

# Josephine Giacco Memorial Music Award Application

The Josephine Giacco Memorial Music Award is given to a college-bound senior with a grade point average of 2.5 or above. **The student must be pursuing a degree in music education** and exhibit the qualities exemplified by Josephine Giacco, an outstanding music educator.

*(Please print clearly or type)*

## Application Process

### I. Written Application

Please submit the following no later than **April 15, 2025**:

- Completed application form
- Recommendation of one music teacher
- Recommendation of one non-music teacher
- Essay

Submit to:

**ocmeascholarships@gmail.com**  
**attn: Michelle Di Pasquale**

### II. Interview

Finalists will be invited to attend an online interview **Thursday, April 24th**. The scholarship will be awarded on the basis of the written components and personal online interview.



Josephine Giacco, OCMEA Distinguished Service Award Recipient, NYSBDA Outstanding Band Director, and New York State Teacher of the Year nominee, is sorely missed by the teachers and student musicians of Orange County and New York State.

Josephine was a longtime teacher in the Washingtonville School District, as well as a music advocate in the county and the state. An accomplished musician, she performed with numerous organizations, including the Greater Newburgh Symphony Orchestra and the OCMEA String Ensemble.

In her years as an OCMEA Executive Board member, Josephine initiated many of the policies and programs in use today including the OCMEA Conference Day. As Educational Director, she created the OPUS in-service series, which has educated and nurtured novice and master teachers alike. A strong advocate for string education, Josephine was instrumental in the development and expansion of the string programs in the All County Festivals.

Josephine is remembered for her dedication to music education, her countless hours of service, her leadership, her perseverance, and her concern for others. What better way to honor Josephine than to work to perpetuate the qualities she exemplified. As a tribute to Josephine, OCMEA is proud to sponsor the Josephine Giacco Memorial Music Award.

This scholarship will be given to a college bound senior **majoring in music education** who demonstrates the qualities possessed by Josephine. The scholarship will be funded by friends, relatives and many of the teachers Josephine inspired and nurtured over the years, as well as music organizations and businesses.

**Application form – Attach additional paper if necessary.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

School currently attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Projected Graduation date: \_\_\_\_\_

Colleges Applied to:  
School

Application Status  
(pending, accepted, not accepted)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

List all school activities in which you are currently involved or in which you have been involved during high school. Please include music activities as well as extra-curricular activities such as sports, debate, student council, Odyssey of the Mind, etc.

Activity	Dates	Responsibilities
1.		
2.		
3.		

List all festivals in which you have participated. Include dates:

- NYSSMA Solo
- All Eastern
- All State
- Area All State
- All County
- Other

List all non-school related activities in which you have participated. Include community service activities. Please include the activity, dates, and responsibilities.

1. **Music Teacher Recommendation for \_\_\_\_\_ (Student Name)**  
**Please return to ocmeascholarships@gmail.com attn: Michelle Di Pasquale**

Teacher Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

School Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please attach a signed letter of recommendation for the student named above.

This award is intended for a student who displays qualities admired and demonstrated by Josephine Giacco. When writing your letter, please refer to the following qualities:

- Leadership (musical or non-musical)
- Concern for others
- Responsibility
- Perseverance and Patience
- Integrity

In addition, please relate a particular episode which you feel illustrates that the student possesses and demonstrates the qualities above.

**2. Teacher Recommendation (Non-Music) for \_\_\_\_\_ (Student Name)**  
**Please return to ocmeascholarships@gmail.com attn: Michelle Di Pasquale**

Teacher Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

School Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please attach a signed letter of recommendation for the student named above.

This award is intended for a student who displays qualities admired and demonstrated by Josephine Giacco. When writing your letter, please refer to the following qualities:

- Leadership (musical or non-musical)
- Concern for others
- Responsibility
- Perseverance and Patience
- Integrity

In addition, please relate a particular episode which you feel illustrates that the student possesses and demonstrates the qualities above.

## **Student Essay**

Please type and attach an essay to answer the following question:

“Why do you want to become a music educator?”

Write from a first person, personal point of view.

Include references to people and events which you feel have influenced you in this decision. In addition, reflect on your own personality traits, which you feel would make you an effective and inspiring teacher.