

Settlement honors alums

By **TOM DI NARDO**
For the Daily News

Settlement Music School, one of the proudest entities in a rich musical city, has been leading up to its 100th birthday this year in stages. Its plan to select 100 alumni honorees began with 20, then a large batch of 40 last year, with the final 40 announced yesterday.

That unveiling came with a splash of drama, thanks to the previously honored **Bacon** brothers — actor-musician **Kevin** and rock-band leader-composer **Michael** — who emerged from an eight-seater Cessna Citation Excel at Northeast Philadelphia Airport's Hangar B.

It was an offbeat intro to a varied list, one that includes Curtis Institute's founder, **Mary Louise Curtis Bok Zimbalist**, an early Settlement supporter, as well as soul singer **Lady Alma Horton**, a Settlement alum.

According to **Robert Capanna**, Settlement president for 26 years, the selection panel's goal wasn't to choose the most famous alumni but to present a representative cross-section of those who pursued many paths after enrichment by the school.

By Capanna's calculations, more than 300,000 people have attended Settlement School since those 10-cent piano lessons a century ago, with an increase during his tenure from 3,000 to nearly 15,000 current students.

The gracious Bacons recalled the influence the school had on their careers.

"I studied flute, which was fun while it lasted," said Kevin, "and when my brother gave me a guitar, I immediately began to learn the chords to [the Beatles'] 'Hey Jude.' My mother eventually donated my drum kit to Settlement. I wonder if I can get it back!?"

Michael Bacon recalled that music was always on in his house, thanks to their late father, the eminent city planner **Edmund Bacon**. "We had state-of-the-art stereo equipment, McIntosh

and Altec stuff, and WFLN was always on. We were fortunate to have been encouraged into music as a natural activity."

Kevin Bacon announced the honorees.

They also include violinist **Renard Edwards**, the first African-American musician contracted by the Philadelphia Orchestra; **Martha Glaze Zook**, a former orchestra hornist and current Settlement teacher, and deceased orchestra members **Gabriel Braverman**, **Ferdinand Del Negro**, **Johann Grolle** and **Sigmund Hering**.

Also, Boston Symphony harpist **Ann Hobson Pilot**, Metropolitan Opera principal horn **Joseph Anderer** and conductor **Marianna Gabbi**.

The late composers **Jacob Druckman**, **Ralph Shapey** and **David Tudor** are on the list, as are soprano **Clamma Dale**, mezzo **Marietta Simpson** and tenor **Lando Bartolini**. Playwright **Michael Hollinger**, dance coach **Lauren Kipphut** and writer/photographer **Adele Aron Greenspun** demonstrate the span of careers touched by the school.

Jazz performers in this final 40 also include bandleader **Joseph Sudler**, pianist/composer **Sumi Tonooka**, saxman **George Howard**, **Pieces of a Dream**, and Prism Saxophone Quartet founder **Matthew Levy**. Pop performers, in addition to Lady Alma, include **Chubby Checker** and **Kathy Sledge**.

During Capanna's tenure, the West Philadelphia and Camden branches were opened and the Jenkintown branch was added. It's awaiting state funding for a move to Willow Grove later this year and a larger space that will increase studios from 18 to 29, and add a recital room. The school's centenary gala will be held May 3.

"We also hope everyone in the community will attend this year's activities," said Capanna, "which include many concerts at the Independence Seaport Museum, plus alumni, student and faculty recitals at all the branches."

Anne Wilms, spokeswoman for Rohm and Haas, whose centenary is next year, presented a \$100,000 check to Settlement at yesterday's ceremony. ★

E-mail Tom Di Nardo at dinardt@phillynews.com.