

The Bechtel Award of the Midwestern Historical Keyboard Society: Guidelines
(Approved by the Board at the annual meeting, May 18, 2011)

The Award

The Bechtel Award of the Midwestern Historical Keyboard Society was created by the Board of Directors in 2006 to recognize the many contributions to the Society by Ben Bechtel (1936–2008), longtime MHKS treasurer, master luthier and harpsichord builder. The goal of the award is to foster interest in early keyboard instruments and the Society among younger people.

Recipients of the Bechtel Award

This award is presented annually to a promising student with an interest in early keyboard instruments. Anyone between the ages of eighteen and thirty who is currently learning to play, build, or otherwise expresses interest in any early keyboard instrument (organ, harpsichord, clavichord, fortepiano, etc.) is eligible to be nominated for the Ben Bechtel Award.

Selection

Candidates must be nominated by a teacher, professor, mentor, or other suitable person. A statement from the applicant stating his/her interest and aspirations, together with a confidential letter of recommendation from the nominator will constitute an application for the Bechtel Award. Nominations should be sent to David Breitman, 382 Elm St., Oberlin, OH, 44074, USA, or by e-mail to <<david.breitman@oberlin.edu >> by 1 March of each year, to be considered for attendance at that year's annual conference.

The committee reserves the right not to grant an Award at their discretion, for example, if no suitable candidates are presented, or if sufficient funds are not available.

Award Amount

The award will underwrite the cost of attendance at the next MHKS annual conference.

The Award may cover any or all of the following:

1. The registration fee for the annual conference.
2. Travel between the recipient's place of residence and the annual conference location.
In the case of air travel, only economy-class travel will be reimbursed. In the case of car travel, mileage at the current IRS rate will be granted only to the extent that the total amount does not exceed the cost of a round-trip economy flight. Travel by other means (non-first-class train, bus) will be reimbursed. Rental car fees will not be reimbursed.
3. All food costs incurred during the time of the conference.
Food costs incurred during travel to and from the conference will not be reimbursed.
4. Housing during the time of the conference.
The nature of the housing supplied will be at the discretion of those who disperse the Award, but will be in accordance with housing used by others attending the conference, such as a hotel, dormitory facilities, etc.

Reimbursement of Expenses

It is the recipient's responsibility to provide receipts for reimbursable expenses to the MHKS treasurer. No expenses will be reimbursed without a proper receipt.

Recipient's Responsibilities

It is expected that the recipient will attend the entire conference, from first day to last, and attend as many papers, concerts, or other presentations associated with the conference as possible. When appropriate, the recipient might be invited to make a presentation, such as a concert, lecture, or instrument demonstration.

The Midwestern Historical Keyboard Society is not responsible for insurance coverage of any kind.