

2026 VENICE MUSICALE SCHOLARSHIP GUIDELINES

OVERVIEW

Venice Musicale is a non-sectarian, non-profit organization with two main purposes: to enrich the cultural experience of area residents through free quality music performances and to invest in young musicians through its annual Scholarship Program. Venice Musicale scholarships aid the development of next generation musicians through financial support for private lessons, summer music camps, first-year postsecondary music performance studies, or for purchase of an instrument. To date, Venice Musicale has provided more than **\$300,000** in scholarship support to area youth, with individual awards ranging from \$200 to \$3,000.

ELIGIBILITY

To apply for a 2026 Venice Musicale Scholarship, students must:

- A. Be enrolled and in good standing in public or private elementary, middle, secondary, charter school, or homeschooled; **AND**
- B. Live in **or** attend school in the area bounded by and inclusive of Osprey to the north and Charlotte County to the south. Homeschooled students must live within this geographic boundary.
- C. Be a **4th-12th grade** student planning to participate in one or more of the following performance development activities:
 - a. Private music lessons;
 - b. Summer music camp;
 - c. First-year music performance courses at an accredited two- or four-year college (for rising high school seniors only):
 - d. Purchase of an instrument.**
- D. Complete and submit an online application at venicemusical.org **no later than midnight March 23, 2026**, with the addition of a confidential recommendation from the student's primary music teacher and a signed Photo and Video Release. All necessary forms must be downloaded from venicemusical.org/About our Scholarships.
- E. Be available, if selected, to participate in scholarship auditions on **Saturday, April 18, 2026** (see Auditions below for additional details.) If an accompanist is needed,

students must make every effort to find one who can accommodate the time that is assigned to them for their audition.

- F. Be available, **if selected as a scholarship winner**, to perform in the 2026 Venice Musicale Scholarship Winners' Concert on **Tuesday, May 5, 2026**, at 6:00 PM.

CATEGORIES OF COMPETITION:

There are three categories of competition which correspond to public school grades—Senior Division, Middle School Division, and Elementary Division.

SENIOR DIVISION (9th-12th grades) - Students must perform two compositions of contrasting periods and styles of music, *including at least one from memory*. Students have a ten-minute time limit and should provide their own accompanist for selections written to be accompanied. Vocalists are the only performers *required* to perform with piano accompaniment.

MIDDLE SCHOOL DIVISION (6th-8th grades) - Requirements are the same as the Senior Division. These students compete against other students in grades 6th, 7th and 8th.

ELEMENTARY DIVISION (4th-5th grades) - These students are required to prepare one piece performed from memory. There is a five-minute time limit and students should provide an accompanist if needed.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

- 1. ALL APPLICANTS:** Go to venicemusical.org and look for the heading, Scholarships. From the drop-down menu, click on About Our Scholarships
- 2.** Download and complete the **Signature form (fillable)**. Save it into your computer as a PDF. Your teacher can also access the Teacher Recommendation form or you can print it and give the hard copy to your teacher. If you are reading these instructions, you already have the Guidelines document. *Teacher forms should remain confidential.*
- 3. FIRST-TIME APPLICANTS:** Go to *New Scholarship Applicant Registration* from the drop-down menu. Under Contact Information, create a username and password, and fill in all required fields including uploading your *2026 Photo and Video Release*. Click on REGISTER.
- 4. RETURNING APPLICANTS:** Log in to your Profile. Upload the *2026 Photo and Video Release and Privacy Policy Signature* form signed by the parent or student. Click on **UPDATE**

5. **ALL APPLICANTS** log in. Go to your Account Menu and access your *Current Scholarship Application*.
6. Fill in all required fields. Click SAVE APPLICATION.

PROCESS

A. APPLICATION REVIEW

The Venice Musicale Scholarship Committee will review all completed applications and Teacher Recommendations. The committee will invite a select number of applicants to audition in front of a panel of judges who are professional musicians. **The number of applicants will be determined by the number of time slots available for auditions.**

B. AUDITION INVITATION Those invited to audition will be notified by email with complete instructions no later than **March 30, 2026**. Auditions will be held on **April 18, 2026**, at St Mark's Episcopal Church in Venice.

C. ALL STUDENTS must provide **three (3) copies** of their sheet music with the **measures numbered**, for use by the judges. All music will be returned immediately following the audition.

D. A PANEL OF JUDGES will score each applicant in five selected elements of performance including: accuracy, technique, rhythm, tone quality, and expression/interpretation. **Constructive comments from the judges will be** emailed to each student in an effort to ensure that each student receives helpful feedback to support his/her continuing development as a musician. We encourage all students to share this feedback with his/her teacher.

E. AWARDS

The Venice Musicale Scholarship Committee will convene immediately following the completion of auditions and will recommend awards in all categories based on the judges' scoring. Award winners will be notified within seven (7) days.

F. DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS

Scholarship recipients must provide Venice Musicale with formal proof of enrollment in a summer camp, an invoice for an instrument purchase, or acceptance into a university (graduating senior).

Those winners who use their award for private lessons will be furnished with a **Private Teacher Contract** which needs to be passed on to their teacher for his/her signature. The contract then is returned to Venice Musicale as proof that the student is using the award for private lessons. Award checks will only be paid to the parent or student (if age 18) **after Contracts are returned** to Venice Musicale. Alternatively, recipients may

request that their awards be paid directly to the appropriate private teacher, summer camp or college.

G. SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS CONCERT and OTHER PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES **Only scholarship recipients** may perform in the Scholarship Concert on **Tuesday, May 5, 2026 at 6:00 PM** at St Mark's Episcopal Church. Venice Musicale also invites recipients to perform in its regular monthly concerts between October and April, whenever possible. This not only provides opportunities to showcase winner talents but also helps raise awareness and support for the Scholarship Program.

IMPORTANT DATES: MARK YOUR CALENDAR

March 23, 2026	Application and Teacher Recommendation Deadline
March 30, 2026	Audition Invitations to be sent to Selected Applicants
April 18, 2026	Auditions
April 20-22, 2026	Winners notified
May 5, 2026	2026 Scholarship Concert

SUBMISSION AND GENERAL CONTACT INFORMATION

Be sure to submit your completed application **no later than midnight on March 23, 2026**. Please have your music teacher submit his/her recommendation form through email to scholarship@venicemusical.org by the deadline date. You may direct questions to scholarship co-chairs, Betsy Bullis, at brbullis8517@gmail.com or Roonie Rost, rockyroost@comcast.net or call 317-441-4471.

We cannot accept in-person deliveries and will not make deadline exceptions. Please plan accordingly.

Thank you for your talents and for your interest in being part of the 2026 Venice Musicale Scholarship Program!