



## Norwalk Youth Symphony

### **SCHOLARSHIP GUIDELINES**

It is the policy of the Norwalk Youth Symphony to deny no child admission because of an inability to pay. To this end, substantial money is available for scholarships, from local contributors and from the Memorial and Ramer Funds. This assistance is available to all members regardless of age, ability or length of time in the NYS.

The Scholarship Committee is comprised of the Chairman, the Treasurer and the Executive Director.

The availability of scholarship assistance is widely advertised through brochures, hand-outs, flyers, press releases, etc. Scholarship applications are available at audition time, in the handbook and from the Executive Director (see attached form) and are due at the first orchestra rehearsal or, in the case of a musician enrolled only in the chamber music program, at the time of the chamber music audition. Families may, however, also apply for assistance later in the year if unusual circumstances (such as the loss of a job or illness) occur. Applicants should provide only basic information such as address, place of business and family situation together with verification of income after taxes. If more details are required, the Committee will ask for them.

Once all requests have been received, the Scholarship Committee meets to evaluate and to determine awards. Notification is sent to parents as soon as possible after this meeting. Lesson awards are sent directly to private teachers twice a year.

Several types of scholarships are awarded:

- tuition
- tickets (to meet the \$150 required purchase per family)
- Chamber Music Program tuition
- Lessons

A child may qualify for one or more of these.

The following guidelines are used in determining scholarships:

- families as a rule must have a base net income of \$50,000 or less
- special consideration is given to
  - divorced/single parents
  - families with other children in college or special programs
  - families with more than one child in the NYS
  - unemployed parents
  - situations where the parent is supporting extended families
  - medical disabilities
  - other similar hardships

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Commitment to music lessons and to the Norwalk Youth Symphony plays a large role in the determination of awards. The Committee may consult with private and public school teachers with regard to a child's desire to forward his/her music education. In addition, progress reports are required from teachers at the end of each semester before additional payments are made.

**Memorial Scholarships** are granted each year to two outstanding scholarship students for lessons. In general, the amount is \$500 per year. Recipients of these awards are chosen by the Committee.

At the end of the year, a **Ramer Memorial Scholarship** is granted to a deserving senior, who is chosen by his peers on the basis of leadership, commitment, preparation and attendance. The amount of this award is \$500.