



The Top Hat Marching Orchestra

2123 Edinburgh Dr.
Burlington, ON
Canada L7R 2C8
Website: www.tophats.org

Dear Sir/Madam:

Burlington's Top Hat Marching Orchestra provides an annual \$500 scholarship to a student in Burlington for music instruction. The recipient must be a Secondary School student in Burlington or a member of the Burlington Teen Tour Band.

We are contacting you for assistance in distributing the information sheets and applications to worthy students.

It is our belief that the best way to reach our audience of students is through their teachers. We request that you might wish to make a brief announcement regarding the scholarship, post the information, or use another strategy to make students aware of this opportunity.

Please find enclosed:

1. A history of the scholarship
2. A letter to the student
3. The application form

Please feel free to make as many copies as you wish. We appreciate your assistance in making the annual Eric Ford Scholarship a success.

Yours truly,

The Top Hat Marching Orchestra



THE ERIC FORD MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP *A BRIEF HISTORY*

Eric Ford began his musical career at the age of 8 years on the violin, 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 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 and Robert Webb, former marching instructor with the Teen Tour Band, co-founded the Burlington Top Hat Marching Orchestra. 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 continue 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 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 Eric Ford Scholarship will award annually \$500 toward instruction for a high school student or Burlington Teen Tour Band member who is selected after a review of applications submitted to the Selection Committee.

Application Requirements:

Recipient:

- any student musician in the City of Burlington who is actively involved in a High School band, orchestra, choir, arranging, or 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

Please find the application form attached.

Deadline for receipt of Applications: May 30, 2009



ERIC FORD 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.

