

# HSO Next Generation Impact Scholarship

<https://hartfordsymphony.org/nextgenscholarship>



The Hartford Symphony Next Generation Impact Scholarship will award **\$1,250 to each of four graduating high school seniors** from Bloomfield, East Hartford, Hartford, or Windsor attending public high schools, including traditional, charter, and magnet schools who demonstrate leadership potential and a commitment to becoming positive change agents in their communities. While this is not a scholarship for the study of music, applicants should be able to reflect on the role that music has played in their life—whether through participation, advocacy, or personal inspiration—and how it informs their vision for leadership and community impact. Award recipients will be selected for their leadership, academic excellence, community service, and personal drive.

## Eligibility

- Must be a **graduating senior** residing in **Bloomfield, East Hartford, Hartford, or Windsor**, CT who is attending a **public high school**, including traditional, charter, and magnet schools,
- Minimum **3.0 cumulative GPA** (weighted, 4.0 scale)
- **Plan to enroll full-time** at a four-year college or university in the Fall (any major)

## How to apply

Please complete the application below to indicate your interest in the Hartford Symphony Orchestra's Next Generation Impact Scholarship. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

## Application Requirements

- Submit a copy of current **high school transcript**
- Provide **two letters of recommendation** from individuals familiar with your academic or community involvement—such as educators, mentors, coaches, or supervisors (not family or friends)—who can directly address your strengths in areas such as service, leadership, and personal drive. Letters written within the last 12 months are acceptable. See "Evaluation Process," below.
- Write an **essay (max 500 words)** in response to this question: *What is needed to build a united, fair, just and multi-faceted community, and why is it important. What role does music play in inspiring you as a leader or in shaping your vision for change?*

**Application deadline: Friday, April 17, 2026**

## Other Requirements if Accepted

- Submit a **headshot photo** if selected, for announcement and publication purposes
- Attend the HSO Inspire Breakfast, if possible, on **Wednesday, May 20, 2026** between 9 and 11:30 a.m. at The Bushnell Performing Arts Center to receive your award, which will be mailed to those unable to attend.

Apply Online at [hartfordsymphony.org/nextgenscholarship](https://hartfordsymphony.org/nextgenscholarship)

*Please call 860-760-7307 to inquire about submitting a written application via postal mail.*

# Inspire Breakfast

<https://hartfordsymphony.org/inspire-breakfast/>

Wednesday, May 20, 2026

9:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Autorino Great Hall at The Bushnell

*Celebrating the Power of Music to Shape Futures*

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**Scholarship recipients will be recognized at the Inspire Breakfast, where awards will be formally presented as part of the program. Recipients will be invited to attend the breakfast with up to two family members, with tickets provided. Awards will be mailed to those unable to attend.**

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The Hartford Symphony Orchestra's **Inspire Breakfast** is a mission-driven gathering that brings together supporters, educators, and community partners to celebrate the transformative power of music education. The morning centers on a **Discovery Concert** performed by the HSO for students from across Greater Hartford, reflecting the Symphony's deep commitment to youth engagement and educational equity.

Proceeds from the event support HSO's education initiatives, helping make music accessible to thousands of students and fostering confidence, creativity, and community through music. The Inspire Breakfast also honors **Javier Colón**, winner of NBC's *The Voice* (Season 1) and a Hartt School alumnus, whose journey from music education student to internationally recognized artist is rooted in Connecticut and who is honored here for his unflagging support of music education here in Hartford and beyond.

## Tickets & Sponsorship Opportunities

### Individual Tickets

- Breakfast & Discovery Concert: **\$100**
- VIP Ticket (includes premium seating, meet-and-greet, and photo with Javier Colón): **\$150**

### Tables of 8

- Breakfast & Discovery Concert: **\$800**
- VIP Table (includes premium seating, meet-and-greet, and photo with Javier Colón): **\$1,200**

### Sponsorship Opportunities

- Please contact Corporate & Foundations Relations Manager  
Mariel Christiana  
[mchristiana@hartfordsymphony.org](mailto:mchristiana@hartfordsymphony.org)

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## Leadership

**Planning Chair:** Thea Montañez

## Committee:

Sarah Burns • Mark Christopher • Donna Collins • Amy Crafa • Jennifer DiBella • Kelly McDermott • Amber Schilberg • Rachel Lloyd-Taylor • Paige Stawasz • Emily Wood