

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](mailto: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:

**1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE: \$1000**                      **2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE (2 scholarships): \$800**                      **3<sup>RD</sup> 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](mailto:lauriebethburke@gmail.com)

### Contact Information (text or email)

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