



Litchfield Jazz Festival & Litchfield Jazz Camp

May 16, 2011

Dear Jazz Fan,

You may not be aware that two years ago Litchfield Performing Arts, the not-for-profit that produces the [Litchfield Jazz Festival](#) and [Litchfield Jazz Camp](#), began tucking away funds to build a restricted account to provide support for future Litchfield Jazz Camp scholarships for campers in-need. Several fundraisers and a number of private gifts now put this fund at \$50,000. A fundraising

event, **An Afternoon of Jazz & Friends, recently raised \$17,000 of that amount.** We began building the Scholarship Fund as a hedge against the inevitable day the State cut Department of Education funding and our grant funds, on which our scholarships relay, ceased. Before the glow of our recent success even began to fade, the shoe dropped.

We were informed the DOE had **cut all programs across the board by 50%**, no matter their quality or duration. The support we earned for the past dozen years allowed us to award 25-30% of our camper's need-based scholarships. Our **grant cut of \$100,000 makes it impossible for us to continue support at this level.** As a result, we have had to hold-off on plans to develop the camp scholarship fund further - for now - and address the present issue, supporting needy students THIS summer.

Will you consider "adopting" a 2011 jazz camper? Here's what your donation will make possible: \$1,360 will send one student for 1 week; \$2,540, one for 2 weeks; \$3,620, one for 3 weeks; and \$4,590, one for a whole month! These gifts will cover all expenses: classes, room and board, concerts, camp shirts, performance opportunities and tickets to the Jazz Festival. **If these amounts are not within your means, please consider a gift at any level. All of it will help.**

After 30+ years in the arts, my dream remains to help every musical youngster who comes to us grow and prosper. But, this recent blow underscores how much we **really need your help.** This summer Litchfield Jazz Camp has scholarship requests totaling \$145,000. We simply cannot meet these requests. We can't even come close. **Every child you help is one less we'll have to turn away.**

Jazz legend Dave Brubeck observed Litchfield Jazz Camp "transforms students into the best versions of themselves, preparing them not only to be wonderful musicians but confident people in all aspects of their lives." **Please help us continue to make this happen for as many children as possible.**

Sincerely,



Vita West Muir
Founder
Litchfield Performing Arts, Inc.

P.S. If you cannot help at this time, we would appreciate any thoughts you have about other people, companies, or matching-gift programs that may be in a position to help our students.

Give a Child the Gift of Music This Summer

All the kids profiled below come from families with very limited income.

These are just a few of the students requesting well over \$100,000 in total support to this summer's Litchfield Jazz Camp.



14-year-old bass player from Florida. He wants to come for his second summer at Litchfield Jazz Camp. After his experience last year, he told his mother “Mom I found what I want to do with my life.” A proactive youngster, he entered a contest and won a one-week talent scholarship offered by a local radio station (sponsored by Litchfield) – he was the youngest and best contestant! His Mom writes: “I know (he) will continue to thrive at Litchfield and achieve his dream, but I am not able to pay for this on my own.” **Cost to make his dream of a month at LJC a reality: \$4,590**

15-year-old guitar player from New Jersey. He wants to come back for a second summer. Here's what he told us: “Attending Litchfield Jazz Camp was a wonderful experience for me. I started my school year talking about the fun I had over the summer practicing, playing and socializing with such cool musicians. Learning from these guys made me bolder. Litchfield Jazz Camp made a huge impact on my life!” **Cost to make his dream of a month at LJC a reality: \$4,590**



16-year-old saxophone player from New York. This would be his 4th year at Litchfield Jazz Camp (his clarinetist sister wants to come too!). He writes “Jazz Camp has taught me that playing jazz isn't always about playing the right notes, it's more about what comes from the heart, and playing with passion. Because camp has helped me so much in my studies I was able to participate in programs like the Jazz Standard's Youth Orchestra, Arturo O'Farrill's Afro-Latin Jazz Ensemble and others. I would like to attend again this summer to learn more.” **Cost to make the dream of these siblings a reality: \$9,180**

15-year-old saxophone player from New York who wants to return for a second summer wrote us a poem:

“As kids in elementary school,
we picked an instrument to play that was cool,
with my ears I heard the most wondrous tone,
an instrument known as the saxophone.
I thought the sax would be easy and fun,
but the trial of my patience had soon begun...
Last year to Litchfield Jazz Camp I went, and I must say it was a time well spent...
To provide me the chance to improve and learn, that for any musical success one
must earn. Please allow me the opportunity, this chance I beg with importunity.”
Cost to make his dream a reality for one week: \$1,360



One of our rarely accepted 12-year-olds, from Connecticut who plays the trombone. He has family and life issues he has faced through music. He writes “when there is something wrong, I play my instrument, and everything is fixed. “ We want him at Jazz Camp so he can continue to do that, and do it even better!
Cost to make his dream a reality for one week: \$1,360

*** These images do not necessarily represent the students referenced above. ***

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