



CMC BC BURSARY POLICY – OPEN LETTER

November 14th, 2008

Dear Parents, Teachers, Members and Potential participants,

This year, CMC British Columbia Society is in the position to offer a very limited number of bursaries to competitors demonstrating financial hardship. We expect competitors to first look to other means of fundraising and managing their finances. We would first like to outline the basis for this program and opportunities for fundraising, then we will advise prospective competitors on the application process.

Fees this year for BC participants have been increased. There are a number of reasons for this. First, we were denied a yearly grant of \$7,000 from the Provincial Government, which in the past subsidized \$100 per competitor. Second, in 2006, 2008 and likely thereafter, we are being forced to pay commercial rates for our competition location. With hall rental, piano rental and moving, this cost may be well over \$1,000 per day, or \$100 per competitor. Third, despite good turn out to our fundraising events, we only raise about \$7,000 in total in each year. This fundraising helps, but is not enough to subsidize over \$300 for the national assessment of each of our 75 competitors yearly.

Because of this, ending our subsidy of each competitor's national assessment was the only way to ensure a competition this year and for future years. Even without our normal subsidy of national fees, the Board strongly believes that this competition is a worthwhile experience, and that given the national structure, extended program, and quality of judging, the fees are justified. That said, CMC has a policy of inclusiveness. As always, we invite all talented young musicians to participate in the exclusive experience of a high-caliber nationwide competition.

We also recognize the cost of pursuing a spot in the national finals. We expect competitors to be responsible and limit the number of classes that they participate in, as well as participate in fundraising activities within CMC and on their own. Over 90% of CMC participants participate in one class per year, ensuring that they have the time and dedication necessary to prepare a significant program for three rounds of competition. For deserving competitors, there are significant national level scholarships in amounts up to \$1,500, helping defray costs of the competition. We also encourage deserving competitors to fundraise for themselves through recitals and other creative events, like children participating in many other extra-curricular activities. Finally, we encourage competitors and their families to join in events organized by CMC BC which will increase the amount we can offer as bursaries and scholarships.

We also urge parents to get involved with CMC BC organizing committees and Board activities. This way, parents can gain a better understanding of our Society, and they can contribute to the future of the competition and their children.

The CMC BC Board has developed the following policy for our 2007-2008 bursary program:

A limited number of bursaries in the amount of \$500 each will be awarded to competitors who demonstrate financial need based on family income and number of dependents. However, CMC BC's policy is that competitors paying to attend private school or paying to enter competitions outside of British Columbia **do not** demonstrate financial need and will be disqualified from applying for a need-based bursary. Competitors attending private schools on full scholarships or bursaries, or participating in activities on full scholarship or bursaries will not be disqualified from applying for need-based bursaries. In addition, extra fees incurred from joining more than one class will not be judged as a cause for financial hardship. All bursary applications and recipients' names will be kept in complete confidence within the Board of Directors and will not be announced.

To apply, we invite you to fill-in the national registration form at www.cmcnational.com, and pre-pay the fees associated with that application. Next, download an application from www.cmcbc.com and email it, along with copies of all required documents, to treasurer@cmcbc.com, or mail it to 228-1555 W 7th Ave., Vancouver, BC. V6J 1S1 by November 22nd, 2007. Decisions will be emailed to all applicants by November 26th, 2007 and final registration must be completed by November 30th.

We would like to note that this is the first year we have been able to offer a limited number of bursaries to participants. We endeavor to evaluate each application on its merits. However, it is very likely that the number of applications exceeds the number of bursaries available, and we regret that not all qualified applicants may receive a bursary. All decisions of the Board will be final.

We hope this addresses the questions some of you may be having, and that you join us in this time of transition to make the competition a success.

Sincerely,

CMC BC
Board of Directors