



# *The Johnny Trombly Scholarship Fund*

## APPLICATION AND GUIDELINES

Monadnock Folklore Society  
c/o Bruce Myrick  
54 Brook Street  
Keene, NH 03431  
(603) 352-8616  
info@monadnockfolk.org

### **PURPOSE OF SCHOLARSHIP**

The Johnny Trombly Scholarship supports and encourages young musicians interested in playing piano or other instruments for traditional New England dance music, an American dance music form that includes contra-dance and square dance music.

### **BACKGROUND**

The Monadnock Region is the heart of traditional New England dance music, with a heritage dating back centuries. Bob McQuillen, widely recognized as a master of traditional New England dance music, established this scholarship to honor his mentor, Johnny Trombly, who was the area's premier piano player in the 1940's and early 1950's. Through this scholarship, Bob McQuillen hopes to preserve and advance traditional New England dance music, one of the Monadnock region's unique contributions to the nation's cultural heritage.

### **GEOGRAPHICAL AND AGE LIMITS**

Residents of Cheshire, Sullivan or Hillsborough Counties (NH), the Upper Connecticut River Valley, and Windham County (VT) are welcome to apply. Those from other areas may apply: preference may be given to Monadnock area residents. Preference may also be given to those applicants 18 and under.

### **OTHER LIMITATIONS**

The scholarship may be used only for expenses related to developing musical skill in traditional New England dance music. This may include lessons, dance or music camp, or whatever legitimate need the applicant expresses, as long as the expense is directly related to traditional New England dance music. Funds are not currently available for the purchase of instruments and funds must be used within 12 months of the award.

Quarterly scholarships will be awarded until the annual scholarship fund is exhausted.

### **STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING**

When applying for this scholarship, the recipient will sign a statement of understanding, agreeing to the following:

1. Upon completion of the sponsored activity, the recipient may be asked to perform at a Monadnock Folklore Society event;
2. The recipient may be required to send the Monadnock Folklore Society a report describing how the recipient benefited from the funds;
3. The scholarship recipient is required to supply to the Monadnock Folklore Society a photograph (digital – 300dpi or greater) for use in press releases, before any scholarship funds are distributed.

## **ABOUT THE TROMBLY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

Johnny Trombly was a self-taught piano player from Marlborough, NH who combined influences from the French Canadian community in which he was raised with a solid and driving piano playing style that was highly sought after. He lived in Marlborough all his life; after working in a factory during the day, he would return to the house that he shared with his sister and brother-in-law. Except for band gigs, Johnny rarely ventured far. Since he never learned to drive, he depended on fellow band members for rides to and from dances. For many years, Trombly played piano for Ralph Page, one of the best-known dance callers in the region, and a national authority on contra dancing. From this “funny little man” came the piano playing style that musicians still praise and emulate today. One of his many fans is nationally renowned piano player Bob “Mac” McQuillen.

McQuillen first met Trombly at Ralph Page’s dances, which Bob attended regularly. At the time, McQuillen was playing accordion and in 1947 Page invited McQuillen to join the Ralph Page Orchestra with his “squeezebox.” About 20 years after first joining Page’s orchestra with his accordion, McQuillen played his first dance as a piano player, and he has been doing it ever since. He credits much of his style to Trombly’s influence. Over the years he incorporated some of Trombly’s trademark embellishments into his own playing and has passed them on to his own apprentices. McQuillen also still plays the accordion and has written hundreds of dance tunes.

At the heart of traditional square and contra dance scene for the last several decades, McQuillen has performed at the Smithsonian’s National Folklife Festival, the Kennedy Center, and at festivals throughout the United States. He has 11 books in print and can be heard on at least a dozen recordings. In 2002, the National Endowment for the Arts named him a National Heritage Fellow.

Most importantly, McQuillen is a strong supporter of and advocate for young people, including young dancers and musicians. He was a much beloved classroom teacher in the Peterborough area for many years and continues to teach as he passes on his love of music to others. In 2001, he approached the Monadnock Folklore Society about establishing and administering a scholarship fund to further his desire to help preserve and advance traditional New England Dance music, especially among young people. He chose to name the fund after the man he considers his mentor. While the work to establish a full endowment for the Trombly Scholarship continues, the awarding of scholarships began in 2002.

## **ABOUT THE MONADNOCK FOLKLORE SOCIETY**

The Monadnock Folklore Society (MFS) is a 501-(c)(3) nonprofit organization, founded in 1982 with the express purpose of increasing the visibility of folk dance and music in the Monadnock Region, providing new venues for performers, offering support to local musicians’ projects, and providing educational services in the folk arts to the community.

To these ends, MFS:

- ♪ Sponsors dances and concerts
- ♪ Supports local dance performance groups
- ♪ Maintains a calendar of local events
- ♪ Offers grants and loans to area artists engaged in folk music and folk music related projects
- ♪ Administers the Johnny Trombly Scholarship for young dance musicians

To learn more about our activities, visit our website: [www.monadnockfolk.org](http://www.monadnockfolk.org)

## **APPLICATION PROCESS**

1. Complete the application on Page 4.
2. Read and sign the statement of understanding on Page 4. Make sure that your parents sign as well.
3. Include at least one recommendation letter from someone who is knowledgeable about both the applicant and music.
4. Detach page 4 and send to the address listed below, along with the letter of recommendation. Make sure to keep a copy of your application.

## **DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS**

Applications will be accepted and awarded quarterly. Deadlines (postmarked) are as follows:

April 1<sup>st</sup> for first quarter;

July 1<sup>st</sup> for second quarter;

October 1<sup>st</sup> for third quarter;

January 1<sup>st</sup> for fourth quarter.

A photocopy of the application is acceptable. If the deadline falls on a federal holiday or weekend, the deadline will be extended to the next business day.

Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.

## **APPLICATION MAILING ADDRESS**

All applications and supporting materials should be mailed to:

**Monadnock Folklore Society, c/o Bruce Myrick, 54 Brook Street, Keene, NH 03431.**

The email address is **[scholarship@monadnockfolk.org](mailto:scholarship@monadnockfolk.org)**

## **NOTIFICATION**

Scholarship winners will be notified as soon as possible after the application period deadline.

# JOHNNY TROMBLY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Applying for Scholarship Period (check one) [ 1<sup>st</sup> Qtr /  2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr /  3<sup>rd</sup> Qtr /  4<sup>th</sup> Qtr] Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Hometown/local newspaper: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Please answer the following questions. Make sure your name appears on the sheet with your answers.

1. How did you hear about the Johnny Trombly Memorial Scholarship?
  - a. Did you hear about it in school? In the newspaper? At a dance? If someone told you about it, please tell us who.
2. Are you presently taking music lessons?
  - a. If so, tell us how long you have been taking them and with whom.
  - b. If not, please tell us about your musical background.
3. If you receive a scholarship, how do you intend to use the funds? Please be Specific!
  - a. Will you take lessons (with whom?), attend a camp or workshop or engage in a related activity (describe)?
4. What amount are you requesting?
  - a. How much are you requesting, and how did you arrive at this amount? (For example, if you are planning to take lessons, provide the amount the instructor charges per lesson and how many lessons you hope to cover).
5. Why are you interested in playing New England traditional dance music?
  - a. Why does this music appeal to you?
6. Why do you think it is important for us to preserve traditional New England dance music?
7. Is there anything else that we should know about you?
  - a. Here's your chance to add anything that is not covered by the other application questions.

*Carefully read the statement of understanding below before signing the application. It describes what you may do with the scholarship money, as well as what will be expected of you when you have completed your scholarship activity. You must agree to these terms to be eligible for this scholarship. Parents/guardians play a major role in a student's musical endeavors. To insure that parents are aware of their child's obligations if he/she is awarded this scholarship, we are asking for a parental signature as well.*

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## STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING

I fully understand that the purpose of this funding is to provide support to young musicians learning to play traditional New England dance music. The funds will allow me to take music lessons, attend music or dance camp, or whatever need I have described in this application. Upon completion of this activity, I may be asked to provide a report to the Monadnock Folklore Society describing the benefits gained from the scholarship; I may be asked to perform at a Monadnock Folklore Society event. I understand I am required to provide a photo of myself to be used in a press release.

Signature of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

As parent/guardian of the above applicant, I certify that I support my child's efforts in this endeavor, and have also read the above agreement.

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_