



THE MAESTRO FOUNDATION

INSTRUMENT LENDING PROGRAM APPLICATION

The Maestro Foundation supports developing young musicians in need through its Instrument Lending Program. This expanding collection comprises over 80 professional quality violins, violas, celli and bows. Maestro's instruments are loaned to students attending the finest music schools and conservatories. This program facilitates their development during the most critical stages and transitions in their careers.

Instrument and bow loans are granted for the duration of a young musician's education and for an individually specified one-year grace period following graduation. Recipients are responsible for the proper care and maintenance of the instrument/bow and its insurance coverage. They are also responsible for informing the Maestro Foundation of changes in contact information, activities and honors, and any instrument issues.

Guidelines

Applicants must be enrolled in a performance degree or diploma program through a conservatory or university. Though Maestro's focus is on college-level musicians, younger students who show promise and potential may be considered, provided they fit the criteria.

Instrument loans are granted based on the following qualifications:

- The student must have chosen a career goal of being a professional musician
- The student must currently have an instrument that is hindering his or her musical development
- The student must demonstrate financial limitations that hinder him or her from being able to buy a better instrument
- The student must be recommended by his or her music instructor

How to Apply

A completed application consists of three parts: a teacher recommendation, a written application, and a recorded audition. Before the student contacts the Maestro Foundation, the primary music teacher should submit the recommendation form detailing the student's fulfillment of the aforementioned criteria. **Applications lacking a teacher recommendation will not be considered.**

Applicants must complete and submit an application form, along with the first page of their federal tax return and a headshot to the Maestro Foundation. Dependents must submit the first page of their parent or guardian's federal tax return.

In the recorded audition, the applicant must demonstrate excellence in the following repertoire:

- One movement of solo Bach repertoire (without accompaniment)
- One movement of a contrasting work from the standard repertoire

Both selections should be memorized.

Applicants will receive an e-mail confirmation once all application materials are received. Determinations for loans will be based on teacher recommendation, the applicant's fulfillment of the selection criteria, and instrument availability. Additional factors such as an applicant's character, reliability, accomplishments, and talent will be taken into consideration without discrimination as to national origin, sexual orientation, race, gender, or religion.

Questions regarding the application process or Instrument Lending Program may be sent to:

Aaron Sanders

The Maestro Foundation

P.O. Box 716

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310-453-2536 | aaron@maestrofoundation.org



Personal Information

Last Name	First Name	Middle Initial
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Home/Permanent Address	City	State	Zip Code
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Primary Phone	E-mail Address
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School Information

School Name

School Address	City	State	Zip Code
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Instrument	Teacher Name	Degree Program	Expected Grad Date
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Applying for: **Bow** **Instrument** **Both**

Please submit an electronic version of a publicity photograph and a copy of your driver's license, passport photo, or other government ID with this application.

Written Responses

Please describe your current instrument/bow and discuss in detail its limitations.

Please describe any financial, familial, or other extenuating circumstances that prevent you from acquiring a professional-quality instrument/bow. *Additionally, please attach the first page of the student's or parent/guardian's federal tax return.*

Please submit your artist bio.

Along with this application, please submit a 500-800 word Musician's Personal Statement (in a separate document).
See Appendix A for guidelines.

By signing below I certify that all statements made in this application are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Signed

Dated



Appendix A: The Musician's Personal Statement

To be considered for the Maestro Foundation's Instrument Loan Program, applicants should include a 500-800 word Musician's Personal Statement as part of their application.

The personal statement, sometimes called a statement of purpose, applicant statement, or personal essay, is a common requirement when applying to graduate programs, fellowships, and in this case, The Maestro Foundation Instrument Loan Program. While it cannot compete with a performance audition, the personal statement is still an important part of your application because it sheds light on your career aspirations as well as your character. This tip sheet offers suggestions for writing a thoughtful, organized, and professional personal statement.¹

Examples of Prompts You May Use for Your Statement

- Describe your professional goals and plans. How has your background influenced your goals and how will the ILP help you to achieve them?
- What are your present plans for a career? Tell us about yourself, your professional music journey, and what you hope to accomplish.
- This statement should include your objectives, observations of your professional and personal strengths and weaknesses, any significant professional experiences or honors, and any other information you think important.

Preliminary Steps: Research and Plan Your Statement

Start by researching The Maestro Foundation before submitting your application. Examine the history, the mission, and the other recipients so you can personalize your statement.

Prepare to write your statement by thinking deeply about why you will benefit from the ILP. Readers want to be assured that you have deliberately considered your future and how the instrument will help you reach your goals. Before writing, outline your most important points and choose their most effective ordering. Consider using a persuasive statement organizer to guide the presentation of your ideas (an online search will provide several examples of these). Use your planning to ensure a smooth flow between ideas and **use transition statements to connect**

¹ Adapted from an [original document](#) created by the Eastman School of Music.

thoughts and paragraphs. At first, don't get too caught up on meeting the intended essay length but focus instead on creating a quality document that is a clear and genuine. However, don't go beyond the suggested essay length.

Content

Your personal statement should tell a story about who you are, what your goals are, and why you should be granted an instrument. Focus on your various long-term goals and your professional vision as well as your current ability and your motivation. Never simply rehash your résumé in prose and avoid treating your personal statement like a standard musical bio.

Don't just tell—show! **Demonstrate your statements through relevant and concrete examples.** Highlight your record of recent successes rather than dwelling on your passion for music. Be objective and draw conclusions from your musical experiences. Point the reader's attention to patterns or dominant themes within your career trajectory. Consider what differentiates you from other candidates of the same program. Convey the reasons why you feel you are especially suited for the degree/field and consider sharing what noteworthy preparation you have had already. Show your knowledge of the current state of the field along with your reasons why you wish to enter it.

Optional: The Hook Some applicants find it useful to begin the essay with a statement or idea that will hook your reader. This hook sets the tone and intrigues the reader while providing context for the remainder of the statement. Done well, the hook should be personal yet professional and keep the reader invested in your words. Since your personal statement is not a work of fiction, it's best not to employ an especially dramatic or controversial hook.

Approach and Style

Do not resort to a chronological account of your musical experiences and, unless it has ties to your professional plans, avoid boring the readers with all too common descriptions of one's love for music as a child. Your statement should include more relevant information than why you chose your instrument as a young student.

- Present yourself as confident and capable.
- Make your most important points early in the statement; get to your point quickly and fluidly.
- Use language from the field. Imagine you are writing to fellow musicians or faculty—do not allow your prose to be condescending.
- Keep your wording precise—say exactly what you mean to express and cut out extraneous words or phrases.
- Avoid clichés, casual idioms, or needlessly flowery language.

- Do not aim for an excessively academic style; be straightforward yet professional.
- Use action verbs and avoid the passive tense.
- Make efforts to vary your sentence structure and style.

Eagerness and Struggle

Showing enthusiasm is great but be cautious not to saturate your personal statement with overly eager prose devoid of substance. In the same vein, when highlighting your interest in a prestigious school or program, be careful not to fawn over it with meaningless praise. Simply identify your perceived reasons for its preeminence or mention its record of success in statements that relate to your own reasons for wanting an instrument. Focus on your strengths, personal drive, and discipline rather than emphasizing your weaknesses.

Avoid using pessimistic or negative phrases about yourself or your musical community and do not point out your flaws. Nobody wants to read “I didn’t win the competition in 2016 because I had a memory slip on stage” or “my teacher and I frequently disagree on repertoire choices.” Instead, flip statements such as these to point to personal development, like “I learned a great deal about being fully prepared for a significant solo performance when I took second place in the 2016 concerto competition” or “my teacher consistently sheds light on new repertoire to stretch my comfort zone.” Consider what the reader absolutely needs to know about you that isn’t evident from the accomplishments on your résumé or transcript.

Review, Revise, Request

When you finish writing the first draft of your personal statement, take a break and review it later with fresh eyes. Read first for flow and make corrections based on overall clarity. Check for awkward phrases, areas needing transitions, or excessive wording. Review your personal statement a second time to make changes for proper grammar, spelling, capitalization, and punctuation. Look for places where you can reorder clauses to allow for diversity in your sentence structure. Once you have done all of these things, read it again for optimal professionalism before requesting feedback from trusted mentors, friends, or family.