

MacPhail Performance Scholarships

Frequently Asked Questions

- Q: Can musicians who are not currently MacPhail students audition for the Performance Scholarships, in hopes of studying at MacPhail?**
- A:** Yes! We have awarded scholarships to “new” students. If you are not presently a MacPhail student, we do still require a letter of recommendation from your current teacher. If you are not currently taking lessons, we ask for a recommendation from someone who can speak of your musicianship.
- Q: My son/daughter is a beginner. Do they have a chance at obtaining a scholarship?**
- A:** The awards are given to those students who demonstrate performance excellence at their audition, regardless of age. Audition judges do not review the students’ written applications, but base their decisions solely on the students’ live performance. A beginning or intermediate student who performs well does have a chance of receiving a scholarship. However, the auditions *are* quite competitive, and the field is largely dominated by mid-advanced level performers. At present, there are no scholarships designated for beginners.
- Q: Are any scholarships given on the basis of financial need?**
- A:** Yes. We have one piano and one vocal scholarship that are given to students demonstrating financial need. No live audition is necessary to be considered for these awards, but there are other application criteria. See the brochure for more information. MacPhail also has a separate Financial Aid program that is completely need-based. There is a different application for these funds – inquire at the Student Service Center.
- Q: What is meant by “two contrasting pieces”?**
- A:** We leave repertoire choices to the discretion of the student and their teacher, but we do suggest that the chosen pieces best showcase the student’s strengths, interests and versatility. The contrasting elements could be musical period (e.g. Baroque, 20th Century), composer, tempo, for singers - musical genre (opera, art song, musical theater, operetta), and so on.
- Q: If I’m not available on the audition date, can I submit a CD or DVD, or audition on another date?**
- A:** No. Performance-based scholarships require a live audition on the designated day.
- Q: If my son/daughter plays multiple instruments, can he/she audition more than once?**
- A:** Yes. We do allow students to audition on more than one instrument; however, MacPhail policy stipulates that a student can only be awarded one Performance Scholarship in an academic year.
- Q: Why do you request a letter of recommendation from a teacher? How much bearing does it have on the application process?**
- A:** The teacher’s letter of recommendation helps give our Screening Panel some insight into a student’s work ethic, potential and interest in music. Often, teachers are able to offer information that is not readily apparent from the student’s application/resume. The audition judges do not view any portion of the students’ applications, including the letters of recommendation – the letters are only reviewed by the Screening Panel.
- Q: Will I get to see the judges’ comments after the auditions?**
- A:** Yes. If you are a MacPhail student, the comment sheets will be given to your teacher and you may obtain them at your next lesson. If you are not a MacPhail student, your comment sheets will be mailed to you.
- Q: Can Performance Scholarships be applied to class or ensemble tuition?**
- A:** No. Scholarship award monies can only be applied to Individual Instruction (private lesson) tuition. Students must enroll in Individual Instruction for the entire 2009-10 academic year. The award amount is divided in half, and 50% is applied to fall semester and 50% to spring semester tuition.

Q: How competitive are the auditions?

A: While this is a challenging question to answer, it is safe to say that students should be “at the top of their game” for these auditions. The awards typically go to students with quite a bit of performance experience, although that does not necessarily imply that they are all advanced students.

Q: Do I need to audition with an accompanist?

A: If your piece has accompaniment, yes, you do need to audition with an accompanist. You are free to hire any accompanist of your choosing. If you'd like to have one of **MacPhail's Staff Accompanists** play for you, you need to complete the following steps:

1. Contact the Staff Accompanist via phone or e-mail prior to submitting your application to determine whether they can play for you.
 - **Mindy Eschedor** - 612-767-5341 or *eschedor.mindy@macphail.org*
 - **Jason Alfred** - 612-767-5487 or *alfred.jason@macphail.org*
2. After you have received confirmation, write the Staff Accompanist's name on your application where directed.
3. At least 2-weeks prior to your audition date, submit a copy of your music and a green Staff Accompanist Request form (with your contact information) to the accompanist drop box, located outside the Accompanying studio (rm. 413). The necessary green forms are also at this location.
4. Pay the **\$30.00 Audition Accompanist fee** at the Student Service Center. This fee covers the Staff Accompanist's services for one rehearsal and your audition.