

Valley Forge Educational Services celebrate at benefit concert



Ron Opher of Valley Forge, Mr. and Mrs. Win Shafer of Haverford and Mr and Mrs. Thomas Kent Sr. of Lafayette Hill attend the concert in support of VFES.

Valley Forge Educational Services celebrated its work on behalf of "special children" with a benefit concert Friday, May 20, at Immaculata University in Malvern.

The evening, arranged in part by C&K Artists, featured a 42-piece orchestra led by artistic director and conductor Rosalind Erwin with father-son soloists Rich and Brandon Ridenour on piano and trumpet. The evening featured lush orchestral arrangements of popular and well-known romantic pieces.

The concert's honorary chairmen were Louise and Alan Reed of Villanova, whose son, Edward, attended The Vanguard School for eight years. The Vanguard School, on the VFES campus in Malvern, serves students with special needs including autism spectrum disorders, neurological impairment and related social-emotional difficulties.

There were special musical appearances during the evening by three student-musicians who attend The Vanguard School and Vanguard Transition Center. A Vanguard student, 12-year-old John McCormick Shea of Villanova, performed a piano sonatina by Attwood as a duet with concert soloist Rich Ridenour. Two other VFES students, Nicole Papadopoulos and Efecan Sirin, were featured performers during the pre-concert reception.

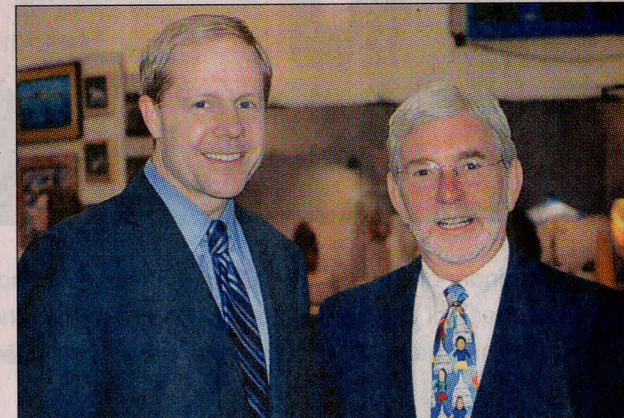
Attendees, including VFES parents, staff, students, and friends, enjoyed a festive evening of art, music and celebration. Proceeds from the evening will benefit programs for environmental learning and extracurricular activities for students at Vanguard and other VFES programs. The concert took place in conjunction with Immaculata University's annual art show, "Celebrating 28 Years of Original Art."



Alan Reed (second from left), the honorary co-chairman of the concert, poses with musicians (from left) Rich Ridenour, featured soloist on piano, Rosalind Erwin, artistic director and conductor and Brandon Ridenour, featured soloist on trumpet.



Tyler and Christina Jackson of Paoli and Diane Daulerio of Chester Springs attended the concert.



Pennsylvania State Rep. Duane D. Milne (left) (R-Chester County) attends the pre-concert reception with Dr. Osborne Abbey Jr., CEO of Valley Forge Educational Services.



Mr. and Mrs. John Shea of Wayne and members of their family enjoy the pre-concert reception. John Shea, Jr. was featured in the concert program playing a duet (Sonatina 1, Mvmt. 1 by Attwood) with the concert's featured piano soloist, Rich Ridenour. (left to right) John Shea, Nancy Shea Larkin, James Shea, Sandy Shea, John Shea Jr., and Eleanor Kwapinsk

VFES trustees Frank Tait of Wayne and Nikki Grogan of Chester Springs welcome guests to "A Special Concert For Special Children."

