



BILL WELLS
MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
 For Youth in Bluegrass & Traditional Music
APPLICATION FORM - 2023

Your Name	
Complete Home Address	
Phone AND Email (Your Parent's is OK)	
Your School Name	
Type of School (Circle One)	High School Middle School Elementary School Home School Private School
Your Age _____	Grade You Are In _____
Acoustic String Instrument You Play	(Circle One) Fiddle Guitar Banjo Bass Mandolin Dobro How long have you played this instrument? _____
Do you also sing? Yes No	Would you be willing to perform at a SCBTMA event? Yes No

The SCBTMA

The S.C. Bluegrass and Traditional Music Association (SCBTMA) is in its eighth year of awarding scholarships to young musicians. Named in memory of Bill Wells, the awards encourage and honor youth as they learn to play bluegrass or other traditional American music on acoustic string instruments.

Eligibility / Requirements

- Applicants must play one of the six acoustic string instruments listed above; be age 6 years through high school senior; and live in South Carolina.
- Besides bluegrass, applicants may play styles of traditional music, such as fiddle tunes, old time music, classic and old time country, or gospel.
- Applicants must submit a video of themselves playing their instrument. See instructions on page 2.
- Past applicants who did not receive a scholarship may reapply. Previous winners are not eligible.
- Students are to use the awards for music related activities, such as lessons, sheet music, music camps or workshops, concert tickets, instruments, repairs, strings, or other supplies.
- **Complete applications must be received by Friday, November 17, 2023.** Successful applicants will be contacted within 10 days. All applicants will receive notification by the end of the month.

INSTRUCTIONS CONTINUE ON PAGE 2

Awards Will Be Presented on Saturday, December 9

The scholarships will be presented on Saturday, December 9, 2023, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., at Bill's Music Shop and Pickin' Parlor in West Columbia, SC. Bring your instrument to play for the group or to jam, if time allows. All applicants are welcome to attend.

Amount of Scholarships

The scholarships are cash awards. The amounts will be based on the number of applications received, the applicants' talents and potential, and the funds the SCBTMA has available in 2023. The SCBTMA is a nonprofit organization. Donations and fundraisers make the awards possible.

Your Application Must Include the Following:

- Page 1, with all information completed in the boxes. Clear contact information is essential.
- A few typed paragraphs that tell us about you. Describe your musical activities, other interests, and your hopes or plans for the future. Please tell us what you would do with the scholarship funds.
- A video recording of you playing your instrument. Singing is optional. SEE INSTRUCTIONS BELOW.
- One or more letters of recommendation are highly recommended. A letter from your music instructor will be especially helpful to the selection committee.

Recording Your Video

- Keep it simple, please. Recordings from a cell phone work well, and can be attached directly to the emailed application. A YouTube link also works well and can be attached directly to your email. The scholarship selection committee asks that you use one of these easy, straightforward methods.
- Be sure the video is recorded closely enough that we can easily see you play. The sound needs to be clear, without background noise. Sorry, we cannot accept videos of performances before a group.
- Please record two songs or tunes.
- You are required to introduce yourself at the beginning and clearly state the names of the songs or tunes you will play.
- We will judge technique, intonation, timing, and what's called "stage" presence (even if you may be in your living room). This is how you conduct yourself, speak, etc. Show you enjoy what you're doing!
- You may have another person play with you, providing soft background. Just be sure that your playing stands out and that you can be heard clearly. Many applicants choose to play on their own.

Submitting Your Application

Please submit all of the required items in one email by November 17. Documents must be in PDF format.

Email your application to: BillWellsScholarship@gmail.com

The SCBTMA will reply by email that your application was received. Please call the number below if you have not received confirmation by November 20.

Questions?

Call 803-237-2682 if you have questions. Be sure to mention "scholarship" if you leave a voice message. Or you may send an email to the address above.

Thank you for supporting bluegrass and traditional music in South Carolina!