

## HAEGG AWARD



**Background:** The Haegg Award was created in 2009 with a gift of \$50,000 in memory of Margaret Haegg by the Haegg family. It provides the winner with private music lessons for a period of one year, renewable for an additional two years. When the award was first created, it was difficult to find students confident enough to audition. The Middle School Master Class program is very synergistic with the Haegg award. Students become sufficiently accomplished after five coaching sessions to compete for the opportunity to study privately.

### **Description:**

- Student submits an essay on what music means to them.
- Student auditions and is interviewed by a small group of people.
- Haegg students receive a 45 minute lesson once a week for nine months during the academic year.
- At the end of every year, an assessment of progress is made to determine which students should be continued for an additional year.
- The teachers have been very generous. They charge only \$40 for a 45 minute lesson - considerably less than their normal fee.

**Impact:** These students are pre-selected as talented and hard-working by their music teacher at school. As a result, most make rapid progress. One student was described by her private teacher as the "...most talented, ambitious, and hardest working student he has ever had!" After one year of private lessons, a saxophone player made All-State band. After two years, the student was offered a scholarship to attend Interlochen's prep school and won Naples Music Club's scholarship competition for reeds. One student was selected as second chair in the All County Middle School Orchestra after only 6 months of private lessons. The program has literally transformed the lives of the participants.

**Cost:** The cost of instruction per student is \$40 for a 45 minute lesson and averages around \$1200 per student per year for three years.