

2026 Scholarship Committee Report

The 2026 Scholarship auditions took place on March 7, 2026 at Highland Centre. The following members of scholarship panel were present to listen and evaluate the applicants: Ward Tinney, Carolyn Mitchell and Karyn Burney. John Storer attended by video. Unfortunately Denise could not attend. Joyce Harpill was invited to take photos.

Students are encouraged to apply for the annual CRS scholarships by their music teachers. The CRS sends out letters to all the registered music teachers on the lower Sunshine Coast each Fall to inform them of the application deadlines. Applicants should be between 10 and 25 years old and be at an intermediate level in their discipline and have prepared two pieces to present at audition.

There were nine students auditioning (the same number as last year) Eight students came in person and we accepted one video recording from Ally Sato as she was unable to attend in person.

The standard of performance was high this year. We awarded the Russ Brougham Award to Leif Montgomery (saxophone) for an exceptional performance and highest overall. He will be pursuing post secondary studies in music at University in the Fall. Two Elise Busque Awards were given: Gene Sato and Alina Shao for significant improvement on their instruments (piano and cello)

Due to increased funding through ticket returns and CD sales, there was enough money in the scholarship fund to give out larger than usual awards this year. A total of \$4,650 was awarded in scholarships with an additional \$180 offered to subsidize accompanist fees.

\$1000 - Taho Shinagawa

\$1000 - Miyo Shinagawa

\$1000 - Leif Montgomery (Russ Brougham Award)

\$300 - Alina Shao (Elise Busque Award)

\$300 - Gene Sato (Elise Busque Award)

\$300 - Jinny Marshall

\$200 - Toby Cavers

\$250 - Ally Sato

\$300 - Maddie Malcolmson

Last year it was suggested that some of the students would be asked to perform at the Coast elder care facilities as part of the CRS Outreach program. This event took place on Wednesday March 25 10:30 at Silverstone and 2pm at Christensen Village. Scholarship winners from 2025, Miyo Shinagawa (cello), Taho Shinagawa (piano) and Maddie Malcolmson (violin) performed for the residents and were received with enthusiasm and delight.

We have arranged for four scholarship winners from 2026 for a repeat performance on August 26.

A meeting of the Scholarship committee is scheduled for this summer to discuss ideas for the program's future.

Thankyou to members of the Scholarship Committee for your continuing involvement and support.

Respectfully submitted

Maureen Drake, Scholarship Committee Chair

