

263 Fountain St.
New Haven CT 06515

State of CT Legislative Bldg.
Appropriations Committee
300 Capitol Ave
Hartford CT 06001

February 10, 2020

Dear Esteemed Senators and House Members:

I am writing today to state unequivocally that Music Haven deserves state funding. I have been involved in non-profit arts management in Connecticut for over fifteen years and Music Haven is the most effective and efficient arts education program that I have encountered. I ran the education and outreach program at the now defunct Connecticut Opera; dealt with many teaching artists at the International Festival of Arts & Ideas; helped develop, implement, and sustain education programs as General Manager of the New Haven Symphony Orchestra (NHSO) ; and now I help train church leaders and musicians at the Yale Institute of Sacred Music.

Throughout my career, I have seen that most non-profit arts programming is either a mile wide but an inch deep or a mile deep but an inch wide. What I mean by this is that the programs either reach a lot of children and teens but mostly only in an introductory or superficial way or they go very in depth but for only a small number of participants. Both have their place. However, Music Haven is one of the very few programs I have encountered that do both. On a shoestring, they reach more students than many other state funded programs and they do it with constant interaction and training for the students throughout the school year.

Funding for Music Haven is also about equity. Our New Haven suburbs are filled with excellent school music programs that are fueled by students' ability to take lessons with private teachers. Many of my musicians at the NHSO have studios in Guilford, Madison, Woodbridge, and North Haven. Parents pay upward of \$100 per hour for those private lessons. Those types of opportunities are lacking for the families and students. Music Haven gives our New Haven youth those opportunities.

Having grown up in a Fairfield County suburb, I know how different my educational opportunities were from my counterparts in Bridgeport. Music Haven is helping to close those opportunity gaps and they do it in a way that is fiscally responsible. It would be a severe disservice to the youth of New Haven if funding is not restored to Music Haven in the upcoming budget.

Please accept this written testimony in support funding for Music Haven.

Sincerely,

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