

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE GUIDELINES
for the
Western Connecticut Youth Orchestra & Charles Ives Music Festival
programs of the Ridgefield Symphony Orchestra, Inc.

It is the policy of the Ridgefield Symphony Orchestra, Inc. that no child be denied admission to the Western Connecticut Youth Orchestra (WCYO) or the Charles Ives Music Festival (CIMF) programs solely due to an inability to pay program tuition. To this end, financial assistance is available upon acceptance into either a WCYO or CIMF program.

A Financial Assistance Application form is accessible online on the WCYO and CIMF websites.

Financial Assistance Applications are due prior to the tuition due date of a specific program.

Applicants should complete the application form providing the information requested, along with verification of after-tax income. If more details are required, the Ridgefield Symphony Orchestra Board of Directors will ask for them.

Decisions regarding financial assistance are made by the Executive Director, with input from the Executive Committee (officers) of the Board of Directors. Decisions will be made promptly upon submission of an application and the applicant will be notified of the decision via email.

Financial assistance can be in the form of full tuition, or partial tuition and/or a tuition payment plan whereby tuition payments are spread out over a specified period of time.

Financial assistance is principally offered to cover the cost of program tuition. Financial assistance to cover additional fees or special events costs will be considered separately and upon request.

The following guidelines are used in determining financial assistance.

- Families, as a general rule, must have after-tax income of \$75,000 or less
- Special considerations may be given to:
 - unemployed parents
 - divorced/single parents
 - families with other children in college or special programs
 - situations where the parent/guardian is supporting extended families
 - medical disabilities
 - other hardships or special circumstances