

## ARMTA Recognition Fund Scholarship February 2026-2027 Budget Recommendations

### Report to ARMTA Provincial Board Feb. 2026

The current balance of the ARMTA Recognition Fund is **\$31,311.47**. The Rusconi Fund Donation in April 2025 was **\$22,309.00**. It is evident that the Edmonton Community Foundation invested the Rusconi money very well and it has been secure this past year as we have seen an increase this year. In May of 2024 we received \$20,312.00.

Just for review, this fund in its inception in 2008, was created with only the provincial biennial piano competition in mind. The ARMTA President at that time, Judith Ammann, worked to create a fund that would provide these awards. The vision of the Recognition Fund was presented to the Edmonton Community Foundation, and in 2012, the Edmonton Community Foundation chose the ARMTA Recognition Fund as the annual recipient of the Rusconi investment. The Rusconi investment is in memory of the late Ethel Rusconi (nee Weisbeck) a past ARMTA member from Medicine Hat. Since 2012, the fund's scope has broadened, and prizes and scholarships are presently awarded to students in all genres on music.

The ARMTA Recognition fund is held and managed in the CFMTA Trust Account, and Lois Kerr, the CFMTA Treasurer assists greatly with this fund. Periodically we ensure that the spreadsheets are accurate and that the totals are matching at each end. The balance given to you in this report is as of February 4, 2026.

Requests are summarized below:

Projects 2026-27	Requests	
<b>Biennial Awards</b>		
<u>ARMTA Multidiscipline Competition</u> annually	\$4,250.00*Total	\$2,125.00
<u>Strings</u> Competition (2026?) annually	\$2,900.00 *Total	\$2,000
CASSA (Calgary Arts Summer School) Scholarships	\$500	
Provincial Awards to the Branches	\$6,400	
<b>Calculated at \$850 each for Small Branches \$1,500 each for Calgary and Edmonton</b> <i>(Grande Prairie, Medicine Hat, Lethbridge, Red Deer)</i>		
Student Composer Competition Awards	\$900	
Bursaries (Needs Based)	\$12,000	
Newcomer Bursary	\$3,000	
ARMTA Pedagogy Scholarships	\$3,000	
Rotary Calgary Concerto Competition	\$2,000	
Contemporary Showcases (Calgary and Edmonton in 2024)	\$700	\$350 per showcase
	<b>Total - \$32,625.00</b>	

In 2025, ARMTA has received \$22,309.00 from the Rusconi Fund, but our spending for 2025 to date is 32,330.00. In looking at our projected projects for 2026-27, we will be overspending by potentially \$10,000 or more, if the donation from the Rusconi Fund is approximately the same amount.

I would ask the Board to consider these questions before approving the above expenses:

- 1) What is our main focus? Our core activities?
- 2) Do you have a percentage to be set aside for competitions and education?
- 3) What is the threshold on the account, before we need to start cutting back? Would it be a balance of \$10,000 for example?

I would recommend the following:

- Take one year off of funding non-ARMTA projects. I would suggest that we can no longer support the Calgary Rotary Concerto Competition, and perhaps consider Contemporary Showcase and CASSA as well.
- Reduce the Pedagogy Scholarships to \$2000.00 (two \$1,000 scholarships)
- Combine the two Bursaries-still allowing for a newcomer Bursary as that requires a slightly different application. Allow for \$14,000 for Needs-Based Bursaries and Newcomer Bursaries. Bursary amounts will be smaller to accommodate the high number of requests.

This would reduce the over-spending by \$5,2000.00. In January of 2027 there would be an evaluation of the Recognition Fund donations as new initiatives come into place which will encourage more donations.

In making my recommendations for the 2026-27 year, I have considered what I believe to be the core projects of the Recognition Fund: The Piano, Voice, and String competitions, Branch awards, Student Composer Competition, Pedagogy Scholarships, and Bursaries.

Respectfully,  
Lorrie Wittke  
ARMTA Recognition Fund Convenor.