Bridging the Sound:

Expanding Access with Instruments and Opportunity

THE Herk FOUNDATION
A Memorial to Fred Earl Jones

Herk Foundation – Bridging the Sound Grant

Goal: To eliminate financial barriers to music education by providing instruments and enrichment opportunities to underserved elementary, middle, and high school students by helping to ensure equitable access to hands-on learning, band participation, and musical growth.

Description: The Bridging the Sound initiative seeks to foster equity in music education by addressing three critical needs: the lack of foundational musical instruments in elementary classrooms, limited access to quality instruments in secondary school band programs, and the inability of low-income students to afford enriching extracurricular experiences. By equipping schools with instruments, the project empowers students to participate fully in music education regardless of their socioeconomic background.

Middle/High School Band Instruments Grant

Purpose: Our Middle and High School Band Instrument Grant provide quality instruments to underserved school band programs, ensuring that financial barriers do not prevent students from participating in music education. By expanding access to essential instruments, The Herk Foundation helps schools strengthen their band programs while empowering students to develop musical skills, confidence, leadership, and a lifelong passion for the performing arts.

Grant: The Herk Foundation will award grants to selected middle and/or high school music or band programs, providing each recipient's school with up to 5 instruments not exceeding $1750 in total. The amount will be determined by the grant committee.

Eligibility/Requirements:

- Must be a teacher/band director in a Mississippi Public School in one of these counties: DeSoto, Lafayette, Marshall, Panola, Tate, or Tunica
- A complete online application form
- Media Release and Consent Form
- Leadership Form with Principal signature

Deadline

This electronic form must be submitted by August 31 by 11:59pm. All applications received after the deadline and/or incomplete applications will not be eligible for consideration. For questions, email Calandra Jones-Howard at theherkfoundation@yahoo.com.

The Herk Foundation
Providing Instruments. Expanding Opportunities. Inspiring Excellence.

*The **Herk Foundation** is a non-profit organization founded in honor of the Late Fred Earl Jones with a mission to help support music education programs in Mississippi through scholarships, grants, and opportunities for music appreciation.*