



# 2024

## Gary "Chops" Czapinski Memorial Scholarship Information & Application

Entering drum corps as a teenager, Gary "Chops" Czapinski spent his entire life in the marching arts. It has been almost four decades since he and his dear friend, Pete Emmons thrilled the drum corps activity with their innovative and creative visual magic with the Santa Clara Vanguard. To this day, Gary's visionary approach to visual design can be seen in every niche of the world of the marching arts. From the costume-clad characters of "Alice in Wonderland" performed by the Madison Scouts, the use of fabric on the field with a parachute to hide the Seneca Optimists, or the introduction of asymmetric drill design, Gary has been instrumental in the ongoing evolution of the visual art of the drum and bugle corps activity.

Without Gary's nurturing and constant desire to be new, fresh and different, our activity would be very different today. Possibly a little less imaginative, colorful and forward thinking. He is truly one of the master visual "producer/designers" of our time.

Through the end of his life, Czapinski continued to design within the drum corps, band and winter guard arenas, and he lectured on the subject of design at universities and colleges nationwide. He also volunteered countless hours to the training of new judges and supported the drum corps activity which remained the root of his life as an artist.

Gary was inducted to the DCI Hall of Fame in 1999. Gary passed away December 13, 2013. He was 72. Since 2014, the Gary "Chops" Czapinski Memorial Scholarship has been awarded to high school seniors or college students who are members in good standing of a DCI participating Open or World class drum corps.

A \$1,000 scholarship will be presented to the student who intends to teach drum corps, winter guard, or marching band and remain committed to our activity by pursuing a career in music education or the arts.

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

1. The recipient must be enrolled full time in a college/university degree program by the time the monies are awarded (if applying as a HS senior, student must be enrolled in the fall or spring immediately following DCI season in which award is made). You can still submit this application as money can be used toward your corps tuition.
2. The recipient must attend an accredited college, university, trade school or vocational school in the arts.
3. The recipient must be under contract with an Open or World Class drum corps and plan to participate in the 2024 DCI Summer Tour.
4. Each nominee must have their corps' director sign off as an endorser – an email confirming endorsement is acceptable.
5. Scholarship(s) granted will be paid by check written to his/her drum corps OR school. Scholarship money may be used by the member to pay current or next season's corps tuition, school tuition, books other activity fees. Any unused scholarship monies, either from the student leaving the education establishment before completing his/her degree OR by deciding not to continue in the drum corps activity, 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 the family of Gary Czapinski.
9. The award will be announced on the Drum Corps International website in late May with other award recipients.
10. 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: [mzczapins@gmail.com](mailto:mzczapins@gmail.com) or Gary Czapinski Memorial Scholarship, 1433 Perry Street #301, Des Plaines, IL 60016. **Applications must be received by MARCH 15<sup>TH</sup>, 2024.**

*All applications will be reviewed by the family and DCI and will remain confidential.*



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## Gary "Chops" Czapinski Memorial Scholarship Information & Application

### PERSONAL DATA

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

### EDUCATION

High School \_\_\_\_\_

City & State \_\_\_\_\_ Year in school \_\_\_\_\_

College \_\_\_\_\_

City & State \_\_\_\_\_ College Major \_\_\_\_\_

### DCI CORPS INFORMATION

With what corps are you performing? \_\_\_\_\_

In what section do you perform and what instrument/equipment? \_\_\_\_\_

How long have you been a member of your current corps? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you marched with another corps? If so, how long? \_\_\_\_\_

### ATTACH AN ESSAY ON WHY YOU DESERVE/NEED THIS SCHOLARSHIP. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO INCLUDE INFORMATION SUCH AS:

Ensembles you performed with outside of DCI (WGI, school, community, etc.).

Prior or current instructional experience

Plans to continue teaching drum corps, band, guard or in another art form

Extracurricular activities: include scholastic, recreational and civic including your accomplishments

Why you are passionate about drum corps

Plans and goals for post-education

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*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 Gary “Chops” Czapinski Memorial Scholarship. (Director may alternatively email recommendation to: [mczapins@gmail.com](mailto:mczapins@gmail.com)).*

Corps Director Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Corps \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE INCLUDE:**

**Two letters of recommendation from individuals other than Corps Director.**

**Application Submissions to:**

Gary Czapinski Memorial Scholarship, 1433 Perry Street #301, Des Plaines, IL 60016, or  
MCZAPINS@gmail.com.

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