

Uncle Al Fund

History and Purpose

In the Carrabassett Valley area Alexander Scheeren was happy to call home for nearly 50 years, he was known simply as Uncle Al. Parlaying his formal training on trombone and violin into a lifetime of performing both nationally and internationally, Alex was beloved by his friends and neighbors for his musical spirit, his wry wit and humor, and his warm and compassionate nature. While attaining an iconic stature within the community he was proud to be a part of, he never lost interest in improving his musicianship or the lives of others.

Eligibility: Musicians between the ages of 12 and 30 who reside in either Franklin or Somerset County and who play (including, but not limited to) a horn, a stringed instrument, a keyboard or use voice. Preference will be shown to musicians who play acoustic instruments, including "voice."

Purpose: The Uncle Al Fund supports further instruction or musical development of eligible musicians seeking to expand both their understanding of and skill level on their chosen instrument(s) through enrollment in a legitimate program or with approved individual instruction.

Criteria for selection: Our choice of recipient will be based on the excellence of the applicant's capabilities, as well as the impact the applicant expects the scholarship to have on the arc of their musical development.

Awards

The number and size of awards each year depends on the number of applications and funds available. However, the committee considers this a partnership between recipients and the fund and expects the applicant and his/her family to consider contributing something to the opportunity. **Awards are not retroactive; the student's program must start after June 1 of the application year.**

The fund cannot pay for instruments or instrument rental.

Recommendation letters must be written by **someone who is not a family member nor associated with the program you will be attending, but who can attest to your ability and commitment to music.**

Recipients will be notified in early April. Award checks will be issued by the Maine Community Foundation and made payable to the sponsoring organization or individual instructors as scholarship support for the recipient.

Selection Committee

Please contact Liz Fickett at efickett@mainecf.org with questions about the application process or Marguerite Robichaux at margueriterobichaux@gmail.com about the program.

Administration

There is one application deadline. All applications and required information **must be postmarked** by April 1 and sent to:

Uncle Al Fund
c/o Marguerite Robichaux
PO Box 463
Stratton, ME 04982

Incomplete applications or those postmarked after this date will not be processed.

Uncle Al Fund Application

Assistance will be provided to musicians between the ages of 12 and 30 who reside in either Franklin or Somerset County and who play (including, but not limited to) a horn, a stringed instrument, a keyboard or use voice. Preference will be shown to musicians who play acoustic instruments, including "voice."

Applications and required information sent separately must be postmarked by April 1

Name _____

Age (as of 3/1/2020) _____ **Date of Birth** _____

For students who are under the age of 18

Name of parent or guardian with whom you live

Their Email Address

Resident of Franklin or Somerset County since _____

Address

Street address or P.O. number _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Program you wish to attend

Start Date

Finish Date

Organization or individual instructor offering the program

Address

City

State

Zip

Contact at the program

Phone number

Email address

Brief description of the program

1. Cost of program (w/out transportation or equipment) \$ _____
2. Financial aid from program/organization: \$ _____
3. Financial aid from community sources: \$ _____
4. Contribution from parents or relatives: \$ _____
5. Contribution from student's savings or work: \$ _____
6. Total funds available (sum of 2,3,4,5): \$ _____

Amount of aid requested (subtract 6 from 1) \$ _____

Please tell us what instrument you play, or in what voice you sing, and at what level:

Please provide a statement of your current accomplishments in music. Are you self-taught, have you had private lessons, have you any performance experience, how frequently do you practice? (attach additional sheet if necessary):

What specific music goals will you work on, if granted this award?

How will the program you chose assist you in reaching those goals?

I certify that all information on this form is true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Signature of Parent/Guardian – if under 18: _____

Signature of Applicant: _____

Personal Statement. We'd like to know about you.

Please share with us, in 500 words or fewer, some information about yourself. These are just suggestions to let the committee know a bit more about you as a person. You are welcome to write about anything that gives the committee a snapshot of who you are. What do you like to do? If you are employed, what is your field? Do you have other interests besides music? How did you get interested in music?

Required Information: (do not staple, please)

Please submit the information requested below printed on one side only (not front and back).

- ❖ A completed application form, signed by you or your parent (if applicant is under the age of 18)
- ❖ Your personal statement
- ❖ Letter of acceptance from the program you wish to attend and other printed material describing the program. If such a letter is not available, please provide a copy of the completed application to the program or a brochure or other printed material about the program
- ❖ A signed recommendation letter specific to the Uncle Al Scholarship from someone who can tell us about you, your musical ability and your commitment to music. The letter must be current (dated after January 1, 2020), contain your first and last name, and be signed by the writer, who must identify his/her relationship to you (and cannot be a family member **nor anyone associated with the program you will be attending**). E-mail letters are not acceptable.

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