

Chuck McKissick Memorial Scholarship

Chuck McKissick was born in Florence, South Carolina, in 1950. He began playing drums at 13 and remained involved in music in some form for the remainder of his life. He played with the University of South Carolina Marching Band, where he graduated in 1973. He spent 20 years in the US Army Band system, playing drums and percussion at recruiting concerts all over the US and Europe. He continued his professional career after retirement, playing in local bands and orchestras, including The Believers Band, Back In Time, the Gainesville Symphony, the Toccoa Symphony, the Northwinds Symphonic Band, and many others. He played for presidents, foreign dignitaries, celebrities, and famous musicians. He was in a Scottish Pipe and Drum Band that backed up Faith Hill when she sang the National Anthem at the Super Bowl in Atlanta. He was also an adjunct faculty member at both Truett McConnell University and Toccoa Falls College.



Chuck was a talented and well-respected musician in the North Georgia community. Despite this, he never wanted to be in the limelight and was uncomfortable with praise and accolades. He said the best part of being a drummer is that you get to be in a band, but no one pays attention to you unless you make a mistake.

As an educator, it brought Chuck the utmost pride and joy to see his students learn a difficult piece, to grow as musicians, and to share in his love of playing percussion. He remained in contact with many past students, becoming a mentor and friend as they entered into the next phases of their lives outside of college.

Chuck's faith was at the forefront of everything he did. It showed in his professionalism, in his compassion, and in his unfailing loyalty. He was very involved with his church, Lakewood Baptist, and, of course, he played percussion with the Crosspoint Band.

Chuck loved his family: his wife of 41 years, Kathy, and his two children, Casey and Andy. He dedicated his life to God, his family, playing the drums, and to his students, bandmates, and friends. He enjoyed history, Disney World, football, and falling asleep in his recliner.

Chuck McKissick went into the hospital on September 12, 2020, with COVID-19. His spirits were high and his sense of humor intact throughout his hospitalization in the "Covid Zoo."

A good man taken into God's Glory too soon for those left behind.

August 27, 1950 - October 18, 2020

Chuck McKissick

Memorial Scholarship

Established Spring 2022 – updated December 9, 2025

1. The Believers Concert Band shall award one or more middle, high school or college student recipient(s) this scholarship of up to \$500 for a summer music-related camp or college program, including college tuition contingent on meeting all requirements of the application and upon being accepted to a recognized program or college/university. The scholarship can also be applied toward college tuition.
2. The Believers Concert Band has agreed to fund this scholarship to be awarded annually in memory of Chuck McKissick (dedicated percussion section leader and teacher).
3. The scholarship committee shall consist of the Believers Concert Band Director, the Believers Band Board of Directors, and two (2) general members of the Believers Band. (Note: No relatives of the applicants shall serve on this committee.)
4. The name of the recipient will be announced at the next Believers Concert Band concert following awarding of the scholarship, or posted on the band website, depending on the award date.
5. The scholarship award will be sent directly to the institution/camp that the student will attend.



Criteria

1. This scholarship is open to all middle and high school band students. College students who participate in The Believers Concert Band are also eligible. Preference may be given to music majors/minors, but those with the intent to be lifelong musicians are also welcome to apply.
2. Applicant must have participated in at least two (2) Believers Band major concerts during the period of band membership. (This may increase after the inaugural year.)
3. Applicant must have attended a majority of rehearsals for those Believers Band concerts.
4. Applicants must be on track for graduation and have an overall grade point average (GPA) of no less than 3.0 on a scale of 4.0.
5. Applicants must submit two (2) written character references from their current high school band director and/or a school faculty member or a professional in the community (no relatives will be accepted). College students can substitute a reference from a college faculty or staff member in lieu of their band director.
6. The applicant is to submit an essay stating how music has had an impact on his/her life and how the student would benefit from the scholarship.
7. A copy of the official acceptance from the camp, program, or college/university the student will attend must be provided before the scholarship can be released.
8. Applications and support materials may be turned into the artistic director of the Believers Band or sent to:

Believers Concert Band
c/o David Arvold, Artistic Director
8300 Soapstone Creek Circle
Hiawassee, GA 30546
info@believersband.com

Due on or before April 1

Chuck McKissick
Memorial Scholarship:

Due on or before April 1

Application



Date _____

Applicant's Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Email address _____

Phone _____

Parent/Guardian _____

Overall Band GPA: _____ Overall GPA: _____

College/University/Summer Music Camp: _____

Field of Study (if applicable): _____

Tuition: \$ _____ Room & Board: \$ _____ Extra Expenses: \$ _____

List Music Activities – ie. Current Bands, Solo & Ensemble, Honor Bands, Clinics, Extra Ensembles

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

List School Extra-Curricular Activities

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

School Awards and Honors

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Please make any statement(s) you feel would help us in making this decision.



Due on or before April 1