



2024

Michael Boo Memorial Scholarship Information & Application

Affectionately dubbed by many as the “Pen of Pageantry” after working on projects for Drum Corps International, Winter Guard International and Bands of America for decades, there is perhaps no one who has amassed a bigger portfolio of writings about the breadth of the modern-day competitive marching arts than Michael Boo.

Originally hired in 1989 as a DCI staff writer to put together the corps program synopses for the organization’s annual souvenir yearbooks, Boo’s byline has been a fixture across DCI’s print publications and website ever since, credited to a diverse array of media including feature articles, CD and DVD liner notes, live play-by-play event blogs, podcast and video commentary, and more.

With a passion for architecture, particularly Frank Lloyd Wright, Boo served as the executive corresponding secretary of the Our World-Underwater Scholarship Society since 1997. Boo served as a writer for the magazine “American Skating World” and in 1998 published an honors-winning book on the history of figure skating.

Growing up in Steger, Illinois, Boo participated with the Cavaliers Drum and Bugle Corps from 1975 to 1977. Pursuing undergraduate studies in music education at VanderCook College in Chicago and master’s degree from Northern Illinois University in music composition and theory.

In 1983 Boo composed the opening tune of the Cavaliers’ production, titled “Jade,” in honor of the group’s 35th anniversary. In recent years Boo has written numerous compositions as composer in residence with the Windiana Professional Concert Band and Confucius Institute of Valparaiso University in Northwest Indiana. That group has premiered and performed his works in China, Malta, Australia, New Zealand and Italy. A number of Boo’s compositions were added to the catalog of Carl Fischer Music. He’s also been seen in the catalogs of Ludwig Music Publishing, Alfred Music, TRN Music Publisher and Grand Mesa Music.

With longevity in the position of interviewing hundreds of DCI performers, staff, designers, and other personalities, Boo by default became one of the foremost experts on DCI history. He maintained a loyal following to recurring Boo-written features on DCI.org under the titles of *Fanfare*, *Spotlight of the Week*, and *Recap Roundup*, among many others. *Drum Corps World* newspaper publisher Steve Vickers ran a regular column written by Boo called *A Bit of Boo*. This proved especially helpful when DCI released its *Legacy Collection* video series which brought performances from the 1970s through the 1990s to DVD for the very first time.

“The value that he’s brought to our world will be forever remembered thanks to the abundant historical record that he’s left behind. The friendship that he brought to the lives of many will enable his spirit to live on as pleasant, cherished memories.”

After a recent cancer diagnosis, Boo passed away November 18, 2020 in his hometown of Chesterton, Indiana. He was 65.

ALL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS WILL REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL



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ADMINISTRATION & CRITERIA

DCI will administrate the scholarship and has established the following guidelines:

1. The recipient must be enrolled full time in a college/university, or other nationally accredited public relations, marketing, writing, journalism or like degree program.
2. Essays and writing samples should be written keeping the “importance of the word” in mind.
3. The recipient must be an active performing member of a unit who will participate in the 2024 DCI Summer Tour, or other performance program with a DCI Participating Corps.
4. Each nominee must have their corps’ director sign off as an endorser.
5. Scholarship(s) granted will be paid by check written to his/her drum corps OR college/university/school. Scholarship money may be used by the member to pay current educational fees. Any unused scholarship monies, either from the student leaving the education establishment before completing his/her degree or upon the student completing and receiving his/her degree will be returned to DCI.
6. Scholarships granted will not be less than \$1000.00 per recipient.
7. The scholarship will be granted for one year only, but recipients may re-apply the next year if he/she remains active with a corps and meets all the other requirements.
8. Selections will be made by a committee consisting of individuals representing various DCI PR, Content & Branding teams, whose decisions will be final.
9. The award will be announced on the Drum Corps International website in late May with other award recipients. . Recipients should work with corps director to set up a meeting with the DCI Marketing Team at some point on tour and return a photo for posting at DCI World Championships in August.
10. EMAIL application and additional materials to scholarships@dc.org with the subject line: Boo Scholarship. **Applications must be received by March 15, 2024.**
11. **DO NOT MAIL ANY MATERIALS TO THE DCI OFFICE.** Applications for 2024 Scholarships must be submitted to DCI via an email with ONE attachment (create ONE pdf of all required documents – do not send multiple attachments) to Scholarships@DCI.org, **All required paperwork must be completed as a part of the SINGLE Scholarship Application pdf submission.**

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PERSONAL DATA

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ Date of Birth _____ Age _____

Email _____

Father's Name _____ Occupation _____

Address (if different from above) _____

City, State, Zip _____ Phone _____

Mother's Name _____ Occupation _____

Address (if different from above) _____

City, State, Zip _____ Phone _____

Number of siblings _____ Are any involved in pageantry? _____

Age(s) of siblings _____ Any siblings in college, if so, how many? _____

Where do your siblings attend college? (if applicable) _____

Are you employed? _____ If yes, where and length of time with that employer? _____

EDUCATION

High School _____

City & State _____ Year in school _____

College/School _____

City & State _____ Major/Program _____

DCI CORPS INFORMATION

With what corps were you contracted for 2022? _____

Circle one: ☐ Brass ☐ Color Guard ☐ Percussion How long have you been a member of that unit? _____

With what other groups have you performed? _____

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ESSAY QUESTIONS (expand box for additional answer development):

Academic progress: this includes grade point average, course load, extenuating circumstances and challenges overcome in your academic endeavors.

Extracurricular activities: including all scholastic, recreational and civic activities including pageantry. Identify YOUR accomplishments and responsibilities for these activities (for instance, outside of the ensembles in which you participate we do not need a list of the corps accomplishments/placements, but also those roles that you have filled within community outreach work, other scholastic honors/teams/works, etc.).

Future plans: your plans and goals for post education, including how you feel that you may be able to advance the DCI brand of promoting the activity and marching arts as a positive experience. (Where do you see yourself in five years? Ten?)

Why do you want or need this scholarship?

I certify that the above and enclosed information is complete and true.

Applicant _____ Date _____

I have reviewed the above application and recommend this member for the Marching Music Health, Wellness & Safety Scholarship.

Corps Director Signature (can attach an email from director) _____

Corps _____ Date _____

PLEASE INCLUDE IN SINGLE APPLICATION PDF:

High School transcripts (including explanation of system, i.e. 4 point, etc.)

College/Program transcripts (if applicable) or SAT/ACT scores (if just entering college program)

Three writing samples, of which at least one (1) is related to the marching arts

Two letters of recommendation from individuals other than Corps Director

Two photos (one headshot)

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