



Belmont Academy

Merit Scholarship Program

Application Packet

2010-2011

The Belmont Academy Merit Scholarship Program encourages students of all ages, abilities, and musical disciplines to pursue their studies on a more serious and diligent level and provides financial support for one year of study within the Academy. The scholarship amount can only be applied to Belmont Academy Tuition. The Merit Scholarship is open to all students and all levels of study.

Merit Scholarships are open to all students for all levels of study. Applicants will be informed of results via email within one week of the auditions. Scholarships are awarded on the basis of the instructor letter of recommendation, the audition, and the application responses.

In addition to excellent preparation for lessons, recipients of the Belmont Academy Merit Scholarship are expected to perform on a Belmont Academy Recital. If the student fails to meet the above-mentioned criteria or has missed more than one unexcused lesson, the student becomes ineligible the following year, and may be asked to repay the scholarship amount. Merit Scholarships are *not* automatically renewable. Applicants must apply each year for consideration.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINE

Materials must be received to the Belmont Academy office *no later* than **Monday, April 26th, 2010**. Auditions will be held **May 22nd, 2010** in Wilson School of Music (see rooms below). Applicants will be assigned an audition time by the office AFTER the completed application is received.

9:00 a.m. -Noon - Strings Auditions (cello, viola, and violin) - *Wilson, room 105*

9:00-Noon - Piano Auditions- *Wilson, room 121*

9:00 a.m.-Noon - Instrumental/Guitar Auditions (woodwinds, brass, percussion, guitar, banjo, mandolin and dobro) - *Wilson, room 205*

9:00 a.m.-Noon - Voice Auditions- *Wilson, room 217*

Belmont Academy, Belmont University C.V.P.A, 1900 Belmont Blvd., Nashville, TN, 37212

Ph. (615) 460-6346, fax. (615) 460-6606, e-mail: belmontacademy@belmont.edu

Belmont Academy



Scholarship Application

Deadline: Monday, April 26th, 2010

Full Name _____

Current Mailing Address _____

Current Phone Number _____

E-mail _____ Instrument _____

Instructor's Name (if applicable) _____

Birth date _____ Years of total study for instrument in which you are auditioning _____

Please list where you have studied and name of instructor(s): _____

1. **On a separate sheet, please explain your aspirations for the upcoming year.** What goals have you set for yourself to improve your musical studies next year and how will you reach these goals? What are your long term goals in music? Answers should be at *least* two complete paragraphs. Thoughtful, type written responses are given strong consideration
2. **Please ask your music instructor to write a recommendation.** If you are currently taking lessons, this should be your private lesson teacher. If you are not currently taking lessons, it should be from a qualified person who has knowledge of your musical abilities. Please see the recommendation requirements on the following pages.

**** If the application is being submitted by a young child, drawings or a hand-written explanation may be alternatively submitted in lieu of the essay questions.**

Submit application by April 26th to:
Belmont Academy
Belmont University C.V.P.A.
1900 Belmont Blvd.
Nashville, Tennessee 37212
Ph. (615) 460-6346 Fax. (615) 460-6606
Email: BelmontAcademy@belmont.edu

Belmont Academy

Guidelines for Scholarship Auditions

****PLEASE NOTE: Auditions must not last more than a total of 10 minutes (this includes scales, etc.). In conjunction with their teachers, students may choose to shorten their piece(s) in order to showcase the most technically difficult sections or showcase individual strengths. Judges and staff members also have the discretion to stop the audition at any time or shorten selections as needed. Multiple movements are not necessary and are not accepted. All students must have memorized selections.***

The Audition Process

1. Voice Students must be ready to perform two pieces of contrasting styles from memory. Piano, String and Instrumental Students must be ready to perform one piece from memory. If applicable, please consult your teacher for advice on repertoire selections. Depending on time constraints, instrumental students may be asked to shorten their piece (please see the note at the heading of this sheet).
 2. Piano, String, and Instrumental students will be asked to play scales. **Instructors and students should prepare a list of scales that students can play. These should be submitted with the application.** Judges will select **two** scales from the prepared list. The submitted list of scales should match the student's current level.
 3. Students may or may not be asked questions regarding their application essay or other related questions asked by the judges.
 4. Students should observe appropriate stage etiquette and attire for professional auditions. Students who do not dress appropriately for the audition will not receive full consideration.
 5. Students who have had a scholarship revoked the previous year are ineligible to apply for this year.
-

The Adjudicating Process

1. Auditions will be judged on preparation, technical facility, musicianship and stage presence.
2. The audition will be weighted in conjunction with the essay questions and teacher recommendation letters.
3. Each Division of the Academy (Instrumental, Piano, Strings, and Vocal) is represented. Scholarship assignments are made at the discretion of the judge(s), but generally a beginner, and intermediate and an advanced student is chosen for each area.
4. General comments from the adjudicating panel regarding technical facility, quality of sound, musical interpretation, appearance, and stage etiquette will be available to the applicants and their instructors at a later date.

*****Scholarships are not automatically renewable each year. No student will be awarded a scholarship without a complete application and audition*****

Belmont Academy

Merit Scholarship Reference Form

Instructors:

- 1) Use the reverse side or a separate sheet to evaluate candidate according to the recommendation letter requirements.
- 2) Work with the applicant to prepare a list of scales appropriate to their current level and submit this list with the recommendation. Instructors should submit this recommendation, not the applicant. Recommendations may be faxed, emailed or mailed by the instructor.

Student's Name _____ Age of Student _____

Instrument _____

Current Level of Ability Beginner Intermediate Advanced

Years of Study in the instrument area in which student is applying _____

Name of instructor _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Recommendation letter and scale requirements:

- Discuss the student's attendance record, practice regimen, attitude, focus of attention, and progress.
- Discuss your assessment of the student's skill level specifically in respect to beginner, intermediate, or advanced.
- List and/or discuss any outstanding musical and non-musical achievements that would make the student an outstanding consideration for a scholarship.
- Discuss more personal opinions and views on why this student should be considered for an Academy Scholarship.
- Submit a list of appropriate scales (not applicable to voice students).

Please forward reference directly to the Belmont Academy Office. Applicants should not include this in the scholarship packet.

Belmont Academy
Belmont University C.V.P.A., 1900 Belmont Blvd., Nashville, TN, 37212
Ph. (615) 460-6346 Fax. (615) 460-6606
Email: belmontacademy@belmont.edu

Belmont Academy

Merit Scholarship Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What if I do not complete the application process on time?

A: Unfortunately, you will not be eligible for an award for this year. We must have a complete application and an audition from every applicant, and it must be turned in on time.

Q: I am not comfortable with auditioning or have other commitments/plans. Is this necessary?

A: An audition is necessary from every applicant. While we cannot avoid every conflict that may arise, we do schedule auditions at the beginning of the year so that you can keep these dates in mind. While we do expect for everyone to do their best, it is not our intention to make the auditioning process negative. Therefore, do not let nerves get the best of you! This is an excellent opportunity to practice recital and auditioning etiquette in front of a friendly judge and professional panel.

Q: My son/daughter is just a beginner, and not able to play any scales. Are we disqualified?

A: No. However, scales are an important component to learning an instrument. Every student should discuss this with their instructor and honestly and accurately include a list that judges can choose from. If a student cannot perform scales, we ask that the instructor include a note stating why scales have not been learned.

Q: My son/daughter is just a beginner, and is not old enough to write responses for himself. Should we bother?

A: Yes! We award scholarships to all ages and all levels. If your son/daughter is not old enough to respond through essays, please note that drawings may be submitted or you may ask them the questions and write down their responses. We expect the responses to match the age level of each student, and we will not penalize for differences in age or level of study.

Q: Do I need to type my responses to the essays?

A: We prefer typed responses, with correct grammar and spelling. We do require that all responses be returned neatly, and clearly legible. Neatness and accuracy is definitely considered in the application process.

Q: I may not have time to do the audition process on the audition day. What should I do?

A: Everyone who applies must make time to audition. Please make plans to set aside an audition time. The total audition time should last about 10 minutes (though sometimes the audition process can run a bit behind). Also, please dress appropriately and professionally for your audition.

Q: How should I dress? Does it matter?

A: YES! Your attire definitely matters. All students should observe recital etiquette. No jeans, flip flops, or sleeveless shirts should be worn. Hair should be pulled out of the face. If you show dressed inappropriately, it will be counted against you.

Q: How many recipients are chosen for scholarships? If I am chosen, how much money will I receive?

A: The amount of each scholarship depends on the amount of applicants, as well as the quality of the applications and auditions. We will not “give away” scholarship money for any reason. The average scholarship amount for the 2009-2010 year was \$200.00 per recipient (\$100.00 per semester of study).

**If you have any other questions, please contact the Belmont Academy Office at
(615) 460.6346 or email us at belmontacademy@belmont.edu.**