



Finding Fundraising Success

Fundraising is a great way to help raise a portion of the program cost, while also giving performers a sense of ownership in making their Honors Performance Series experience a reality. With this in mind, we are pleased to share a few tips on getting started and ideas for activities that other students have found successful.

Plan for Success:

1. Start Early: It may take more than one fundraiser to reach your goal, so allow yourself plenty of time to try different ideas.
2. Establish Goals: Set a goal of how much you'd like to fundraise. Percentages often work best.
3. Set a Timeline: Ensure that your fundraising timing matches the program payment deadlines.
4. Pick a Fundraising Activity: Choose the activity that is right for you. You can choose more than one, but the most important part is to develop a plan of action and get started!
5. Promote Your Fundraiser: Your fundraiser will be more successful if people are aware of what you are doing and why. Suggestions for promoting your fundraiser include:
 - Post signs, flyers and posters at school and around the local community.
 - Write a press release or story to pitch and send it to local newspapers, television and radio stations. The Series offers a template to help you get started.
 - Check with your school's newspaper or e-newsletter to see if your fundraiser can be included in parent communications or posted to your school's website.
 - Set up a table at school sporting events to present information or sell items.

Fundraising Really Does Work! Finalist Raises More Than \$2,000 by Just Asking

Many Finalists and Junior Finalists take full advantage of fundraising to make their participation in the Honors Performance Series possible. They have done everything from working odd jobs to holding yard sales to hosting dinners at local restaurants. You can too!

A High School Honors Instrumental Ensemble Finalist from Hattiesburg, Mississippi, raised more than \$2,000, more than enough to pay for his entire program and flights. Like many Finalists and Junior Finalists, he took advantage of a contribution request letter (template available on the Junior Finalist Update page). He sent it to relatives and businesses and received nearly 30 individual contributions. He received many contributions of \$25 and \$50 which added up to eventually pay for his entire program.

Fundraising as an Individual

As an individual fundraiser, you need to pick the activity that matches your interests and is best for you. There are many activities that students conducted which have proved quite successful. Check out the following ideas to get started!

Ideas for Fundraisers:

- Try iGive.com: Set up an iGive account and ask your family and friends to do their holiday and online shopping through iGive.com. iGive allows users to shop online at top stores, including Barnes and Noble, Staples, Amazon, Best Buy, Gap, and many more. When customers shop, a portion of each purchase is donated to the cause of their choice, in this case, you!
- Product Fundraisers: Popular examples of product fundraisers include cookie dough, pizza kits, magazines, and wrapping paper.
- Host a Dinner at Restaurant: Talk to a local restaurant about donating 20% of the receipts to your fundraising. Make sure to tell your community members and be present during the dinner.
- Organize a Dinner on-the Go: Organize a drive-through spaghetti supper or barbeque dinner and sell meals to parents on their way home from work.
- Record and Sell a Holiday CD: Put your talents to work by recording and selling a CD of holiday classics.
- Sell Advertising: Ask if you can sell advertising space in your school concert program to parents and local businesses for a percentage of the profits.
- Perform for Tips: Sing or perform for tips at your local farmer's market or community gathering space. Make sure to tell people that you are earning tips to perform with the Honors Performance Series!
- Host Snack Shop at your School: Get permission from your school to sell snacks after school and before practices.
- Create a Cookbook: Collect recipes from your family and friends, making sure to hit all major categories. Combine the recipes into a book and have them printed either at a local printer or online printer. Shop around for the best price, before selling them for a small profit.
- Offer Pet Care: Offer to take care of your friends' and neighbors' pets. Charge based on the different services, such as walking, feeding, or playing. You can do this when people are on vacation or during work.
- Organize Yard Sale: Gather items from your neighbors and friends to have a benefit yard sale. You'll need to organize the items, set prices, and make posters to advertise. Talk to a local paper to see about putting an ad in their paper. If you tell them what it's for, they may reduce the cost!
- Do Yard Work: Neighbors always need help with leaves, grass cutting or snow removal – offer to help you neighbors and let them know that you're working to fundraise!
- Start Babysitting: Tell friends and community members that you are interested in babysitting to help raise funds for your program.

These are just a few suggestions of ideas that have worked before, but there are many more options! Just remember, the hard work will be worth it when you are performing with the Honors Performance Series!