

MICHAEL POULIN

Most people who reach the highest levels in Dressage make their mark in one primary facet of the sport – competitor, trainer, instructor, judge. Michael Poulin is all four. He is a member of the bronze-medal-winning United States Team at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics. Michael heads the Poulin School of Dressage in DeLeon Springs, Florida, where he works with a prominent student roster. The Poulin family is one of the most influential modern-day equestrian dynasties, with wife Sharon, daughters Katie and Gwen, all active participants in the sport of Dressage.

Michael's contributions to Dressage are many and continuing. He was instrumental in the 1992 founding of the United States Dressage Federation's (USDF) Instructor Certification Program. He serves with distinction as a member of the Board of Directors of The Dressage Foundation, and originated the "Advanced Young Rider European Training/Education Program," which sends four talented young riders to Europe each year for their introduction to the world of International Dressage. The Dressage Foundation, with his leadership, now administers and funds this annual program. Michael Poulin is a founder of the North American Dressage Trainers Club, which stages important annual symposia at his Florida facilities to aid in improving the understanding among all parties involved in the sport – trainers, judges, instructors, riders, owners and organizers. He has also helped to form the Classical Dressage Riders Association.

Michael Poulin's Dressage students and friends say that what they most admire about him is his honesty, and that he has the uncanny ability to go directly to the heart of the matter with a horse. After 50 years of experience in the equestrian world, Michael Poulin is still committed to furthering Dressage knowledge in this country. *The Michael Poulin Dressage Fund* is both a living tribute and a lasting legacy for him, and for his leadership in Dressage.

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THE MICHAEL POULIN DRESSAGE FUND

...established in honor of Michael Poulin
with donations from his friends
and supporters, to enhance the
quality of Dressage



The Michael Poulin Dressage Fund



Friends, students and supporters of Michael Poulin established the Fund at the Dressage Foundation in 2003. The Fund is being authorized and established by a Resolution of the Board of Directors of The Dressage Foundation. The Resolution spells out the governance and operating policies/procedures for the Fund, and provides a stewardship road map for today and tomorrow.

Purpose

The purpose of *The Michael Poulin Dressage Fund* is to provide funding support for programs and projects that enhance the quality of Dressage in the United States, through any and all of its component disciplines – riding, competing, training, instructing and judging.

The Dressage Foundation seeks grant applications that contain bold, creative, innovative ideas for the improvement and strengthening of Dressage. Applicants are encouraged to consult the *Vision Project*, a study jointly conducted by The Dressage Foundation and USDF in 2002 through in-depth telephone conversations with 28 Dressage leaders who outlined their dreams for enhancing the sport. A copy of the *Vision Project* can be obtained from The Dressage Foundation in printed booklet form, or it can be downloaded



Photo By: Terri Miller

from the Foundation's website at www.dressagefoundation.org. The Dressage Foundation encourages collaborative efforts, where one or more equestrian organizations might pool their financial resources with a grant from *The Michael Poulin Dressage Fund* to accomplish new, big, important results in Dressage.

How the Fund Operates

The Michael Poulin Dressage Fund is sizable. The Dressage Foundation will award grants annually from the Fund's asset value, to be derived from Fund earnings and a modest drawdown of principal, if necessary. The fund will offer a substantial amount of funding support for Dressage, now newly available.

The Grant application process can be obtained from The Dressage Foundation. The Grants Committee of The Dressage Foundation will review all applications, sending them on to the Board of Directors of The Dressage Foundation for final discussion, deliberation and decision.

Founding Donors whose gifts have created The Michael Poulin Dressage Fund

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If there is any truer measure of people than by what they do, it must be by what they give.

