



2026 Davidson Fellows Scholarship Music Requirements Checklist

Deadline: February 18, 2026, 11:59 p.m.
Pacific Time

Applicants must submit a portfolio as a composer, classical instrumentalist, or other instrumentalist.

ARE YOU APPLYING AS A TEAM?

Email

DavidsonFellows@DavidsonGifted.org

for team-specific instructions

BEFORE you apply!!!!

Please select one of the following domains:

- ☐ Composer ☐ Classical Instrumentalist
☐ Other Instrumentalist

Note: Only human generated/human created compositions will be accepted.

Google docs and videos are NOT accepted.

☐ **Portfolio Components**

○ **Composer**

Please submit a minimum of three scores with recordings. MIDI realization is acceptable. Accepted file types are: .mp3 or .wav, .wmv, .mov, .mp4, or youtube video.

○ **Classical Instrumentalist**

Component One: A high quality video recording in an audition format demonstrating your breadth and depth as a classical musician by playing at least one piece from three of the following periods: Baroque, Classical, Romantic or Contemporary. The recording should not exceed 45 minutes. (This video does not need to be done in one take.)

Component Two: An unedited video of a public performance that was filmed within one year of this application and includes at least one complete movement of a concerto, sonata or solo piece.

○ **Other Instrumentalist** - Examples in this subcategory include jazz musicians, bluegrass performers and any other type of instrumentalist other than classical.

Component One: A high quality video recording in an audition format demonstrating your breadth and depth as a musician. Please include at least one solo piece played from a written manuscript demonstrating that the performer knows how to read music and performances of at least three additional pieces of music. The recording should not exceed 45 minutes.

Component Two: An unedited video of a public performance filmed within one year of this application.



Please Note:

- Classical Instrumentalist or Other Instrumentalist applicants do not need to write/compose the music being performed.
- Classical Instrumentalist and Other Instrumentalist applicants will need to provide a sequential list of the pieces included in the submission, including the composer and name of the piece. **Do NOT submit your entire repertoire.**
- Audition format is defined as a trial performance to demonstrate suitability or skill.
- ***The Davidson Fellows Scholarship does NOT accept applications in other performing arts categories such as dance, drama, vocal, etc.***

☐ Two Nominators Required

Two individuals who are familiar with your work must each submit a Davidson Fellows Nominating Form. *Family members/relatives may not serve as nominators.*

Nominator forms will be automatically emailed to your nominators upon approval of the initial portion of your application.

Forms must be submitted directly by the nominator to the Davidson Fellows program on or before the submission deadline of February 18, 2026, 11:59 p.m. Pacific Time. Both nominators are required. Applications with missing Nominating Forms as of the February 18, 2026 deadline will be disqualified.

Attachments to the Davidson Fellows Application

All attachments are to be completed by the applicant. **The word count or length of the attachments is up to the applicant.**

Note: Applicants in all categories must submit attachments.

☐ ATTACHMENT ONE: Process Essay

- **Part One:** Please answer the following questions:
 - What inspired you to pursue this work?
 - How much time (hours/days/months) did it take you to complete this work?
 - How did you organize the work that went into doing it?
 - What difficulties did you encounter and how did you handle them?
- **Part Two:** Please answer the following questions:
 - Where was the work completed?
 - What help have you received in doing this work?
 - Was your project completed through a paid program/mentorship? If yes, which one, who did you work with and in what capacity?

❑ ATTACHMENT TWO: Reflective Essay

Please reflect on how your submission:

- What music means to you in your everyday life?
 - How you think music is socially relevant?
 - Do you think music has the capacity to bring people together in our ever-fractured society? If yes, how? If no, why not?
 - Do you plan on pursuing music as you progress through school, career and life? Why or why not?
 - Is there anything else you would like to reflect on about your submission?
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❑ ATTACHMENT THREE: Video Describing Work

Submit a maximum 10-minute, home-production quality YouTube video. Think of this as the conclusion of your application. You can speak freely or from a script; you can be as creative as you wish. This video is a chance to talk about anything not addressed in other parts of your application. Or, you can emphasize aspects of your project you feel are especially important.

Suggestions (these are only suggestions, feel free to use some, all or none) for the video:

- You can briefly summarize your submission, why it was done, its significance, its social relevance and any other details you'd like to highlight.
- You can describe how you became interested in this project, how it evolved and how working on it has helped you develop as a student and a person.
- You can also describe how your submission fits into the larger context of the field of study and describe any ideas/people/theories that influenced your work.
- You can discuss if you'll continue with this project, future work and plans, anything else you'd like to add to round out your submission.

*****Submission Details** - Due to large file size, music applicants are asked to submit their required components on YouTube.

YouTube video upload instructions:

- Go to www.YouTube.com
- Either create an account (it's free) or sign in
- Click "Upload" in the top menu bar and follow the directions [here](#), to make the video **UNLISTED**. (The Unlisted setting ensures that your video will only be viewed by the Davidson Fellows Program and its judges, or anyone else you send the URL to.)
- Copy and paste the link to this video as Attachment Three.
- **Tip:** do **NOT** make your video private, if it's private, we can't view it.
- **Tip:** double check the link to make sure it works.