

All applications will be reviewed by the Scholarship Committee. Grants will be awarded based on several criteria including but not limited to the following:

- ♦ The need.
- ♦ The Heart of the applicant.
- ♦ The overall likeliness of the applicant to succeed based on all information provided.
- ♦ Availability of funds.

## *The Funding*

Although this whole thing may have been “my idea” I really believe that it was God who put the thought in my heart. With that in mind, logic tells me that God also has a plan to fund it. Would you ask the Lord if perhaps you or your church might be part of His plan? Consider making a one time donation or perhaps a monthly commitment. I have no doubt that if we each do what God lays on our hearts, the funding will easily equal the need.

Please make checks payable to:

Bethel Baptist Church  
745 N. Freedom St  
Ravenna, OH 44266



*(Be sure to note that your gift is for the Pianist Scholarship Fund.)*

Donations may also be made online at [sermonandsong.org](http://sermonandsong.org) or simply scan the QR code with your smartphone.

## *Our Accountability*

Sermon and Song Ministries is an outreach ministry of Bethel Baptist Church in Ravenna, OH.

Pastor David W. Ballert is a member of the Scholarship Committee.

## *Evangelist Rod Black Sermon and Song Ministries*

PO Box 109 ♦ Ravenna, OH 44266

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[sermonandsong@gmail.com](mailto:sermonandsong@gmail.com)  
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@sermonandsong

*Debbie Black*

*Memorial*

*Church Pianist*

*Scholarship Fund*



## *The Burden*

During the many years that Debbie and I served together in evangelism, we were concerned about the number of churches that do not have anyone to play the piano. Some would do their best to sing acapella, while others would use recorded or synthesized music. Each time Debbie had the privilege of playing for one of these churches, the pastor was encouraged and the congregation seemed to really appreciate it. At times, simply hearing music come from the old piano brought tears to their eyes. Debbie would often challenge a teenager, lady in the church or even the pastor's wife to learn to play.

Music is a very integral part of worship and few have the ability to get a congregation to sing well without accompaniment. Not only is the piano a tool to be used in worship, but it can also breathe life into a church service. A lively, (not worldly) song service will help prepare both the pastor and the congregation for preaching time! Soft piano or organ music seems to help draw folks to the altar to do business with God.

In honor of my wife's love for music, her commitment to the needs of others, and her many years of faithful service to her Saviour, I am happy to introduce to you, the *Debbie Black Memorial Church Pianist Scholarship Fund*.

## *The Vision*

Every church needs a pianist. Our desire is to assist servants of the Lord in developing the skills needed to play for congregational singing and to accompany a group or soloist. We are interested in helping the student with beginner to intermediate piano lessons. This could also include investing in a pianist who needs to sharpen his or her skills a little bit. While our primary goal is to help develop church pianists, we also recognize that the majority of our churches no longer have anyone to play the organ. We will gladly help train organists as well. Our assistance would be in the form of a \$500 grant toward the purchase of one year's worth of weekly lessons. Any recipient may apply for a second or third year.

## *The Applicant*

The applicant must be age 12 or older and have a testimony of salvation. He or She would need be a faithful member of an Independent, Fundamental, King James Bible believing Baptist church that still embraces a traditional style of music. A letter of recommendation from their pastor will be required. The individual must be committed to practice regularly and make every effort to succeed.

## *The Teacher*

The piano teacher must have a testimony of salvation. He or she should be opposed to a worldly or contemporary style of piano playing and be willing to help the student learn to play hymns. All fees will be negotiated between the teacher and student or guardian. In the event that a qualified local teacher cannot be found, we have a list of preapproved piano teachers who offer virtual lessons. Teachers, please let us know if you would like your name added to the list.

## *The Process*

An online application is available on our website. In addition to a salvation testimony and other basic questions, they will be asked to explain why they wish to be considered for the scholarship. A parent or guardian of a minor will be asked to agree to help facilitate the process, including payment of any additional expenses incurred beyond what is covered by the grant. The applicant's pastor will submit a letter of recommendation. He will also be asked to administer handling of the grant money as well as monitoring the diligence of the student. The recipient will be accountable to his or her pastor.

