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Community Establishes Music Council

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*Bloomington
Local
Media*

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COMMUNITY ESTABLISHES MUSIC COUNCIL

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--Friends of Dr. T.A.E.C.\ "Ted" Pratt announced today the formation of the Pratt Music Council, a non-profit organization to promote classical music in Bloomington-Normal. Dr. Pratt, a long-time Twin Cities resident, died October 30, 1996. Dr. Pratt's love of classical music prompted friends to propose an organization to promote it in his memory.

Patsy Bowles, a friend of Pratt and one of the group's organizers, commented, "We have taken as our mission the encouragement of classical musical development of children in Bloomington and Normal. In general, we want to encourage an awareness of the classical music assets that the Twin Cities routinely provide, and specifically, we will offer scholarship support of classical music instruction for talented children who would not normally be able to pursue such lessons."

Marc Miller, a friend of Dr. Pratt as well as a member of the Council, said, "We want to give classical music the high profile it deserves in Bloomington and Normal. That means promoting classic music to everyone, but especially students. We also want to become a source of support...more than that...to nurture young people who want to pursue a classical music education."

The Pratt Music Council is working closely with Illinois Wesleyan University, and its scholarship program will provide access to IWU's Music Prep Program in violin and piano. Dr. Minor Myers, jr., IWU President: "We're extremely pleased to be associated with this program, both because it furthers our own mission of education,

and because it enhances the community in which we all live."

Awadagin Pratt, Dr. Pratt's son and an internationally known concert pianist, will perform a memorial benefit concert in Bloomington, October 30, 1997. That concert will provide the initial funding for the endowment which will support Pratt Music Council scholarships. The Council expects to begin awarding its scholarships for the 1998-99 school term.