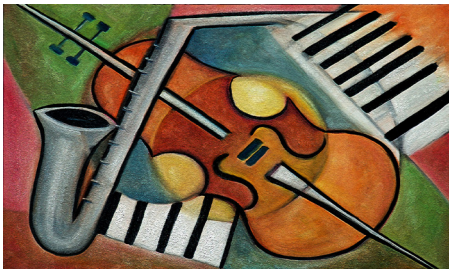
Reading Musical Foundation

2027 Scholarship Directory



Audition-Based Awards

Grades 1-6: Piano, Organ & Strings | Grades 5-6: Brass & Woodwind
Application Deadline: Friday, January 29, 2027
Auditions: Saturday, March 13, 2027 at Albright College

Grades 7-9: Piano, Organ, Strings, Woodwind, Brass, & Voice
Application Deadline: Friday, January 29, 2027
Auditions: Saturday, March 13, 2027 at Albright College

Grades 4-12: Classical & Jazz Guitar | Grades 7-12: Percussion
Grades 10-12: Piano, Organ, Strings, Woodwind, Brass, & Voice
excluding College Tuition Scholarships
Application Deadline: Friday, January 29, 2027
Auditions: Sunday, March 14, 2027 at Albright College

Grade 12: College Tuition Scholarships (Music Majors/Minors)
Application Deadline: Friday, January 29, 2027
Auditions: Sunday, April 11, 2027 at Immanuel UCC, Shillington

Chuck Loeb Memorial Jazz Ensemble
Application Deadline: Friday, January 29, 2027
Auditions: Virtual Submission due by Friday, February 26, 2027

Need-Sensitive Summer Camp Awards

Application Deadline: Friday, April 23, 2027

Need-Sensitive Private Music Study & Instrument Upgrade Awards

Application Deadlines: February 12, 2027; April 23, 2027; July 16, 2027; and October 15, 2027

Please submit all applications through RMF's website.

Reading Musical Foundation
PO Box 14835, Reading, PA 19612
(610) 376-3395
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Website: www.readingmusicalfoundation.org

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MERIT AUDITIONS

PRIVATE STUDY/ UPGRADE

SUMMER CAMP

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Reading Musical Foundation is proud to offer more than 60 different scholarship programs to student musicians in Berks County. The program makes more than $300,000 in awards annually, which are used to help students afford private music lessons, new instruments, and experiences like summer music camp, as well as provide recognition and monetary awards at RMF's merit-based auditions.

GENERAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM GUIDELINES

- Unless otherwise specified, the student must attend a Berks County school (or be homeschooled in Berks County) and reside in Berks County.
- Applications are available for online submission on RMF's website, www.readingmusicalfoundation.org, under "Scholarships."
- Deadlines are strictly enforced. Submissions are allowed until 11:59 PM on the date of the deadline. No late applications will be considered for any reason.
- Applications should be complete at the time of submission. Students submitting incomplete applications risk losing audition placement or review consideration.
- Awards are paid directly to the music teacher for private lessons. RMF will pay the vendor or institution directly for college tuition awards. Instrument upgrades, or summer camp tuition may be reimbursed with receipts for these expenses.
- Awards are not retroactive without prior permission from RMF.

AUDITION-BASED PROGRAM

• Students must audition live, on the day noted; virtual auditions/recordings are not permitted *(Exception: Chuck Loeb Jazz Ensemble Scholarship).*
• Audition locations vary, please check directory cover for locations.
• Self-composed pieces are not permitted for these competitive auditions.
• Students should be prepared to perform their selections in their entirety (no edits/cuts, except for major section repeats) within the noted time limit.
• Voice Applicants: Choral excerpts/voice-parts are not permitted.
• For students who play multiple instruments, multiple voices of the same instrument type must perform under a single audition. Examples of this include: Flute/Piccolo; Oboe/English horn; Bassoon/Contra-bassoon; Clarinets (soprano, alto, bass, etc.); Saxophones (soprano, alto, tenor, baritone, bass); Euphonium/Baritone; and Trombone/Bass Trombone. Please contact RMF with any questions.
• If memorization is required, it will be noted in the instrument/award guidelines.
• The non-refundable audition fee for students is $20. Each additional sibling's fee is $10. (Example: the total cost of two siblings auditioning would be $30). Requests to waive the application fee due to financial circumstances should be noted on the application by the parent or teacher. The fee is applied once per year, regardless of the number of awards for which the student auditions.
• Students will audition in front of adjudicators who are proficient in the student's instrument or instrument family.
• Adjudicator names and award amounts will not be announced prior to auditions.
• All students will receive written evaluations from adjudicators during the week following the audition. Comments should be considered constructive and be shared with the student's music teacher.
• Performance opportunities for recipients: First place recipients are invited to perform at RMF's Artists of Tomorrow Concert Series - details to be announced in late 2027. Other opportunities may be available on an invitation-basis.

AUDITIONS: ACCOMPANIST GUIDELINES

• Recorded accompaniment is <u>not</u> permitted (exception: Jazz Guitar).
• Instrumentalists in Grades 1-6 will audition <u>without</u> accompaniment.
• Instrumentalists in Grades 7-9 are <u>encouraged</u> to audition with piano accompaniment for solos that are written to include piano accompaniment/orchestral reduction for piano.*
• It is <u>highly recommended</u> that instrumentalists in Grades 10-12 audition with piano accompaniment for solos that are written to include piano accompaniment/orchestral reduction for piano.*
• Students auditioning for our College Tuition scholarships are <u>required</u> to audition with piano accompaniment for solos that are written to include piano accompaniment/orchestral reduction for piano.*
• All vocalists (Gr. 7-9, Gr. 10-12, College Tuition) are <u>required</u> to audition with an accompanist.* (Exception: The selection is specifically composed to be performed unaccompanied or *a cappella*.)
• Gr. 7-12 (non-College Tuition) instrumentalists who are considering auditioning without an accompanist should confirm with their music teacher that the unaccompanied piece is appropriate for our merit auditions.
• Classical guitar, harp, and percussion applicants will audition <u>without</u> accompaniment.
• Students must include the name of their accompanist on their application.
• Teachers may not accompany their students (parents are permitted).
*In memory of Rebecca Gass Butler, funding is available for students who cannot afford to hire an accompanist for their audition. Contact RMF for information.

MUSIC GUIDELINES FOR COLLEGE TUITION AUDITIONS

Based on past discussion, input by teachers, and a review of college/university music major audition requirements, repertoire requirements are as follows:

Music Requirements - At Least Two (2) Works/Movements of Contrasting Styles (One Baroque/Classical and One from Romantic/20th-21st Century), 20-minute total limit:

Bassoon	Cello	Clarinets	English Horn/Oboe
Flute/Piccolo	French Horn	Organ	Piano
Trumpet/Cornet	Viola	Violin	

Music Requirements - At least Two (2) Works/Movements of Contrasting Styles (From the standard concert solo repertoire for the specified instrument), 20-minute total time limit:

Double Bass	Euphonium	Harp	Saxophones
Trombone			

Other Instrumental/Voice Music Requirements:

Percussion: Three solos/etudes to include one mallet solo, one timpani solo, and one snare drum study/etude. *A demonstration of drum set styles (rock, funk, jazz, samba, bossa nova, etc.) or world percussion/hand percussion usage may be added (optional) within the 20-minute total time limit.*

Guitar: At least two (2) works/movements of contrasting style from standard classical guitar solo repertoire (from a sonata, concerto, suite, or short piece). *A selection from folk or popular music repertoire may be added as a third selection within the 20-minute total time limit.*

Voice: At least two (2) selections of contrasting style, including one from Baroque/Classical & one from Romantic/20th-21st century standard solo/recital repertoire. One must be in a foreign language. *A selection from the Broadway musical repertoire may be added as a third selection within the 20-minute total time limit.*

Musical Theatre: Two (2) songs of contrasting styles from the Broadway musical repertoire *within the 20-minute total time limit.* Students may audition for both the non-Musical Theater scholarships and the Cooper-Geracimos Musical Theater Scholarship (separate auditions, each with their own set of music requirements - contact RMF with questions).

Students intending to major specifically in jazz studies may substitute a selection from the jazz repertoire written for their instrument to use as a 20th/21st century selection or in place of one of their "standard concert solo repertoire" pieces.

NEED-SENSITIVE AWARDS (CAMP, LESSONS, INSTRUMENTS)

- No audition or fee is required.
- Previous recipients are encouraged to reapply.
- Scholarship Committee will determine recipients based upon written teacher recommendations. Students with financial need will be preferred over students with no apparent need (please note financial need in essay/recommendation).
- In the event a student receives an unfavorable teacher recommendation, RMF will consider the application on a case-by-case basis.
- Awards vary depending on level of financial need, with a maximum of $600.
- Awards will not be paid retroactively without written permission from RMF.
- CAMP: Students may attend any summer music camp of their choice, but preference may be made to camps not devoted solely to marching band instruction.
- PRIVATE LESSONS: RMF requires a nominal financial commitment from the family. A per-lesson "co-pay" of $5.00 is required. Payment should be arranged directly with the teacher.
- PRIVATE LESSONS: RMF need-sensitive scholarship awards cannot be used for fee-based lessons at K-12 school facilities during school hours, though before and after-school programs are permitted.

• INSTRUMENT UPGRADES: Instrument upgrade scholarships may be used toward the expense of a new instrument, cost to move an instrument, or cost to tune/repair your instrument. Awards will not be paid retroactively without written approval from RMF.

PIANO MERIT AUDITION GUIDELINES

Music Selections & Requirements for RMF Piano Auditions

- Students must play two pieces of contrasting style - one must be memorized.
- Time length for auditions:
  - Grades 1-6: No more than five minutes.
  - Grades 7-12 (excluding College Tuition): Total of no more than eight minutes.
- Intermediate and advanced students should avoid arrangements.

Contrasting Selections

Most piano adjudications, competitions, and auditions (including the RMF Auditions) require students to prepare contrasting pieces specifically written for the piano. "Contrasting" means that the selections have evident differences in tempo, style, key/tonality, touch/articulation, and historical era.

Selecting Appropriate Repertoire

Teachers and students should choose pieces that highlight the student's piano skills and match their current level, ensuring the music is challenging but achievable.

For early beginners, appropriate selections can include original pieces from widely recognized method books, such as those by Faber and Alfred, which are specifically composed for piano students.

Intermediate and advanced students should focus on established solo repertoire. Please avoid selections arranged for piano, such as pieces adapted from a different instrument or voice to piano, or movie themes or pop songs arranged for piano. Original compositions for piano better showcase the student's skills, as they are tailored to the piano's unique qualities. Exceptions: Advanced transcriptions by composers like Liszt are acceptable.

What Are Some Suitable Options?

For early students who are not yet ready for standard solo repertoire, original pieces from widely used method books (such as those by Faber, and the Alfred series) are acceptable and often include well-crafted beginner-level works that require piano-specific techniques. Additionally, pieces by composers such as (but not limited to) Türk, Gurlitt, Burgmüller, and "Streabbog" are excellent options. As students become more advanced, full movements of sonatas or suites become better choices. **For all levels, be sure the entire piece (or movement) is prepared for the audition – not just an excerpt.**

Questions?

For questions about repertoire, contact RMF at 610-376-3395. A listing of past winners' selections is available upon request.

AUDITION-BASED SCHOLARSHIPS
ALL SOLO PIANO APPLICANTS:

- Students must play two pieces of contrasting style - one must be memorized.
- Time length for auditions:
  Grades 1-6: No more than five minutes.
  Grades 7-12 (excluding College Tuition): Total no more than eight minutes.
- Please see page 5 for rules on using arrangements.
- Students may audition for multiple awards from two different piano programs in the same year, though they may not win both. Students will audition once regardless of how many awards they are eligible for (accompanist applicants may audition twice: once for solo proficiency [if desired], and once for accompanist proficiency). *Note separate requirements for the accompanist auditions.*

GRADES 1-9: Auditions Saturday, March 13, 2027
Application Deadline: Friday, January 29, 2027

GRADES 10-12: Auditions Sunday, March 14, 2027
Application Deadline: Friday, January 29, 2027

PIANO AWARDS FOR GRADES 1-3
Thomas W. & Marion Christman Balkcom Scholarship
- Students must attend school in Berks County or reside in Berks County

PIANO AWARDS FOR GRADES 4-6
Thomas W. & Marion Christman Balkcom Scholarship (Grades 4-6)
Robert R. Kreitz - Mark A. Hornberger Piano Scholarship (Grades 5-6)

PIANO AWARDS FOR GRADES 7-9
Bruce Bengtson Keyboard & Organ Scholarship (Grade 9)
Robert R. Kreitz - Mark A. Hornberger Piano Scholarship (Grades 7-8)
Runyeon Piano - Accompanist Award
- RMF will provide a professional vocalist to accompany for audition
- 2027 Music: Nina - G.B. Pergolese - Key of g minor (4 = 64)

FREE DOWNLOAD: https://artsongcentral.com/wp-content/uploads/ps153.pdf
Runyeon Piano Scholarship Fund - Solo Proficiency Award (Grades 7-9)
Ann W. Souders Piano Scholarship
- Students must attend school in Berks County or reside in Berks County

Chuck Loeb Memorial Jazz Fund (Virtual Submission: due by Feb. 26, 2027)
- Jazz Ensemble Award (separate application required) see page 12 for details

PIANO AWARDS FOR GRADES 10-12
Bruce Bengtson Keyboard & Organ Scholarship
William L. & Rebecca Gass Butler Accompanist Fund
- RMF will provide a professional vocalist to accompany for audition
- 2027 Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams - Whither Must I Wander? - Key of G Major (4 = 72)

FREE DOWNLOAD: https://artsongcentral.com/wp-content/uploads/SoT28h.pdf
Atonement Bach Scholarship
- Top-placing piano applicant is eligible for Atonement Bach Scholarship in 2027
- Recipient is required to perform for Atonement Lutheran Church
- Interested students must select "add Atonement" on their application

Chuck Loeb Memorial Jazz Fund (Virtual Submission: due by Feb. 26, 2027)
- Jazz Ensemble Award (separate application required) see page 12 for details

ORGAN APPLICANTS:
- Students must play two pieces of contrasting style
- Memorization not required
- Time length for auditions:
  Grades 6-12 (excluding College Tuition): Total no more than eight minutes.
- Arrangements are not acceptable - see page 5 for an explanation.
- Note: AGO Young Organist requirements differ.

ORGAN AWARDS FOR GRADES 6-12
AGO Young Organists Award (Grades 6-11)
- Open to students who reside in Berks County or Schuylkill County or attend schools in those counties
- For beginner/intermediate organists - students may audition on piano
- Award includes membership to the American Guild of Organists, Reading Chapter
- Two selections required: one must be from the Baroque period

Bruce Bengtson Keyboard & Organ Scholarship (Grades 9-12)
Marjorie Fitz Young Organist Scholarship Fund (Grades 9-12)
Lee G. & Marian M. Kachel Organ Scholarship (Grades 7-12)
Atonement Bach Scholarship (Grades 10-12)
- Top-placing organ applicant is eligible for Atonement Bach Scholarship in 2027
- Recipient is required to perform for Atonement Lutheran Church
- Interested students must select "add Atonement" on their application

GRADE 12: College Tuition Awards for Music Majors/Minors
Application Deadline: Friday, January 29, 2027
Audition Date: Live Auditions - Sunday, April 11, 2027
- Auditions at Immanuel UCC, Shillington | See page 13 for details

WOODWIND MERIT AWARDS

AUDITION-BASED SCHOLARSHIPS
ALL WOODWIND APPLICANTS
- No requirement on the number of pieces, and no memorization required.
- See page 3 for rules regarding accompanists.
- Time length for auditions:
  Grades 1-6: No more than five minutes.
  Grades 7-12 (excluding College Tuition): Total no more than eight minutes.
- Applicants in middle school and high school may have the opportunity to win the use/or ownership of certain instruments in addition to a monetary award. Detailed information will be sent to applicants prior to the audition.

GRADES 5-9: Saturday, March 13, 2027 Auditions
Application Deadline: Friday, January 29, 2027

GRADES 10-12: Sunday, March 14, 2027 Auditions
Application Deadline: Friday, January 29, 2027

WOODWIND AWARDS FOR GRADES 5-6
Thomas W. & Edna Garrett Balkcom Scholarship
- Students must attend school in Berks County or reside in Berks County

WOODWIND AWARDS FOR GRADES 7-9

Ann L. Cusano & Kim Webster Double Reed Scholarship
Work Family Woodwind Fund
Chuck Loeb Memorial Jazz Fund (Virtual Submission: due by Feb. 26, 2027)
- Jazz Ensemble Award (separate application required) see page 12 for details

WOODWIND AWARDS FOR GRADES 10-12

David Bilger Woodwind Scholarship
Ann L. Cusano & Kim Webster Double Reed Scholarship (Grades 10-11)
Work Family Woodwind Fund
Atonement Bach Scholarship
- Top-placing woodwind applicant is eligible for Atonement Bach Scholarship in 2027
- Recipient is required to perform for Atonement Lutheran Church
- Interested students must select "add Atonement" on their application

Chuck Loeb Memorial Jazz Fund (Virtual Submission: due by Feb. 26, 2027)
- Jazz Ensemble Award (separate application required) see page 12 for details

GRADE 12: College Tuition Awards for Music Majors/Minors

Application Deadline: Friday, January 29, 2027
Audition Date: Live Auditions - Sunday, April 11, 2027
- Auditions at Immanuel UCC, Shillington | See page 13 for details

BRASS MERIT AWARDS

AUDITION-BASED SCHOLARSHIPS
ALL BRASS APPLICANTS

- No requirement on the number of pieces, and no memorization required.
- See page 3 for rules regarding accompanists.
- Time length for auditions:
  Grades 1-6: No more than five minutes.
  Grades 7-12 (excluding College Tuition): Total no more than eight minutes.

GRADES 5-9: Saturday, March 13, 2027 Auditions
Application Deadline: Friday, January 29, 2027

GRADES 10-12: Sunday, March 14, 2027 Auditions
Application Deadline: Friday, January 29, 2027

BRASS AWARDS FOR GRADES 5-6

Thomas W. & Edna Garrett Balkcom Scholarship
- Students must attend school in Berks County or reside in Berks County

Mark Brumbach Euphonium Scholarship Program
- Available only in years that do not have any eligible applicants in Grades 7-12

Gerald & Joanne Wagner French Horn and Piano Scholarship

BRASS AWARDS FOR GRADES 7-9

Mark Brumbach Euphonium Scholarship Program (Euphonium Students)
- Open to all low brass instruments if no euphonium students apply

Chuck Loeb Memorial Jazz Fund (Virtual Submission: due by Feb. 26, 2027)
- Jazz Ensemble Award (separate application required) see page 12 for details

Timothy & Bonnie (Schanley) Simmons Scholarship Fund
- Low Brass instruments only (trombone, bass trombone, euphonium, baritone and tuba)

Gerald & Joanne Wagner French Horn and Piano Scholarship

• Awards extended to Grades 7-9 if there are not any elementary applicants

BRASS AWARDS FOR GRADES 10-12

Mark Brumbach Euphonium Scholarship Program (Euphonium Students)
• Open to all low brass instruments if no euphonium students apply

Henry A. & Elizabeth S. Gass Brass Scholarship Fund (Grades 10-11)

Lewis "Skip" Norcott III Low Brass Scholarship - High School Award
• Must audition on trombone, euphonium, baritone, Sousaphone or tuba

Timothy & Bonnie (Schanley) Simmons Scholarship Fund
• Low Brass instruments only (trombone, bass trombone, euphonium, baritone and tuba)

Atonement Bach Scholarship
• Top-placing brass applicant is eligible for Atonement Bach Scholarship in 2027
• Recipient is required to perform for Atonement Lutheran Church
• Interested students must select "add Atonement" on their application

Chuck Loeb Memorial Jazz Fund (Virtual Submission: due by Feb. 26, 2027)
• Jazz Ensemble Award (separate application required) see page 12 for details

GRADE 12: College Tuition Awards for Music Majors/Minors
Application Deadline: Friday, January 29, 2027
Audition Date: Live Auditions - Sunday, April 11, 2027
• Auditions at Immanuel UCC, Shillington | See page 13 for details

STRING, GUITAR & HARP MERIT AWARDS

AUDITION-BASED SCHOLARSHIPS
ALL STRING, GUITAR, & HARP APPLICANTS

• No requirement on the number of pieces, and no memorization required.
• See page 3 for rules regarding accompanists.
• Time length for auditions:
  Grades 1-6: No more than five minutes.
  Grades 7-12 (excluding College Tuition): Total no more than eight minutes.
• Applicants in middle school and high school may have the opportunity to win the use/or ownership of certain instruments in addition to a monetary award. Detailed information will be sent to applicants prior to the audition.
• Specific music requirements for jazz guitar auditions - see page 10 for details

GRADES 1-9 (String/Harp): Saturday, March 13, 2027 Auditions
GRADES 4-9 (Guitar): Sunday, March 14, 2027 Auditions
Application Deadline: Friday, January 29, 2027

GRADES 10-12 (String/Harp/Guitar):
Sunday, March 14, 2027 Auditions
Application Deadline: Friday, January 29, 2027

STRING AWARDS FOR GRADES 1-6

Katherine N. Quartner - Rita Quartner Herman String Scholarship
• Students must attend school in Berks County or reside in Berks County
• Awards available in two categories: Grades 1-3 and Grades 4-6

STRING & HARP AWARDS FOR GRADES 7-9

Peter J. Brye Cello & Harp Fund

Katherine N. Quartner - Rita Quartner Herman String Scholarship
• Students must attend school in Berks County or reside in Berks County

Dr. Thomas B. Souders String Scholarship
String Tree Bass Scholarship (Double Bass Players)
Chuck Loeb Memorial Jazz Fund (Virtual Submission: due by Feb. 26, 2027)
- Jazz Ensemble Award (separate application required) see page 12 for details

STRING & HARP AWARDS FOR GRADES 10-12

Peter J. Brye Cello & Harp Fund
Katherine N. Quartner - Rita Quartner Herman String Scholarship
- Students must attend school in Berks County or reside in Berks County

String Tree Bass Scholarship (Double Bass Players)
Atonement Bach Scholarship
- Top-placing string applicant is eligible for Atonement Bach Scholarship in 2027
- Recipient is required to perform for Atonement Lutheran Church
- Interested students must select "add Atonement" on their application

Chuck Loeb Memorial Jazz Fund (Virtual Submission: due by Feb. 26, 2027)
- Jazz Ensemble Award (separate application required) see page 12 for details

CLASSICAL GUITAR AWARDS FOR GRADES 4-12

Aynardi Family Classical Guitar Scholarship
Atonement Bach Scholarship (Grades 10-12)
- Top-placing guitar applicant is eligible for Atonement Bach Scholarship in 2027
- Recipient is required to perform for Atonement Lutheran Church
- Interested students must select "add Atonement" on their application

JAZZ GUITAR AWARDS FOR GRADES 7-12

Carl & Mary Zeplin Jazz Guitar Scholarship Fund
- There are unique requirements and a specific rotating list of repertoire choices for Jazz Guitar. These requirements and instructions can be found at https://readingmusicalfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/11/2027-Jazz-Guitar-Selections-and-Instructions.pdf or via QR code to the right.

GRADE 12: College Tuition Awards for Music Majors/Minors

Application Deadline: Friday, January 29, 2027
Audition Date: Live Auditions - Sunday, April 11, 2027
- Auditions at Immanuel UCC, Shillington | See page 13 for details

PERCUSSION MERIT AWARDS

AUDITION-BASED SCHOLARSHIPS FOR ALL PERCUSSION APPLICANTS

- No requirement on the number of pieces, and no memorization required.
- Percussionists will audition without accompaniment.
- Time length for auditions:
  Grades 7-12 (excluding College Tuition): Total no more than eight minutes.

GRADES 7-12: Sunday, March 14, 2027 Auditions

Application Deadline: Friday, January 29, 2027

PERCUSSION AWARDS FOR GRADES 7-9

Willis M. Rapp Percussion Fund

Chuck Loeb Memorial Jazz Fund (Virtual Submission: due by Feb. 26, 2027)
• Jazz Ensemble Award (separate application required) see page 12 for details

PERCUSSION AWARDS FOR GRADES 10-12

Willis M. Rapp Percussion Fund
Atonement Bach Scholarship
• Top placing percussion applicant is eligible for Atonement Bach Scholarship in 2027
• Recipient is required to perform for Atonement Lutheran Church
• Interested students must select "add Atonement" on their application
Chuck Loeb Memorial Jazz Fund (Virtual Submission: due by Feb. 26, 2027)
• Jazz Ensemble Award (separate application required) see page 12 for details

GRADE 12: College Tuition Awards for Music Majors/Minors
Application Deadline: Friday, January 29, 2027
Audition Date: Live Auditions - Sunday, April 11, 2027
• Auditions at Immanuel UCC, Shillington | See page 13 for details

VOICE MERIT AWARDS

AUDITION-BASED SCHOLARSHIPS
ALL VOCAL APPLICANTS

• No requirement on the number of pieces, and no memorization required.
• See page 3 for rules regarding accompanists.
• Time length for auditions:
Grades 7-12 & College (excluding College Tuition Awards):
Total no more than eight minutes.

GRADES 7-9: Saturday, March 13, 2027 Auditions
Application Deadline: Friday, January 29, 2027

GRADES 10-12: Sunday, March 14, 2027 Auditions
Application Deadline: Friday, January 29, 2027

VOICE AWARDS FOR GRADES 7-9
Holly Altenderfer - Nancy Voigt Middle School Voice Award

VOICE AWARDS FOR GRADES 10-12 & College
Timothy & Bonnie (Schanley) Simmons Scholarship Fund

Isabel W. Sondheim Scholarship (Grades 10-12 & College)
• Students must attend school in Berks County or reside in Berks County
• Students enrolled in college, university or a music conservatory who graduated from a Berks County school are also eligible to apply

Atonement Bach Scholarship (Grades 10-12)
• Top-placing voice applicant is eligible for Atonement Bach Scholarship in 2027
• Recipient is required to perform for Atonement Lutheran Church
• Interested students must select "add Atonement" on their application
Chuck Loeb Memorial Jazz Fund (Virtual Submission: due by Feb. 26, 2027)
• Jazz Ensemble Award (separate application required) see page 12 for details

GRADE 12: College Tuition Awards for Music Majors/Minors
Application Deadline: Friday, January 29, 2027
Audition Date: Live Auditions - Sunday, April 11, 2027
• Auditions at Immanuel UCC, Shillington | See Page 13 for Other Details

JAZZ SCHOLARSHIPS

AUDITION-BASED ENSEMBLE SCHOLARSHIP
Virtual Submission Due by February 26, 2027
Application Deadline: Friday, January 29, 2027

Chuck Loeb Memorial Jazz Ensemble Scholarship
- This is NOT a live audition. Ensembles will need to submit digital video/audio recording (via Google or YouTube link).
- One winning ensemble to receive cash awards and opportunity to perform at the Chuck Loeb Memorial All-Star Jam on Thursday, April 8. Other awards may be available at the discretion of the adjudicator(s).
- Ensembles may consist of instrumentalists and/or vocalists of two or more students. Open to students in Grades 7-12 who live in and attend school in Berks County. Ensemble may feature students in Grades 7-12 from outside Berks, or enrolled in college, but they may not make up the majority of the ensemble.
- Ensembles should prepare two selections of contrasting style. All pieces must feature improvisation. Audition may not exceed 15 minutes.

OTHER SCHOLARSHIPS

CONRAD WEISER STUDENTS ONLY
MARCHING BAND, COLOR GUARD, INDOOR PERCUSSION
- No audition or fee is required and previous recipients are encouraged to apply.
- Students should send a letter of interest to Reading Musical Foundation

JOHN & SUZIE ERNESTO JAZZ SOLOIST AWARD
Open to Berks All-Star Jazz Ensemble Members
Determined by Berks All-Star Jazz Ensemble Guest Conductor
- One scholarship is awarded annually to an outstanding jazz musician participating in the audition-based Berks All-Star Jazz Ensemble

FLEETWOOD STUDENTS ONLY
Fleetwood Aspiring Musician Award
Determined by Music Department
- One instrument upgrade scholarship is awarded annually to recognize students playing beyond high school in an effort to recognize lifelong musicianship.

HELEN AHRENS WEIDNER SNYDER FUND
Application Deadline: Selected by area music teachers
- RMF will contact eligible teachers annually each spring for their nominations.
- Awards outstanding students transitioning from elementary school to middle school for private lessons.
- Recipients are selected by their music teachers.

VA PRODUCTIONS DRUM MAJOR SCHOLARSHIP
Application Deadline: April 23, 2027
- RMF will contact eligible teachers annually each spring for their nominations.
- Up to four scholarships available annually for high school band directors to select a student (preferably their incoming drum major) to attend a summer camp program specialized for drum majors. RMF will contact schools on an alphabetical, rotating basis.

AUDITION-BASED SCHOLARSHIPS

Application Deadline: Friday, January 29, 2027
Audition Date: Live Auditions - Sunday, April 11, 2027
Audition Location: Immanuel UCC, Shillington

High School Seniors | Requirements for All Applicants:

- *Please read carefully the music requirements on page 4.*
- Students must provide an accompanist (teachers may not accompany their students). Students must name their accompanist at the time of applying. Please see page 3 for complete information regarding accompanists.
- Students must have been accepted as a music major by an accredited school of post-secondary education by the time of the audition. (Haage Scholarship is open to any senior accepted to a college or university and who is not enrolling as a music major but will be taking music credits.)
- If not specified, the student must attend high school in, or reside in, Berks County.
- An audition of no more than 20 minutes. Adjudicators will halt auditions exceeding the time limit.
- Vocalists must include a piece performed in a foreign language (excluding Musical Theater).
- Memorization: pianists and vocalists must memorize their selections. Instrumentalists and organists are not required to memorize their selections.
- In addition to the other application requirements, *students must include a copy of their high school transcripts and two letters of recommendation (one mustic teacher and one other than a music teacher) with their application.*
- Recorded auditions are not accepted.
- Awards are paid directly to the college, university or institution, and prorated over two, four or eight semesters, depending on the amount of the award (details shared in award letters to students following auditions).
- Students will audition in front of a panel of qualified adjudicators.

Michael Buterbaugh Family Music Education Scholarship (Music Education Majors Only)
Robert Cooper - Nicholas Geracimos Musical Theatre Scholarship (Musical Theatre Majors Only)
- See page 4 for music requirements

Samuel L. Correnti Scholarship (Woodwind, Brass, Percussion Only)
George Haage RMTA Scholarship (All Instruments, including Voice)
- Open to students who are enrolling as a music minor or taking music credits. Monies will be paid directly to the university for tuition (music minors) or university for credit hours/teachers for private lessons (non-music majors).

Lewis "Skip" Norcott III Scholarship (Low Brass Only)
Ruth & Spencer Overholser Orchestral String Scholarship (Violin, Viola, Cello or String Bass Only)
- Adjudicators may prefer students of comparable skill level who demonstrate financial need. (Teachers may make reference to need in their recommendation.)

Mildred Mogel Engle Scholarship (All Instruments, including Voice)
Elaine Bausher Post Scholarship (All Instruments, including Voice)
Kathryn I. Schiffner Music Scholarship (Piano or Voice Only)
Helen Smith RMTA Scholarship (All Instruments, including Voice)
Charlotte B. Wicklein Scholarship (All Instruments, including Voice - Only Female Applicants)

PRIVATE STUDY & INSTRUMENT UPGRADE SCHOLARSHIPS

NEED-SENSITIVE PRIVATE STUDY & INSTRUMENT UPGRADE SCHOLARSHIPS

Application Deadlines: February 12, 2027; April 23, 2027; July 16, 2027; and October 15, 2027

- Students must reside in and attend school in Berks County.
- No audition or fee is required to apply.
- Previous recipients are encouraged to reapply.
- Applications must include student essay and teacher recommendation.
- Students with financial need will be preferred.
- Awards vary depending on level of financial need, with a maximum of $600.
- RMF requires a nominal financial commitment from the family. A per-lesson "co-pay" of $5.00 is required. Payment should be arranged with the teacher.
- These awards cannot be used for fee-based lessons at K-12 school facilities during school hours, though before and after-school programs are permitted.
- Instrument Upgrade Scholarships can be used to purchase step-up instruments and will be paid directly to vendor or reimbursement to parents with receipt/proof of purchase. Awards range from $350-$500, unless noted.
- Awards will not be paid retroactively without written permission from RMF.

NEED-SENSITIVE PRIVATE STUDY/UPGRADE AWARDS

Alisa B. Anderson Vocal Fund (Reading Schools - Grades 7-12)
- Private study awards for vocalists in the Reading School District

Antietam Music Boosters Scholarship Program (Grades 4-12)
- Private study awards for instrumentalists and vocalists attending Antietam schools.

Aynardi Family Classical Guitar Scholarship (Grades 4-12)
- Private study awards for classical guitarists

Berks Community Service & Music Fund (Grades 9-12)
- One annual award for a student who excels in music and community service
- Application should include separate letter of recommendation that commends students for an exceptional commitment to community service.

Kenneth Blekicki Memorial Scholarship Fund (Grades 7-9)
- Private study awards for band instruments, with saxophone preferred

Blue Mountain Foundation High School Vocal Scholarship (Grades 9-12)
- Private study awards for vocalists

Chairman's Fund (Grades 1-12)
- Private study and instrument upgrade awards for vocalists and instrumentalists

Coller Family Wilson Piano Fund (Grades 1-12)
- Private study awards for pianists in the Wilson School District

Fred's Music Shop Scholarship (Grades 7-12)
- Instrument upgrade awards (up to $1,000) for electric guitarists

Denny Frey Music Scholarship (Grades 4-9)
- Private study awards for low brass instrumentalists

Geoffrey S.H. Fuchs Memorial Music Study Program (Reading Schools - Grades 7-12)
- Private study awards for instrumentalists in the Reading School District

Henry A. & Elizabeth S. Gass Brass Scholarship (Grades 7-12)
- Private study awards and instrument upgrade awards for brass musicians

Nicholas Giovanelli Music Scholarship Fund (Grades 7-12)
- Private study and instrument upgrade/repair awards for woodwind musicians

Betty Hottenstein Piano Scholarship (Grades 1-12)
- Private study awards for pianists

Kern Family Wind Instrument Scholarship Fund (Grades 7-12)
- Private study awards for wind musicians

David L. Kline Family Mountain Folk Scholarship (All Ages)
- Private study and instrument upgrades available to students studying beginner/intermediate acoustic guitar, banjo, fiddle (violin), mandolin, ukulele, bass fiddle (string bass), dobro, hammered dulcimer, lap dulcimer, autoharp, and related instruments, with an emphasis upon performance of American folk and roots music.

Robert "Bobby Raye" Lilarose Scholarship (Wilson Schools - Grades 4-12)
- Private study and instrument upgrade awards for instrumentalists in the Wilson School District

Jim McCauley Memorial Music Fund (Reading Schools - Grades 7-12)
- Private study awards for instrumentalists in the Reading School District

Sally S. Breidegam Miksiewicz Vocal Music Scholarship (Grades 7-9)
- Private study awards for vocalists

Eric & Georganne Moyer Music Fund (Reading Schools - Grades 4-12)
- Private study awards for instrumentalists in the Reading School District

Edward & Madeline Nawrocki Percussion Fund (Grades 7-9)
- Private study awards for percussionists

Ray & Carole Neag Middle School Vocal Program (Grades 7-9)
- Private study awards for vocalists

Solomon Frank & Phyllis Ensher Peters Oboe & String Fund (Grades 7-12)
- Instrument upgrade awards for oboe, harp, and string musicians

Kathleen & Karin Reinsel Early Instrument Scholarship (All Ages)
- Private study and instrument upgrade awards are available for students of any age (excluding professional level) on recorder, harpsichord, harp, mandolin, and certain other early instruments (including bagpipes).

RMF Early Piano Scholarship Fund (Grades 4-6)
- Private study awards for pianists

Scheidt/Heslop Jazz Fund (Grades 7-12)
- Jazz-related private study awards for instrumentalists and vocalists

Dr. Thomas B. Souders String Scholarship (Grades 7-9)
- Private study awards for string musicians

Swartz Family Young Musician Scholarship (Grades 7-12)
- Jazz-related private study awards for pianists

Gerald & Joanne Wagner French Horn & Piano Fund (Grades 5-6)
- French horn and piano awards for students

Wilson Instrumental Fund (Wilson Schools - Grades 4-12)
- Private study and instrument upgrade awards for instrumentalists in Wilson schools

Work Family Woodwind Fund (Grades 7-12)
- Private study and instrument upgrade awards for woodwind musicians

SUMMER CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS

NEED-SENSITIVE SUMMER CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS

Application Deadline: Friday, April 23, 2027
Decisions will be made by Monday, May 10, 2027

- Students may attend any summer camp of their choosing.
- No audition or fee is required.
- Previous recipients are encouraged to reapply.
- The Scholarship Committee may prefer applicants enrolled in programs not devoted primarily to marching band instruction.
- Students with financial need will be preferred (teachers should mention family financial need in their recommendations).
- Awards vary depending on level of financial need, with a maximum of $600.
- Students are required to return photos and a thank you letter

SUMMER CAMP, CONTINUED

SUMMER CAMP AWARDS (GRADES 4-11)
Peter J. Brye Cello & Harp Fund
William & Rebecca Gass Butler Accompanist Fund
Chairman's Fund
Irvin & Lois E. Cohen Vocal Scholarship
John Ernesto Jazz Scholarship Fund
James E. Fegley Orchestral String Scholarship Fund
Henry A. & Elizabeth S. Gass Brass Scholarship
Gladys & Carl Jensen Summer Camp Program
Robert "Bobby Raye" Lilarose Wilson Scholarship (Wilson Schools)
Sally S. Breidegam Miksiewicz Vocal Music Scholarship
Solomon Frank & Phyllis Ensher Peters Oboe & String Fund
Willis M. Rapp Percussion Summer Camp Program
RMF EITC Summer Camp Fellowships
Runyeon Piano Scholarship Fund
Scheidt/Heslop Jazz Fund
Wilson Instrumentalist Fund (Wilson Schools)
Work Family Woodwind Fund

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR ADULTS

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR ADULTS (Ages 18+)

Application Deadlines: February 12, 2027; April 23, 2027; July 16, 2027; and October 15, 2027

Requirements for All Applicants:

- No audition or fee is required.
- Applicants must reside in Berks County unless noted otherwise.
- Previous recipients are encouraged to reapply.
- Scholarship Committee will determine recipients based upon letter of interest submitted by the applicant. Adults with financial need will be preferred (please note financial need in letter).
- Awards will not be paid retroactively without written permission from RMF.
- The Foundation will make awards of up to $600 per recipient.

Gibbs Artist Development Fund

- Open to musicians with a Bachelor's degree in any music field. This matching award requires equal funding from the applicant or another source and may support any professional music development, such as festivals, camps, or graduate studies

Lee G. & Marian M. Kachel Organ Scholarship

- Awards are available to adults who wish to begin/continue studying the organ.

David L. Kline Family Mountain Folk Scholarship (All Ages)

- Available to beginner/intermediate acoustic guitar, banjo, fiddle, mandolin, ukulele, dobro, dulcimer, autoharp, and related folk instruments
- Should awards remain available after June 1, students outside Berks County may apply if they can document participation in Berks County music activities
- Private study and/or instrument upgrade scholarships are available.

Kathleen & Karin Reinsel Early Instrument Fund (All Ages)

- Awards are available for students of any age (excluding professional level) on recorder, harpsichord, harp, mandolin, and certain other early instruments (including bagpipes). Private study and/or instrument upgrade scholarships are available.

NON-RMF AWARDS BY AUDITION

Please contact organizations directly for more information

Berks Sinfonietta Scholarship Competition Award (Grades 10-12)

Contact: Dr. David McConnell, Artistic Director, info@berkssinfonietta.org
Details: Open to all students who attend a Berks County high school, regardless of instrument or college major. Two winners will be selected for a $500 scholarship and the opportunity to perform with the orchestra at its August 2027 concert.
Application Deadline: March 31, 2027
More Information: https://berkssinfonietta.org/scholarship-competition/

Ringgold Band Young Artists Award (HS Seniors - Berks)

Contact: Cynthia Miller-Aungst, m3flute@gmail.com
Details: A $1,000 cash award and opportunity to solo with the Ringgold Band to a student who plans to either major or minor in music or continue to play in an instrumental ensemble in college or the military. This audition is open to senior students who attend a Berks County public or parochial school, or are homeschooled.
Application Deadline: January 30, 2027 | Audition Date: Mon., February 8, 2027
More information: At Ringgold Band's website: www.ringgoldband.com

Reading Choral Society

Contact: Susan Coughlin, at scoughlin@readingchoral.org
Applications/More Information: Please visit website at www.readingchoral.org
Auditions will be held in person at Immanuel UCC, Shillington on Saturday, February 6, 2027, and Saturday, February 13, 2027, from 9:30-12pm each day.

College Choral Singer Scholarship Award - Reading Choral Society will award scholarships to college students who are currently enrolled at a college or university as a Vocal/Choral major, Music Education major or a Theatre/Performance Major and participate in vocal/choral ensembles. Undergraduate or graduate students who are ages 18–30 and are a native/resident of Berks County may apply. Auditions Required - Contact RCS for audition information. Deadline to apply: January 10, 2027

High School Senior Scholarship Awards - Through an audition/application process, RCS will award scholarships to high school seniors in Berks County who will major in or participate in Vocal/choral music, Theatre/Performance and/or Music Education in college. Deadline to apply: January 10, 2027

OTHER MUSIC AWARDS

Berks County Community Foundation Music Scholarships

For High School Seniors Graduating in 2027
Application Window: December 1, 2026-February 1, 2027
Application & Details: https://rebrand.ly/bccfscholarship
Contact: Adam Void, adamv@bccf.org, (610) 685-2223

Jim & Margie Fegley Orchestral String Scholarship Fund

The Fegley String Scholarship provides an annual scholarship to a Berks County resident who is pursuing his or her education in the field of music, more specifically, orchestral strings. Applicants must be pursuing a Bachelor of Music, Bachelor of Music Education, Bachelor of Arts in Music, Bachelor of Science in Music degree or a music certificate. The applicant must have been an active participant in his or her high school or college music program or a music program outside the school.

Jere O'Boyle Memorial Scholarship Fund

For Daniel Boone High School seniors who excel in the study of music. Preference given to students who will be pursuing a college degree in music. *Daniel Boone Only.*

Richard and Joyce Hassler Memorial Musicians Scholarship Fund
For Conrad Weiser graduating seniors who have been active in the music program (band or chorus) and intend to pursue their education after high school. This is not limited to students attending college or university; those attending trade school or other post-secondary schooling are eligible for support. *Conrad Weiser Only.*

Albert Boscov Memorial Scholarship Fund
Provides scholarships to graduating seniors from a Berks County high school who will be pursuing their education in the area of performing arts, entertainment, or sports management, including but not limited to music, performance art, entertainment business, music business, or sports management. Family members of SMG Reading and Berks County Convention Center Authority are ineligible to apply for this scholarship.

OTHER MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES ACROSS BERKS

Berks Summer Band Institute (Open to All Ages)
Contact: John Evans at evansj@muhlsdk12.net
Programs: Free, weekly band program for musicians of all ages
2027 Information: Check www.readingmusicalfoundation.org closer to summer.

Berks Summer String Institute (1st-5th Year String Students)
Contact: Steven Holgate, Director, at brass_coach@yahoo.com
Programs: Free, weekly string program for 1st-5th year string students
2027 Information: Check www.berkstrings.org or Facebook in April 2027

Berks Youth Chorus (Grades 3-12)
Music Together ® Berks Youth Chorus (ages 0-7...and the grownups who love them! ®)
Contact: Megan Charlesworth, director@berksyouthchorus.org or (610) 898-7664
Programs: MasterSingers/Chorale/Choristers (3 choruses of varying levels, rehearsing weekly and performing throughout the region during the school year), Summer Sing, Music Together Mixed Ages (0-5) , and Music Together Rhythm Kids (K-2) |
More Information: www.berksyouthchorus.org

getJazzed Berks (Jazz Students - All Ages)
Contact: info@berksjazzfest.com or (484) 345-1733
getJazzed Programs: Festivals, Adjudications, Jams, Other Special Events
Summer Camp Program: Summer jazz camp for area student jazz musicians |
Contact: Mike Eben at Trane12b@mac.com
More information: https://www.berksjazzfest.com/about-getjazzed

Kutztown University Summer Music Festival (KUSMF)
Contact: Dr. Maria Asteriadou, asteriad@kutztown.edu
Program: Summer chamber music camp for high school and college age musicians (middle school students may be accepted depending on instrument/level of talent)
2027 information: Details at www.kusummermusicfestival.com

Olivet Boys & Girls Club Music Programs at the PAL Center for the Arts (Open to Students Age 7 - 14)
Contact: Brianna Williams, at (610) 373-8910 or Brianna.williams@olivetbgc.org
Weekly Classes: Recording Studio, Guitar, Keyboard, Percussion, and Choral
Summer Camp 2027 information: Contact Ms. Williams in March 2027

Opus One: Berks Chamber Choir
Contact: Christopher Hoster, at info@opusonechamberchoir.com
Programs: Membership Choir, Concerts, Masterclasses, Professional Development, etc.
More Information: www.opusonechamberchoir.com

Greater Reading Alliance of Community Theaters
Contact: info@greaterreadingact.org
Program: Advertises & unites local theatre groups to strengthen collaboration, share resources, and promote a vibrant, high-quality community theatre scene in Reading
More information: https://greaterreadingact.com/

Reading Choral Society (Open to HS Juniors/Seniors, College)
Contact: Susan Coughlin, scoughlin@readingchoral.org
Programs: Membership Chorus, Scholarship Opportunities, High School Choral Workshops, Community Sings, Concert performances and other Special Events
More information: www.readingchoral.org

Reading Philharmonic Orchestra (Open to Students of any Age)
Contact: Email info@readingphilharmonic.com
Directors: Michael Slechta, Conductor and Nanette O'Neal Assistant Conductor
Programs: Community Orchestra and Scholarship for students pursuing a graduate degree in conducting.
More Information: www.readingphilharmonic.com

Reading Pops Orchestra
Contact: Jessica Godek, at jessicagodek@gmail.com
Programs: Side-by-Side Orchestra Program
More Information: www.readingpops.com

Reading Symphony Junior String Orchestra (Grades 4-8)
Reading Symphony Youth Orchestra (Grades 9-12)
Contact: David Himes, Education Manager at education@readingsymphony.org
Directors: Christopher Cinquini, Youth Orchestra | Bryan Sanguinito, Junior Strings
Programs: Youth Orchestra Concerts, Reading Symphony Concerts, Side-by-side opportunities, Sectionals with players from national orchestras and community performance opportunities
Audition Information: https://readingsymphony.org/ or call (610) 373-7557

Ringgold Band
Contact: Chuck Ebersole, chuck.ebersole@ringgoldband.com
Student Programs: District 10 Reading Sessions, Young Artists Awards, Banding Together concerts, and Side-by-Side Concerts
More Information: www.ringgoldband.com

Sunday Sinfonia Orchestra (Open to Students of any Age)
Contact & More Information: Use form via website at www.sundaysinfonia.org
Director: Simon Maurer, Artistic Director
Program: Community orchestra program with two concerts annually

Yocum Institute for Arts Education (Preschool to Adults)
Contact: Vicki Graff, Executive Director, at vgraff@yocuminstitute.org, or call (610) 376-1576
Programs: include group and private music instruction, audition-based Berks Piano Quartet program, musical theater classes and auditions/productions
More Information: www.yocuminstitute.org

ABOUT THE READING MUSICAL FOUNDATION

RMF believes that every child in Berks should have access to high quality music programs, and our scholarship program allows us to make that possible. Not every student musician will become a professional musician, but the skills they've learned through choir and band will play an important role in whatever direction they choose. Students who participate in music have a tangible advantage when it comes to developing a strong work ethic and positive attitude.

Currently celebrating 100 years in 2026, RMF is a public charity that provides financial support for music presenters in Berks County, music scholarships by audition and in response to financial need, and extensive music outreach, including programs in most of Berks County's public and parochial schools. RMF is governed by a self-perpetuating board of volunteer trustees and is administered by two full-time employees. The Foundation depends upon the public's support each year.

RMF's annual efforts to support music education and appreciation include:

- Investing more than $300,000 in scholarships for Berks County student musicians, divided equally between audition-based awards and awards that respond to financial need.
- Supporting local music organizations with $400,000 in program grants that advance and advocate for music education and appreciation.
- Advocating for Berks County's strong music network, from strengthening the capacity of school music programs to economic development found in the arts, as well as community access to concerts and ensembles.
- Ensuring quality instruments are available to students, regardless of their ability to afford them through Operation Replay, RMF's instrument recycling program.

MISSION STATEMENT

RMF's mission is to advance and advocate for music education and appreciation in Berks County.

NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

The Reading Musical Foundation does not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, sex or age in admission or participation in its programs, services and activities, or in employment.

ESTABLISHING A SCHOLARSHIP FUND

If you are interested in joining the more than four dozen individuals and families who have shared their music legacy with the music students of Berks County, please contact Keri Shultz, RMF President, at kshultz@readingmusicalfoundation.org. There are multiple scholarship fund options, and we will work to create a plan that suits your giving preferences.

STAY CONNECTED

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