“Music Haven is a space where students feel safe, welcomed, valued, heard, and free to make music, make mistakes, take chances, try again, or ask for help. Everyone should have a place like that.”
- Mandi Jackson, Executive Director

Our house was built with your love and support! Last year at this time we were cutting the ribbon at our beautiful new space, and 2019 promises to be another exciting year of growth. We are excited to show you how our new home has transformed the way we work and play together, creating new opportunities to connect, come together, and make music. Our large performance space, for example, can accommodate all of our cello students at the same time - along with their families and friends - for a studio recital and potluck supper. We have seen how having a gathering spot like ours can build community and friendships between students who attend 20 different schools and live in neighborhoods throughout New Haven. Please come for a visit!

Viola students. And friends.
D'Marcus, age 11, Joshua age 9, and Che, age 11
Music Haven’s first students enrolled in 2007, taking weekly group lessons with an inspiring and dedicated group of resident musicians led by Music Haven founder, Tina Lee Hadari. That first year, we met some tiny people who - 12 years later - we now know as amazing young adults. Pictured here is Sofia at our first Performance Party in 2007. Sofia graduated from Music Haven in 2018.

Where is Sofia now? She is an art major thriving at UConn! See her picture with her fellow Music Haven alums, opposite page.

Many of you took that first big leap with us. Thank you to our Founding Donors - who invested in us during our very first fundraising year, and continued to support our mission to get us to where we are today.

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Joseph and Myra Zelson
In its first year, Music Haven enrolled 18 students. Our current enrollment of 75 students is our sweet spot - with five teachers, each teaching and mentoring a studio of approximately 15 students. Over the last few years, we’ve made a strategic decision to grow in depth because we have seen the difference it makes for all of our students and their families to have more time with our teachers, more support from staff, and more hours and types of programming - everything from college visits and help preparing for the SATs - to help auditioning for and securing scholarships for summer music camp opportunities. A decade ago, Music Haven provided approximately 2000 hours of high quality programming to around 50 students. Today, we have an estimated 5000 high quality contact hours for our 75 students.

In our first few years, all of our students were second or third graders. One of our long-term goals was to see them through high school graduation, and be able to report that they’d all gone on to college. We are thrilled to announce our college matriculation rate for our first graduating cohort: 100%!
The Haven String Quartet represents the world’s top conservatories and brings outstanding chamber music performances to New Haven and throughout the region. Each member of the Quartet is the primary teacher of a full studio of 15-20 Music Haven students, providing private lessons, small group classes, studio classes, chamber groups, and one-on-one mentoring and support. Our musicians build lasting relationships with their students and partnerships with our Music Haven families. They are the heart and soul of our program.