RMF 100 YEARS
Reading Musical Foundation

berks shines 2026











READING MUSICAL FOUNDATION

Berks Shines features students of all ages and music genres who are connected to RMF's scholarship and outreach programs.

Proceeds support RMF's efforts to provide access to music education through scholarships and instruments, and further RMF's advocacy work to make music education a priority in our schools.

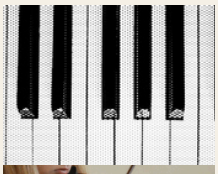
ABOUT RMF

celebrating 100 years!

RMF believes that every child in Berks should have access to high quality music programs, and events like Berks Shines allow 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.

RMF is a public charity that provides financial support to music presenters in Berks County; awards music scholarships based on auditions and financial need; and conducts extensive music outreach, including programs in most of Berks County's public and parochial schools. A self-perpetuating board of volunteer trustees governs RMF, and a staff of two full-time and one part-time employees administers it. The Foundation relies on public support each year.

RMF'S ANNUAL EFFORTS TO SUPPORT MUSIC EDUCATION AND APPRECIATION INCLUDE:



Investing more than $250,000 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 $200,000 in program grants that advance and advocate for music education and appreciation.



Advocating for Berks County's strong music network by strengthening the capacity of school music programs, supporting the economic development generated by the arts, and expanding 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, sponsored by Zeswitz Music.

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www.readingmusicalfoundation.org

BERKS SHINES PROGRAM

Celebrating extraordinary student musicians
with Reading Musical Foundation

WELCOME

Steph Kocher, Chair
Keri Shultz, President
Dr. Willis Rapp, Host

PERFORMANCES

Mia Perezous | marimba
Air by Handel
Prelude No. 1 in E minor by Ney Rosauro

Maeve Sasse | voice
accompanied by Mary Bishop
I Don't Know What I'd Do from
Gentlemen's Guide to Love and Murder

Freya Cao | piano
Piano Sonata No. 14 in C-sharp minor
Op. 27, No. 2: III. Presto agitato by
Ludwig Van Beethoven

Jakob Wiswesser | banjo
Pike County Breakdown
Reuben
John Hardy
Lonesome Road Blues

Scout Six | A Cappella
Cecilia Baum, Gabriel Campbell, Ava Lowery, Shawn Muraira, Ruthanne Metzger, Elizabeth Steffy
Blackbird
When She Loved Me
The Longest Time

CLOSING

Fran Post, Chair of Development

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meet our performers



Mia Perezous *marimba*

Mia is currently a junior at Wilson High School and is in her school's choir and band ensembles. She is in marching band and indoor percussion where she has been front ensemble section leader for three years. Mia participates in county band and orchestra and has been a three-time recipient of the Willis M. Rapp scholarship. She studies percussion with Brent Behrenhausen and plans to continue music in college. Outside of music, she enjoys reading and spending time with friends. She is so grateful to be a soloist and is appreciative of her teachers' and Reading Musical Foundations's continued support!

Freya Cao *piano*

Freya has studied piano for 11 years and violin for 6 years. She attends Lancaster Country Day School and studies piano with Dr. Xun Pan and violin with Inna Eyzerovich. Freya enjoys being part of the music community through PMEA, counties, and orchestras such as RSYO. She has won several first-place awards through RMF and has performed on stages such as Merkin Hall in New York City after winning international competitions.She is also part of a chamber group called Berks Camerata. Participating in this friend-made septet allows her to give back and serve the community by sharing classical music with her friends. She loves playing sports, learning about science, and of course, playing music with friends. She would like to thank RMF for serving the Berks community and giving her this wonderful opportunity to perform.



meet our performers



Maeve Sasse *voice*

Maeve Sasse is currently a junior at Wilson High School. She has been performing since she was 7 years old and loves getting to be on stage. She most recently played “Ella” in her high school’s production of “Cinderella” and currently takes vocal lessons with Joanne Abrom. She hopes to pursue a BFA program in college, continuing her studies in Musical Theatre. She is so grateful to RMF for giving her the opportunity to perform at this year’s Berks Shines!

Jakob Wiswesser *banjo*

Jakob is 16 years old from the Fleetwood/Oley area and is in 10th grade at Lighthouse Christian Academy. He's been playing banjo for five years, guitar for eight years, and also plays dobro, and is learning the mandolin. He's been a fan of bluegrass music since he was just one year old, growing up with the music and seeing his Pappy play the banjo. He's a member of Long Acre Hollow Bluegrass Band, and a member of The Blue Marsh Ramblers who play for hoedowns. Jakob’s other interests aside from music are reading about and watching WWII documentaries, building WWII plane models, going for walks, and spending time with friends & family, especially his grandparents. He also loves animals and all things vintage.





Scout Six *a cappella*

The Scout Six is an a cappella group comprising of Juniors and Seniors from Conrad Weiser High School. The group met after school a few days a week in preparation for this event. They are normally a part of the Conrad Weiser Choraleers, the auditioned vocal ensemble from CW.

The group includes: Gabriel Campbell, Ava Lowery, Shawn Muraira, Ruthanne Metzger, Cecelia Baum, and Elizabeth Steffy.



2026 Berks Shines Performer Sponsor

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READING MUSICAL FOUNDATION

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

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The Next Century Fund is more than a milestone celebration—it is a deliberate investment in what Berks County will sound like 100 years from now.

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