

Testimony in Support of Continued Funding for Music Haven

February 18, 2021

To Co-Chair Walker, Co-Chair Osten, and the members of the Appropriations Committee:

I'm writing to emphasize how valuable I think Music Haven is to enriching the lives of underserved youth in the Great New Haven area. Funding for the program was long anticipated and well deserved, and to have that funding cut after a single year would be capricious and short-sighted. I hope that the new state budget can include funding for Music Haven, and that as a general matter the arts non-profit budgeting process can be updated to provide more fair, formulaic, and consistent funding going forward. Arts nonprofits should have to justify their work, but they and the communities they serve should not need to spend large amounts of otherwise valuable & productive time on lobbying for each new year of funding and fighting against other nonprofits trying to do the same.

Sincerely,



Ethan Rodriguez-Torrent
New Haven, CT