GOLD COAST JAZZ SOCIETY

Scholarship Fund

Scholarship Application Form
(Fillable Word Document)

For
College Applicants

Application Deadline: February 27, 2026
Scholarship Competition: April 18, 2026

All applications must be **postmarked or received on or before 5 p.m. on February 27, 2026** by the Gold Coast Jazz Society.
No applications will be accepted after the deadline date.

Mail or hand-deliver applications to:

Gold Coast Jazz Society
1350 East Sunrise Boulevard Ste #115
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33304
(954) 524-0805

Jeanette M. Russell Scholarship Fund

PLEASE CHECK ONE:

☐ Graduating High School Senior ☐ New College Applicant ☐ Returning College Applicant

All applicants will receive written notification of their application status.

If selected as a finalist:

- Graduating high school seniors and new college applicants will be required to perform in person in a live audition on Sat. April 12, 2025 before a panel of judges in order to best illustrate your musical abilities.
- All returning/renewing college finalists will be required to submit a video recording demonstrating musical ability.
- You will be notified in advance of your performance time.
- A live backline (piano, bass and drums) will be provided for the live audition.

Eligibility

- Applied or accepted for full-time enrollment at a college or university for the study of jazz instrumental or jazz vocal performance.
- Income eligibility guidelines are based on family size and median local income.
- Completed FAFSA Application
  Under the **FAFSA Simplification Act,** you will be required to file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for 2025-2026. The Application is accessible online at www.usa.gov>fafsa. After completing the Application, you will receive a Student Aid Index (SAI), which replaces the former Expected Family Contribution (EFC) amount.
- Florida residency
- Grade point average (GPA) of 2.5 (based on 4 point scale) or above during previous academic year
- Recommendation from school music teacher/professor and/or private music instructor.

Award Amount

The annual scholarship award for *tuition only* that may be awarded an applicant will be determined by the Scholarship Committee based on competition results and funds availability each year. One-half (1/2) of such award will be paid, each semester, directly to the college or university on behalf of the student.

Notes:

- Students must submit a copy of the letter indicating college acceptance to the school of their choice. This letter and the student's class schedule must be submitted to GCJS prior to any payments being made to a college or university for the fall semester on behalf of the student.
- In order for the second half of an award amount to be paid, the student must have maintained a GPA of 2.5 or above for the previous semester and continue full-time enrollment studying jazz instrumental or jazz vocal performance at a college or university. Also a copy of fall or previous grade transcript must be provided.
- The scholarship is for one year only. For future year scholarships, applicants must re-apply.

The Gold Coast Jazz Society
Jeanette M. Russell Scholarship Fund

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Type or Print all information

APPLICANT DATA

NAME: _____
Last First Name Age

ADDRESS: _____
Street City Zip

TELEPHONE: ( )_____ EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

Instrument _____or vocal (voice part) _____How long have you been playing? _____

List performing groups in which you have participated _____ Dates _____

Music awards received _____ Dates _____

PARENT(S)/GUARDIAN DATA

Please provide the name, address and phone number of the parent(s) or guardian with whom you reside.

NAME: _____
Last First Names

ADDRESS: _____
Street City Zip

TELEPHONE: (_____) _____ RELATIONSHIP TO STUDENT:_____
Area Code i.e., Mother & Father, One parent only, Aunt, Grandparent, etc.

EMAIL_____

HIGH SCHOOL DATA (GRADUATING SENIORS ONLY

Name of High School _____ Graduation Date: Month _____ Year _____

Name of Post-secondary school you plan to attend. If unknown, list schools in which applications for admission have been sent.

_____ Location: _____ ☐ Accepted ☐ Applied
1st Choice City State

_____ Location: _____ ☐ Accepted ☐ Applied
2nd Choice City State

☐ 4 yr. College or University ☐ 2 yr. Community College

Enrollment status: ☐ Full-time

Major or courses of study _____ Anticipated date of graduation _____
Month/Year

COLLEGE DATA

Name of college/university currently attending_____

College Financial Aid Dept. Address_____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____ Phone ( )_____

☐ 4 yr. College/University ☐ 2 yr. Junior or Community College

College Major: _____College Minor:_____

GPA (Cumulative)___ GPA (Major)_____ Hours earned to date _____

Anticipated date of graduation: (Include month and year): _____

TRANSCRIPT DATA

For High School Seniors:
Please request an official high school transcript, which includes the 7-14th semester(s) and the last semester grades. Transcripts must be mailed to the Gold Coast Jazz Society office by application due date.

For New and Returning College Applications:
Please request an official transcript, which ***includes the last completed semester of enrollment*** and the last semester grades. Transcripts must be mailed to the Gold Coast Jazz Society office by application due date.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

NAME OF APPLICANT'S PARENT OR GUARDIAN: (If single head of household)

_____
Last First Names

NUMBER OF PERSONS IN HOUSEHOLD AGED 18 OR OLDER: NO. _____

NUMBER OF PERSONS IN HOUSEHOLD UNDER AGE 18: NO. _____

ANNUAL ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME: $_____ (Line 11 on Form 1040)

PLEASE ATTACH A COPY OF YOUR FAFSA APPLICATION.

PLEASE EXPLAIN ANY EXTENUATING FINANCIAL CIRCUMSTANCES (Attach any documentation or information that you believe we should consider):

_____

_____

_____

_____

FINANCIAL NEED INFORMATION FORM

ESTIMATED YEARLY COST OF ATTENDING SCHOOL (Provided by college or university)	
Tuition	
Room or Rent (including utilities)	
Board or Food	
Book and supplies	
Transportation	
Other:	
TOTAL COSTS	
ESTIMATED FINANCIAL AND RESOURCES	
SAI (Student Aid Index)	
Expected contributions from Student	
Work Study Income during school year	
Scholarships and Loans *	
Federal Student Loan	
Pell Grant	
Bright Futures	
Any other grants, loans and/or scholarships	
Other	
TOTAL RESOURCES	
ESTIMATED REMAINING FINANCIAL NEED (Subtract Total Resources from Total Costs)	

*If you expect to receive a *full tuition* scholarship from a college/university OR are awarded a *full tuition* scholarship *after* being awarded a Gold Coast Jazz scholarship, it will be mandatory that you notify Gold Coast Jazz Society immediately.

CERTIFICATION AND SIGNATURE

I hereby certify and swear that all of the information on this form is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. If asked by an authorized official, I agree to give proof of the information that I have given on this form. Falsification of information may result in termination of any scholarship granted and required repayment of any award paid on behalf of the applicant. It is understood that this application becomes the property of the Gold Coast Jazz Society.

I understand that all decisions by the GCJS are final and are not subject to appeal, question or review of any type and said decision shall be based solely on the information submitted by the applicant and the subjective evaluation of the applicant's competitive performances.

_____

Applicant's Signature Date

_____

Parent or Guardian's Signature Date

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

This application is complete and valid *only* when you have returned the following:

- ☐ **This completed application with proper signatures (submit pages 3-6).**
- ☐ **Your official high school or college transcripts mailed to the Gold Coast Jazz office.**
- ☐ **Your income information *and* your parent/legal guardian's income information as described in application.**
- ☐ **A copy of your FAFSA application and a copy of your Student Aid Index (SAI).**
- ☐ **A letter of recommendation from your high school or your college/university department music teacher/professor.**
- ☐ **Please include a current headshot/photo of yourself with your application.**

YOUR APPLICATION WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED IF THERE ARE ANY BLANKS OR MISSING INFORMATION.
Your completed application *must be postmarked by or delivered to* the office of the Gold Coast Jazz Society by 5:00 p.m. on February 27, 2026. Applications postmarked after the deadline *will not be accepted*. If you have any questions, please contact the Gold Coast Jazz Society at 954-524-0805.

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