



School of Piano Technology for the Blind “Keys to the City” program welcomes new partners

News Release from **School of Piano Technology for the Blind**
(July 27, 2015– Vancouver, WA)

Now in its fourth year, the School of Piano Technology for the Blind’s “Keys to the City” is pleased to welcome a number of new artists and creative partnerships designed to expand the program which raises both funds and visibility for the school.

The newest addition to the Keys’ lineup of pianos is “Ebony and Ivory.” Painted by Larch Corrections Center Art Club members Melville Tangen, Bryan McGee, and Antonio Ruiz, the piano features busts of famous pianists Ray Charles, Stevie Wonder, and Ludwig van Beethoven. According to Nancy Simmons, Community Partnership Program Coordinator at Larch, “The Larch Corrections Center Art Club’s partnership with the School of Piano Technology for the Blind provides offenders the opportunity to work on developing pro-social and marketable skills while giving back to the community through their passion of art.” The Larch piano will be placed inside the Mill Plain New Seasons Market for the duration of the program which runs from August 7-16.

Also new this year is “City Escape,” featuring a Portland cityscape and, of course, the famous PDX carpet. The piano, painted by artist Natalie Andrzejewski and sponsored by Beaches Restaurant, will be placed in Terminal D of the Portland Airport. “Little Hands, Big Hearts,” a last-minute addition to the program designed and painted by local aspiring artists ages 18 months to six years, will be showcased at the downtown branch of iQ Credit Union.

Cheri Martin, Executive Director for the School said, “We are excited to branch out and welcome a number of new partnerships, sponsorships, and locations to what has become a highly-anticipated and popular annual program. We are grateful for the tremendous support Keys to the City receives from the community.”

About the program: Beginning August 7 and running through August 16, Keys to the City pianos will be placed in popular public gathering spots for a ten-day celebration of music and art. The pianos are available and accessible to all, from very beginning players to virtuosos. Funds raised through the program assist the School of Piano Technology for the Blind in fulfilling its mission of providing life-changing training to blind and visually impaired students.

A complete list of piano placements, sponsorships, and performance schedules will be available on the School’s website at <http://pianotuningschool.org/keys-to-the-city/>.

PHOTOS ATTACHED

1. Ebony and Ivory and artists L-R Melville Tangen, Bryan McGee, Antonio Ruiz of Larch Corrections Center
2. City Escape
3. Little Hands Big Hearts

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The School of Piano Technology for the Blind was founded in 1949 by Emil Fries, a blind teacher and tuner who had a vision to start a school that would teach blind and visually impaired students the skills of piano tuning and repair so they could earn a good living and enjoy independent, productive lives in a financially rewarding profession. Since the School's inception, more than 300 graduates have gone on to good careers in universities, music stores, school districts, and most often operating their own business.