



Top Hat Marching Orchestra

"Entertaining Audiences Since 1982"

March 5, 2020

Dear Sir/Madam:

The Top Hat Marching Orchestra awards an annual scholarship to support music instruction or further studies in the field of music. This year, we are offering two scholarships, one in the amount of \$1,000.00 and another in the amount of \$500.00. Applicants must be students in Burlington in grades 7 – 12, or a member of the Burlington Teen Tour Band.

We are contacting you to seek your help in distributing the information sheets and applications to worthy students. It is our understanding that the best way to reach our audience of students is through their teachers. Your assistance in drawing students' attention to this opportunity would be greatly appreciated.

Please find enclosed:

1. A history of the scholarship
2. A letter to the student
3. The application form (this is also available on our website: www.tophats.org)

We appreciate your assistance in making the annual Eric Ford Scholarship a success.

Your truly,

Debbie Grant-Shead
Top Hat Marching Orchestra



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The Eric Ford Music Scholarship A Brief History

Eric Ford began his musical career on the violin at the age of 8 years, changing two years later to the cornet. By the age of 15, he was playing professionally as a cornet soloist at Toronto's Massey Hall. Studying at the Royal College of Music in Toronto further enhanced Eric's training.

In 1947, Mr. Ford joined the R.C.A.F. Band as a trumpet soloist and arranger under the direction of Lt. Col. Cliff Hunt (past director of the Burlington Concert Band). In 1963, Eric became chief arranger for the Canadian Armed Forces. One of his accomplishments in this position included composing and conducting the fanfares for the official opening of Expo '67 in Montreal.

Retiring from the Armed Forces in 1968, after 28 years of service, Mr. Ford moved to Burlington and became Supervisor of Music for the City and the Music Director of the Burlington Teen Tour Band, a position he held until 1977. During his time as a music instructor, numerous youngsters received invaluable instruction from a man of great experience and talent. Many of his students have continued in his tradition by becoming music instructors or playing professionally.

In 1981, Mr. Ford began his association with the Top Hat Marching Orchestra, becoming their first Music Director. Eric continued to direct and arrange music for the Top Hats until the late 1980's. It was with great sadness that Mr. Ford, a true friend of the Top Hats and the music world, passed away in 1992.

In 1993, the Top Hat Marching Orchestra established the **ERIC FORD SCHOLARSHIP FUND** to assist in the training of young band musicians, in the tradition that Eric would have liked. This scholarship is awarded to young, promising musicians with the intent of furthering their technical ability as well as enhancing the students' love and appreciation of music.



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Dear Student:

The Top Hat Marching Orchestra is pleased to invite you to apply for the ERIC FORD MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP. This scholarship was established in 1993, by the Top Hat Marching Orchestra and friends of Eric Ford, in memory of a man who dedicated his life to music and excellence in its performance.

The Top Hats are inviting applications for two scholarships, one in the amount of \$1,000.00 and the other in the amount of \$500.00. The purpose of these scholarships is to support music instruction or further studies in the field of music. Recipients are selected after a review of the applications submitted to the Selection Committee.

Application Requirements:

Recipient:

Any student musician in the City of Burlington who:

- has not previously won an Eric Ford Scholarship and
- is currently in grade 7 – 12
- AND is actively involved in a Burlington school band or orchestra
- OR is a member of the Burlington Teen Tour Band;

Selection Criteria:

- Musical skill
- Need for financial assistance
- Application information
- Applicant's instructor's signature on application and supporting information

Application Process:

Fill out the attached application completely and submit to:

Top Hat Marching Orchestra
2335 Montgomery Dr
Burlington, Ontario
L7P 4J9

Or by e-mail to dgshead@msn.com

If you have any questions about the application or application process, please feel free to contact Debbie Grant-Shed at dgshead@msn.com.

Deadline for receipt of applications: **May 17, 2020**



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The Eric Ford Music Scholarship Application Form

Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ Postal Code _____

Telephone Number _____

Email _____

School _____

Grade Level _____

Instrument or Area of Study _____

Number of Years Studying Music _____

Musical Organizations (past and present)

Additional Training

In 100 words or less, please tell us why you think you should receive consideration for the Eric Ford Scholarship

Name of Music Teacher/Instructor _____

Signature of Music Teacher/Instructor _____

Music Teacher/Instructor Comments

Applications must be completed and returned by May 17, 2019 to:

Top Hat Marching Orchestra
264 Delancey Blvd
Hamilton, ON L9B 1Y9

Or by e-mail to paul@theromanows.com