

ILLINOIS SYMPHONY GUILD
OF BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL
2026 INSTRUMENTAL MUSICIAN SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

AUDITION DATE: SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2026 – 1:00PM-5:00PM

IWU WESTBROOK AUDITORIUM, PRESSER HALL SCHOOL OF MUSIC

APPLICATION DEADLINE: MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2026 – NO EXCEPTIONS

PLEASE CLEARLY **PRINT** THE BELOW INFORMATION

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ PHONE _____

YOUR EMAIL & TEXT (* one preferred) _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN PHONE _____ EMAIL & TEXT _____

SCHOOL _____ GRADE _____ AGE _____

SCHOOL MUSIC DIRECTOR (if applicable) _____

INSTRUMENT TO BE PLAYED AT AUDITION _____

DO YOU STUDY YOUR INSTRUMENT PRIVATELY? _____

NAME OF PRIVATE TEACHER (if applicable) _____

PRIVATE TEACHER PHONE _____ EMAIL & TEXT _____

OTHER INSTRUMENTS YOU PLAY _____

1. ATTACH A SHORT PARAGRAPH OR TWO TELLING US ABOUT YOURSELF AND WHY YOU WOULD LIKE TO WIN ONE OF OUR INSTRUMENTAL MUSICIAN SCHOLARSHIPS.
2. ATTACH A LIST OF SCHOOL AND OTHER MUSICAL ORGANIZATIONS IN WHICH YOU PARTICIPATE, AND ANY PREVIOUS AWARDS AND/OR HONORS YOU HAVE RECEIVED.
3. ATTACH TO THIS APPLICATION A LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION WRITTEN BY A MUSIC TEACHER/DIRECTOR OR PRIVATE MUSIC TEACHER WHO KNOWS YOUR MUSICAL ABILITIES.

SUBMIT APPLICATION BY EMAIL TO: lauriebethburke@gmail.com

OR US MAIL TO: LAURIE BURKE, 25 NORBLOOM AVE, NORMAL, IL 61761

APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2026 – NO EXCEPTIONS

(See Application and Audition Guidelines)

**2026 INSTRUMENTAL MUSICIAN SCHOLARSHIP
APPLICATION AND AUDITION GUIDELINES**
APPLICATIONS DUE: MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2026 – NO EXCEPTIONS

AUDITION DATE: SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2026 – 1:00PM-5:00PM
IWU WESTBROOK AUDITORIUM, PRESSER HALL SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Applicants must submit a list of their musical involvement, awards, and a letter of recommendation, with the application due by April 6, 2026. Auditions will be held on April 19, 2026, and the following FIVE scholarships will be awarded:

1ST PLACE: \$1000

2ND PLACE (2 scholarships): \$800

3RD PLACE (2 scholarships): \$600

Eligibility and Participation

- Scholarships are intended to be used for future music lessons or summer music camps.
- Auditions are open to McLean County students in grades 8 through 11 who play orchestral instruments such as strings, woodwinds, brass, percussion, or piano.
- Participation in a school orchestra or band, or the Bloomington-Normal Youth Symphony, is recommended but not required.
- Sixteen participants will be selected for auditions based on review of their applications.
- Previous first place winners may only audition this year if performing on a different instrument.

Audition Guidelines

- Each participant will have between 5 and 7 minutes to perform on stage.
- Students must introduce themselves, their accompanist, and their music selection prior to performing.
- Judges will be the primary audience, though others may observe.
- Live accompaniment is required unless the piece was originally composed as unaccompanied; students must provide their own accompanist.
- Two complete copies of the music, including accompaniment, must be supplied for the judges. Measure numbers should be included to assist with commentary.
- Students will be judged according to the criteria in the IHSA adjudication form: tone quality, intonation, technique, rhythm, musicianship, bowing (strings); articulation (winds); other performance factors (appearance, choice of literature, poise, posture, general conduct). Piano: also to include finger dexterity, note accuracy, pedaling, tone/touch control, phrasing, dynamics.

Additional Information

- Electronic media submissions will not be accepted as substitutes for live auditions.
- Participants will be given at least 15 minutes of warmup time in Presser Hall practice rooms prior to their audition.
- Selected participants will be notified of their audition time by Monday, April 13, 2026.
- Scholarship winners will be notified by 8:00 PM on the day of the auditions.
- Judging comments will be provided to the students after the competition.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2026

Send applications to: Laurie Burke via email: lauriebethburke@gmail.com

Contact Information (text or email)

- Laurie Burke: 301-518-2827 or lauriebethburke@gmail.com
- Marilyn Mertz: 217-454-1230 or cloud7mm@aol.com