

10 February 2020

To the Appropriations Committee:

It is a pleasure and an honor to write about the many ways in which the Resident Musician position at Music Haven is a remarkable job in the field of the arts. One would be hard-pressed to find other organizations whose positions are as sustainable, fulfilling, and well-rounded as these. These are excellent jobs for high-level musicians, which results in long-term consistency in the musicians' roles, and this benefits the young people who study with those musicians as their students even as it benefits the musicians who are engaging in the work.

Music Haven employs the Resident Musicians of the Haven String Quartet (HSQ) full-time, and is one of the startlingly small number of classical music organizations to do so. As a full-time employee, I can fully dedicate my time, energy, creativity, and professional development to Music Haven. When I was a freelance artist, I dedicated much of my time to driving from job site to job site, hustling for new opportunities, dealing with the instability of freelance pay, and generally protecting my energy. My Music Haven work is stable on all of those fronts, so I can spend my energy being and becoming the best musician and pedagogue I can be. Full-time employment at MH also offers the benefit of group health insurance, a boon that cannot be underestimated.

As a member of the HSQ at Music Haven, I experience a remarkable kind of work day, one that is not found in other organizations. My mornings are spent deep in rehearsal of string quartets, some of the greatest works of classical music. My afternoons are spent diving into that same world of artistry with my many students. The work I do with my colleagues in the morning nourishes one part of an artistic soul, and the work I do with the young people in the afternoon nourishes another. I derive inspiration and meaning from both parts of my work, and the balance and interplay between adult collaboration and youth mentorship makes the job uniquely sustainable. Typically, musicians have to perform under one roof (an orchestra, an independent chamber series, etc.) and teach under another (public schools, private schools, community music schools, etc.). At Music Haven, both happen in the same place and are able to contribute to our flourishing ecosystem.

I moved to New Haven as an Ohio native, and plan to stay and put down roots, because Music Haven is an incredible place to work. This is the kind of economic development that we strive for in the arts, and an organization like Music Haven and the jobs it has created are worth supporting.

Respectfully yours,

Annalisa Boerner  
*Resident Musician, Music Haven*  
[annalisa@musichavenct.org](mailto:annalisa@musichavenct.org)