



**Art Guild of Clifton
Helen K. Rusnak – “Helen Sings”
Music and Performing Arts Memorial Scholarship**

Application may be submitted using email [or] regular mail. **(REVISED 3/10/2022)**

1. Email Art Guild of Clifton at:

artguildofclifton@gmail.com

2. Regular mail to:

Art Guild of Clifton
P.O. Box 288
Clifton, VA 20124

Deadline: must be received by June 15, 2022 (if a postmark date – provide email to AGC of pending delivery)

PURPOSE: This scholarship program is established to honor the memory of Helen K. Rusnak (1940-2022), an Art Guild of Clifton founding member and lifelong vocalist. We are proud to establish this very special commission in Helen’s name, fostering vocal, instrumental, dance, and performing arts, including songwriting (here-to-for referred to as “the arts”) among our next generation of talented arts students. Helen spent a lifetime of learning and employing the many facets of performing arts in her personal life, especially vocal and theater arts. With this special talent she brought the beauty of the arts to her family, friends, colleagues, and public. Her work was creative and unbounded, blending all her senses to display a keen understanding of how performing arts affect humankind. Her distinct accomplishment in this lifetime was to be a driving force for establishing the Art Guild of Clifton and sustaining our membership on a singular focus. She continually demonstrated her passion for the arts in all its forms. We take great pride in advancing the arts in Helen’s memory for our next generation of vocalists, musicians, song writers, dancers, and actors.

The purpose of this scholarship program will be to support ongoing musical and performing arts education at the undergraduate level for graduating high school seniors at all Fairfax County public schools (FCPS).

Program Requirements and Criteria

Applicant Requirements:

1. Must be a High School Senior graduating in the Class of 2022.
2. Must attend a FCPS high school in Fairfax County, VA
3. Must have a minimum 2.5 GPA on a scale of 4.0 and demonstrate artistic talent.
4. Applicant must supply two letters of recommendation from their teachers, with at least one and preferably both in their related arts field.
5. Must be pursuing a musical or performing arts related degree or program as an undergraduate-level student.

AGC use only: *Applicant's ID:* 2022-AGC_____



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Key Selection Criteria:

Submission of an original body of work in musical or performing arts must contain two audition or performance tape/video, 3-5 minutes in length. If submission is a group project, the applicant needs to describe the extent of their role in each of the typical aspects of performance: singing, playing, composition, sets, costumes, camera and sound production, as well as direction. The teacher recommendations should also include their personal knowledge of the student's participation in the creative and production aspects of the group's performance.

Submission will use this naming convention in the file name:

LastName_FirstName_SchoolName_Category_Title or Part of Title.jpg

Example: *Taylor_Alyssa_Robinson_Title .jpg/mpg/wav*

1. Musical and performing art forms of expression are vocal, instrumental, dance, theater arts, and music composition. Copyright infringement and plagiarism will be cause for disqualification.
2. Performing Arts Guidance:

VIDEO TIPS

- a) You should be easily identified in your sample video audition recording. If you are not a performing a solo, reviewers should not have to search for you as the performer in an ensemble.
- b) Similarly, it is strongly suggested that you submit samples with few, if any, other performers sharing the stage with you. This ensures reviewers can (1) identify you and (2) focus on your performance without taking into consideration the performance of your peers also presented in the sample. If you submit a group performance, please do not include sections where you are not present in the performance.
- c) Be aware of the audio and lighting in your sample! Presentation is important. Your sample should be well-lit, clean, and look as professional as you can make it, without extraneous sounds save for an audience.

AREA REQUIREMENTS All Genres:

- d) At the beginning of your sample, record a 20 second introduction highlighting your name, year, school, the piece or act you will perform, and your career aspirations.
- e) Vocal: Submit at least two samples of your vocal performance each being a complete song.
- f) Instrumental Music : Submit two samples of performance, not snippets of various other performance pieces. Your instrumental performance should be easily heard and identified within the piece.
- g) Acting: Submit two samples of a monologue or piece from film, and not snippets of various other performances.
- h) Dance : Submit two samples of performance, and not snippets of various choreography. • Inform the reviewers if you or someone else choreographed the piece.
- i) Theatre : Your samples should include part of a monologue followed by a movement component (song and or dance) as appropriate. Well-known pieces for your monologue and song/dance is strongly suggested.



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Criteria Continued:

3. All works demonstrate technical skill, personal voice or vision, and originality.
4. Recommendation from the teacher/instructor. At least one recommendation, and preferably both, must be from a teacher or instructor in a related arts field.

Program Requirements:

1. Application and letters of recommendation must be received by the deadline.
2. An incomplete and/or unsigned application will be ineligible.
3. Awarded scholarship checks will be made out to the institution named in the application. If no institution is yet chosen, check will be written to institution at time of student's acceptance. No check will be written directly to the student.
4. The Art Guild of Clifton's Executive Board will review the scholarship applications.
5. Judging will be based upon the following criteria: originality/creativity, composition, skill proficiency of tools and processes, concept/idea, quality, presentation, and fulfilling entry guidelines.
6. Notification to successful applicants will take place by June 30, 2022.

Amount of Scholarship:

Applicants are eligible for up to **\$700** total per individual scholarship. All scholarships are not necessarily granted depending on quality of the applications and the art works submitted.

Students who do not yet know the program they plan to attend should also apply, but will not receive a check until the program is selected. Checks will be written when the student furnishes program information to AGC Board. Checks will be written before **August 15** of the current year or the scholarship amount will be forfeited.

All Checks are made out to the program selected, not to the student. Please be sure to include this information in your application or to give it to AGC Board as soon as possible.



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***Student, please note:** Applicants should provide the following guidelines to Instructor(s)/Teacher(s), who will be providing recommendation(s) for your participation in a program. Remember to give your teacher time to write this recommendation.*

Guidelines for Teacher Recommendation Letter

Attention Teacher:

In order for the student to qualify for the Scholarship Program, your letter or e-mail of recommendation must be postmarked on or before June 15, 2022 (provide email notifying AGC of pending delivery).

Please use the following as guidelines when preparing your recommendation letter:

- How long have you known the applicant?
- How focused is the student on his/her chosen arts medium?
- Describe the artistic growth and development of the student.
- How diversified is the student within the medium?
- How is the student’s overall academic performance?
- What future course or plan of study has been discussed with the student?
- What guidance have you provided?
- Why would you want this scholarship to be awarded to this student?
- Please include your contact information in the recommendation in case there are questions.

The recommendation letter may be submitted using email [or] regular mail.

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II. Scholarship Program Information

Please complete the following questions about the Art Program being planned. PLEASE ATTACH NO MORE THAN TWO PAGES OF SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION, AT MOST.

1. Name of Program: _____
2. Specify type of Art/Medium: _____
3. Specify institution, organization, school, university or college that will supervise program. Provide:
(a) address and a contact person with telephone number, and
(b) website for the program: If no program information is available, please furnish this information to the AGC when it becomes available.

4. Briefly describe the program or desired program:

Explain why the prospective program is important to you and what you expect to gain from participating:



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5. Specify dates [or] duration of the program, if available: _____
6. Program cost (these funds may only be used for tuition) _____
7. List file names for the three demonstrations submitted

III. Your Artist Statement

On a separate page, in 300 to 400 words explain simply:

1. WHAT INSPIRES YOU TO CREATE YOUR ART?
2. WHAT SIGNIFIES OR REPRESENTS YOUR ART?
3. WHAT IS UNIQUE OR SPECIAL ABOUT HOW YOU CREATE YOUR ART?
4. WHAT DOES YOUR ART MEAN TO YOU?