



NAPLES MUSIC CLUB & STEINWAY PIANO SOCIETY'S LEAP AWARD

To enable gifted and motivated students from low income families to achieve the intellectual and social benefits of learning to play the piano. The Naples Music Club and the Steinway Piano Society are partners in sponsoring this program.

RULES AND REGULATIONS – 2017

The LEAP (Learning from Elementary to Advanced Piano) Award is for Collier County, Bonita Springs and Estero students to study piano for one year with a private teacher selected by the Naples Music Club. The award may be renewed a year at a time for up to two additional years based on the LEAP Committee's assessment of the student's progress and the recommendation of his or her private teacher.

The award is intended for students (ages 8 through 14) whose families cannot afford private music lessons. However, private lessons in the past will not eliminate the candidate as long as they can demonstrate that they are on the "Free and Reduced School Meals Program" or by submission of the parents' most recent Federal income tax return (if home schooled or in private schools). In extraordinary circumstances, the LEAP Committee may extend an award to someone outside of the 8-14 age range.

Students must complete the attached application and have it signed by a parent and one of the school's music teachers or a professional musician such as a Minister of Music if the student is not studying music at school. Students must submit a music teacher's or Minister of Music's letter of recommendation and a personal essay about what music means to them and how they expect the LEAP Award to benefit them. The teacher's letter of recommendation should confirm the student's participation in the school's Free and Reduced School Meals Program if the teacher is employed in the Collier County Public Schools.

The LEAP Committee will select applicants to be interviewed and to be given the opportunity to display their musical talent. Our expectations are that three to five awards per year will be made depending upon the number of highly qualified applicants. Selection of music teachers and scheduling of lessons will be determined by the LEAP Committee. The Steinway Piano Society will provide an appropriate piano to the student and minor repairs and tuning once a year. Winners of the LEAP Award will be notified no later than April 10, 2017. Parents must be willing to insure that if their children are winners, they will be able to accommodate a donated piano, transport the child to lessons, and provide a quiet time for the student to practice daily.

THE 2017 LEAP AWARD APPLICATION CHECK LIST

1. Completed Scholarship Application _____
2. Music teacher's or professional musician's Letter of Recommendation _____
3. Student's Personal Essay _____
4. Proof of participation in Free & Reduced School Meals Program or equivalent documentation of low income. _____
5. Be prepared to perform a short piano selection, no more than 5 minutes in length.
6. Applicants must provide one publisher's copy of the music and one Xeroxed or scanned image. No copies will be made the day of the competition.
7. Applicants must be properly attired for the competition (Girls: knee length or longer dresses or slacks; boys: shirts and slacks). NO DENIM JEANS.
8. The completed application form, the music teacher's recommendation which also contains confirmation of participation in the Free & Reduced School Meals Program, and the student's essay must be postmarked on or before Monday, March 20, 2017. Applications will be disqualified if the application is incomplete.
8. There will be no registration fee for this scholarship competition.
9.
 - a. The Piano Scholarship competition will be held Friday evening, April 7, 2017, at Golden Gate High School, 2925 Magnolia Pond Dr., Naples, FL 34116.
 - b. **All selected applicants will be notified by EMAIL of their specific audition time, no later than Monday, March 27, 2017.**
 - c. **The winner(s) will be notified by EMAIL, no later than April 10, 2017.** No phone calls will be made.
 - d. The decision of the judges is final.

The announcement of the LEAP Award winners will held on SATURDAY April 22, 2017, 3:00 pm, at the First United Methodist Church, 388 1st Ave. South, Naples, FL 34102. Winners should be present at this recital to receive their awards. Questions about the competition can be answered by calling LEAP Committee Co-Chair Myra Williams at 239-262-5093 or by email, myranw63@gmail.com.

NAPLES MUSIC CLUB
APPLICATION FOR THE 2017 LEAP AWARD
Must Be Postmarked on or before Monday, March 20, 2017

NAME _____ GRADE _____ AGE _____ BIRTHDATE _____
PARENT'S NAME _____
ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____
CITY _____ COUNTY _____ ZIP _____
PARENTS EMAIL _____ SCHOOL _____
MUSIC TEACHER'S NAME AND EMAIL _____

HAVE YOU EVER STUDIED MUSIC WITH A PRIVATE TEACHER? If yes – please describe

DOES YOUR HOME HAVE A PIANO? ___ YES ___ NO (If no, a keyboard will be provided for the winners' use until a suitable piano is donated.)

DO YOU QUALIFY FOR THE FREE & REDUCED SCHOOL MEALS PROGRAM? _____

SELECTION TO BE PERFORMED AT THE COMPETITION: _____
COMPOSER _____

1. This application requires a letter of recommendation from your school music teacher (or similar music professional) that describes your aptitude and motivation. If your recommendation is from a public school music teacher, it must also confirm your participation in the Free & Reduced School Meals Program.

2. On a separate sheet of paper, write a short essay (not in pencil) that covers what music means in your life, the importance of the opportunity to study piano and how you plan to use this award.

THESE 2 DOCUMENTS MUST ACCOMPANY THIS APPLICATION.

I have read all application material in the packet. I agree to abide by the rules and understand the purpose of the competition.

STUDENT'S SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

MUSIC TEACHER'S SIGNATURE _____ PHONE _____

PARENT'S SIGNATURE _____ PHONE _____

I approve the use of this student's name, school, teacher, award amount and photo. ___ YES ___ NO
(Parent to initial)

MAIL APPLICATION TO: Myra Williams, LEAP Committee Co-Chair 1626 Chinaberry Way, Naples, FL 34105 or scan and email to myranw63@gmail.com.