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Pianist James Litzelman 703-519-0984

EIU Grad Plays To Sell-out Crowd

Pianist James Litzelman, a 1984 graduate of the EIU Department of Music, presented a very successful benefit concert on Saturday, Sept. 4, 2010, in his small hometown of Sainte Marie, IL, Jasper County.

The concert attracted nearly 400 people, completely filling the St. Mary's Church where Litzelman had once played piano and organ as a teenager. Ste. Marie's population is only 300, but many former residents came back "home" to hear one of their favorite sons perform. The beneficiary of the concert, the Sainte Marie Foundation, received funds to help renovate an historic house they plan to turn into a museum.

Litzelman is presently director of the graduate program in piano pedagogy at Catholic University of America in Washington, DC. Son of Don and Christine Litzelman of Sainte Marie, he attended Newton Community High School and Eastern Illinois University where he received a degree in piano performance in 1984. He then entered Catholic University for graduate work and became a faculty member in 1993.

Litzelman is well known as a soloist, collaborative artist and lecturer, having performed and lectured in the United States, Europe, China, Russia and Mexico. He also has a private studio in Arlington, VA.

While at Newton Community High School, he was very active in the band and chorus. He studied piano with Robinson resident, Sandra Bailey Clark Nichols (another EIU graduate) and with Catherine Smith and Alan Aulabaugh at EIU.

Samuel Music Company provided the nine-foot grand piano for the concert, with financial help from the Don and Christine Litzelman family.

The Sainte Marie Foundation, founded in 2007, is incorporated as an Illinois not-for-profit, founded exclusively for charitable purposes and dedicated to the improvement and historical preservation of Ste. Marie. For more information about the concert or the Foundation, call Patricia Reis, 312-565-9915.

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