

Organ Historical Society Career Development The OHS Biggs Scholars Program

Purpose of OHS Biggs Scholars Program

- Promote the next generation of the Organ Historical Society
- Leverage OHS members and resources more effectively for larger impact
- Support career development for organists, scholars, and builders
- Provide long-term support in terms of resources, opportunities, and connections
- Offer exposure to historic instruments to demonstrate their value

Ideal Candidate Profile

- At least 21 years of age by the time of the Summer Festival. No upper age limit.
- Residency in the US or Canada during time of program.
- Graduate students and young professionals demonstrating considerable promise and commitment to the organ field.
- We identify three specific tracks in the organ field we wish to support. We will choose at least one candidate for each class of Scholars. Candidates will specify preferred track in their application; we understand crossover will apply:
 - Performance
 - Musicology/Research
 - Organ building and design
- No more than four (4) scholars per class; committee reserves the right to accept fewer

Program Details

- OHS Scholars will be in a cohort of no more than four, lasting three (3) years
- Scholars will attend three consecutive* years of the OHS Summer Festival
- Festival Participation includes:
 - Presence at all concerts and events
 - Participation in masterclasses and career development events
 - Learning the facets of the organization, engaging with members
 - Assist with registration and additional festival support
- Serve as ambassadors for the program, encouraging other promising candidates to apply
- Invitation to serve on the OHS Scholar Committee

*While continuity is preferred, special exceptions may occur (eg. concert, Fulbright/fellowship, organ installation, etc.), where attendance may be deferred a year. Conflicts will be subject to approval.

Career Development Opportunities

- Performance masterclasses with top artists in the field
- Research assistantship opportunities with various professors/universities
- Organ building and design involvement and training
- Masterclasses curating online social media presence
 - Learn how to self-market
 - Create and develop content for distribution
- Quarterly events ranging in topics from visioning to leadership
- Performance opportunities as part of an OHS Scholars Recital during Summer Festival
- CD opportunity on newly established Chiff label through the OHS
- Access to a rolodex of prominent figures in the organ world
- Connection with a smaller sized and more tight-knit community
- Repertoire programming sessions for historic instruments
- Publishing opportunities in The Tracker magazine

Financial Scholarship

- Festival registration for three consecutive years* (see above)
- Round-trip Coach/Economy air, bus, or train to the Summer Festival
 - Travel must be secured, and confirmation sent to program chair by May 1, 2023. Failure to submit on time may result in lack of reimbursement.
- Round-trip transportation from airport to festival hotel (ensure arrival to local airport no later than 2 pm on Sunday afternoon, opening of festival)
- Stipend of \$150 cash for the Festival
- Meals as included in Festival brochure
- Shared hotel accommodation (two to a room) at the festival hotel for the nights of the festival only.
 - Please note: extra nights are at the expense of the Scholar at normal festival rate and must be booked independently through the hotel reservation office.
 - Those requesting single occupancy may do so at personal cost of the difference in rate.
 - Prelude and Postlude events not included. May attend at cost to Scholar.

Application Procedure

Our competitive screening process will occur in two stages:

Stage I. Prescreening (Due March 1)

- Please answer the following questions (no more than 500 words for each question):
 - For which OHS Scholars Track are you applying?
 - Performer, Researcher, Builder/Designer
 - Describe your connection to this track, present experience, and future aspirations.
 - Where do you see the future of music/organ heading? How specifically do you intend to support the field?
 - What interests you about the Organ Historical Society?
 - What would you hope to achieve at the end of your time as an OHS Scholar?
- Résumé or Curriculum Vitae (include contact information and email address)
- 200-word biography
- Submit a video (no longer than 2 minutes) showcasing your interest in the organ (whether performing/design/research). Complete freedom in creativity is given. This should be more than a lecture/performance. As the future moves ever more digital, consider a video that would be well-received on social media. Videos must be uploaded to YouTube and an "unlisted" video link must be provided in the application.
- \$50 Application Fee, non-refundable

Stage II. Interview (to be scheduled Mid-March)

- A short list of successful candidates will be invited to a virtual interview
- Additionally, at this stage, candidates will provide scholarship of their intended area of focus (whether performance, research, or design) This can be in the form of a term paper, a degree recital, or demonstration of work/study of organ building. Enthusiasts will provide further information of their involvement with the instrument to fuel this passion.
- 2 Letters of Recommendation (current teacher and professional musician) speaking to the candidates promise and character. Please have recommendation letters uploaded directly to dropbox link in the format: LastNameApplicantLastNameRecommender.pdf

Scholars will be notified of final decisions by April 1.

Terms and Conditions

- Violation of any of the above, without written permission, may result in an immediate dismissal from the program, incurring financial reduction in scholarship and potential reimbursement due to the OHS.