Associate of the Royal Conservatory of Music). His award will allow him to continue studying under Gloria Saarinen.

## CASSELS BROCK MUSIC AWARDS

Each of this year's Award winners received a Scholarship to attend the Youth Jazz Canada Summer Workshop

**Thomas Hainbuch**, a 21 year old student in the Humber College Jazz program seeking to become a professional musician.

**Mac Rogers**, received his BA and MA in Economics from McMaster but decided his passion was in music. At the age of 26, he is now excelling in the Humber College Jazz program where he is a multiple award winner and has taught at the National Music Camp.

**Tony Rosenberg**, a 21 year old third year student in the Humber College Jazz program studying saxophone and arranging and is a Musicfest Canada Gold Award winner.

**Kyle Tarder Stoll**, a 22 year old third year student studying Saxophone in the Humber College Jazz program. He ranks in the top 2% of students studying Saxophone.

**Agneya Chikte**, a 25 year old who completed his third year Bachelor of Music with a major in Percussion at Humber College. Agneya is a multiple award winner at Humber and has his sights on a professional career.

## MINSTREL FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

The following Award winners received a Scholarship to attend the Youth Jazz Canada Summer Workshop

**Austin Bassarath**, a 20 year old currently in his final year studying Jazz Performance at the University of Toronto. He has performed at many Toronto jazz clubs and has studied at the Berklee College of Music.

**Cody Copland**, a 19 year old guitar student who completed his first year of the four year Bachelor of Music program at Humber College.

**Ben Duff**, a 20 year old third year bassist in the Bachelor of Music program at Humber College. Ben also devotes time mentoring students in the Humber College Community Music School.

The following Award winner received a Scholarship to attend the Humber College Community Music School

**Tony Abimbola**, a 14 year old who has been studying drums at the Humber College Community Music School since 2016. He won Gold at the Musicfest Nationals in 2016 & 2017 and silver in 2018.

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