



Call for Applications

Victor and Jean Sands Memorial Scholarship for Oboe and Strings

The Victor and Jean Sands Memorial Scholarship for Oboe and Strings is seeking highly skilled oboe or string instrument performing musicians, motivated to go into teaching by a desire and vision to develop the next generation of highly skilled musicians. Applicants should be planning a music career in both teaching and performing and intend to continue developing their strengths in both areas over the course of their career.

The criteria for application are the following:

- The applicant must be a graduate of Benton or Franklin County.
- The applicant must have a cumulative GPA of ≥ 3.0 (on 4.0 scale).
- The applicant's performance instrument must be oboe, violin, viola, cello, or bass.
- The applicant must be entering their freshman year of college or be a returning college student. Priority will be given to first-time applicants.
- Applicants should intend to major in music education. Preference will be given to students who are also pursuing a performance degree.
- This scholarship is not available to members of the Sands family.

To apply, please provide the following:

- Application Form
- One-Page Resume (see attached sample template)
- Two Confidential References (returned to applicant in sealed envelope to include with application)
- Transcript - Your full transcript from the school you are currently attending must be stamped with an official seal and can be enclosed with your application or mailed directly to the 3 Rivers Community Foundation.



Victor and Jean Sands Memorial Scholarship for Oboe and Strings

Deadline: The completed application form, along with one-page resume, two references, and school transcripts, must be postmarked by **March 31, 2026**. Any materials postmarked after this date will not be considered. Send fully completed application to:

3 Rivers Community Foundation
7401 W. Hood Place, Suite 140
Kennewick, WA 99336

Decision notification letters will be sent in May. One \$1,000.00 award will be distributed. The scholarship funds will be disbursed directly to the institution in the recipient's name, upon receipt of enrollment verification.

Verification: I affirm that the information included with my application is true and accurate in all respects and that I intend to pursue a post-secondary degree. I understand that if selected, the awarding of funds is contingent upon my full-time enrollment in an accredited institution, and that the funds will be paid directly to the institution and used toward the cost of my education.

Signature

Date



Victor and Jean Sands Memorial Scholarship for Oboe and Strings

Student Application Form

Personal Information	
Last Name:	First Name:
Address:	
City, State, Zip:	
Email:	
Phone Number:	
Primary Instrument:	
Academic Information	
High School:	
High School Graduation Date:	High School GPA (4.0 Scale):
Name of College/University:	
Student ID Number (if available):	
Major:	
Minor (if applicable):	
College GPA if a returning College Student (4.0 Scale):	
Number of Semesters Completed if a returning College Student:	

Include a copy of your college acceptance letter if you have already applied and received your confirmation.

What is your preferred method of contact?

☐ Phone ☐ Email ☐ Text Message ☐ Mail

I agree to respond promptly to any requests regarding enrollment verification, documentation, or other materials required to support my scholarship application or award process. If I cannot be reached, I authorize the scholarship committee to contact the individual listed below:

Full Name:
Relationship to Applicant:
Phone Number:
Email Address:

Signature

Date



Victor and Jean Sands Memorial Scholarship for Oboe and Strings

Questions:

(Please be specific, 300 words or less each, add pages as needed)

1. Describe how you chose to make music a central part of your future and how you would ideally like to see this lived out. Describe your plans for achieving this career goal.
2. Please provide a detailed account of your performance activities. Are you part of your school orchestra/band? (If not, please explain.) Include such things as Solo and Ensemble adjudications, Mid-Columbia Youth Orchestra, competitions, adjudications, chamber groups, performing at skilled nursing facilities, and so forth. Include any awards or honors. Do you play other instruments besides your primary performance instruments? Additionally, please tell us about private lessons (teachers, years, instruments).
3. Please tell us about your teaching experience or aspirations. Why do you want to teach?
4. What music teacher and/or performer has especially inspired you and how?
5. Are there parts of Mr. and Mrs. Sands' life story and legacy which resonate with you in your plans? If you have a musical connection to Mr. and Mrs. Sands, please share stories.
6. Is there anything else you'd like us to know about you, in consideration for this scholarship?



Victor and Jean Sands Memorial Scholarship for Oboe and Strings

Victor and Jean Sands: A Legacy of Music Performing and Teaching

Victor and Jean were well-known, well-liked, well-respected music performers and teachers in the Tri-City area. Raised in Spokane and well-taught themselves, they were outstanding musicians from their youth and committed to generously sharing their knowledge and skill.

Victor began playing the violin at age seven and became a founding member of the Spokane Symphony while still a high school student at Lewis and Clark. After graduating in 1946, Victor attended Whitworth College where he was invited to play in a string quartet as a violist, which led to a life-long love of both string quartet playing and the viola. In 1948 at the Spokane Music Festival, Victor won the Young Artist Competition and performed the Handel Viola Concerto with the Spokane Philharmonic (Spokane Symphony).



Victor earned a bachelor of arts degree as a music major (elementary education specialty) from Eastern Washington College of Education (now EWU) and first taught music in Kent, WA until he was called into the army as a teletype operator. After returning to teaching, he earned a master of music degree from the University of Idaho.

Jean's musical journey began with group piano lessons in 3rd grade. By 7th grade she was studying with Mrs. Laura Luke, a wonderful teacher with the highest standards of musicianship. It was Mrs. Luke who set the tone for Jean's musical life.

One day at West Valley High School, where Jean was the choir accompanist, the band director offered her the opportunity to play a newly-purchased school oboe. He gave her a book to "learn it over the summer." After graduating from high school as Valedictorian in 1949, Jean became a member of the Spokane Philharmonic – as an oboist! She later remarked that you can't learn oboe from a book and dedicated herself to providing her oboe students the highest quality instruction from the start, including reed-making and theory. She even taught oboe online during Covid. She earned a bachelor of arts in music degree from Eastern Washington College of Education (EWU). It was at Eastern that Jean met Victor, as his piano accompanist.

Victor and Jean (Olson) married on Christmas Day 1953 and moved to Kennewick in 1955, where they both taught music in the public schools. Victor taught orchestra in the Kennewick School District for 34 years, including summer school. Initially the only orchestra teacher in the district, Victor taught all levels while building the program, later specializing in the important work



Victor and Jean Sands Memorial Scholarship for Oboe and Strings

of teaching 5th grade beginning orchestra students across all the Kennewick elementary schools. Victor was also an integral part of launching the original Mid-Columbia Youth Symphony in the early 1970s. In 1981, he established the Kennewick All-City Orchestra Festival, which brings together hundreds of Kennewick orchestra students in an exciting annual event continuing to this day.

Victor and Jean's association with the Mid-Columbia Symphony goes back to 1955 and continued for over 50 years. Victor was principal viola, and Jean was first oboe.

Both have performed as featured soloists with symphonies as well. Both have also performed with various regional symphonies, community productions, chamber groups, and numerous "gigs" of every variety. One memorable group was the "Spotted Owl Band," a dance band so named because they were always "one gig away from extinction." Jean was on piano, and Victor, on string bass.

For decades, both Victor and Jean also taught a steady stream of private music students at home. As an accomplished pianist, Jean taught a multitude of piano students, along with her oboe students. Along with Victor's private teaching of strings students, he also coached chamber music ensembles. Every June, Victor and Jean's students combined to perform a public recital.

Some of their fortunate students were their own four children, Connie, Kathy, Laura, and Glen. And Victor and Jean were a team: When it was piano lesson time, Victor might send that child out the back door to knock on the front door like one of Jean's piano students just arriving. Each of their children learned to play piano and one (or more) stringed instruments, thanks to their parents' excellent instruction and solid commitment.

While Victor and Jean were raising their children, Jean stepped away from public school teaching and expanded her private piano and oboe teaching studio at home, while continuing to perform locally. During these busy years, with Victor's encouragement and support, Jean also earned a masters in music from the University of Idaho, presenting a solo piano recital in 1968, both in Moscow, ID, and Pasco, WA, as part of her degree work. After the children were on their own, Jean went back to public school music teaching, first in Pasco and then in Kennewick, bringing her high standards, creativity, and sense of fun to those who got to be her students.

Ever the cheerleader for Jean, Victor attended numerous International Double Reed Society conferences with Jean all around the country. (How many violists would have been in attendance?) It's impossible to think of one without the other.

Along with music, Victor enjoyed horse-back riding and ham radio with his children, and Jean, an exemplary seamstress, taught her children and friends new skills as their 4-H leader. Both



Victor and Jean Sands Memorial Scholarship for Oboe and Strings

Victor and Jean enjoyed family camping trips, woodworking, and travel – lots of travel. And lots of adventure. They drove their very young family to Alaska and back, and in later years they travelled to China, Israel, and Europe, and took up new athletic pursuits. Victor was an avid walker, and Jean an excellent swimmer. Jean took up sprint triathlons as the 5K relay partner (participating into her 80s). Both started participating in the Lampson Cable Bridge run in their 80s, coming in with 1st and 2nd place ribbons in their divisions each time (Jean participating at age 90).

Both Victor and Jean energetically invested in people, motivated to develop the highest potential of each student. Both Victor and Jean were naturally positive and encouraging. They simply loved people. Both were strong advocates of higher education. They would be so pleased to know that through this scholarship, future teachers and performers are being encouraged in their pursuit of excellence in the important field of music. This scholarship aims to honor their memory by supporting musicians who share their passion.

For more information about Victor and Jean Sands, please see the articles featured under the Victor and Jean Sands Memorial Scholarship for Oboe and Strings tab at 3rcf.org/scholarships.



Victor and Jean Sands Memorial Scholarship for Oboe and Strings

Confidential Reference Form #1

Applicant:

The Victor and Jean Sands Memorial Scholarship for Music is seeking excellent musicians intending to pass on excellent musicianship to the next generation. Applicants are oboe or string (violin, viola, cello, bass) performing musicians beginning or continuing a degree program in Music Education (Performance also is a plus), and they are planning on an active career in both teaching and performing.

Name and Position of Reference:

Contact Information for Reference:

Length of Time Known:

In what capacity do you know the applicant:

Please provide your observations in the following areas (attach extra pages as needed).
Return to applicant in a sealed envelope for confidentiality.

- 1. Please circle the number that best represents the strengths of this applicant (1 being among the top student musicians you have worked with).**

A	Potential as a music teacher	1	2	3	4	5
B	Performance ability	1	2	3	4	5
C	Ensemble skills	1	2	3	4	5

- 2. Please comment on the applicant's potential as a music teacher.**

Consider: Interpersonal skills, temperament, personal discipline, time management, and whether they get along well with others. Are they cooperative and pleasant to work with? Do they have good knowledge of their subject at this point?

(over)



Victor and Jean Sands Memorial Scholarship for Oboe and Strings

3. Please comment on the applicant's performance abilities.

Consider: Technical skill, musicianship, stage presence, and so forth.

4. Please comment on the applicant's ability to play in ensembles, large and small.

Consider: can they follow a conductor, are they attentive to other musicians' parts, sensitive to balance and dynamics, can they lead a section?

5. Please provide any additional comments on the applicant's musical abilities and potential for success in performance/teaching.



Victor and Jean Sands Memorial Scholarship for Oboe and Strings

Confidential Reference Form #2

Applicant:

The Victor and Jean Sands Memorial Scholarship for Music is seeking excellent musicians who intend to pass on excellent musicianship to the next generation.

Applicants are oboe or string (violin, viola, cello, bass) performing musicians beginning or continuing a degree program in Music Education (Performance also is a plus), and they are planning on an active career in both teaching and performing.

Name and Position of Reference:

Contact Information for Reference:

Length of time Known:

In what capacity do you know the applicant:

Please provide your observations in the following areas (attach extra pages as needed). Return to applicant in a sealed envelope for confidentiality.

- 1. Please circle the number that best represents the strengths of this applicant (1 being among the top student musicians you have worked with).**

A	Potential as a music teacher	1	2	3	4	5
B	Performance ability	1	2	3	4	5
C	Ensemble skills	1	2	3	4	5

- 2. Please comment on the applicant's potential as a music teacher.**

Consider: Interpersonal skills, temperament, personal discipline, time management, and whether they get along well with others. Are they cooperative and pleasant to work with? Do they have good knowledge of their subject at this point?

(over)



Victor and Jean Sands Memorial Scholarship for Oboe and Strings

3. Please comment on the applicant's performance abilities.

Consider: Technical skill, musicianship, stage presence, and so forth.

4. Please comment on the applicant's ability to play in ensembles, large and small.

Consider: can they follow a conductor, are they attentive to other musicians' parts, sensitive to balance and dynamics, can they lead a section?

5. Please provide any additional comments on the applicant's musical abilities and potential for success in performance/teaching.



Victor and Jean Sands Memorial Scholarship for Oboe and Strings

Sample Resume Outline

Name and Contact Information

Full Name

Address

Phone Number

Email Address

Objective

A brief statement about career goals and interest in music.

Education

High School Name

Graduation Year

Relevant Courses or Achievements

Employment/Community Experience

Work history with dates, volunteer service, and/or contributions to community initiatives.

Music Experience

List of musical instruments played, years of experience, and any training received.

Performances

Details of school concerts, recitals, competitions, or community performances.

Skills

Musical skills, teamwork, communication, and other relevant abilities.

References

Available upon request.