



Grand Master Fiddler Championship Inc.™

A Tennessee non-profit and U.S. IRS
501(c)(3) charitable corporation, formed to
educate about and perpetuate fiddling as an
art form and cultural treasure

Matthew Thomas Lin Memorial Scholarship Overview and Information

Purpose of Scholarship

The Grand Master Fiddler Championship Inc. has established the Matthew Thomas Lin Memorial Scholarship to honor the memory of Matthew Lin. Matthew, the 2014 Grand Master Youth Fiddle Champion was extremely bright, ambitious, and compassionate. He was an accomplished musician and athlete with a passion for community service. Having earned his Eagle Scout Rank, he continued as an Assistant Scoutmaster for BSA Troop 41. Matthew also served his community as a volunteer mentor for aspiring young musicians. At the University of Kentucky, Matthew continued his service and leadership as a Peer Mentor in the Engineering Living Learning Program, a Peer Instructor, and a K Crew Leader.

Matthew's genuine interest in others and his sincere desire to see everyone succeed resulted in countless friends from all walks of life. Throughout his life, Matthew valued excellence, integrity, good citizenship, and education. With this in mind, it is our intention that the Matthew Thomas Lin Memorial Scholarship will offer exceptional students and musicians who display academic achievement, a commitment to serving others, a strong work ethic, active leadership, and financial need the opportunity to continue their musical and academic pursuits.

This scholarship program is awarded without regard to race, color, creed, religion, sexual orientation, age, gender, disability, or national origin.

General Information and Eligibility

- Amount of scholarship: \$1,000 nonrenewable
- Eligibility Rules:
 1. Applicants should be currently enrolled in a public or private high school, homeschool, or an accredited two- or four-year college, university, or vocational-technical school in the U.S., Canada or Puerto Rico that is exempt from taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
 2. Applicants should be current residents of the United States, Canada, or Puerto Rico.
 3. Students should have a cumulative, unweighted grade point average of 2.5.
 4. Void wherever prohibited by law.

General Considerations

Preference will be given to applicants demonstrating one or more of the following:

1. Musicians who plan to use this scholarship for music lessons, instruments, camps, or music-related travel.
2. Applicants who demonstrate substantial contributions to community service.
3. Students with a cumulative unweighted grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.3.
4. Students demonstrating active participation in extracurricular, faith-based, and/or community organizations.
5. Applicants displaying an active leadership role in community service, athletics, and/or similar co-curricular activity (such as student government, team sports, fraternal life, etc.).
6. Students with a minimum ACT Composite score of 25 or a minimum combined SAT score of 1220 (if available).
7. Applicants with demonstration of substantial financial need.

Note: Special attention will be given to first-time applicants.



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Application Deadlines

- Applications Open: FEB 1
- Applications Close: OCT 15
- Selection and Notification: OCT 31
- Award Presentation: GMFC Annual Competition (NOV 9, 2025)
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Application Requirements

1. Submit a written Application form.
2. Submit a video (no longer than three minutes) OR a Personal statement (no more than 1000 words) to support your application. This should be an explanation of your educational plans and why you feel you are a good candidate for this scholarship. See General Considerations above.
3. Submit any of the following **optional** materials to supplement your application:
 - a. An unofficial high school or college transcript.
 - b. A video or website link, if you are a musician, with an example of your music.
 - c. A resume listing your service, leadership, and extracurricular activities.
 - d. A copy of your PSAT, SAT, ACT, AP, and/or CLEP scores if available.

Application and Media Submission Requirements

1. Fill in your application and save it as a PDF file. Name the file "Lin Scholarship - *yourname* - Application".PDF
2. If you create a video, save your video file as an MP4 file. Name the file "Lin Scholarship - *yourname* - Application Video".MP4
3. If you create Personal statement. please save it as a PDF file. Name the file "Lin Scholarship - *yourname* - Personal statement".PDF
4. Save any supporting attachments Lin Scholarship - *yourname* - *describethethefile.ext*"
5. Send your application, files, and any links in a single email to: scholarship@grandmasterfiddler.com.
6. Applications with no video or personal statement will not be considered.

Notes:

Guidelines for Recording a Video file

- Use a fixed point of view for your camera with you being the main focus. Shoot straight on, leaving the camera in one location. Do not pan or move the camera. Camera should be no closer than waist up.
- Ensure recording captures good quality image.
- Ensure recording equipment has the ability to capture good sound quality. Check for good balance and blend.
- Make sure there is 1-3 seconds of silence before the start.
- No sound enhancements are allowed.