



marc platt

October 31, 2016

Bruce Montgomery Foundation
Springboard Grants Awards Recipients
c/o Elizabeth Montgomery Thomas
The Bruce Montgomery Foundation for the Arts
P.O. Box 1565
Blue Bell, PA 19422

Dear Isaiah, Zhibek, Stanford and Butch,

Congratulations to all of you as you accept these grant awards bestowed by the Bruce Montgomery Foundation for the Arts.

As a Penn alumnus, I am deeply honored to support the Bruce Montgomery Foundation because as a Penn student I had the extraordinary privilege of knowing Bruce Montgomery and studying under him. He was an exceptionally gifted teacher who mentored me with a combination of professionalism and creative passion that has inspired me every day of my career. He was a man of great integrity and kindness and I cannot overstate the positive impact he had on me personally as well as professionally. There was nothing he ever wanted more than to encourage young people in their careers as artists and he achieved this throughout his lifetime.

To have the opportunity to help carry on his legacy is a great blessing to me. You now join in that honor as you receive these grants and pursue your own artistic journeys. I am so impressed by Isaiah's remarkable talent as a cellist and his passion for instilling a love of music in young children through his community outreach projects, and by Zhibek's extraordinary gift as a concert pianist which has led to acceptance into two key international competitions this fall. Stanford's endeavors through PLAY ON, PHILLY!, which provide access to music education for students in communities who would not otherwise have such opportunities, are examples to be heeded. And Butch's drumming accomplishments are extraordinary at such a young age, showing incredible musicianship that he will employ to produce a new EP. I truly marvel at what the four of you have achieved in your crafts and know that doing so required immense hard work and dedication. That you possess such a strong work ethic, discipline and love of your art and have achieved so much at this stage of your lives is an enormous accomplishment of which you should be very proud.

I know that in whatever ways you ultimately choose to invest your talents, you will enrich and inspire others. That is the gift Bruce Montgomery gave to me and all of those who had the privilege to know him, and it is with great pride that I share his legacy with you. I wish each and every one of you great success in all your pursuits.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Marc E. Platt', written in a cursive, flowing style.

Marc E. Platt

MP/jl