



# SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

## 2026 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



**Anderson Aiken - Edgewood Jr/Sr High School - \$1,000**

Anderson plays all four saxophones: soprano, alto, tenor, and baritone. Jazz has always been the most fun style of music for him to play and composition will be his main path of study at Boston Conservatory at Berklee. Music is his life, and jazz is his love; he looks forward to improving his craft and expanding his horizons on the saxophone and in jazz composition for the rest of his life.

**Rylee Baskett - Astronaut High School - \$1,000**

A six year vocalist, Rylee will be attending Florida State University with a major in civil-environmental engineering and hopefully have the opportunity to come back to Brevard County and help promote low impact development. She will also focus on her outside interests such as Jazz.



## 2025 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



**Alexander Mabee (left) - Viera High School - \$1,000**

Alexander Mabee plays alto sax and plans to attend the University of Florida, majoring in Electrical Engineering with a minor in Jazz. He hopes to stay active in local jazz scenes which will push his playing to the next level in college and for the rest of his life.

### **Kimathi Thomas (right) - Bayside High School - \$1,000**

Kimathi Thomas plays trombone and plans to attend the University of South Florida (USF), majoring in music education and potentially pursuing a doctorate. He also plans to participate in the USF jazz band and concert bands. After college, he wants to become a high school band teacher in order to help spread music to the next generation of youth in the pursuit of trying to make music widespread through all he teaches.



## **2024 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS**



### **Nathan Jost - Bayside High School - \$1,000**

Nathan started playing Jazz piano in 8th grade because his band director forced him to fill an empty spot. He didn't have any experience with piano before that, so he did his best to learn how to play for the Jazz band. Nathan fell in love with Jazz music during COVID-19 when the band director gave them assignments to play certain parts of them. He had to listen to the recordings over and over to get it right. This caused his YouTube recommended videos to suggest music such as Art Blakey's *Moanin'* and Bill Evan's *My Funny Valentine*.

He found mentors to help him understand how to play Jazz piano in high school. And he also found Jazz pianist Emmet Cohen, who inspired him to want a career in performing Jazz around the world and meet new musicians. One of Emmet Cohen's mentors was taught by the Jazz piano professor at Florida State University, William Peterson, and Nathan intends to study under him.

During his sophomore year in high school, Nathan made it into the Brevard All-County Jazz Band directed by Leon Anderson from FSU. There, he met plenty of other musicians from other schools like Bridgette Setters, Jon Pinela (a 2023 Space Coast Jazz Scholarship winner), and Kayla Crider, who invited him to play with their student-run big band, The Brevard Youth Big Band. He also met a UF undergraduate, Alex Kaufman (one of our 2022 scholarship winners) and Nathan was invited to play in his trio.

During Nathan's Junior year, his High School Director awarded him the *Louis Armstrong Jazz Award* for finding ways to play with the community and creating opportunities for others. Nathan also performed with the Space Coast Big Band and successfully made it into the Brevard All-County Jazz Band.

Nathan begins his summer term at Florida State University and will major in Jazz Performance. As he enters this next chapter with Bill Peterson as his mentor, he plans to continue playing Jazz music wherever he goes.



### **Caiden Collins - Melbourne High School - \$1,000**

Caiden has been fascinated with art and self-expression since he was young. He has considered career paths in many interests, including neuroscience and creative writing. But, no other form of art excites him like improvisation in jazz. His goal is to become a modern working musician and seek an education that aligns with his aspiration to become a contributor to the jazz communities that he admires.

He has auditioned for several high-level college jazz programs such as the University of Miami, Frost School of Music and Berklee College of Music.

Many teachers and instructors in Brevard County have influenced his interest in music and jazz throughout elementary, middle and high school, including private lessons.

Caiden's appreciation for jazz grew even more when he was researching music on YouTube during the COVID lockdown in 2020. He was first introduced to online content about jazz made by Berklee alumni such as Adam Neely and Shawn Crowder. He also enjoyed listening to Emmet Cohen and artists performing at "Live from Emmet's Place" (NYC). Since then, he has been inspired by many iconic performers but John Coltrane in the 1960s is one of his top inspirations.

## **2023 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS**

### **Jon Louis Pinela – Viera High School – \$1,000**

Jon plays all saxophones except baritone and oboe. He plans to attend Tallahassee Community College for his fall semester and then transfer to Florida State University in January 2024. His current major is in international affairs, but he plans on changing it to business and finance. He will be practicing as hard as he can to audition and get into the jazz performance and commercial music program at FSU.

In his musical career, he has played in numerous ensembles. It started when he first began taking private lessons from Andrew Cleaver in the seventh grade at DeLaura Middle School. Thanks to those lessons, he was able to get second tenor in the all county jazz band his junior year and then first tenor this year. He also made the all county concert band during his 8th grade and junior year on tenor sax, and then he also got second chair alto sax this year. He was recommended by his band directors and was selected to travel to Tallahassee to take part in the Florida State University Tri-State Band Festival, where he also got first chair tenor sax and even had a classical tenor solo and earned a superior on a grade 5 soprano sax solo his freshmen year, and got an excellent at states. The next year he was also a part of a saxophone quartet where they earned a superior in both district and at states on a grade 6 as well. Outside of an academic setting, I has also been able to play with some amazing players. He occasionally sit in with The Space Coast Big Band, participated in the Brevard Symphony Youth Orchestra during his freshmen year, and as of last year, has been a part of the Brevard Youth Big



Band, where he plays with last year's two Space Coast Jazz Society scholarship winners, Tyler Dransfield and Alex Kaufman, and where he currently plays lead tenor.

### **Ethan Broome – Titusville High School – \$1,000**



Ethan has been accepted into the Florida State University college of music as a Jazz major and receive a dual degree in Biology, with the intention of attending a medical school after college graduation. These degree paths have been described to him as two of the most intensive paths that a student could choose, with the heavy course load and travel that comes with a music degree and the difficult and rigorous coursework that comes with a biology degree.

During his freshman year of high school, he made his school's jazz band, being the only freshman in a band of seniors. The lead players in the band had their own jazz combo which they asked him to perform with. They gigged in restaurants and for community events around our city and neighboring cities.

In the summer after his sophomore year, following the lift of COVID-19 guidelines, he attended the Florida State University jazz camp and made first chair piano in their top band and combo, and did the same the following summer. The band was led by Leon Anderson,

who was the drummer for Ellis and Wynton Marsalis before he began teaching, and trumpeter Scotty Barnhart, who is the director of the Count Basie Orchestra. During the first summer that he attended the camp, he planned to study under a jazz pianist at the University of Central Florida, but COVID-19 prevented this and he instead studied with a jazz guitarist at UCF who lives in his city. This year, I have been accepted into the Florida State University College of Music as a Jazz Major, competed at State Jazz MPA with my school's jazz band, and has been asked to join a jazz combo that takes gigs around Central Brevard.

## **2022 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS**

### **Alex Kaufman – Edgewood Jr/Sr High School – \$1,000**

Alex plays all saxophones, clarinets, the flute, piccolo and oboe. He plans to attend Northwestern University or Vanderbilt University and pursue a double major in chemistry and saxophone performance. These universities have programs which would allow him to pursue this degree path as well as having well defined music schools. He hopes to play in the university's jazz bands and combos as well as their wind ensemble and orchestras.

Alex has been playing saxophone for the past 6 years; studying jazz with Mr. Dylan Hannan for the past three years as well as studying saxophone classically with Mr. Jim Bishop for four years. He has been selected for the 2022 All State and All National Jazz Band on baritone saxophone. In addition, he has been selected for the FBA All State Jazz Band in 2018 and 2021 on baritone saxophone and the All State Symphonic Band in 2022 on tenor saxophone. He was selected for the Brevard All County Concert Band for the past five years (2018-2022) (on primarily alto saxophone), and the Jazz Band for the



three years (2019-2022) (on alto saxophone). Additionally he received a rating of a Superior on two separate solo works for saxophone at the 2021 FBA State Solo and Ensemble event (one solo on alto, one on tenor). He also played with numerous community and professional groups around the Space Coast including the Cocoa Village Playhouse, Space Coast Symphony Orchestra, Space Coast Big Band, James Jordon Big Band, Central Florida Winds, Melbourne Municipal Band, Jazz Cats, and Band on the Bay. He performs regularly in the pit orchestra of the Historic Cocoa Village Playhouse for their musicals. And has done shows such as Les Miserables, Beauty and the Beast, Holiday Inn, and West Side Story.



### **Tyler Dransfield – Satellite Beach High School – \$1,000**

Tyler plays the tenor saxophone and will be attending BYU-Idaho this coming fall. He is going to join a jazz combo to ensure that he can keep being in a performance atmosphere. He plans to continue to play jazz throughout his whole life. His brother, Jared Dransfield, is a previous winner of the scholarship and is also attending BYU-Idaho. Together, they want to play in a combo and pursue getting recorded.

Tyler has been playing the tenor saxophone for seven years since he started in 6th grade and has been playing jazz for five years. He has been in the Satellite Zero Hour Jazz Orchestra for three years and played lead tenor for the last two years. Their jazz band had the opportunity to play at State Jazz MPA where they scored superiors. he has made the lead tenor in one middle school All County Jazz band and in two high school All County Jazz Bands. Recently he has been playing lead tenor in the Brevard

Youth Big Band which started this year. He had the privilege of playing in a jazz band under the direction of Ray Smith at a summer music camp. He also took online lessons during the year 2020 from Chad Lefkowitz-Brown. His jazz combo, The Groove Merchants, has performed multiple times at the Blind Lion jazz lounge and at other various venues.

## **2021 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS**

### **Corey Ramirez – Viera High School – \$1,000**

Corey plays the trumpet and will use his scholarship to continue his education at Florida State University. Corey was All State Trumpet for 1 year, Principle Trumpet in All-County for 4 years, Lead Trumpet in All-County Jazz for 1 year, 2nd Trumpet in All-County Jazz for 2 years, Principle trumpet in the Viera High School Wind Ensemble for 3 years, Lead/Solo chair in the Viera High School 7th Hour Jazz band for 3 years, and Principle Trumpet for Space Coast Youth Symphony Orchestra for 4 years. Corey has also performed in the Viera Jazz Combo, was Guest Trumpet with Space Coast Big Band, Guest Solo Trumpet with the Jazz Cats, Guest Artist with Pink Martini and is a Solo Recording Artist.

### **Aiden Fuller – Satellite Beach High School – \$1,000**

Aiden plays the trombone and will attend either the Eastman School of Music or Columbus State University. He has been a member of the Florida Symphony Youth Orchestras for 3 years: 2 seasons as lead trombonist in the jazz orchestra under the direction of Jeff Rupert and 1 year as principal trombonist of the Symphonic Orchestra directed by Hanrich Claassen. Aiden also participated in

numerous honor bands and orchestras including the NAfME All-National Honor Band as 1st trombone, the Florida All-State Symphonic Band, and 2 years in the Florida All-State Jazz Band, as well as 4 Brevard All-County bands/orchestras and 3 jazz bands. As a member of the Satellite High School Symphonic Orchestra, he performed as principal trombone in two ballet productions with the Melbourne City Ballet Theatre.

## 2020 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

### **Noah Hannan – Satellite Beach High School - \$1,000**

Noah's musical accomplishments include being selected twice for all county band, twice for all county orchestra wind section, 5 times for all county jazz, plus Lead Trumpet in the Tri-State Jazz. Noah was also asked to play in the FSYO Jazz Orchestra and he has participated in the 9 star honor band for freshman and Festival of Winds. Noah plans to major in trumpet jazz performance either at UNF or FSU.

### **Thomas Greer – Melbourne High School - \$1,000**

Thomas Greer's musical accomplishments include Tri-State Jazz in 2019, All-County Jazz in 2019-2020, Pride of Mel-Hi 2016-2020 (Clarinet), 2019 Solo and Ensemble Grade 6 Piano Solo (Superior), and All-County Orchestra 2018-2019 (Piano). Thomas has been accepted to FSU College of Music, and will pursue a B.M. in Jazz Performance (Piano) and a B.M in Composition.

## 2019 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS (right)

**Zachary Beaver** - \$1,000 - Satellite Beach High School.  
**Jared Dransfield** - \$1,000 - Satellite Beach High School.



## 2018 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS (left)

**Corey Jones**, Viera High School, Drums  
**Nathan Manierre**, Satellite Beach High School, Bass

## 2017 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

**Ian Fuller**  
Viera High School, Bass

**Cameron Carew,**  
Satellite Beach High School, Trumpet



## 2016 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



**Jacob White - Space Coast Homeschool Band.**

Jacob lives in Cocoa, FL and plays the piano, trumpet and oboe. He started taking piano lessons at the age of 3 and when he was 11, he began playing with the Space Coast Homeschool Band. With the aide of his instructor, Jason Moylan, he has been performing with the Eastern Florida State College Jazz Band and the Community Band of Brevard. Jacob plans to study at Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, Tennessee to pursue a bachelor's degree in general biology and minor in music.

**Michaela Sciatica - Edgewood Jr./Sr. High School.**

Michaela Sciatica lives in Merritt Island, FL and plays the trumpet. She has been a member of the Edgewood concert bands for the past 6 years.

In the last 3 years, she has played in the jazz band. She has also participated in both District and State Solo and Ensemble, receiving numerous "Superior" and "Excellent" ratings. Michaela plans to go to the University of South Carolina to study International Business and stay involved with both concert and jazz ensembles.



## 2015 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

### **Dylan Hannon - Satellite Beach High School - \$2,500.**

Dylan Hannon, a June 2015 graduate of Satellite High School, has accepted admission into the University of Central Florida's jazz program. He plans to pursue college-level jazz studies and apply the musical experiences developed while he served as leader of the Satellite High School combo, and lead tenor saxophonist of the "O hour" jazz band. Although Dylan stated that his primary jazz tenor saxophonist influence is Sonny Rollins, he also listens to such jazz greats as Count Basie and Ella Fitzgerald.



### **Timothy Christopher - Florida Institute of Technology - \$2,500.**



Timothy Christopher, a chemical engineering major in his junior year at the Florida Institute of Technology (FIT), is a jazz trombonist in the FIT jazz band. Because of his advanced improvisational skills, Dr Jamie Younkin (FIT Music Program Chair) and Captain Winston Scott selected him to play with Captain Scott's Jazz Syndicate. Timothy, who also plays trumpet, saxophone and piano, frequently jams with professional musicians at such jazz venues as Florida Discount Music.

Both Timothy and Dylan were given outstanding recommendations in support of their scholarship applications by their jazz band directors. In addition, both winners put on impressive performances with the Mark Hubrouch Trio, the featured performing group, at the May17 Scholarship Benefit Concert. Many attendees at the benefit concert particularly lauded the improvisational skills of both young winners.

## 2014 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



### **Mason Margut - Satellite Beach High School - \$2,000**

Mason has his own jazz quartet and is a member of the SCJS All-Star Jazz Big Band. He will be studying jazz at Florida State University.

## Daniel Tenbusch - West Shore Jr./Sr. High School - \$2,000

Daniel has been performing professionally with jazz groups at various venues in Brevard. He will also be studying jazz at FSU.

Asked for comments on three musical figures who inspired each of them, **Mason** paid tribute to pianist Bill Evans, trumpeter Clifford Brown and vocalist Ella Fitzgerald. **Daniel** chose pianist Oscar Peterson, pianist Herbie Hancock and trumpeter Miles Davis. All six are inspirational figures in the world of jazz.

Mason and Daniel each got high praise from their school music educators. J. Patrick Phillips, Satellite High's director of Instrumental music, said: "In addition to his outstanding abilities as a performer, Mason is also a very effective leader among his talented peers."

Pianist Ron Teixeira tutored both winners and was especially high on Mason, who frequently performed with Teixeira on Sunday night jazz jams at Heidi's Jazz Club in Cocoa Beach. "He is already playing jazz at a professional level," Teixeira said. The scholarships are funded by the proceeds from various enterprises including the annual benefit, monthly 50-50 drawings and private donations.

This year's highly successful benefit raised more than \$6,000, which will enable the SCJS to raise next year's scholarships to \$2,500 each. Scholarship Committee Chairman Les Chenoweth congratulated the winners and presented them with certificates for their achievement.



## 2013 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



### Joshua Toler - Titusville High School - Trumpet - \$1,500

Joshua will use his \$1,500 scholarship at the University of Central Florida before going on to graduate studies at the Curtis Institute of Music or the Colburn Conservatory of Music. "Although I won't have a primary major in jazz," he says, "I have an obsession for jazz music."

### Michael Clay - Satellite Beach High School - Bass - \$1,500

Michael Clay, who will use his \$1,500 scholarship to study music at Stetson University. He also won some Stetson scholarship money after his music audition there.

Both of the winners were active in the jazz bands and the symphonic bands at their schools. Clay is especially proud of his award-winning work with the highly acclaimed Zero Hour Jazz Ensemble at Satellite High and both the All County Band and the All County Chamber Orchestra.

Clay says he has been greatly encouraged and influenced by Mark Nelson, Satellite High's long-time music director. Also steeped in classical music, trumpeter Toler developed a love of jazz in high school. He continued his classical development with the Brevard Chamber Society and the Brevard Symphony. He plays for the Space Coast Pops, which has invited him to be in that orchestra while he is in college.

The scholarship winners were announced at the May meeting of the SCJS, where they each played several jazz tunes with the month's headliners, the Mark Hubrouck Jazz Quartet.

This year's scholarships were financed mostly by the annual benefit featuring former astronaut Winston Scott in March. There was also a \$1,500 donation by the Kirsner Family Fund in honor of Heidi and Ed Deleuil, owners of Heidi's Jazz Club.

## 2012 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

**Mickey Hoag, piano**  
Viera High School

**Troy Cunio, bass**  
Titusville High School



## 2011 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

### \$1,500 scholarships

(left to right):

- Saxophonist **Scotty Cockerham** of **Space Coast High School**
- Drummer **Cody Austin** of **Viera High School**
- Saxophonist/vocalist **Dexter Wilborn** of **West Shore High School**
- Drummer **Kostas Galanopoulos** of **Cocoa Beach High School**
- Professional guitarist **Matt Heister** (recipient of the first SCJS \$1,500 grant to a working musician).
- **Jillian Gerding** of **Satellite Beach High School**, who plays baritone sax, tuba, piano, bass trombone and alto sax. The scholarships were funded by the SCJS Scholarship Fund, which was awarded \$6,000 by the Kirsner Family Fund in honor of the good works done by Heidi's Jazz Club owners Eddie and Heidi Delieul.



## 2010 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



**Saxophonist Marshall Bruce - Melbourne High School - Saxophone - \$1,500**



**Dallas Killebrew - Viera High School Trombone - \$1,500**

## 2009 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

**Erik Alvar (pictured right) Melbourne High School - Bass and Mandolin - \$1,500 Helen Inglis Scholarship**

**Aquiles Rodriguez (picture not available) - Palm Bay High School - trumpet - \$1,500 Bert Francis Scholarship**



## 2008 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



Left to right: Bassist **Michael Humphreys**, trumpeter **Peter Smith**, saxophonist **Richard Garcia** and trombonist **Dillon Smith**.  
Not pictured: clarinetist **Caleb Leon**.

\$1,500 Helen Inglis Scholarships went to Richard Garcia of Palm Bay High School and Smith of Eau Gallie High School.

\$1,000 Bert Francis Scholarships went to Swift, Michael Humphreys and Caleb Leon - all three from Satellite Beach High School.

## 2007 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Left to right: **Zack Anspach** of Eau Gallie High, **Sidonie Wade** of Eau Gallie High, **Joe Goldberg** of Melbourne High and **Melissa Hughes** of Satellite High. Goldberg and Anspach were awarded \$1,750 each and Wade and Hughes were awarded \$1,500 each.

More than half of the scholarship money came from the Rich Hall Emerging Musicians Fund in memory of the late saxophonist. Among the presenters was Hall's widow, Sandy, who helped organize the fund.



## 2006 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



The 2006 winners of \$1,000 scholarships are saxophonist **Andrew Littlefield** of Eau Gallie High School, drummer **Luke McConnell** of Astronaut High School and vocalist **Elizabeth Nelson** of Satellite High School.

Honorable mentions went to two trumpet players: **Stephen Denison** of Satellite High School, shown at left, and **Jacob Pickett** of Rockledge High School, not shown.

## 2005 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

**Ian Clark**  
Satellite Beach High School

**Justin Clermont**  
Eau Gallie High School

**Andrew Douglas**  
Satellite Beach High School



## 2004 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



Left to right:  
**Casey Dodd**

**Daniella Geniti**

**Sam Szpendyk** - Satellite Beach High School

**Ryan Vasile** - Eau Gallie High School

## 2003 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



Left to right:

**Cody Phillips** of Satellite Beach High School who will attend the University of North Florida.

**Michael Boniface** of Satellite High School who will go to the University of Florida.

**Matt Mill** of Melbourne High School who will go to the University of South Florida.

**Nathan Anderson** of Palm Bay High School who will go to the University of Central Florida.

## 2002 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



**Steve Patterson**  
Eau Gallie High School

**Jeff McLaughlin**  
Rockledge High High School





## 2000 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

**Ian Chester**  
Cocoa Beach High School

**Paul Robinson**  
Satellite Beach High School

## 1999 SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

**Christian Tamburr** of Satellite  
Beach High School  
is congratulated by then Scholarship  
Chairman Jack Simpson.



## 1998 SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

**Nicholas Minaud, saxophone**  
Satellite Beach High School