

Mat Fox Bursary

The Nonsuch Dulcimer Club wants to provide a lasting and practical memorial to one of its best loved tutors, Mat Fox, who died suddenly in early 2014. Mat was an excellent player of the hammered dulcimer, but above all an inspiring educator of young people. Since the Club's overriding aim is to promote interest in the hammered and mountain dulcimer, it has decided to fund an annual bursary in Mat's name to encourage young people to learn and enjoy either instrument. Subject to available funds each year, the Club will help one or more young person between 16 and 25 to buy or loan a dulcimer and get good quality tuition on it (to a maximum cost of £250).

Applications should be made by letter (see conditions 8 and 9 below). A repeat application by a previously successful bursary holder will be considered on its merits.

Detailed conditions:

1. The bursary is available to help young people learn and enjoy either the hammered or mountain dulcimer;
2. It is available only to young people aged between 16 and 25 on the date when applications close;
3. The cash limit of the bursary (and total liability for the Club) is £250 for any single applicant;
4. The bursary is not payable in advance, but only (in whole or part) on the basis of signed receipts sent to and authorised by the Club Finance Officer;
5. The bursary **must** be used:
 - To attend one of the Club's national training events, either the Spring Fling in March or the main annual weekend in the Autumn (i.e. the normal reduced student price will be met by the Club and deducted from the bursary total), or a similar training course agreed in advance by the club.
6. The bursary **may** also be used:
 - To support travel to one of the Club's national training events or to an appropriate learning opportunity run by another reputable organisation ; and/or
 - To support tuition from a suitably qualified teacher of the hammered /mountain dulcimer; and/or
 - To contribute towards the loan/hire of a suitable quality instrument (**free** for 12 months if loaned by the Club); and/or
 - To contribute towards the purchase of a suitable quality new or second-hand instrument (not to be sold within 2 years); and/or
 - To purchase music or learning materials for the dulcimer;
 - For any other purpose agreed in advance by the Club.
7. When considering an application for the bursary, the Club will consider, among other factors:
 - The musical background of the applicant;
 - The reasons for wanting to learn and develop their skills on the instrument;
 - Indications of prior commitment to learn and progress musically;
 - Aspirations for continuing to develop their dulcimer skills after the bursary is finished.
 - How awardees propose to put something back into the youth music community, perhaps by playing at a school or similar.

8. To apply, the applicant must write a letter with an accompanying statement of a maximum of 500 words stating why they would like to receive the bursary and how they would use it. The letter should be sent to: nonsuch@dulcimer.org.uk.
9. In the application letter please also supply the name, email address and telephone number of an independent referee (not a member of the applicant's immediate family), preferably someone with knowledge of the applicant's musicality and commitment, e.g. a music teacher or musical friend.
10. On requesting the final payment the awardee will send a brief report (up to one page of A4) outlining what they have achieved with the grant.

SEW 20th June 2019