



## The Top Hat Marching Orchestra

2433 Redfern Rd.  
Burlington, ON  
L7R1Y1 Website:  
[www.tophats.org](http://www.tophats.org)

---

Dear Sir/Madam:

The 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*

---

The Top Hat Marching Orchestra established the **Eric Ford Scholarship Fund** in recognition of Eric Ford, a true friend of the Top Hats and in memory of a man who dedicated his life to music and excellence in its performance.

The award was established 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.

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.



## The Top Hat Marching Orchestra

2433 Redfern Rd.  
Burlington, ON  
L7R1Y1

Website: [www.tophats.org](http://www.tophats.org)

---

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 is an annual award of \$500 and is awarded to a high school student or Burlington Teen Tour Band member for the purpose of music instruction.

#### **Application Requirements:**

##### Recipient:

Any student musician in the City of Burlington who is actively involved in a High School band, orchestra, choir, arranging, or is a member of the Burlington Teen Tour Band. The recipient is not required to live in Burlington, however the participation must take place in Burlington

##### Selection Criteria:

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

##### Application Process

Submit the attached application. Please be sure it is filled out completely. Submit the form to:

2433 Redfern Rd  
Burlington Ontario  
L7R1Y1

If you have any questions about the application or scholarship please send an email to Marg MacVinnie at [macvinnierm@sympatico.ca](mailto:macvinnierm@sympatico.ca)

<b>Deadline for receipt of Applications: March 31, 2011</b>
---



**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.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

