Q: Can musicians who are not currently MacPhail students audition for the Performance Scholarships, in hopes of studying at MacPhail?
A: Yes! Regardless of whether you are a MacPhail student, a letter of recommendation from your current teacher is required. 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 beginning student. Do they have a chance at obtaining a scholarship?
A: Yes! MacPhail awards Performance, Need-Based, Composition and Religious Study scholarships. Performance Scholarships are given to those students who demonstrate performance excellence at their audition, regardless of age. Audition judges review performance only and base their recommendations solely on the students’ live performance. While there are no scholarships designated for beginning or intermediate-level students, any student who performs well has a chance of receiving a scholarship. Need-Based Scholarships are available for students who meet financial aid criteria and other requirements. Please see scholarship criteria. MacPhail also awards Financial Aid based on need. Please contact the MacPhail Student Services Center at 612-321-0100 or services.student@mapchail.org or view the application at www.macphail.org/financial-aid/ for more information.

Q: Are any scholarships given on the basis of financial need?
A: Yes! MacPhail has both Need-Based Scholarships and general Financial Aid. Students must meet Need-Based Scholarships criteria established by the benefactors as well as demonstrate financial need. Please see the Scholarships Brochure for application criteria. MacPhail also has a separate Financial Aid program that is completely need-based. The financial aid application is available at www.macphail.org/financial-aid/ or by contacting the MacPhail Student Services Center at 612-321-0100 or services.student@mapchail.org.

Q: What is meant by “two contrasting pieces?”
A: Decisions about repertoire choices are left to the discretion of the student and teacher. We recommend that a student’s repertoire showcases his or her strengths, interests and versatility. The contrasting elements could be musical period (e.g. Baroque, 20th century), composer or tempo. For singers, contrasting elements could be musical genre (opera, art song, musical theater, operetta) or another differentiator.

Q: If I’m not available for the audition, can I submit a CD or DVD, or audition another day?
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. Students may audition on more than one instrument; however, 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 gives the screening panel insight into a student’s work ethic, potential and interest in music. Often, teachers are able to offer information that is not readily apparent in the student’s application/resume. Audition judges do not view any portion of the students’ written applications, including the letters of recommendation or financial need. Letters of recommendation and demonstrated financial need information are reviewed solely 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 are e-mailed to you.

Q: Can Performance Scholarships be applied to class or ensemble tuition?
A: No. Scholarship awards may be applied to Individual Instruction (private lesson) tuition only. Students must enroll in Individual Instruction for both fall and spring terms in the 2019-20 year. The award amount is divided equally between fall and spring semester tuition.
Q: How competitive are the auditions?
A: This is a challenging question to answer. It is safe to say that students should be at the top of their game for the Performance Scholarship auditions. Typically, awards are given to students with performance experience; however, this does not mean that all Performance Scholarship recipients are advanced students. Our judges will make their determination solely based on the demonstrated artistic and musical merits of the live auditions. Audition judges do not review any portion of the students’ written applications.

Q: Do I need to audition with an accompanist?
A: If your piece has a piano accompaniment, you must audition with an accompanist. You are welcome to hire any accompanist of your choosing. If you’d like a MacPhail staff accompanist to play for your audition, please complete the following steps after you have been selected to audition:

1. Complete the MacPhail Staff Accompanist Request Form and submit it to Student Services with a copy of the piano accompaniment. That form can be found at any Student Services location.
2. Pay the $30.00 Audition Accompanist fee at the Student Services Center. This fee covers the staff accompanist services for one rehearsal and for your audition.

If you need assistance, or have any questions about the application process, please contact Jon Iverson, Student Performance Coordinator, at iverson.jon@macphail.org or 612-767-5506.

MacPhail Center for Music transforms lives and communities through exceptional music learning.

In service to its mission, MacPhail maintains compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of the 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 to prohibit discrimination against persons with disabilities. MacPhail Center for Music is a vital, not-for-profit, 501(c)(3) organization that does not discriminate in its admissions, employment, financial assistance or scholarship policies on the basis of race, color, creed, national or ethnic origin, gender, sexual orientation, age or special needs.