

Dear Appropriations Committee,

I just learned that by „mistake“, the promised funding for Music Haven was left out of the State Budget presented this week.

As a violinist myself, as a parent with two kids learning viola and cello, respectively (and the third playing guitar, piano and saxophone), and as an avid supporter of this wonderful initiative, I find this extremely unfortunate and implore you to „fix“ that mistake and include the full promised funding in the state budget.

As a violinist with the Cheshire Symphony Orchestra, I got our ensemble to feature Music Haven in our semiannual concert programs. This was actually easy, as Music Haven is just an all around great organization, allowing underserved students a safe place and the means to learn and play such difficult instruments. Over 80% of the students come from families below the poverty level, the majority is non-white . They all receive an exceptional instruction, along with emotional, mental, academic and other support services and life skills. Many of the students go on to mentor other students, become active in their community, and go to college, thanks to the tremendous support they receive at Music Haven.

The institution also raises much of their financial support through fundraising, myself being a small but recurring donor. However, donations can only cover so much; state support is essential to keep this important community asset afloat and functioning.

From what I learned, funding in the amount of \$100,000 was promised to Music Haven already last year, but then slashed before the current budget came out.

Please see the article:

<https://www.newhavenarts.org/arts-paper/articles/arts-army-rallies-to-keep-music-haven-in-state-budget>

I urge the Committee to please reconsider, and reinsert the promised funding for Music Haven. For this and the following years, for good.

For community justice, for the arts, for the kids.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Adelheid Koepfer
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