Filene Music Scholarships

HAVE IT ALL – A PREMIER MUSIC PROGRAM
AND A HIGHLY SELECTIVE LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGE

SKIDMORE COLLEGE
SKIDMORE COLLEGE HAS ONE OF THE FINEST LIBERAL ARTS MUSIC PROGRAMS IN AMERICA.

- More than 30 inspiring faculty — performers, composers, scholars — committed to teaching talented undergraduate musicians
- Creative students with wide-ranging passions
- Courses that examine the world’s great musical traditions, from Miles Davis to Mozart, Beatles to Baroque and Ellington to East Asia
- Private lessons for voice and nearly 25 instruments
- Ensemble opportunities (orchestra, chorus, jazz, big-band, string ensemble, Klezmer, Chinese ensemble and more)
- Chamber music and jazz combos coached by great faculty artists
- World-class guest artists in concert and residencies, working closely with students in classes, lessons and ensembles
- Collaborative research and intensive senior project opportunities, including composition, music technology, recital and thesis
Thanks to the generosity of the Lincoln and Therese Filene Foundation and the Ladd Charitable Corporation, the Filene Music Program has been a signature part of Skidmore College for more than 35 years. The program supports exceptional student scholar-musicians who are free to pursue any course of study at Skidmore. Four to six winners are selected annually at the Filene Music Scholarship Competition. Each recipient receives $60,000 over four years, in addition to free private lessons.

The scholarship package — $15,000 per year toward tuition, plus lesson fees — is awarded independent of any additional need-based aid.

Financial aid applicants who demonstrate financial need will receive Skidmore grant aid regardless of their Filene status.

Filene scholars can major in any discipline.

Recipients are, however, expected to remain active in the Music Department through private instruction and participation in department ensembles.
FILENE MUSIC COMPETITION

Eligibility (Skidmore application deadline is January 15)
• The competition is open to high school seniors who apply for admission to Skidmore by January 15, 2021.

Application (Filene application deadline is January 20)
• Submitted recordings must be of solo performances (with accompaniment, unless a solo piece); repertoire should come from the Western classical tradition and should include at least two (for singers, three) selections representing contrasting historical or stylistic periods, together totaling approximately 10 minutes.
• We recognize that the current pandemic could present potential hazards to recording live with pianists. This year we will accept prerecorded accompaniments for singers. Instrumentalists may submit solos that traditionally have accompaniment with prerecorded accompaniment or without accompaniment.
• Performances of jazz, original compositions and musical theater will not be considered for this competition but may be an asset to your Skidmore arts portfolio. You are encouraged to contact a teacher in your performance area with any questions about Skidmore or about the competition, or for repertoire suggestions. Please visit our website or contact Michele Koskinen (518-580-5320/mkoskine@skidmore.edu) for specific contact information.
• For more detailed requirements, visit https://www.skidmore.edu/music/scholarships/filene.php

Final Competition (at Skidmore College, April 3, 2021)
• The final round of the competition will be judged virtually using prerecorded videos on March 20-21, 2021
• Finalists must register for one of two informational zoom meetings to be scheduled on the morning of Filene Competition Day, March 20, 2021.
• Up to six winners will be announced within a week of Competition Day. The judges also maintain a list of runners-up. If a winner does not accept admission to Skidmore, the scholarship will be offered to a runner-up.
• While the Filene Competition is typically held on campus, Covid 19 limitations prohibit in-person performances and necessitate that the competition be held remotely.
SKIDMORE’S FILENE SCHOLARS

Filene scholars perform frequently throughout their Skidmore careers, in ensembles, chamber music and solo recitals. But we make no assumptions about their future careers — or even their chosen majors.

Past Filene scholars — nearly 100 in all — have become doctors and lawyers, writers and teachers, actors and academics, a fundraiser and a filmmaker, a research biologist and a radio producer and, of course, musicians.

This “ultimate freedom of choice” allows Filene scholars to focus on any academic field and offers “an enlightened attitude that benefits the entire college community,” says Filene recipient Amy Briggs ’89. An acclaimed performer, recording artist and piano teacher, Briggs earned her D.M.A. in piano at Northwestern.

“At Skidmore, there are ample chamber music and orchestra opportunities, not to mention being able to work and sometimes perform with guest artists such as the American String Quartet, the Ying Quartet and Carnegie Hall’s Ensemble Connect — an incredible experience not always offered at conservatories.”

—GEORGE DILTHEY
FILENE SCHOLAR ’16
THE FILENE RESIDENCIES AND CONCERT SERIES

Skidmore music students regularly study with world-class artists brought to campus for teaching residencies and concerts thanks to the generous support of the Elisabeth Luce Moore Funds, the Sterne Fund and the Skidmore Music Department.

In recent years, students have enjoyed private lessons and master classes with talents such as Ensemble Connect, East Asian Ensemble, soprano Heidi Grant Murphy, saxophone player Joshua Redman, flutist Paula Robison, jazz vocalist Nnenna Freelon, pianist Brad Mehldau, Pulitzer-winning composer Caroline Shaw and the Ying Quartet. Other legendary artists have performed at Skidmore, including the Kronos Quartet, pianist Garrick Ohlsson, pipa player Wu Man, jazz great and composer Terence Blanchard and the Los Angeles Guitar Quartet.

“Skidmore allowed me to follow my interests in both music and science. I learned there is a higher proportion of students at Skidmore majoring in two completely different subjects, like music and science, than most other colleges. I never felt I would have to give up one interest to pursue another.”

— EMMA LIN
FILENE SCHOLAR ’22
The Arthur Zankel Music Center

Opened in 2010, the striking Arthur Zankel Music Center is located near the College’s main entrance, where it serves as a gateway to campus. With approximately 54,000 square feet of teaching, practice, performance and administrative space, the Center is home to the vibrant activities of Skidmore’s Music Department and is an important teaching and performance venue for the College’s Special Programs division, which sponsors numerous summer institutes and other high-profile events throughout the year. Zankel features the Helen Filene Ladd Concert Hall, a 600-seat acoustically tuned space, and the more intimate 90-seat Elisabeth Luce Moore Hall. It is named in honor of the late Arthur Zankel, a financier and philanthropist who was a Skidmore trustee, parent and longtime supporter.