

Dear Members of the Appropriations Committee,

The following message pertains to HR-06439.

I have known about and participated in the growth of Music Haven for years because, as a parent, a teacher and a piano player, I know how significant music can be to growing children. Music Haven provides its services, from private lessons to concerts and family events to part of New Haven's population that would not normally have access to such benefits. Music Haven also provides concerts for general audiences which are valued by a number of people who regularly or occasionally attend, and which persuade many of us to support them as well as we can.

They need and deserve a vote of confidence - and a vote of appreciation - from the CT Appropriations Committee. Last year they were told that they could expect a grant of \$100,000, but when the budget was published they learned that it had been erased!

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

Please don't let this omission happen again. This is a small organization, but it is not a frivolous one. Its audiences cannot grow without some help from the state.

Thank you for your attention,

Virginia T. Wilkinson
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