



Belmont Academy

Merit Scholarship Program Application Packet 2018-2019

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 academic year of study within the Academy. The scholarship amount can be applied only to Belmont Academy Tuition. The Merit Scholarship is open to all students and all levels of study.

CRITERIA:

- **Each recipient MUST enroll for a *FULL* semester of study (a minimum of fourteen [14] 30-minute lessons) in order to qualify for the award.**
- Recipients of the Belmont Academy Merit Scholarship must perform on a Belmont Academy Recital.
- Recipients of this scholarship should be prepared for each lesson, having practiced and prepared any other work assigned by the recipient's instructor.
- Students must make ample effort to attend every lesson. If a student accrues more than one unexcused lesson, they may be ineligible to audition for the following year.

Scholarships are awarded on the basis of the instructor's letter of recommendation, the audition, and the application questionnaire responses. Applicants will be informed of results via email within one week of the auditions. Merit Scholarships are *not* automatically renewable. Applicants must apply each year for consideration.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINE

Materials must be submitted to the Belmont Academy office *no later* than **Wednesday, April 11, 2018**. Auditions will be held **Saturday, April 21, 2018** in the Wilson Music Building (see rooms below). Applicants will be assigned an audition time by the office **AFTER** the completed application is received.

9am – 1pm: Strings Auditions: Wilson, Classroom 105

9am – 1pm: Instrumental/Voice Auditions: Wilson, Classroom 210

9am – 1pm: Piano Auditions: Wilson, Classroom 121

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

Belmont Academy Scholarship Application

Deadline: Wednesday, April 11, 2018

Full Name _____

Current Mailing Address _____

Current Phone Number _____ E-mail (results will be emailed) _____

Instrument _____ Instructor's Name (if currently studying) _____

Age _____ Total years of private study for instrument in which you are auditioning _____

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

Please list any ensembles you perform with at school or in the community: _____

- 1.) On a separate sheet, please list your goals for next semester in taking music lessons and explain how you plan to achieve them. Please type if possible. If the application is being submitted by a young child, drawings or a hand-written explanation may be alternatively submitted.**
- 2.) Please ask your music instructor to write a recommendation.** If you are currently taking lessons, this should be your private lesson teacher of the instrument with which you are auditioning. If you are not currently taking lessons, it should be from a qualified person who has knowledge of your musical abilities. Please see the Merit Scholarship Reference Form in this application. Recommendations may be emailed, mailed, or faxed to the Academy.

Please submit application 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

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Guidelines for Scholarship Auditions

The Audition Process

1. Auditions generally will last 10 minutes. This is a general guideline. **PLEASE DO NOT DO MULTIPLE PIECES REGARDLESS IF THEY ARE LONG OR SHORT.** Please chose a piece of repertoire that you can perform well and highlights your level of study.
 2. Students are to arrive at least fifteen (15) minutes early to the audition to warm up and mentally prepare for the audition. Practice space will be provided.
 3. **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. Please do not bring in a lengthy piece with hopes of playing it in entirety.**
 4. **Judges and monitors also may stop the audition or to shorten selections as needed for the sake of time.**
 5. Please keep selections to one movement. Multiple movements are not necessary for this audition.
 6. **Piano, String and Instrumental/Guitar students** must be ready to perform one (1) piece. This piece does not need to be memorized. **Voice Students** must be ready to perform two (2) contrasting pieces from memory. If applicable, please consult your teacher for advice on repertoire selections. As stated above, students may be asked to shorten an audition piece depending on time constraints. No accompanist will be provided, except for voice students (**upon request only**). If you wish to bring in an accompanist at your own expense, you are welcome to do so.
 7. Piano, String, and Instrumental students will be asked to play scales indicative of their individual levels of study. **The instructor and student should prepare a list of scales that the student can play. This list should be submitted with the application.** Judges will select **three** scales from the prepared list.
 8. Students may be asked brief questions regarding their application essays or other related audition topics by the judges.
 9. 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.
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The Adjudicating Process

1. Auditions will be judged on preparation, technical facility, musicianship, and stage presence. Judges may ask students questions before, during or after the performance.
2. A qualified adjudicator with experience in each instrument area will be selected to judge auditions.
3. Adjudicating comments from the judge 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.
4. **For the 2018-2019 academic year, Two (2) scholarships will be awarded for each instrument area: Piano, Strings and Instrumental/Voice.** The judges will choose at their discretion who receives the scholarship based on applications and auditions. Students will not be penalized for their level of study, and will be judged for the audition and application submitted.

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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 _____

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. Are they doing well for the amount of years they have studied, in your personal opinion?
- 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). If the student cannot play scales appropriate to the skill level indicated, please explain why.

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

Send, fax or email to:

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

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Merit Scholarship Frequently Asked Questions

What if I do not complete the application process on time? Will you accept it late?

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 submitted on time.

How many lessons do I have to take in order to receive the scholarship? Do I need to take for a full semester?

Scholarship recipients must be enrolled in a minimum of fourteen (14), 30-minute lessons per semester of study during the academic year in which the student is awarded a scholarship.

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

An audition is required 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 all auditioning students to do their best, it is not our intent to make the auditioning process negative. Therefore, do not let nerves get the best of you! This is an excellent opportunity to practice audition etiquette in front of a friendly adjudicating panel.

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

No. However, scales are an important component to learning an instrument. Each student should discuss this with the instructor 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.

My son/daughter is just a beginner, and is not old enough to write questionnaire responses yet. Should we bother?

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 will also likely ask questions in person at the time of the audition. 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.

Do I need to type my responses to the essays?

We prefer typed responses, along with proper grammar and accurate spelling. We do require that all scholarship packets be returned neatly and clearly legible. Clear communication, neatness, and accuracy definitely are considered in the application process.

How should I dress for the audition? Does it matter?

YES! Your attire absolutely matters. All students should observe professional *traditional* recital etiquette. No jeans, flip flops, sleeveless shirts/tops, immodest neck- or hemlines should be worn. Hair should be pulled away from the face. If you arrive dressed inappropriately, it will be counted against you.

How many scholarship recipients are chosen? If I got one last year, do I automatically get one again?

For the 2017-2018 academic year, Two (2) scholarships will be awarded for each instrument area: Voice, Piano, Strings and Instrumental/Guitar. The judges will choose at their discretion who receives the scholarship based on applications and auditions. Students will not be penalized for their level of study, and will be judged for the audition and application submitted. Students may apply and audition each year, but scholarships are not automatically renewed.

If I am chosen, how much money do I get?

Scholarships for 2018-2019 will be in the amount of \$350.00 (\$175.00 for each semester). Scholarship money may only be applied to Belmont Academy tuition. Judges may choose to NOT award a scholarship or split a scholarship amount between two equally deserving applicants. Scholarships are rendered as a credit to student accounts for the purpose of study and are not "cash prizes".

