The Gino James DiMario program offers talented, motivated students an opportunity to expand their musical studies while participating in a year-long scholarship program. Students who participate will have the opportunity to receive a tuition scholarship for the 2018-2019 school year.

Application process and timeline:
- All private music instructors are strongly encouraged to nominate a student to the DiMario program.
- All applications must be signed by the private teacher.
- October 13, 2017 – Application due
- April 14, 2018 – 2 p.m. Showcase Concert for all Program Participants at Twin Towers (required performance)
- April 27, 2018 – Portfolios due
- May 12, 2018 – Achievement Festival (required performance) and DiMario Scholar award ceremony.

Categories:
- Young DiMario (Grades K-4) – one scholarship of $400
- Middle DiMario (Grades 5-8) – one scholarship of $600
- Older DiMario (Grades 9-11) – one scholarship of $1,000

Requirements:
- Mid-year and end-of-year evaluation by faculty member (already required for NASM accreditation)
- Community Service Project (modified for young applicants)
- DiMario recital performance (April 14, 2018)
- One other performance as described on the application
- Attendance at and review of a concert (as audience member, not performer)
- Essay on why is music important in my life (not required for young applicants)

Please see FAQ page for modifications of these requirements for younger students.

Scholarship determination:
The DiMario Scholarship committee will meet after April 27 and review all the portfolios and the April 8 performances. Please see FAQ page for specific information on scoring the applicants.

Note: All decisions of the committee are final. The committee reserves the right to offer additional scholarships and/or recognition or other use of funds as deemed appropriate by the DiMarios.

The following FAQ page should answer your questions about the program.
GINO JAMES DIMARIO MEMORIAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM
FAQS: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Who was Gino DiMario?
Gino James DiMario began his Suzuki piano studies at CCM at the age of four. Gino loved the piano and participated in many recitals, competitions and other events. Gino passed away on February 19, 2005, shortly after performing in the annual piano competition at CCM Preparatory. In his short life, he touched many. He was an enthusiastic student who loved music and invested enormous effort and continual growth throughout his studies. Thanks to his parents, Michael and Sharron DiMario, an endowed scholarship fund is named for Gino and available funds assist deserving students each year. More than $17,000 has been awarded to Preparatory students since the fund was established. Additional funds are needed to increase our scholarship awards. Most of the donations come through the fundraising concerts and other events. Please contact the office at 513-556-2595 for information on how you can make a difference in a young musician's life.

Who is eligible to apply?
The Gino James DiMario program seeks talented, motivated students who wish to expand their music involvement and connect their CCM Preparatory studies to real life experiences. Private music students who are in Kindergarten – 11th grade for the 2017-2018 school year are eligible. Students must be enrolled at CCM Preparatory for the full academic year and their account in good financial standing. Each studio instructor is strongly encouraged to nominate a student. In addition, students may self-nominate, but must get their teacher to acknowledge and sign the application form.

What do I need to do?
The DiMario program participants must complete an entire year of lessons at CCM Preparatory and participate in two approved performances. Program participants are expected to represent the school in the community through performances, community service projects and attending concerts offered by the many cultural organizations and groups in the area. Program participants also have the opportunity to participate in workshops and sessions specifically for the program, such as performer etiquette and handling stage fright and nerves.

For the young DiMario program participants (grades K-4), the Preparatory staff will assist in securing performing opportunities as part of their community outreach requirements. Concert reviews can be in the form of a picture, illustration or handwritten paragraph. An essay is not required of the young DiMario applicants. Updates and opportunities for DiMario program participants can be found on our website at ccm.uc.edu/prep.

What does my teacher need to do?
The studio teacher is required (according to the NASM accreditation standards) to complete a mid- and final year evaluation of the applicant. We will accept this same evaluation for the DiMario program application. In early fall, the office staff will announce simplified way to track progress and capture information.
What do I receive if I win?
The available income in the scholarship fund determines the scholarship awards for the year. This year we are awarding three scholarships: the young DiMario award of $400, the middle DiMario award of $600 and the older DiMario award of $1,000. Students who receive a scholarship are not eligible to apply again.

What are the benefits to me if I do not receive a scholarship?
You are encouraged to re-apply in the next cycle. Many families have shared that they appreciate a well-rounded program such as this that increases the students' overall understanding and appreciation of music. Participants who have completed all program requirements are noted from completion of the process as “DiMario Scholar (year of participation)” during the rest of their studies here at CCM Preparatory.

Who decides and how is the scholarship recipients decision made?
The scholarship committee includes selected members of the music advisory cabinet, the DiMarios and Preparatory staff. The main criteria are performance, community service project and growth as a musician. The process is fair, thorough and comprehensive.