For Immediate Release

Jury Kobayashi-Baxter, a Master of Music candidate at the Longy School of Music of Bard College, awarded Legacy Prize from Creativity Foundation

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. | From April 1-3, the Creativity Foundation hosted its 2016 Legacy Reunion and 14th Annual Legacy Prize Dinner in Cambridge. Among the 2016 Legacy Prize recipients was Jury Kobayashi-Baxter, a double bass player and graduate student at the Longy School of Music of Bard College. Given in the spirit of Benjamin Franklin’s original Legacy Prize, the Creativity Foundation recognizes young people who show great promise, creativity and dedication in a diverse array of sectors, including science, humanities and service, performing arts, and entrepreneurship.

Longy President, and newly appointed member of the Creativity Foundation’s Junto (governing body), Karen Zorn was in attendance. “It is an amazing experience to sit at a table with a group of people—both the senior leadership and the young people—who come from these very different disciplines, but who all hold in high regard the idea of creativity,” said Zorn.

2016 Legacy Prize-winner Jury Kobayashi-Baxter’s love of performing in front of an audience and teaching others how to embrace their own talents started early. Beginning at the age of three, he was performing in community theatre. By the time he turned 12, Jury was not only acting, he was teaching different music classes at his school. Jury found his true passion, the double bass, by the ninth grade. Always ready for an adventure, Jury embraced all the performing opportunities presented to him and joined many different ensembles, including a symphony orchestra, a jazz band and several wind ensembles.

In 2009, Jury was invited to perform at the Eastern Music Festival in Greensboro, North Carolina. After spending five weeks playing the double bass 10 hours a day, he knew he wanted to be a professionally trained musician. He went on to study with Tim Dawson, a member of the Toronto Symphony, and then with George Greer in his first undergraduate year at Wilfred Laurier University. Following that, he studied under Paul Rogers and Tim Dawson at the University of Toronto where he obtained his undergraduate degree in their music performance program as a classical double bassist.

During his undergraduate studies, Jury continued to combine his love for acting and teaching. He worked with young children as a camp counselor at a local theatre company, putting together plays while teaching them music and dance.

Kobayashi-Baxter is currently a Master of Music student at Longy, where he is studying with Pascale Delache-Feldman. Longy’s programs have allowed him to continue to explore all his passions, including performing with jazz ensembles, early music ensembles, composition, and conducting. At the same time, Jury has been able to maintain his journey toward blending his love of acting, teaching, and music through his involvement with Longy’s Sistema Side by Side program.

About the Creativity Foundation

The Creativity Foundation is dedicated to recognizing creative and gifted individuals, and encouraging them to share what they have discovered about creativity with one another and with the public. Their aim is to spark the curiosity, imagination and originality of future leaders in our communities.
The foundation came into existence at the beginning of the 21st century through people inspired by Benjamin Franklin and his relentless curiosity, his inventive work in diverse fields, his tenacity in maintaining an independent, yet flexible point of view, and his devotion to public service.

About Longy School of Music of Bard College

Longy School of Music of Bard College serves approximately 250 graduate and undergraduate students at its conservatory in Cambridge, MA and Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) campus in Los Angeles, CA. Founded as Longy School of Music in 1915 by renowned oboist Georges Longy on a bold and adventurous vision of a holistic educational experience with an emphasis on chamber music and modern repertoire, Longy has continuously evolved to meet the ever-changing needs of its students. Today, Longy is driven by a social imperative to provide for all students a distinguished faculty that promotes profound musical understanding and technical mastery, encourages growth of imagination, and fosters inquiry about the role of music and the musician in society. Longy’s mission is to prepare musicians to make a difference in the world.

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