

THE SARAH E. MENEZ MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

The Sarah Ellen Menez Memorial Scholarship was established in memory of Sarah Menez (1954-2013) with the goal of recognizing students who exemplify strength of character, musicianship and academic achievement.

About Sarah Menez

Sarah Menez was born on January 29, 1954, in Columbus, Ohio to Robert and Agnes Crabbs who predeceased her in 2001 and 2007 respectively. In the early years of her life through age 12, she attended public school in the Whitehall City School District in Whitehall, Ohio (Columbus) where one of the schools she attended was named Beechwood Elementary School. It was also a place and time where she began taking lessons in the piano and bassoon. Her father was a teacher, then Superintendent of the Whitehall School District for 10 years. In 1966 he accepted the superintendent's post of Mariemont School District in Cincinnati.

Sarah attended public school in Mariemont where she continued to develop her interest in music by playing the piano and bassoon and in acting by participating in theater productions through the Thespian's Club. It is from these years that in the subsequent years of her life she drew inspiration for acting in live theater and playing the jazz piano.

Upon graduation, she attended the Boston University College of Fine Arts. She was in live theater productions and played representative roles, presented by the Theatre-by-the-Sea in Rhode Island, the Omnibus Theatre Company of Boston, and the Cincinnati Theatre Project. She also had acting roles in various productions in Educational Theatre and Children's Theatre in Boston and Cincinnati.

She was a humanitarian and passionate about social justice and animal welfare and had a particular affection for cats. She volunteered in a program to read to blind persons. She was a passionate supporter of certain causes such as the American Cancer Society, Humane Society of the U.S., the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, the Food Store, and, most recently, the ALS Association. She was an ardent lover of the arts, especially music and theater, and supported them as well.

She enjoyed being a step-mother to Katherine and Elizabeth Menez (Beechwood High School graduates, '02 and '03) and was a constant source of support to them in their respective journeys and in recognizing and applauding their durable achievements. She played the piano, especially jazz piano, and played at a Northern Kentucky University jazz concert along with some other Beechwood student musicians. As a lifelong music lover, she had an irrepressible fondness for playing the jazz piano.

Before her ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease) diagnosis in 2011, she liked her solitude simply to be and restore her soul. Before the disease forbid such activities, she had an active lifestyle in that she loved to walk, especially in parks and on walking trails, visit the library, sit down in the midst of artwork in a museum and take it all in, or just rest on a park bench. She was a never-failing source of encouragement, caring, and kindness to others and rarely asked anything in return. She was appreciative and grateful for small acts of kindness – a card, a visit from a friend or doctor, a bouquet of flowers, a phone call, a hairdo, and even a freshly baked chocolate chip muffin. She had a hearty disrespect for puffery of any kind. She had an interest in reading attested to by her 327 book library. And, she had an infectious smile.

The Sarah E. Menez Memorial Scholarship will be granted each year to one college-bound Beechwood High School senior who demonstrates the innate personal qualities of Sarah Menez, interest in playing a musical instrument and musicianship, and academic achievement.

Scholarship Application Process

Timing to apply for the Sarah E. Menez Memorial Scholarship:

- The scholarship application will be available on this page March 1st of each year: www.beechwoodbands.org
- Applications will also be available in hard copy via the Beechwood Director of Bands by April 1st of each year.
- The application must be postmarked by April 22nd of the application year to be considered
- You must submit all materials per the below Scholarship Criteria section
- Scholarship recipients will be notified by mid-May

Scholarship Criteria

Application

Please download and complete all portions of the application and submit to the address noted below.

Criteria

Students eligible for the scholarship are graduating Beechwood High School seniors who intend to continue their education at an accredited College or University and enroll in a music concentration (in instrumental music) or music education course of study for the upcoming school year. Consideration will be given to students, as follows:

- demonstrated commitment to use one's talents to the fullest
- demonstrated moral force of character to lead and to take an interest in one's fellow beings
- demonstrated personal qualities of thoughtfulness, kindness, unselfishness and fellowship
- demonstrated commitment to the study, practice, and playing of a musical instrument(s) and musicianship itself
- demonstrated academic achievement
- submitted personal essay

(Note: The personal essay will be weighed heavily by the Scholarship Committee.)

Amount of Scholarship

Each Scholarship awarded will be \$500.00. The scholarship will be forwarded directly to the College/University the recipient will attend and deposited toward tuition expenses.

Deadline

The application deadline is Friday April 22nd. No applications will be accepted after the deadline. The Sarah E. Menez Memorial Scholarship Committee will use the postmark date to determine mailed entries.

Scholarship Committee

The Scholarship Committee will comprise three members: (1) the Beechwood High School Director of Bands, (2) the President of the Beechwood Band Boosters, and (3) a representative of the Menez family. In the event that either the Band Director or the Band Booster Presidents' child is a senior, the Associate Director of Bands and the Band Booster Vice-President shall serve in their stead for that year's committee.

Establishment of Scholarship

In 2014, the Beechwood Band Boosters in association with Joseph Menez established this scholarship in memory of his late wife and identified criteria on which the scholarship recipients be selected: first on their exemplifying the finest qualities that characterized Sarah Menez as a humane person and second on their musicianship in playing a musical instrument and academic achievement. The scholarship is funded through an annual donation to the Beechwood Band Boosters, an IRC 501(c) (3) organization, by Joseph Menez and any other gifts so designated.

Scholarship recipients will receive a plaque in whose name the scholarship is awarded and a Master plaque will be prominently maintained to memorialize the permanent display of scholarship recipients located in the Band Room of Beechwood High School.

A Beechwood news release will be issued each year announcing the scholarship followed by one recognizing the scholarship recipient.

Please submit applications by Monday, April 22nd to:

Sarah E. Menez Memorial Scholarship
Attn: Director of Bands
Beechwood High School
54 Beechwood Road
Ft. Mitchell, KY 41017

Sarah E. Menez Memorial Scholarship Application

Application Instructions

Please complete the attached application form to apply for the Sarah E. Menez Memorial Scholarship and submit it by April 22nd *If additional space is needed please attach a separate sheet(s) of paper.*

Purpose

The Sarah E. Menez Memorial Scholarship exists in memory of Sarah Menez by awarding scholarships to college-bound Beechwood high school seniors who demonstrate wisdom, optimism, unselfishness, kindness, and compassion for others as well as command of a musical instrument and academic achievement.

Requirements

- Must be a graduating Beechwood high school senior who intends to continue their education at an accredited College or University majoring in music (in instrumental music) or music education course of study.
- Official High School Transcripts - Submit Official High School(s) Transcripts(s) with application packet. Applications without Official High School Transcripts will not be considered.
- Personal Essay – Applicants must submit a personal essay of not more than 500 words addressing why you demonstrate the following qualities: wisdom, optimism, unselfishness, kindness, and compassion for others. These may be expressed through volunteer service, community services, or extracurricular activities, among others. Add anything else you would like the selection committee to know about you. For instance, why might you be a stronger candidate for the scholarship than other candidates?
- Letters of Recommendation - You must arrange for two letters of recommendation from Beechwood High school faculty members who are not related to you but are familiar with your achievements, abilities, and character. Both letters must be submitted with this application. Please ask the two faculty members to sign their letter, and place it in a sealed envelope prior to returning it to you.
- Proof of Acceptance to College or University – If you already have it, please include your letter of acceptance to the College or University you plan to attend with the application.

Guidelines

If selected as a scholarship recipient, the applicant must allow their photo and short bio in a Beechwood news release.

Amount

Each scholarship awarded will be \$500. The scholarship will be forwarded directly to the institution and deposited toward tuition expenses upon proof of College or University enrollment.

Deadline: The application deadline is April 22nd of each year. No applications will be accepted after the deadline. The Sarah Menez Scholarship Committee will use the postmarked date to determine mailed entries.

Please submit applications by April 22nd to:

Sarah E. Menez Memorial Scholarship
Attn: Director of Bands

54 Beechwood Road
Ft. Mitchell, KY 41017

Beechwood High School

Sarah E. Menez Memorial Scholarship Application

Personal Information

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

I am a US Citizen Yes No

Education information

Name of High School: _____

Address: _____

Year Graduated: _____ GPA: _____

ACT Composite Score: _____

Extracurricular Activities

List school organizations and activities you are MOST PROUD to have been involved in, positions of responsibility and your direct activities:

Organization	Position Held	Years	Activities

List Award/Honors attained: _____

List community service activities you are involved in, positions of responsibility and your direct activities:

College Information

Academic year 20____ 20____ in which scholarship will be used.

Name and Address of the institution you plan to attend: _____

College Major: _____

Have you been accepted? ____ Yes ____ No

Are you enrolled? ____ Yes ____ No

Please read and affirm the following:

*I affirm that all information provided pertaining to this application is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

*If I receive this scholarship, I will notify the Sarah E. Menez Memorial Scholarship Committee as to the institution I will attend.

*I agree that this scholarship will be forwarded directly to that institution and deposited toward my tuition expenses.

*I will provide the Sarah E. Menez Memorial Scholarship Committee confirmation of my attendance at this institution for the year the scholarship was intended.

Signature of Applicant _____ Date: _____

INSTRUCTIONS:

Please make sure all boxes are checked

- Completed typed application (including personal essay)
- Two letters of recommendation by Beechwood High School faculty members unrelated to you, who are familiar with your achievements, abilities and character.
- Copy of school transcript which can verify your GPA
- Proof of Acceptance to College or University – If you already have it, please include your letter of acceptance to the College or University you plan to attend with the application.

Applications must be typed and necessary documents must be attached for consideration.