

Gifts to Sheridan College support the music program

Major gifts from the Witzel Family Foundation will provide resources and program development for the students in the music program at Sheridan College.

A gift of \$16,950 completes the Sheridan College Foundation's campaign to raise funds for the music department's piano fleet. Additional support from 22 other donors, the college and the Sheridan College Foundation contributed to the purchase of six new pianos for lessons and practice.

The pianos will significantly advance music instruction and practice opportunities at Sheridan College. According to Dr. Christian Erickson, music faculty member, "Our pianos are our most oft used instruments. They are fundamental tools in the music training of all of our students."

The Witzel Family Foundation was established by the estate of Sally Witzel to support music education opportunities for Sheridan residents. Sally was a long time resident of Sheridan who died March 4, 2008 at the age of 76. She was preceded in death by her husband the famous cowboy Curly Witzel and her son John.

John Meyer, foundation president, said, "Sally's love of music, and her son John's desire to pursue music education prior to his untimely death, inspired her to establish the Witzel Family Foundation. It is the hope of the trustees of the foundation to fulfill her wishes by providing scholarships for Sheridan music students and to advance the musical life of the Sheridan community."

An additional gift from the Witzel Family Foundation of \$5,000 establishes the Sheridan College Music Artist in Residence Series which will bring musicians into the community for a week of concerts, workshops and masters classes. The first residency will begin on Sunday, March 21 at the WYO Theater followed by classes throughout the week at Sheridan College. The first music artist showcases the talents of Joshua Wright, a young pianist with international acclaim.

More information about the Artist in Residence program or Joshua Wright can be found at the WYO Theater www.wyothheater.com, or www.joshuawrightpiano.com or by calling Linda Lawrence, Sheridan College Foundation Director of Development, 307-674-6446, ext 4304.