

The Robert Matthews Memorial Music Scholarship 2025

History and background of Award

Robert Matthews was one of Palmerston North's most significant musicians. He was well known nationally for his wonderful contribution to music education through the training of teachers of music and locally with his long serving tenure as organist and choir master at St Andrew Presbyterian Church. He was always meticulous in rehearsal and performance in his musical endeavours which inspired the life-long love of music in people of all ages.

The Scholarship recognises the great contribution Robert Matthews made to music.

Purpose of Scholarship

To provide support for young musicians (instrumental and vocal) who are furthering their skills in the study of classical music.

Scholarship components

The Scholarship provides funding to assist with the study of classical-style music and is made up of the following components. The timing of these may be flexible.

- (i) Grant towards tuition fees with an approved teacher.
- (ii) To perform as a soloist or as an accompanist within the services of worship at Pathways Presbyterian Church at St Andrews.
- (iii) To work with a parish musician in the study and preparation of music to be performed as part of the services of worship and special concerts at St Andrews.
- (iv) The scholarship will be for one calendar year with the date of commencement being to suit the scholar.
- (v) To perform at one of the Annual Robert Matthews Memorial Concerts which will also be fund-raising events for furthering the scholarship.

Selection criteria

The Scholarship is open to all young musicians within the area.

The scholarship may be held in conjunction with another award(s).

If funds permit, the Scholarship will continue to be offered in future years. If in any one year there is no worthy candidate, the Award will not be offered in that year.

Number of Scholarships offered

One.

Total value

\$500.

The Scholarship funds will be paid, whenever possible, direct to the recipient or the family.

Tenure of Award

One year.

Closing date for applications

26 April 2024

How do students apply?

Applicants are required to submit:

- (a) a completed application form available from the parish office.
- (b) To attend an interview with a panel of three nominated by Parish Council.
The interview to include a music performance, the repertoire and duration of the presentation at the applicant's discretion.
- (c) a personal statement outlining experience, future plans and goals. This statement should include how this Scholarship would help in the achievement of these goals.
- (d) one confidential professional, and one confidential personal, reference that should be sent separately by the referees direct to the parish office.

Decision makers

The nominated panel and the executor of the Matthews Family estate or a family member.

When do the students learn of the decision?

Mid May each year.

What conditions are attached to acceptance of this Award?

The winner of the Scholarship will be expected to undertake all the components of the Scholarship detailed above.

For an application form and more information about this Award contact:

The Robert Matthews Music Scholarship
Pathways Presbyterian Church
388 Church Street
Palmerston North
Phone: (06) 358 0884
Email: pathways@inspire.net.nz
Website: Pathwayspresbyterianchurch.nz