



The Valley Jazz Cooperative Scholarship Program *for high school seniors*

ABOUT THE PROGRAM:

The Valley Jazz Cooperative Scholarship Program is designed to recognize outstanding high school seniors, in support of their post-secondary education. Scholarships are awarded annually to three current or former VJC ensemble participants. Scholarship recipients are talented young musicians, with emphasis given to individuals who have made meaningful contributions to their communities through service to others. As a long-term goal, the VJCSP encourages its scholarship recipients to continue making positive impacts on society through community engagement and service, as well as support for/participation in the arts.

SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION:

- Each scholarship recipient will be presented with an award of \$1,000.00, annually renewable over a four-year period, for a maximum possible total award of \$4,000.00. These higher award amounts—compared to previous years' scholarships—become effective in Fall 2025. *[See requirements for **Maintaining Annual Eligibility**, below.]*
- The funds will be made available by September 1st, each year and paid directly to the Office of the Bursar (or equivalent) at the accredited 2- or 4-year educational institution in which the scholarship recipient is enrolled as a full-time student.
- Some educational institutions charge a *third-party billing fee* upon receipt of sponsorship or financial aid from external sources, including a VJCSP award. Any such fees applied to one's account by their educational institution are solely the responsibility of the scholarship recipient.
- The Valley Jazz Cooperative Scholarship Program is generously supported by MSW Ministries. (Visit MSWMinistries.org to learn more about the VJC's parent organization.)

MINIMUM REQUIRED CRITERIA FOR APPLICANTS:

- The applicant must be a high school senior.
- The applicant must have previously participated in the Valley Jazz Cooperative as a positive, contributing member of a VJC ensemble.

Valley Jazz Cooperative is an outreach of MSW Ministries, a 501(c)(3) organization.

MINIMUM REQUIRED CRITERIA FOR APPLICANTS *(continued)*:

- The applicant must have a cumulative high school GPA of 3.0 or higher through mid-term grades of senior year (or equivalent GPA for schools not using a four-point grading system).
- The applicant must intend to begin a post-secondary education as a full-time student at an accredited 2- or 4-year college or university *in the academic year immediately following high school graduation*.

Note: There is **one exception** to this final requirement. For an LDS student who is scheduled to go on their Mission immediately after high school graduation, instead of after their freshman year of college, the VJC will “hold” their scholarship for 18-24 months, should they be awarded a VJC Scholarship. They would still be eligible for four years (or eight Fall/Spring semesters) of support from the VJC. However, such an individual must commence studies at an accredited 2- or 4-year college or university immediately after returning from their Mission—meaning the first possible Fall or Spring semester—in order to remain eligible to receive the VJC Scholarship.

ADDITIONAL PREFERRED CRITERIA FOR APPLICANTS:

- The applicant has shown selfless, servant leadership in outreach activities, demonstrating a commitment to others through participation in events sponsored by one’s church, school, or community (or initiated independently in whole or in part by the applicant).
- The applicant intends to major or minor in an undergraduate program (at an accredited 2- or 4-year college or university) in one of the following areas:
 - 1) music,
 - 2) other performing or visual arts,
 - 3) education,
 - 4) social work/human services,
 - 5) theology, or
 - 6) any other area of study that credibly leads toward making positive contributions to one’s community (post-graduation) through direct service to others or alternative/indirect means.
- The applicant is currently participating in the Valley Jazz Cooperative as a positive, contributing member of a VJC ensemble.

APPLICATION PROCESS/REQUIREMENTS:

- The applicant must submit the following two *required* items:
 - 1) A completed Valley Jazz Cooperative Scholarship Program application form.
 - 2) A copy of the applicant’s high school transcript, current through senior year mid-term grades, providing one’s cumulative high school GPA.
- The completed application may also include the following *optional* item:
 - 1) A supporting letter of recommendation from a pastor/worship leader, teacher, project supervisor, or mentor, addressing the applicant’s candidacy for this

Valley Jazz Cooperative is an outreach of MSW Ministries, a 501(c)(3) organization.

APPLICATION PROCESS/REQUIREMENTS *(continued)*:

scholarship and (if applicable) providing details of the applicant's involvement in one or more service/outreach activities.

[Note: If this optional item is submitted as part of the application, it should be sent directly to the VJC/MSW by the recommender, allowing the letter to remain confidential. As a courtesy to the recommender, it is requested that the applicant provide them with a stamped envelope, in which the recommendation may be submitted independently.]

- Completed applications may be submitted on or after February 1st, each year.
- Completed applications must be received each year by April 1st. If April 1st falls on a weekend, then completed applications must be received by the first business day *after* April 1st.
- All application materials should either be sent to...

**VJC Scholarship Program, c/o
Ravenscroft
8445 E. Hartford Dr.
Scottsdale, AZ 85255**

...or they may be submitted via email (as .pdf attachments) to...

info@msw.org

You *must* include “**VJC Scholarship**” in the email’s subject line to be certain the application will be routed to the correct team member.

- Note that no application materials will be returned to applicants.

PROCESS FOR AWARDING SCHOLARSHIPS:

- The Director of the Valley Jazz Cooperative shall not be involved in the evaluation process beyond assessing the eligibility of each applicant to be considered for an award by confirming required and preferred application criteria for the adjudication panel.
- An adjudication panel of MSW Ministries staff shall be convened each year to evaluate all eligible applications. The adjudication panel shall rank these by merit, awarding VJC Scholarships to the three most outstanding and/or deserving applicants. Please note these awards are made *completely at the discretion* of the adjudication panel.
- During any application cycle in which fewer than three eligible/completed applications are received by the stated deadline, the VJCSP adjudication panel reserves the right to award scholarships (that would otherwise go unawarded) to the most outstanding applicants from previous years. Specifically, such consideration is only given to exceptional individuals who applied but did not receive VJC scholarships as high school seniors. [Scholarship recipients under these unusual circumstances will receive fewer than four years of awards.]
- The announcement of scholarship award winners will occur no earlier than May 1st and no later than June 1st, each year. A list of previous scholarship award winners may be kept and posted on the ValleyJazz.org web site.

MAINTAINING ANNUAL ELIGIBILITY:

- Scholarship recipients must maintain full-time student status (minimum of 24 credit hours completed each academic year) at an accredited 2- or 4-year college or university.
- Scholarship recipients must maintain the following cumulative post-secondary GPAs as measured at the end of the spring semester in order to continue to receive the award for the following academic year:
 - 1) a GPA of 2.75 at the conclusion of one's freshman year,
 - 2) a GPA of 2.875 at the conclusion of one's sophomore year, and
 - 3) a GPA of 3.0 at the conclusion of one's junior year.
- In order to facilitate continued support from this program, VJC Scholarship recipients must submit a copy of their most recent academic transcript (complete through the preceding spring term) to the VJC/MSW by July 20th, each year.
- Scholarship recipients who terminate their post-secondary studies mid-academic year will be required to refund 50% of their annual award (\$500.00) to MSW Ministries.
- Scholarship recipients must not publicly act in a manner that would damage, tarnish, or otherwise negatively impact the reputation and goodwill associated with the Valley Jazz Cooperative and MSW Ministries.
- Future scholarships will not be awarded to a recipient who fails to meet any of the eligibility standards articulated in this document.

APPLICATION FORM:

- The following two pages in this packet constitute the official Application Form for the Valley Jazz Cooperative Scholarship Program. Please complete and submit the form as directed.
- The final two pages are an *optional* item: a Valley Jazz Cooperative Scholarship Program Letter of Recommendation form. Should the applicant ask a pastor/worship leader, teacher, project supervisor, or mentor to write in support of their VJCSP submission, the recommender can either use this form or provide their own letter. The recommender is encouraged to provide details regarding any involvement by the applicant in service/ outreach activities, if applicable.

Questions about the application process? Please contact the VJC Director. Thank you.

Application Form
The Valley Jazz Cooperative Scholarship Program
for high school seniors

<i>Name:</i>		<i>Application date:</i>
<i>High School currently attending (or list 'Homeschooled', if appropriate):</i>		<i>Expected HS graduation date:</i>
<i>Primary instrument:</i>	<i>Secondary instruments:</i>	
<i>Current and/or previous VJC ensemble participant? (Check ONE):</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Yes</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>No</i>		
<i>Approximate dates of participation in VJC ensembles (as applicable):</i>		
<i>HS music ensembles in which you have participated (listing dates of involvement as 9, 10, 11 & 12):</i>		
<i>Additional music ensembles you have participated in (other jazz education programs, youth symphonies, praise and worship bands, etc. – again, listing dates of involvement as 9, 10, 11 & 12):</i>		
<i>List the 2- or 4-year educational institution you plan to attend—or schools you are still considering—in the fall. (Also, if you are delaying matriculation for an LDS Mission, please mention that detail here. While it will have <u>no bearing</u> on the merit of your application, it is important for MSW to know this for budgeting purposes.):</i>		
<i>List the major(s) you expect to declare when you matriculate in the fall. Also, if currently planning on a minor or secondary concentration, please list that information as well:</i>		

Signature of applicant: _____

Completed applications must be received by April 1st. (Application continues on next page.)

**Mail to: VJC Scholarship Program, c/o
Ravenscroft
8445 E. Hartford Dr.
Scottsdale, AZ 85255**

**Or email (as .pdf attachments) to:
info@msw.org
(Please include "VJC Scholarship"
in the email's subject line)**

Valley Jazz Cooperative is an outreach of MSW Ministries, a 501(c)(3) organization.

Confidential Letter of Recommendation Form
The Valley Jazz Cooperative Scholarship Program
for high school seniors

Applicant: *If the recommender prefers to submit a hard copy, please provide them with this form along with a stamped envelope. Pre-address the envelope to be delivered to:*

VJC Scholarship Program, c/o Ravenscroft, 8445 E. Hartford Dr., Scottsdale, AZ 85255

If the recommender prefers to submit a digital copy, provide them with this portion of the application packet (in .pdf form). Please tell them to submit their completed recommendation—as an email attachment—directly to:

info@msw.org

Recommender: *This individual has applied to the Valley Jazz Cooperative Scholarship Program. Please fill out the five boxes shown below, then on the next page offer a recommendation on behalf of the applicant. (You may attach your reference letter as a separate page, if preferred.)*

After completing the recommendation and signing the bottom of this page, please return it to MSW Ministries no later than April 1st. If submitting via email, include “VJC Scholarship” in the subject line. Thank you.

<i>Name of individual offering the recommendation:</i>	<i>Recommendation date:</i>
<i>Name of the student applicant (who must be a current HS senior):</i>	
<i>How long the recommender has known the applicant:</i>	<i>The capacity in which the recommender has known the applicant:</i>

About the VJCSP: The Valley Jazz Cooperative Scholarship Program annually recognizes three outstanding high school seniors. Scholarship recipients are current or former VJC ensemble members, with emphasis given to individuals that have made meaningful contributions to their communities through service to others. As a long-term goal, the VJCSP encourages its scholarship recipients to continue making positive impacts on society through community engagement and service, as well as support for/participation in the arts.

On the next page, please explain why the applicant would be an outstanding candidate for a Valley Jazz Cooperative Scholarship. You may address the individual’s gifts as a developing musician and/or their qualities as a young person. Additionally, if you supervised, witnessed, or are aware of the applicant’s involvement with outreach activities sponsored by his/her church, school, or community (or initiated independently) that demonstrate a record of service to others, you are encouraged to discuss that here as well. Again, thank you.

Signature of recommender: _____

Valley Jazz Cooperative is an outreach of MSW Ministries, a 501(c)(3) organization.

