



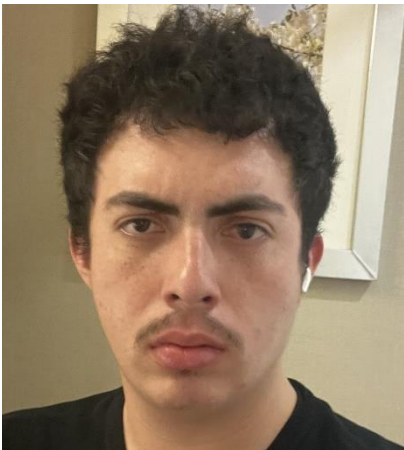
Spring 2025 Scholarship Awards

Sofia Marmaud, 1st Place \$1,500 Ruth Cuccia Memorial Scholarship



Sofia Marmaud (soprano) is currently pursuing her Bachelor of Music degree in Vocal Performance at the Bob Cole Conservatory of Music, CSULB. She studies with Dr. Katharin Rundus and has been a member of the Bob Cole Chamber Choir since 2023 under the direction of Dr. Jonathan Talberg, as well as a participant in the Opera program led by Andreas Mitisek. She performed as a soprano soloist in *Angels in the Architecture* with the BCCM Wind Symphonic Band, traveled with the University Choir to Hawaii, and worked with Opera Italia LLC in their productions of *Pinocchio* and *Il Campanello di notte*. Recently, she won first place in her first competition with NATS and is looking forward to traveling to Ireland this summer with the BCCM Chamber Choir to compete in the Choir of the World Competition at the Eisteddfod. After graduating, Sofia plans to pursue a Master's degree in Vocal Performance. Until then, she is extremely grateful and honored to be receiving this scholarship to support her education.

David Contreras, 2nd Place \$1,000 Patron Scholarship



David Contreras has had many formal years of arts education in opera, musical theater, recording arts, and vocal performance. His performance experiences started in local community theater, the Mariachi Academy of Carson, and the Los Angeles Children's Chorus. He attended the Los Angeles County High School of the Arts, which gave him many opportunities to perform in annual school operas, galas, the PBS Holiday Special at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, the Walt Disney Concert Hall, the 62nd annual Grammy Awards, and with various recording artists such as flamenco singer, Rosalia. David is furthering his studies in opera as a Music major at El Camino College with intention of transferring to a music conservatory to further his studies in the "Bel-Canto" repertoire of the 18th and 19th century.

Moisés López López, 3rd Place \$500 Patron Scholarship



Moisés López López is a music major at El Camino College. He is currently singing with the El Camino Chorale as a bass/baritone. He has traveled with the ECC Chorale to perform in various cities including San Diego, San Francisco, and Carnegie Hall in New York City. Moisés competed and won first place in a regional talent show called South Bay's Got Talent. After that, he twice went on to compete at the international level in a competition called World Championships of Performing Arts. There, he represented Team USA, won multiple bronze, silver, and gold medals, and made it to the finals both times competing with countries like Australia, Germany, Jamaica, UAE, France, South Africa, and more. Moisés has also recorded two original songs in a music studio and is currently recording three more original songs.

Madee Raymundo, 3rd Place \$500 David Witherspoon Memorial Scholarship



Madee Raymundo is an undergraduate student at the Bob Cole Conservatory of Music at California State University, Long Beach, where she is pursuing a degree in Music with a focus on Opera Performance. She studied under Janet Holmes, Dr. Victor De La Cruz, John Buffet, and is currently with Dr. Jennifer Sung. She played various roles in several opera productions and scenes at the The Bob Cole Conservatory and at Fullerton College. Her recent performances include Cendrillon, Suor Angelica and The Magic Flute. She's also been part of different choral groups such as the Ohlone College Chorus and Chamber Choir under the direction of Dr. Victor De La Cruz, as well as the Bob Cole Conservatory University Choir, led by Dr. Jonathan Talberg. Madee has been recognized for her dedication and talent with several awards, including the Martin Figoten Performing Arts Scholarship, the Cole Conservatory of Music Scholarship, the Palos Verdes/South Bay Mu Phi Epsilon Scholarship and California Women's Choir

Scholarship. She is committed to honing her craft, developing her stage presence, and aspires to pursue a professional career in teaching and opera performance.

Isaiah Williams, 3rd Place \$500 Darlene Vlasek Memorial Scholarship



Isaiah Williams is a tenor from Southern California in his final semester at El Camino College. While at El Camino, he studied repertoire across a variety of genres and time periods, including jazz, classical, musical theatre, and more! He will continue these studies at the Bob Cole Conservatory of Music at Cal State Long Beach in the fall. He aims to use the knowledge and skills he is gaining at school to perform professionally, as both a Broadway actor and solo recording artist. For work, he teaches children at after-school and summer camp programs. In his free time, he likes to paint, write music, and go out into nature. He is honored to have received the Mu Phi Epsilon scholarship for the second time and would like to sincerely thank all of its members and donors!

Eric Calderon, \$200 Scholarship to honor Pearl Kim



Eric Calderon first picked up the saxophone at Bret Harte Preparatory Middle School. At Alain Leroy Locke High School, Eric's passion for music manifested itself not just through his saxophone skills, but also as the drum major. Now a sophomore at California State University Dominguez Hills, Eric has broadened his studies to include jazz and contemporary music under Pancho Williams and Dr. Teodross Avery. Receiving a Mu Phi Epsilon scholarship in 2023 enabled him to participate in the CSU Summer Arts session for Classical Saxophone under Dr. Chika Inoue. He also benefited from the guidance of professors Dr. John Hallberg, Dr. Ricardo Martinez and Dr. Benjamin Boone, and of studying with the Capitol Quartet. Eric is an active member of Mu Phi Epsilon Gamma Sigma Chapter serving on its board as chorister. Eric joined the Fernando Pullum Community Art Center where he is contributing to the artistic tapestry of his surroundings. Fueled by his passion for music Eric wishes to leave his mark on the

world of music. His journey is one marked by dedication, a thirst for knowledge, and a burning desire to keep the music playing for generations to come.

Allan Mancia, \$200 Barbara Hammer Memorial Scholarship



Allan Mancia was born and raised in the heart of Los Angeles. His interest in music began in elementary school, by joining the school's choir. His interest grew when he learned guitar privately and trumpet in middle school. In high school he picked up the saxophone and played in marching band and the jazz band as well as singing in choir. After high school, he worked in education in many subjects including music and with various learning needs. Allan is set to obtain his degree in music performance from CSUDH and is looking forward to being back in the classroom as well performing and sharing his desire to play music. Allan can be seen hiking and exploring the beautiful landmarks that Southern California has to offer.

Kaylee Midori Watts, \$200 Neeltje Gingerich Memorial Scholarship



Kaylee Midori Watts is a Southern California native, who is a classically trained soprano and multi-instrumentalist. Kaylee first discovered her deep love for music during her early years of ballet training. As an adult, she began her studies at El Camino College and has been awarded the following scholarships: Engelbarts Memorial (2025), Los Cancioneros Master Chorale (2022), Dr. Christopher J. Mello (2022), and The Paula Kay Memorial (2021). Kaylee will be graduating from El Camino College this Spring with an Associate of Arts Degree in Music, and Piano Teaching Certificate. In addition, she will be making her opera debut as Barbarina in Santa Monica College's Spring 2025 production of *Le Nozze di Figaro*. Kaylee is delighted to announce that she will be continuing her studies at the Bob Cole Conservatory at California State University, Long Beach in the fall 2025.

Itzel Perez, \$200 Mary Feyk Memorial Scholarship



Itzel Perez (soprano) is finishing up her bachelor's in music education with a vocal emphasis at California State, Dominguez Hills. Her musical journey began at Santa Ana Community College, where she found her passion for music with just one music appreciation class. She was a member of her local church choir at Christ Cathedral, where she got to really challenge herself learning new repertoire every week. This led her to begin her vocal journey in the Fall of 2019 studying under Eileen O'Hern and Melody Versoza, where she eventually earned her associates in music. In Fall 2022, she began studying at CSUDH under Dr. Lynn Atkins and has now had many performance opportunities thanks to the connections she gained through her peers and professors. This is her third year as a member of Mu Phi Epsilon Gamma Sigma Chapter, she is currently the co-treasurer.

Jeremy Sarmiento, \$200 Chin-Chen Jen Chen Memorial Scholarship



Jeremy Sarmiento is currently pursuing a bachelor of arts degree in music education with a vocal emphasis at California State University, Dominguez Hills. His musical journey took flight in high school, where he discovered his love for music through piano and choir participation. This passion spurred him to choose a path in music education. Jeremy's commitment to excellence shines through his participation in numerous recitals. He studied under Dr. Kevin St. Clair and Dr. Lynn Atkins and works to continually refine his vocal skills. Beyond his musical studies, Jeremy is an engaged member of the CSUDH community, fostering meaningful connections with peers and faculty alike. His enthusiasm for music and genuine interactions make him a valued presence on campus. Jeremy is currently the president for the Gamma Sigma chapter of Mu Phi Epsilon and has served the board for over 4 years. He has been excited to lead the chapter to success through music, friendship, and harmony. Through unwavering dedication and a passion for music, Jeremy is poised to make a lasting impact as he cultivates his musical talents and pursues his aspirations in music education and performance.

Iván Alejandro Vallecillos, \$200 Patron Scholarship



Ivan Vallecillos is a piano major in his second year with El Camino Music. Originally from Chiapas, Mexico, he didn't have many opportunities to learn music despite his lifelong passion for it until he came to the United States. Ivan is currently in his third semester as an applied piano student and is gaining as much experience as possible before transferring to a 4-year university, through solo piano and collaborative performances. His experience includes vocal, piano, and guitar performances at Peninsula Community Church with the ECC Chorale, choral performances at Chapman University's Choral Festival, Carnegie Hall debut with the ECC Chorale as a tenor, and opening for the semesterly choral concert of Fall 2024, and several times in the ECC Society of Music's Composers' Showcase.

Aurora "Ace" Cordero-Melo, \$100 Patron Scholarship



Aurora "Ace" Cordero-Melo is a third-year music education major at California State University Dominguez Hills with an emphasis in piano and secondary voice. Ace has spent the past two years as a part of the Mu Phi Epsilon Gamma Sigma Chapter and is grateful to their friends and family at MPE to have been able to grow so much not only as a musician, but as a person and an aspiring leader.

Sergio Galindo, \$100 Patron Scholarship



Sergio Galindo began his musical journey at Chaffey College in Rancho Cucamonga, where he first discovered his passion learning the fundamentals of music. As his knowledge and appreciation for the art deepened, so did his desire to share his voice with the world. Driven by this passion, Sergio transferred to California State University, Dominguez Hills, where he is currently pursuing a bachelor of music in contemporary performance with an emphasis on voice. Under the guidance of Dr. Atkins and Prof. Buckley, he has continued to hone his craft, developing both technical precision and artistic expression. Proudly identifying as a member of the LGBTQ+ community and embracing his heritage as Mexican-American, Sergio channels his identity into his music. As a latin-pop artist, he creates songs that amplify voices often unheard—offering representation, empowerment, and authenticity. His music speaks not only for himself but for those still searching for the courage to speak their truth.

Ian Mendoza, \$100 Patron Scholarship



Ian Mendoza is a vocalist, composer, and singer-songwriter studying at El Camino College. Raised in Redondo Beach, he found his singing voice in the 3rd grade and participated in choir ensembles throughout his scholastic career, leading to the El Camino Chorale and its Applied Music Program. He trained his tenor voice and prepared himself for dramatic performances across a variety of genres and dipped his toes into theater by participating in the ECC Opera Workshop. He likes to perform original arrangements and compositions, likes to collaborate with fellow music students for productions professional and independent, and serves as president for the Society of Music, a student-organized club that oversees showcase concerts for music major students and their original work. He can often be found playing his guitars and composing new songs or writing lyrics. His favorite pastime is collecting vinyl records and listening to them at home, which gives him an appreciation of all musical genres. Ian will complete his associate arts degree this spring and has already been accepted to CSU Los Angeles as a vocal performance major. He aspires to become a professional singer, a commercial music composer and a multimedia recording artist. Under the moniker “subatomic dojo”, Ian will soon release his debut single, a psychedelic avant-rock song called “Icarus At The Bottom of The Sea” with other original art rock songs

