Music Haven is 100% FREE for all!

How is that possible?
Last year, small family foundations and individuals generously gave over $500,000 to our program. People like you, with vision and heart, have helped give so many young New Haven musicians the chance to play.

A letter from the Executive Director

At our Spring Performance I chose my spot strategically behind our youngest students, in case what they had been taught about being a great audience member got lost in the excitement of watching their very own teachers play. After all, most of them had only been with Music Haven for a year. They sat quietly, instruments in their laps, as four advanced students and their teachers performed the Mendelssohn Octet. “That’s my teacher!” one little guy shouted. “Shhh!” said the girl beside him. As the first notes filled the room, their eyes grew wide and they sat, silent, at the edge of their seats, riveted. “Quiet!” one of them whispered to an older student who dared to sneeze. “My TEACHER is playing!”

Just nine months prior, they had never held an instrument or heard a live ensemble. But that evening, they were not only seasoned audience members, they were up next. Once the cheering died down, their small faces suddenly turned serious as they picked up their instruments and lined up quietly in rest position, just as they had practiced. Their performance that followed—in the words of one of our older students—“slayed”, but what the audience couldn’t hear was the deeper experience the students took away from their first year. “I learned that I want to do more new things,” one said. “Playing the violin calms me down and makes me more patient,” said another. “I learned the only way to get better is to keep going.”

Many of our kids deal with day-to-day stressors that even grownups should not have to endure, things that can have an impact, things that could hold them back. So at Music Haven, when they take the stage, they carry much more than their instruments. They carry their new-found focus, patience, persistence, and love for this gift they’ve discovered in themselves. These are things that don’t weigh them down but give them great power—as musicians, and as humans.

The market rate for a one-on-one music lesson is $80 an hour which means the opportunity to learn and play music is usually limited to those with the economic freedom to participate. This is in part why classical music is so racially exclusive. If programs for access and inclusion are limited to free tickets, the message to most kids is: look but don’t touch; listen but don’t join in; stay in your seat. “This year,” one 8-year-old wrote, “I discovered I have a talent at playing the violin.” Together, we make that discovery possible.

While the vehicle we use is music-making, our underlying framework is about upending race and class-based assumptions about who gets to play. Through music, we manifest something closer to equity in a highly inequitable world, and together, we challenge the stereotypes that concretely shape the contours of our kids’ futures, and their ability to walk and play safely and peacefully in the world.

Mandi Jackson, Executive Director

UPCOMING STUDENT EVENTS

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<td>Mon. March 9 – Thurs. March 12 Spring Studio Recitals</td>
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<td>Tuesday, April 7 Honors Recital</td>
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<td>Tuesday, May 28 Spring Performance</td>
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The Haven String Quartet has a new program!

HSQ on Audubon

What is HSQ on Audubon?

This season, Music Haven announced its HSQ on Audubon concert series, featuring the Haven String Quartet (HSQ) and guest artists, bringing chamber music to the heart of New Haven.

HSQ on Audubon will include more conversation about the context and history of the musical selections, and provide the opportunity for new audiences to connect with the chamber music experience. It is also an opportunity to engage with our musicians directly during the evening Q&A. These programs will also be slightly shorter than the HSQ Chamber Series concerts at USNH, which are still offered on the Saturday following each HSQ on Audubon program.

Some of our audience members have found it interesting to attend both! Friday night allows for a deep exploration of the compositions, followed by the full uninterrupted performance on Saturday. Whichever you choose to attend, we encourage you to purchase tickets in advance through www.havenstringquartet.com.

We are grateful to ACES Educational Center for the Arts (ECA) for partnering with us to provide this special programming!
The 10th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Concert

by Yovahni, age 11, violin

The MLK concert was so much fun. I had a rush of adrenaline when I looked up and saw all of the people there. I loved that it was a combination of music together with Music Haven, St. Luke’s Steel Band, and Thabisa, the singer. It sounded so nice, and I would definitely like to do it again.

My favorite song was “Eyes on the Prize” because it had a good beat and I really liked the low 2’s, and the way the song made them sound. When I heard Thabisa’s voice it made the music sound even better. It was fun to play with the steel drums. I did Steel Drum and Strings camp in the summer and I loved to play the drums. They can make so many different beats and sounds.

The MLK concert was amazing this year and I want it to be the same next year. I imagine it could be even better. I picture banners hanging up in the church with paintings of people playing music, and also drawings by all of the kids all around—some decorations would make it even better!

... with Guest Artist Andrius Žlabys

and Resident Musician Patrick Doane.

“...I’m happy in school when I know I’m going to Music Haven because I look forward to it!”

- 4th year Music Haven student

Yovahni began his violin studies at the age of seven. In the past four years, Yovahni has enjoyed performing solo as well as in ensemble settings with his friends. He takes lessons with Ms. Yaira. Yovahni is an avid chess player and he loves eating celery with Italian dressing.

All performances begin at 7:30 pm
USNH tickets are $25 ($10 for students)
HSQ on Audubon* tickets are $15 (students are free)

Friday, March 20 on Audubon
Weinberg String Quartet No. 6 in E Minor, Op 35

Saturday, March 21 at USNH
Shostakovich Piano Trio No. 2 in E Minor, Op 67
Weinberg String Quartet No. 6 in E Minor, Op 35

The Haven String Quartet serves as the permanent quartet-in-residence and teaching faculty for Music Haven, a tuition-free strings program for New Haven youth.

All ticket sales from the HSQ concerts benefit Music Haven’s programming.

*What is HSQ on Audubon? Read more inside!