



Music Scholarship

Background Information:

Joseph Scott Middlemiss was born into this world on May 31st, 2007 and was fighting for life from this very 1st breath. His fiery spirit and desire to live every day to the fullest by spreading love to others were ignited at the moment of birth and continued to blossom as he grew. Joseph was born with a rare **congenital heart disease** known as **cardiomyopathy**. Moments after birth, a chest extra x-ray revealed the tell tale sign of an extremely enlarged heart. Ironically, it was this enlarged heart that set him on a lifetime of medical struggles, but that same BIG HEART symbolized all the love Joe was to emulate in his short lifetime.

Spreading love was something that Joseph Scott did very well, a gift that seemed to be inborn and instinctual to him. Whether it was through a simple smile that was given to a stranger in passing, an offer to help a friend who was struggling, a hug and words of encouragement extended at just the right time, a song written and presented with the hope of lifting spirits, or other numerous offers of service, Joseph continually shared his love to open the hearts of family members, friends, and strangers, alike. On September 23rd, 2013 Joseph, who had been medically stable and thriving at the time, passed away very suddenly and earned his angel wings.

It is now our greatest desire to carry on Joe's legacy by continuing to touch others' lives and opening hearts just as our son did with such ease and perfection. As a result, we founded **The Joseph Middlemiss Big Heart Foundation**. One key goal of the foundation is to assist other children in exploring one of his trademark passions: Music.

Joe's affinity for music began when he was just an infant. He listened to classical music during his stay in the neonatal intensive care unit and everyone noticed how the melodies calmed him. As he transitioned home from the hospital at 3 months of age, his musical repertoire continued to expand. The only thing that would soothe him during typical infant tantrums were favorite songs from Johnny Cash, The Eagles, Bruce Springsteen, Billy Joel, and The Beatles. By his second birthday, he began to show a strong preference for the Beatles and began to tap out the beat to many songs with his foot or whatever household item he could transform into an instrument. Throughout his toddler years, his favorite blue ukulele seemed to be attached to him and he couldn't travel anywhere without it.

Shortly after he turned three, we enrolled him in the Musical Voyagers Program at the Music Academy of Chelmsford. Each week, he was invited to learn about and experiment with a different instrument. His love of music and all instruments just exploded. We explored many instruments at home but Joe chose to focus on his drumming skills through private lessons at the academy. He established a wonderful bond with his instructor and his Saturday morning lessons became the highlight of his week. Joseph grew to become quite an accomplished drummer and entertained family and friends at his home, during group recitals, and through homemade videos. He was so proud of his accomplishments.

As educators, we believe in teaching the whole child. Music has always been linked to academic success. Current research not only supports this but also shows how it enhances cognitive, behavioral, and social/emotional growth as well. Music is such a powerful force. Skills such as working in teams, communication, self-esteem, creative thinking, calmer attitudes, imagination, discipline, study skills and invention are learnt and improved through the study of music

Our son's passion for music, combined with this research has moved us to create a music scholarship in Joe's name. Our goal is to "give the gift of music" in an effort to enhance the lives of young students, empowering them to be instruments of peace as they interact in their schools and communities at large.



Scholarship Specifics:

*The recipient of the Joseph Middlemiss Big Heart Foundation Music Scholarship will receive one year of private (weekly) music lessons at the Music Academy of Chelmsford (73 Princeton Street Chelmsford, MA 01863). Upon selection, scheduling can be done directly with the music academy.

*Scholarship recipients will be acknowledged at the 6th Annual Celebrity ScoopFest. Recipients and families will be encouraged to join us on Tuesday, June 4th for a ceremony during our JMBHF event at Shaw Farm in Dracut, MA

Qualifications:

*The application is open to all students in grades K through 12

Application Contents:

*Completed applications should be mailed to the foundation at P.O.Box 428 Dracut, MA 01826. Please be sure they are **postmarked by Friday, May 24th**. They can also be emailed to Kate at kmiddlemiss@jmbigheart@gmail.com

- ✓ Application Form
- ✓ Parent/Guardian Commitment Form & Photo/Video Waiver
- ✓ Essay
- ✓ Letter of Recommendation:

All students must provide a reference from an adult who is not a family member. Such as a coach, school teacher, religion teacher, music teacher, or day care provider, etc



2019 Application Form

Applicant Information:

Applicant's Name: _____ male/female (circle one)

Address: _____

Current School: _____ Current Grade: _____

School Address: _____

Age: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Has the applicant taken music lessons before? Yes/No (circle one)

What instrument is the applicant hoping to receive lessons in? _____

Musical activities the applicant is currently participating in or has participated in during the last year: _____

Parent/Guardian Information:

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Email Address: _____

Parent/Guardian Home Phone#: _____

Parent/Guardian Cell Phone #: _____



Parent/Guardian Commitment Form

I understand that attendance at scheduled lessons is very important and is a reflection of my family's commitment to my child's musical education. I will provide transportation for my child and will do everything in my power to ensure expected participation. Recurring missed lessons without a valid reason and/or "no-shows" may result in termination of the scholarship.

In signing this, I agree to actively support my child's music development and will ensure regular attendance at lessons.

Parent/Guardian

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Photo/Video & Media Waiver

I give permission for my child, _____, to have pictures or videos taken and to be highlighted in media releases to announce the scholarship recipient and to publicize his/her progress and learning as his/her lessons and music experience transpire. The pictures/videos and media releases can be posted on the following (check all that apply):

- The Joseph Middlemiss "Big Heart" Foundation Website and Social Media pages
- Music Academy of Chelmsford website and facebook page
- Newspaper or magazine articles about the scholarship
- Signage or advertisements for the "Big Heart" foundation or this scholarship
- I **do NOT** consent to any of the above *(Please note: Checking this will NOT impact your child's status and standing with regard to the scholarship application review process.)*

I have read this waiver, and agree to be legally bound by its terms. Should I change my mind on this matter, I will notify the scholarship coordinator, Kate Middlemiss, in writing.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Music Academy Signature

Date

Scholarship Coordinator Signature

Date



Applicant Essay:

Why do you want to receive music lessons? How do you think they will help you?

Please use the space below or attach as separate sheet. If the applicant is not able to complete the writing task on his/her own, ideas can be dictated to an adult for recording.



Reference/Recommendation:

Each applicant is asked to provide a reference/recommendation from an adult who is not a member of the applicant's immediate family.

The following is to be completed by the adult recommending this applicant:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone #: _____

Relationship to applicant: _____

How long have you know the applicant? _____

Brief summary of why the applicant would benefit from this scholarship for private music lessons:

Signature: _____ Date: _____