

2025 Ouida Keck Professional Development Award for the Independent Piano Teacher Annual award - \$2000

The Ouida Keck Professional Development Award for the Independent Piano Teacher, named for Past National President Dr. Ouida Keck (1999-2003), is offered annually and provides financial assistance to an independent piano teacher who demonstrates success in their private teaching and who strives to improve and enhance their teaching skills in the private studio.

Funds are to be used for advanced training through piano pedagogy classes; private piano lessons; attendance at conferences and conventions featuring piano pedagogy; purchase of new instruments, piano literature, method books, computers, computer software, or any other equipment needed to enhance the teaching environment. Funds are not available for scholarly research.

Piano teachers are encouraged to re-enter each year with the exception of previous recipients of this award who are ineligible to win more than once. Entrants cannot enter NFMFC Competitions in the Student/Collegiate Division if entering this competition even if entrant holds memberships in both the Senior and the Student/Collegiate Divisions.

Application Deadline: May 1

Requirements:

- NFMFC membership as a senior individual member or a federated club member
- U.S. citizenship (verification included on the application form)
- Minimum age of 21
- \$10 entry fee
- Three or more years of private piano studio teaching experience and a minimum of 10 hours per week in private studio with a majority by individual instruction (Some group lessons or classes may be incorporated, but the majority must be by individual instruction.)
- Entrant may not hold a full-time college teaching position.
- Other required materials:
 1. A complete resume indicating previous piano study, teaching experience and degree(s)
 2. Three (3) letters or recommendations from former piano teachers and/or colleagues in the field of piano who can attest to applicant's contributions to piano teaching. Combine into one document to submit.
 3. A few programs of past student recitals or festivals which demonstrate excellence in choice of repertoire and programming. Combine into one document to submit.
 4. A letter from applicant stating why the funding is needed. Include your proposed expenses and an itemized budget that clearly indicates how the money is to be used.

Submit the \$10 entry fee along with the application and all required materials to the NFMFC site – Click on <https://forms.nfmc-music.org/forms/>, Senior Division, and Dr. Ouida Keck Award. Applications will be judged by qualified judges of piano pedagogy, and winners will be announced by June 1. Winners must agree to submit a written summary of how the funds were used within one year after receiving the award.

Contact the award chair, Dr. Elaine Brady, for questions or concerns – pe973@aol.com.