



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**CONTACT: Jill Kaplan
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WHO:

Mark Mayea, 12 year old Boca Raton protégé,

WHAT: Bob Lappin and the Palm Beach Pops' Florida Stars Program make it possible for child to attain his dream of becoming a "concert pianist and conductor"

WHEN:

July 15, 2006 12:45 PM

WHERE:

**Steinway Piano Gallery-Boca Raton
7940 North Federal Highway
Boca Raton, Florida**

MEDIA:

If you are interested in covering this event at either the Steinway piano gallery or Mayea home please contact Jill Kaplan at 561-635-5792 or 561-832-7677

Bob Lappin and the Palm Beach Pops' 12 year old Boca Raton protégé Mark Mayea reaches new level gift of Steinway grand piano

(July 12, 2006)- For years **Bob Lappin and the Palm Beach Pops** have mentored gifted South Florida youth, between the ages of 6-18, under the auspices of their **Florida Stars** community outreach program. In 2006 12 year old **Mark Mayea** of Boca Raton was accepted into the program with great enthusiasm. **Maestro Lappin** remarked "it is very rare to see a talent like's Mark's."

Mark began playing piano at the age of six on a toy piano mimicking the songs he heard on television. His parents, Fred and Diana, quickly realized that their son showed exceptional promise and sold the family vehicle to purchase him a Kawai upright. The self sacrifice paid off and today Mark studies with Dr. Irena Kofman of FAU in Boca Raton and has gone on to win numerous local, regional and state competitions.

Recognizing that as his talent progressed his current piano would hamper his ability to learn the Board of Directors of the Palm Beach Pops unanimously voted to approve a fund raising campaign designed to purchase the boy a Steinway grand piano. **Jill Kaplan**, Vice President and General Manager of the Palm Beach Pops said "access to this piano will allow Mark to fulfill his dreams of one day becoming a "concert pianist and conductor."

The lesson of giving has not been lost on Mark. Upon learning that the was to receive the piano he contacted Ms. Kaplan and told her that "the Pops had made his dreams come true he wanted her to help him find another child or children who could use his upright to better their lives."

To that end, Mark's original piano is being donated to the new Palm Beach County Substance Abuse Coalition facility on A-1-1 in Palm Beach Gardens. The piano, which will service the Substance Abuse Youth Coalition, is a welcome addition to the new building slated to open this month. Doris Carroll, Executive Director of PBCSAC, stated "we are delighted to accept this piano on behalf of the youth who utilize our center. This heart felt gift, from one child to another, will replace the ugliness of substance abuse with the joy of music."

ABOUT THE FLORIDA STARS PROGRAM:

Each season the Palm Beach Pops accepts submissions from professionals in the academic and entertainment fields regarding children who show exceptional musical promise. The recommendations are evaluated annually and from that pool two to three children are selected to participate. The program includes one on one mentoring by Maestro Lappin, the opportunity to perform at Palm Beach Pops social events and at Palm Beach Pops concerts at the Kravis Center in West Palm Beach and at FAU in Boca Raton.