#### Jazz Association of Macon Young Jazz Musician Scholarship

The Jazz Association of Macon, Inc. (JAM) is a non-profit organization founded in 1986 to support the proliferation of jazz as an American art form through educational and performance activities in middle Georgia. Friends and members of JAM come from various parts of the state and from all walks of life, but have in common an interest in assuring that this style of American classical music will endure. Members of JAM host an annual music and arts festival, “Jazz and Arts on Riverdale” every October, which serves as the organization’s primary fundraiser. Funds support their principal outreach program, “JAM Goes Back to School,” in which member musicians provide jazz education to elementary, middle and high school students. JAM is the only non-profit organization to provide such broad-based jazz education to students and schools as a community service in middle Georgia.

JAM has established the Young Jazz Musician Scholarship. The scholarship is awarded annually to a graduating high school student or first year college student who has demonstrated his or her proficiency in jazz as an instrumentalist or vocalist in jazz performance. Students who play jazz on instruments that are not usually associated with jazz performance (example – violin) are also encouraged to apply for the scholarship. The student must attend or have attended an accredited public or private high school or accredited home school program in one of the eligible counties: Baldwin, Bibb, Bleckley, Crawford, Houston, Jackson, Jones, Lamar, Laurens, Monroe, Peach, Putnam, Twiggs, Upson and Washington.

Candidates should be a high school graduating senior or first year student in college and must provide evidence of acceptance to an accredited 4-year college or university, or a 2-year community college. U.S. citizenship or permanent legal US residency is required. The student does not have to attend college in the state of Georgia. The student must submit evidence of their musical proficiency and participation as jazz performer during high school, and describe their plans for continued involvement as a jazz musician while in college. The candidate is not required to be a music major while in college. The following information should be submitted by the application deadline to be considered for the scholarship:

1. Application form, typed, word processed or printed legibly, including the brief essay portions.
2. Official sealed high school transcript that demonstrates a minimum 2.0 GPA.
3. Two letters of recommendation, with at least one from a band, orchestra, choir or musical theater director or teacher who has had significant involvement in your jazz education. Letters should describe the student’s involvement as a jazz performer. If the candidate has served in a leadership role (band president, student council representative, etc.) in activities related to music or in other extracurricular activities, the letter should describe such activities.
4. Evidence of community service performed during high school. The student’s community service does not have to be performed in a music environment or venue.
5. Entire application **must be submitted by** **March 31**. The minimum scholarship award will be $1,000. The scholarship will be given in the form of a check payable to the selected individual for his or her use for school related expenses, which could include, but are not limited to, the purchase of music, support for additional music lessons, travel expenses related to auditions or performances, the purchase of instruments or to support the copyright of original music. The award will be announced and presented in April. The student may be asked to perform at a future Jazz and Arts on Riverdale or other JAM event, subject to the student’s availability. The scholarship check will be given to the student after they submit evidence of college registration.
6. JAM reserves the right to terminate the scholarship program at any time or to withhold the award if a student of adequate proficiency does not complete the application process.

The selection committee will be composed of the JAM Executive Committee who will evaluate all packages using the criteria noted. JAM is an equal opportunity organization and candidates’ applications will be reviewed without regard to race, gender, nationality or sexual orientation. Students may submit audio or video performance materials, but these are not required. Do not submit original orvaluable items because materials that are submitted will not be returned.

**Summary of Jazz Association of Macon Young Musician Scholarship Criteria:**

* Current enrollment at an accredited public or private school or home school program in one of the designated counties or a first year student in college.
* Participation is required as a jazz musician while in high school.
* Contribution to a defined jazz music program, within or outside of school. Evidence of leadership within or outside of music is not required but will enhance the candidate’s application.
* Minimum 2.0 high school GPA.
* Completed application package, submitted by March 31.
* Intention to further their music involvement at an institution of higher learning.
* Overall character and aptitude for collegiate success.

Auditions are not required. The application and the recommendations will serve as evidence of the applicant’s proficiency in jazz performance. Audio or visual performance materials will be reviewed if they are submitted but are not required. If they are submitted, they will not be returned to the applicant. The decision of the JAM Scholarship Committee shall be final and cannot be appealed in any fashion.

The student should submit the completed application form including the student essay portion and the letters of recommendation to the address below. The completed application packages should be postmarked no later than March 31 and mailed to:

**Jazz Association of Macon**

**P.O. Box 4192**

**Macon, GA 31208-4192**

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| Name: | Date: |
| Address: | Phone (Home)(Cell) |
| Primary Performance Instrument: | Other Instrument(s), if applicable: |
| High School: |
| Jazz Activities during High School: |
| GPA: | College you plan to attend: |
| Music or Theater Recommendation from: | Second Recommendation from: |
| Contact Information (Telephone, e-mail address) | Contact Information (Telephone, e-mail address) |
| Outstanding Achievements / Awards: |
| Community Service Involvement: |

Jazz Association of Macon Young Jazz Musician Scholarship Form

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| **Applicant Essay (may attach one additional page):** |
| 1. Describe how you became interested in jazz and how it has affected your life.
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| 1. Who is your favorite jazz performer, group or composer? Tell us why this person(s) is (are) your favorite (not restricted to living persons).
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| 1. If you were given an opportunity to perform, what musical piece would you select and why?
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| 1. If you are selected as the winner, how would you use the scholarship funds?
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