



NEW HAVEN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Alasdair Neale, Music Director

February 10, 2020

Senator Osten, Representative Walker, Senator Hartley, Representative DiMassa, Representative Horn, and esteemed members of the Appropriations Committee:

As Education Director of the New Haven Symphony Orchestra for the past five years, I've seen the impact that Music Haven has on not just the New Haven arts community, but on the broader city as well. As an incredible partner in the arts community, Music Haven's resident quartet, the Haven Quartet, has delivered high-quality performances that showcase the broad range of the string quartet repertoire, while drawing special attention to composers that are traditionally underrepresented in the Classical music world (i.e. women and composers of color). These musicians frequently play with the New Haven Symphony Orchestra on our main stage Classics Series. Their artistic excellence gives students a snapshot of what practice and hard work can bring them.

More so, Music Haven's deepest impact comes from the afterschool lessons, classes and ensembles that they offer to their students, all of whom come from some of New Haven's most economically disadvantaged neighborhoods. I have seen students gain a deeper sense of community, resiliency, patience, and self-confidence by attending their amazing programs. Furthermore, ALL of these students are the New Haven Symphony Orchestra's future; some of them are majoring in music performance at higher institutions and may very well become our future musicians someday. And for those students who choose to study other subjects, they will certainly become our future audience members.

To reduce any financial support that Music Haven receives from the state would not only affect their programs, but also New Haven's art community, the city, and future listeners and performers of the New Haven Symphony Orchestra. Please reconsider cutting their funds.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Caitlin Daly-Gonzales', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Caitlin Daly-Gonzales

Education Director

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