

The Ojai Music Academy Foundation
Announces open application for
Scholarship Grant for Children's Choir



The Ojai Pixies

[Click here to watch the Pixies at Libbey Bowl during COVID](#)

[Click Here to see the Ojai Pixies in Opera Santa Barbara's Tosca](#)

The Ojai Blossoms



[Click here to see and hear the Ojai Blossoms](#)

The Ojai Suns



The Ojai Pixies, along with their sibling choral ensembles The Ojai Blossoms and The Ojai Suns, are part of the Ojai Music Academy, which has been educating the Ojai community in music for 18 years.

The Ojai Music Academy, initially a collaborative endeavor by Smitty West and Julija Zonic, who are prominent community and civic leaders as well as musicians in Ojai, now continues their mission to make performing arts more accessible to the local community. Operating under the Pixies umbrella, the academy's children's choirs provide services to approximately 60 boys and girls in Ojai.

With the generous support of the Ojai Music Academy Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization, the Ojai Rotary Education Foundation, and various community benefactors, we can provide one-year, need-based scholarships to Ojai Valley children for participation in this distinctive group singing project.

The Ojai Pixies were started during the COVID epidemic to address the need for music education in our community, during a time when the school budget was severely limited...especially for group singing.

The choir is a selective group that requires auditions. Teenage girls are chosen based on their musical talents and aspirations. They have reached a professional level, receiving honoraria for their performances with Opera Santa Barbara and other venues in Ojai and Ventura.

Due to their success, we established a junior varsity team in 2023 called the Ojai Blossoms, which is a choir for girls under the age of 10.

Each choir has 25 members and is led by Julija Zonic. Six choir assistants help coordinate the choirs' rehearsals and events.

The girls receive not only expert European-style choir training from Julija but are also mentored in kindness, professionalism, diligence, and leadership. They have become role models of compassion and camaraderie in their schools.

The Ojai Suns is a boys' choir established in 2023, currently comprising eight members.

In our community, school budgets and cultural attitudes significantly neglect boys' participation in the arts. As they reach their teenage years, music often becomes perceived as "uncool," and they miss out on learning music theory and performance during the crucial ages of 6-10, when their minds are most receptive to the "language" of music. Our training methods are tailored to boys' learning styles, and we provide several male faculty members as positive role models.

The choirs operate on a fee basis for parents. With this grant, we aim to establish a scholarship

program to offer families access to musical education that exceeds current options, addressing financial constraints or lack of educational opportunities.

- Applicants must be aged 6-16 and currently enrolled in a school within the Ojai Valley.
- Both public and private school students are eligible to apply.
- Auditions and interviews must be completed before January 2025 for the 2025 season.
- Applicants are required to demonstrate financial need based on household qualifications, which will remain strictly confidential.
- A commitment to attend two rehearsals per week and a music theory class, which is included, is also necessary.
- The scholarship is valued at \$1,500.

For instructions on how to apply for the grant, click this [Click Here](#)