

# TUITION ASSISTANCE GUIDELINES FOR GRANTING FUNDS AND FOLLOW-UP

## ***PRE-REQUISITE GUIDELINES***

***Eligibility:*** Open to students who study with a private teacher and reside in Central Virginia, to include the city of Charlottesville, Albemarle County and the contiguous counties of Greene, Orange, Louisa, Fluvanna, Buckingham, Nelson, Augusta, and Rockingham Counties. Also open to students who reside outside of this area, but who study with a resident of Central Virginia who is a Wednesday Music Club (WMC) member. Applicants for in-person lessons will be given preference, but there may be situations in which virtual lessons are acceptable or necessary.

***Preparation:*** Pre-college age students (grades K-12) of any level, from beginning to advanced, are eligible for assistance, provided some demonstration of talent has been assessed. The student must have a strong recommendation from the teacher, show indication of serious practice and enthusiasm, and have prior participation in musical activities as available, e.g., school band or orchestra, studio recitals, etc. It is helpful, although not required, for first time applicants to have already performed on a Young Musicians Recital or in some adjudicated event.

***Private Lesson Requirement:*** Tuition Assistance is given to students studying with a private teacher. Although public/private school music instructors are encouraged to nominate students, a private teacher should be secured before submitting the application, as the monetary award will need to be considered, in part, on the basis of actual lesson cost. A student's financial need for assistance is based on information provided by the family in the application, as well as a strong recommendation by the teacher about need, talent, and benefit of the lessons. Financial assistance generally covers about 50% of the cost of private lessons. The student's family is responsible for the remainder of lesson fees charged by the teacher.

## ***FOLLOW-UP GUIDELINES AFTER RECEIVING TUITION AWARD***

***Student Performance Requirements:*** During the academic year, a student receiving Tuition Assistance is required to perform in both:

1. a non-studio solo public recital (e.g., WMC Young Musicians Recital or CMTA Youth Recital)
2. an adjudicated event, which can be competitive or non-competitive, but includes a rating and comments (e.g., WMC Competitions, CMTA Festival, Piano Guild Auditions, Royal Conservatory of Music Exams).

At least one event must be sponsored by the Wednesday Music Club. Performances whenever possible should be in person rather than virtual. **Ratings and written comments from the adjudicated event should be submitted to the Chair.**

***Student Progress:*** We expect that students will show evidence of progress in their music studies during the year. To gauge that, teachers are asked to include short progress reports in

January when they submit their invoices for the second semester. In addition to the teachers' evaluations and the comments and ratings we receive from the adjudicated events, members of the committee attend the various recitals to observe the students' performances and progress. Teachers should inform the Tuition Chair when and where their students will perform during the year. Students are asked to submit brief self-assessments of their own progress at the end of the year to the Tuition Chair. Although "progress" is a subjective analysis at all stages, all of this evidence of a student's progress is taken into consideration should the student apply for renewal the following year.

## **SPECIAL NOTES**

1. All parts of the application must be submitted (both student/parent and teacher) to process the application.
2. The signatures of parents or guardians is required and indicates agreement to support the student in regular lessons, practice, performance requirements, and in payment of their portion of fees to the teacher.
3. A student may apply for study of two different instruments with two different teachers, for the same year. A separate application should be submitted for each instrument.
4. The WMC Tuition Assistance Program does not at this time serve adults, defined as post-high-school age. Exceptions may be made for summer lessons after high school graduation if the student will be attending college in the fall as a music major AND the student has received tuition assistance up to that point.
5. Students without a past history of lessons may be considered provisionally for second semester tuition assistance, with evaluations from the teacher and some sort of performance in the first semester. At that time the scholarship application will be reviewed for tuition assistance beginning after January 15th if funding is available.
6. A teacher may apply after the regular May deadline for a new student, or for altered circumstances. The cutoff date for any such delayed applications is January 15th for the remainder of the academic year. Delayed applications will be considered if funding is available.