



Fall 9-5-2012

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### **Recommended Citation**

Filippo '12, Katherine, "Awadagin Pratt to Perform at Benefit Concert" (2012). *News and Events*. 1993.

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## Awadagin Pratt to Perform at Benefit Concert

Sept. 5, 2012

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.— Internationally acclaimed pianist, Awadagin Pratt, returns to Illinois Wesleyan University on Saturday, Sept. 22, for a special concert to benefit the Pratt Music Foundation.

The Awadagin Pratt Benefit Concert begins at 7:30 p.m. in the Westbrook Auditorium in Presser Hall (1210 N. Park Street). Tickets for the performance can be purchased online at [www.prattmusicfoundation.com/tickets.html](http://www.prattmusicfoundation.com/tickets.html) and are available at three levels: Silver (\$50), Gold (\$250) and Platinum (\$500).

In 1997, Pratt joined his mother and sister in creating the Dr. T.A.E.C. Pratt Music Foundation in honor of his late father. The Foundation helps elementary and secondary students in the Bloomington-Normal area receive classical strings and piano lessons through Illinois Wesleyan's Music Preparatory Program. Proceeds from the concert will support the Foundation's mission to help talented and motivated children receive financial aid to continue their musical studies.



Pratt began to study piano at the age of six and continued his musical education at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and the Peabody Conservatory of Music at Johns Hopkins University. In 2004, Pratt accepted a position as an Associate Professor of Piano and Artist-in-Residence at the College Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati.

Acclaimed for his musical insight and intensely involved performances, Pratt has received tremendous audience response and press attention throughout the world. He has toured internationally, with concerts in Japan, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Poland, Israel, Brazil and South Africa. Pratt has also performed with a number of orchestras in the United States, including the New York Philharmonic, the Los Angeles Philharmonic and the Cleveland Orchestra. In 2009, he performed in concert at the White House as part of the Music Series organized by First Lady Michelle Obama. He also performed twice for the Clinton administration.

Last May, Pratt delivered the 2012 Commencement address to graduating Illinois Wesleyan students and was awarded an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree.

For more information about the concert and the Foundation's mission visit their website at [www.prattmusicfoundation.com](http://www.prattmusicfoundation.com).

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