



## **CHARLIE WHITE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION**

**The purpose of the Houston Blues Society shall be to provide for the study, research, and preservation of the blues culture and music unique to Houston, Texas and the Texas Gulf Coast, and for the continued development of the blues tradition in Houston, Texas, and increased public awareness of the existence and value of that tradition.**

**The Houston Blues Society invites students enrolled in an accredited College level music program to apply for the Charlie White Scholarship.**

**The selection of the recipients and the amount of the scholarship(s) awarded is at the sole discretion of the Houston Blues Society Board.**

PLEASE SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTATION via email to [info@houstonbluessociety.org](mailto:info@houstonbluessociety.org) or mail to:

**Houston Blues Society  
PO Box 272868  
Houston, TX 77277**

- A description (no more than two pages) of your musical history and aspirations, and why you consider yourself to be a deserving applicant, including:
  - Primary Music Interests, Genres, and Instrument(s) Played:
  - Describe the School and Program in which you are enrolled
  - Where you see yourself in 5 years as it pertains to your music
- A copy of your Letter of Acceptance and/or Proof of Enrollment to an accredited music program
- An example of your work, composition or performance acuity, in the form of a an internet link, digital file, CD, DVD, or other media format, for review
- Other supporting information you consider relevant to your application

**Please ensure that you clearly identify yourself by name on documents and the CD/DVD, etc.**

**PERSONAL INFORMATION**

Name:

Home Address:

Email Address:

Telephone:

Current age:

**SCHOOL INFORMATION**

Name of Current School:

Location of School:

Year of Study:

**Date of Submission:**

Thank you for applying!

NOTE: When you submit this application, you are giving permission to the Houston Blues Society to check all details provided and release this information to the Charlie White Scholarship Committee. You acknowledge that no student will be discriminated against or favored on the basis of gender, sexual orientation, national origin, ethnicity, religion or creed.

## CHARLIE WHITE



Charles K. “Charlie” White, one of the founding members of the Houston Blues Society, passed away on August 14, 2018, at the age of 88. Though in declining health, the distinctive white-haired gentleman most recently attended the HBS-sponsored 2018 Houston Blues Challenge finals, where he enjoyed not only the live music but also the opportunity to reunite with many old friends. That event prompted Charlie to reflect with pride on the enduring legacy of HBS, the nonprofit organization that he had helped create by drafting its original Bylaws and by serving as its first Parliamentarian.

Born in Belton, Texas, on May 15, 1930, Charlie later moved with his family to nearby Waco, where he graduated from Waco High School and attended Baylor University. In 1954 he settled permanently in Houston, where he worked as an electrical draftsman for various companies over the years. An ardent proponent of local education and progressive causes, Charlie volunteered with Citizens for Good Schools, as well as the Harris County Democratic Party. Additionally, he was a longtime supporter of KPFT-FM radio, the ACLU, Amnesty International, the NAACP, and other organizations committed to social justice. A music lover, Charlie also booked and managed some local bands and performers, eventually consolidating those efforts via a company known as Young Artists. He regularly participated in the South-By-Southwest music conference too.

Though he truly loved all kinds of music, including opera and classical, Charlie had a special fondness for the blues. Over the years he developed friendships with many Houston blues musicians, including the legendary Sam "Lightnin'" Hopkins. Charlie also frequented historic local venues such as the Jimmy Menutis Club, Van's Ballroom, and The Reddi Room, where he came to know the bandleader Milton Hopkins. That background served Charlie well when he helped launch the Houston Blues Society in 1993. Though less active in more recent years, Charlie retained his love of not only blues music, but the community from which it came.

As a final legacy to The Houston Blues Society, Charlie set aside funds from his estate to establish the Charlie White Scholarship.

Here are some of Charlie's reflections and hopes for HBS:

"HBS is not an accident. It is the product of the dedication, the abilities, and the sacrifices of the founders and of the leaders who have followed.

I am lucky enough to have known the immortal Lightnin' Hopkins, to count among my dearest friends Big Walter and Milton Hopkins. Those people and all the blues artists I never met and all those who are out there playing blues every night and those yet to come deserve our recognition. They make us laugh and shed a tear and share our love of the music and of each other. That is art.

I hope the future will see HBS in productive collaboration with other civic institutions, the school system, the visitors and tourists' bureau, the public library, the sociology departments, the symphony, and the museums.

Most of all, I hope that the purpose of HBS will continue to be pursued and the people of our area and all areas can be made aware of the enormous richness, the power, and the beauty of this precious cultural legacy, and that the Houston Blues Society will always be the keeper of the flame."