

July 2023

Upbeats!

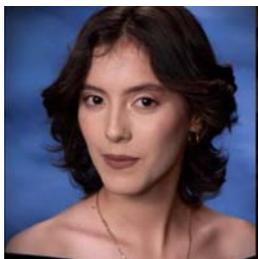


Another Year of Accomplishments

This issue of the eLINK applauds our MusicLink graduating seniors, with brief writeups describing their experiences with MusicLink through years of lessons. We continually receive thanks from students who truly appreciate their lessons with caring teachers as well as thanks for instruments they receive from generous donors. Each year I look forward to reading our accomplishments with a smile – realizing we are making a difference in the lives of our MusicLink students. – Joanne Haroutounian, MusicLink Foundation Executive Director

MusicLink Senior Award Winners

The MusicLink Foundation established the Senior Award of Excellence of \$1000 to recognize a graduating senior who has shown ongoing commitment to lessons and has made significant progress in music studies, performing at an outstanding level. This year the MusicLink Foundation also presented a MusicLink Achievement Honors Award. Both awards were made possible through the Arnie and Russell Bridge Endowment Fund.



MusicLink Provides Instruments



Many new MusicLink students come to us with no instrument to play on and having a decent practice instrument is vital to success in their lessons. While this is not our main purpose, we do what we can with getting instruments to our students. In the last few months we placed a trumpet to a student in Ohio, a violin to Texas and placed a Clavinova digital piano with a student in Minnesota.

The Clavinova was a special placement as this same instrument was given to another MusicLink student several years ago who has now graduated and moved on. Her father generously donated it back to MusicLink so it could go to another student. Below is a photo of the recipient with her piano.

Emily Fong - MusicLink Senior Award of Excellence

We are pleased to present the 2023 MusicLink Senior Award of Excellence to Emily Fong, a piano student of Maureen Spranza of San Leandro, CA. Emily has taken MusicLink piano lessons for six years with her teacher, explaining that “she has made much musical progress in theory, technique, sight-reading, ear training and repertoire. Emily has shown her creativity through composition and improvisation and participated in the MTAC Improvisation Honors Recital at their annual convention. She has received the Senior Award through the MTAC Certificate of Merit Program. In addition to these many musical achievements, Emily shows great academic achievement in school by taking AP classes and achieving high grades throughout high school.” The MusicLink Foundation provided Emily with a baby grand piano for her studies.

Emily explains the role music plays in her life in her submitted essay: “Music naturally became my guide and my main source of happiness, comfort, and joy. After all, studying is no fun with no Chopin playing in the background - my all-time favorite study pal. Music provided me with a sense of comfort nobody else but my family could provide.

Alongside my continuing passion for music, I also developed a curiosity driven by interests in black holes and quasars in my early teenage years. I am proud to say that I have been accepted into the Astrophysics program at UC Berkeley and plan to work on space studies for the next four years. As I walk through the UC Berkeley campus with a STEM major, I plan to keep music strictly as a source of relief and comfort.”



Ramon Lopez - MusicLink Senior Achievement Honors Award



Kudos to MusicLink

We receive thank you notes and emails from parents, teachers, and students thanking MusicLink on almost a daily basis. Here are a few examples:

From a parent: “I wanted to acknowledge Ms. Susan and her skills. We are so happy to be introduced to Ms. Susan (Susan Culbertson, CA) via MusicLink. She has been an amazing teacher. Dhruv enjoys learning piano from her. She is a good balance of fun and being strict with the kids. Thank you for all your help and support.” (Druv received an upright piano through MusicLink’s donation program).

From a teacher: Louise (Liz) Nedela sent the photo below of her new MusicLink student, Melissa Vlad, with her mother as they enjoy their first few months of MusicLink lessons. She also sent a video of those first special lessons with Melissa to share her progress with us.



From a student: Ava Imbert-Diaz is a MusicLink middle school student who has studied with Ramona Goddard and Amy Vanacore (OR): “When I started piano seven years ago, I didn’t know much about money or

Ramon Lopez began his music education with Nora Martin at the Grace Music Academy in Lawrenceville, GA when he was accepted as a MusicLink student at five years old. He participated in GCMTA events throughout his studies. In high school, Ramon was selected to perform for the 2023 GCMTA masterclass featuring a Mozart Sonata and a Bach Invention.

His teacher is proud of him because out of his group of peers and siblings, he is the only student who stayed committed to private lessons through his senior year and improving himself musically. “Without the help of MusicLink assisting with tuition, music and a very nice professional upright piano for free, his desire to study piano would not have been possible.”

Ramon writes: Although I plan to major in mechanical engineering, I plan to minor in piano while continuing to perform in my church's worship team and in senior homes. After exploring different genres of music and complex melodies for twelve years, I look forward to keeping my music endeavors alive as I pursue higher education. Discovering a passion for music at such a young age has made it an essential part of my life. I plan to further my studies in piano and grow more as a musician. Thank you, Nora Martin, so much for making my music experience so amazing. I truly had a great time playing the piano. You are the best teacher and friend. Thank you!

Congratulations to MusicLink Graduating Seniors



Cathryn Hartman - TX

Cathryn Hartman will pursue a pediatric nursing degree at San Angelo State University. She enjoys music greatly and

MusicLink, but looking at it now, I'm so grateful for this experience, and to have the support of my piano teachers, parents and grandparents. If you love something, keep going for it. Money should not block dedication and happiness.” Ava (holding bouquet) is pictured with her family on the evening of her solo recital



From a Washington state coordinator: Adela Hemingway, piano student of Yimo Zhang, received the honor of scoring 100 in both the written and aural test in the state's Music Literary Program.

From a teacher: Ben Raznik (CO) sent a smiling photo of his student, Rashel Manriquez-Perez with her first trophy at the Boulder Federation of Music Clubs Festival. “Thank you for the support, MusicLink! – Ben and Rashel.



Summer Music Camp



Scholarships

MusicLink Sends Kids to Camp

studied piano with Sherry Frush, NCTM for 11 years. Cathryn was the head drum major and band sweetheart at her high school where she was an honor student and homecoming queen. During her piano studies, she earned multiple awards in local festivals, Texas University Interscholastic League solo and ensembles, and Texas MTA state theory tests. In June, she received Honorable Mention for the Abilene Music Teachers Association Senior Participation Award. She will continue sharing her music by playing for services at her home church and performing trios with her two sisters.



Pearl Jain - MN

Pearl Jain has taken piano lessons with Charlotte Grantier for seven years. Her teacher explains that she was “a natural for music which was evident from the beginning. Her motivation and disciplined practice carried her through all these years. I take pride and enjoy the enthusiasm she has for music. Music will be her future and the future will add enrichment to her career and life.”

Every year Pearl passed each level of MMTA Comprehensive Exams and theory exams. She has performed in 21 Minneapolis Music Teacher Forum recitals as well as performing in MMTA Honors Concert with 21 grand pianos on stage with a conductor. Pearl is planning to major in computer science with a minor in statistics at the University of Minnesota.

The MusicLink Foundations offers up to \$250 camp scholarships for MusicLink students to the music camp of their choice. This year we sent 15 students to camps in Virginia, North Carolina, Illinois, Florida, Minnesota and Missouri. We look forward to hearing all about their experiences in our next eLink. These scholarships totaled \$3,130.

MusicLink Spotlights

The MusicLink Foundation website homepage features the final 30 Year Anniversary spotlights of four teachers who present testimonials of their experience with MusicLink. Click on the link below:

https://www.musiclinkfoundation.org/ml_30th/ml_30th.html#hearne

The MusicLink Foundation website also spotlights MusicLink teacher, Lorie Parmalee (NY), MusicLink student Neil Alognon (NY) and alumnus Kai Frue (OR). Enjoy reading their stories and viewing Kai’s performance of a Chopin Etude.

https://www.musiclinkfoundation.org/stud_archive/2023.php#jun

https://www.musiclinkfoundation.org/totm_archive/2023.php#jun

Grass Roots Grants and Teacher Reimbursements

The Grass Roots Grant program assists alliance organizations and MusicLink teacher studios in providing up to \$500 for new or expanding programs, and specific projects to expand MusicLink opportunities. This year the MusicLink Foundation provided \$3,737.75 to eight alliance partners and teachers in MN, LA, OR, VA, MD and AK. Projects ranged from assisting with piano moves and repairs to community projects and new MusicLink programs in conservatories.

The Teacher Reimbursement Program provides up to \$200 reimbursement for any purchases of music, event fees, instrument repairs or other music expenses for their students each year. This year MusicLink



Dillon Muckatira - TX

Dillon Muckatira studied piano for 14 years with Sherry Frush, NCTM and was one of the student instructors in the studio for 7 years. He is a hard-working, high achiever and earned multiple awards in festivals including the 60-point gold cup in the junior division of National Federation of Music Clubs. He also earned state theory test medals and received Honorable Mention for the Abilene Music Teachers Association Senior Participation Award. While in high school, he was an honors student, played varsity tennis, was in the band, and earned 2nd in the state in the Texas University Interscholastic League state math competitions. He plans to attend the University of Texas to pursue a degree in Biochemistry. He also will continue his love for music and anytime he is home, plans to help teach in the Frush Music Studio.



Gavin Sims - TX

Gavin Sims studied music with Sherry Frush, NCTM for 11 years and was a studio student instructor for 6 years. He was homeschooled and plans to attend Cedarville University in Dublin, Ohio and study engineering. During his music studies, he earned awards locally in festivals; and at the state level, earned TMTA theory test medals, won several composition contests, and

provided a total of \$2,788 to 18 teachers representing AK, CA, CO, CT, IL, IN, MN, NC, OR, RI, TX, and WA.

New MusicLink Teachers

The following 29 teachers signed up to teach through MusicLink in the past few months. This brings the total of active teachers to 250 and overall teacher total to 4,501.

AR: Judy Rownak; CA: Angel Lovett; DE: Ken Behrens; FL: Siri Gunderson, Anthony Laudato (returning), Sam Stark; GA: Zeya Luo; KS: Linda Mannering; MN: Hannah Baaker, Luke Bastien, Rebecca Donley, Elizabeth Drost, Emira Erickson, Amara Foner, Mitch Grussing (returning), Diane Jordan, Karen Lewis, Casey Rasmussen; NC: Elizabeth Churchya; OK: Janelle Crane; OR: Mary Ann Guenther (returning); RI: Andy Rizzotti (returning); SC: Larisa Sokolova; TX: Tarana Taylor; UT: Stephen Ball, Michaela West; VA: Joan Mizrahi; WA: Howard Anshell, Gregory Mayo

New Business and Alliance Partners

We have added the following business and alliance partners during the last few months. If you are interested in adding your organization to our alliance partners (those who accept MusicLink students into their programs) or want to join our growing number of business partners, complete the form <https://www.musiclinkfoundation.org/buspart.php> on our website. <https://www.musiclinkfoundation.org/buspart.php>

GIA Publications offers 40% discount to MusicLink teachers for any of the *Music Moves for Piano* method books.



Piano Village Foundation (www.pianovillagefoundation.org) is now

was on the Abilene Music Teachers Association multi-piano ensembles that perform both locally and at the Texas Music Teachers Association state conference. He received 3rd place for the Abilene Music Teachers Association Senior Participation Award and Honorable Mention for the state Texas Music Teachers Association Senior Participation Award. He plans to continue music study and playing duets with his siblings.

Additional Senior MusicLink Graduates

- Mia Crockett – IN: violin student of Tiffany Arnold
- Brandee Glynn – NE: piano student of Lori Supernaw
- Charlie Stone Hill – MN: piano student of Sue Krebsbach
- Leonidas Miller – MN: piano student of Rebecca Nelson
- Emma T. – WA: piano student of Brandy Pancoast
- DeOndra Tandy – GA: piano student of Judith Siegel

in partnership with the MusicLink Foundation. Both organizations share the mission to help any students to achieve their music and piano playing dreams. PVF offers online Piano Lessons and Music Theory training at a discounted price to MusicLink students and their teachers.

We also welcome a new alliance partner, Piano Lab (MN).



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