

### Overview and Eligibility

In 2002, a generous donor, Nyda Swanson, established the Music Education endowed fund to enhance the quality of music education programs in K-12 schools located in the St. Croix Valley (including Washington and Chisago Counties in Minnesota and Pierce, St. Croix, Polk, and Burnett Counties in Wisconsin).

To be eligible, the applicant must be a public or private school. Applicants are required to submit a bid as part of their application. Nonprofit arts organizations may *not* apply for a music education grant directly but may work with a school to take the lead. Applicants must have no outstanding final reports due to the St. Croix Valley Foundation for previous music education grants.

### Grant Details

- Grants range from \$500 to \$5,000; requests may be awarded partial funding.
- Grants may provide funds for materials such as sheet music, instruments, and other necessary items for the instruments to function; guest artists and instructors; community outreach; concerts; composition; and inter or intra school collaborations.
- Grant funds may supplement, but not replace, schools' music education budgets.
- Grant funds must be expended within one year from the date of the award.
- Grant funds may **not** be used for the following: scholarships for individuals, uniforms/robes, chairs, risers, microphones, speakers, staff salaries or expenses already incurred by the applicant.

### Review Process

A panel reviews proposals in a closed meeting. Decisions follow an established review process and are made according to a conflict-of-interest policy.

The panel reviews proposals using the following criteria:

- The project activities are engaging.
- There is a clearly defined plan and timeline.
- The project goals are defined and realistic.
- The project will have an impact on the students, music program, school, and broader community. Collaborations are given extra emphasis.
- The budget is realistic, the project is financially feasible, and budget details are provided.
- Bids and/or supporting documentation is included; *otherwise, it will not move forward.*

SCVF prefers hands-on vocal or musical activities over technological innovations, equipment or brick and mortar. The panel encourages applications from all music educators seeking to improve the learning experience. The panel gives extra emphasis to the following: first time applicants, organizations which have been funded fewer times in the past, organizations which include bids from local/regional companies.

*Questions: Contact Heidi Herron, Grants & Scholarships Manager, St. Croix Valley Foundation, 715-386-9490*