The Haven String Quartet is Music Haven's professional resident ensemble—and spearheads the organization's tuition-free strings program for youth. The Haven String Quartet (HSQ) leads Music Haven's tuition-free strings program for youth, which was recognized six times as a top 50 after-school arts program by the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities. Featured in The New York Times and on NPR, and sought after for both their command on the concert stage and their mastery as teachers, the Haven String Quartet has been hailed as "the nation's premier community-based string quartet." Its members bring outstanding chamber music performances to New Haven neighborhoods and throughout the region with a full season of concerts, recitals, educational workshops, and performances for diverse audiences in public spaces. Recent performances were held at Sprague Hall, the Kaufman Music Center, as part of the Manchester Music Festival, and across New England. This season, the Haven String Quartet returns with an ambitious chamber series that highlights underrepresented voices in classical music and brings this exciting repertoire to new audiences through family-friendly concerts on Saturday mornings at the New Haven Free Public Library.

"Few classical ensembles are more attuned to the specific environment and circumstances of each concert. Few are more accessible, or more responsive to the needs of the communities they serve."

—The Daily Nutmeg

"Music Haven is the heart of classical music in our city."

—Katie Bonner Russo
Marketing Director, New Haven Symphony Orchestra

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2022 GRADUATE

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Above, from left to right: Gregory Tompkins (violin), Yaira Matyakubova (violin), Annalisa Boerner (viola), Philip Boulanger (cello)

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Music Haven Teaching Faculty

**Violin**
- **Patrick Doane**
  - Appears as a soloist with orchestras and performed in recitals throughout the northeast. The New York Times described him as a “compelling violinist” and The New Haven Independent wrote, “His virtuosic playing and obvious command of his instrument was always in service of grand, thrilling musical gestures.”
  - Received his Bachelors and Masters degrees from Juilliard and is completing his doctorate in Violin Performance at The Graduate Center, CUNY.

**Viola**
- **Annalisa Boerner**
  - Holds a B.M. and an M.M. from the Cleveland Institute of Music. Prior to her time at Music Haven, Annalisa’s interest in the connection between music and social justice led her to the Community MusicWorks Fellowship in Providence, R.I. She has collaborated with such artists as the Kronos Quartet, the Cavani Quartet, and members of the Cleveland Orchestra. She plays with orchestras throughout New England. Annalisa joined Music Haven in 2015.

**Cello**
- **Philip Boulanger**
  - Received his Bachelor’s of Music from Boston University, and an Artist Certificate from the Krakow Academy of Music in Poland. He received his Master’s in Performance and Pedagogy from Northwestern University, during which time he was also Assistant Principal Cellist of the Civic Orchestra of Chicago. Philip served as a Teaching Artist for the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and worked with Yo-Yo Ma on the Symphony’s Citizen Musician Initiative. He has been with Music Haven since 2013.

**Violin**
- **Yaira Matyakubova**
  - Has performed in Carnegie Hall with the Silk Road Project in collaboration with Yo-Yo Ma, and is a member of the Knights Orchestra based in Brooklyn. She received her Bachelor’s degree from The Harid Conservatory and her Master’s degree from Rice University. Yaira further pursued her musical studies at Yale University from 2003–2005. She has been with Music Haven since 2009.

**Violin**
- **Gregory Tompkins**
  - Holds a B.M. in violin performance and a B.A. in psychology from the University of Rochester and the Eastman School of Music. He received his Master’s degree from the New England Conservatory. Gregory plays regularly in recitals all over the eastern United States, and has performed as a member of the Civic Orchestra of Chicago. He has been with Music Haven since 2013.

**Cello**
- **Philip Boulanger**

**Guest Artist**

Andrius Žlabys, piano, is a Grammy-nominated artist who has received international acclaim for his appearances with many of the world’s leading orchestras, including the New York Philharmonic, Boston Symphony Orchestra, Cleveland Orchestra, and Rotterdam Symphony. He is a featured soloist on the 2013 album “Between Two Waves,” released on ECM in collaboration with Gidon Kremer and Kremerata Baltica. Born in Lithuania and trained at the Curtis Institute of Music, Žlabys was just 18 years old when the Chicago Tribune wrote: “Pianist-composer Andrius Žlabys is one of the most gifted young keyboard artists to emerge in years.” Žlabys was also heralded by The New York Sun in a review titled “A Shining Hope of Pianists” after his recital at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.
Music Haven teaching Faculty

*Violin*
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*Noel*

**Music Haven Board Member & Alumnus**

Graduated: 2018
Instrument: Violin
Teacher: Gregory Tompkins
Years in Music Haven: 12

"As an alumni of Music Haven and reflecting on my time growing up in New Haven, I could not be more grateful for the community I was surrounded by. In so many different ways, whether directly or indirectly, Music Haven has been a constant source of support, guidance, and love in my times of need. It provided me access to new experiences and opportunities that I would otherwise not have been able to take part in. Music Haven became my home away from home, where I developed not only musical skill but transferable skills, all while simultaneously getting to hang out and play music with my friends."

- Noel

Noel with Music Haven founder and former teacher Tina Lee Hadari in 2009.
WHO WE ARE

What We Do

Music Haven addresses economic and racial barriers to access in the arts, providing a safe and supportive space for music-making and youth development in New Haven. Music Haven’s permanent quartet-in-residence, the Haven String Quartet (HSQ), spearheads a nationally-recognized, free, after-school lessons program for nearly 100 students from New Haven’s most underserved neighborhoods. At Music Haven, young musicians study with and are mentored by members of the HSQ from when they are in first or second grade until they graduate from high school. They learn not only from the members of the string quartet, but also from the foundations of chamber music: listening to each other, working as a team, communicating through music, and dedication and focus in service of creating something beautiful together. Music Haven’s award-winning afterschool program provides high-quality music education and a place to play, practice, and participate to kids who would not otherwise have the opportunity.

Our Team

Lauren Bisio  Director of Community Engagement
Annalisa Boerner  Senior Resident Musician (viola), Manager of Student Belonging
Philip Boulanger  Senior Resident Musician (cello), Education Director
Lygia Davenport  Development & Grants Manager
Patrick Doane  Resident Musician (violin), Head of Chamber Music Program
Toccara Joyce  Operations Manager
Alana Ladson  Communications Manager, College & Career Pathways Manager
Yaira Matyakubova  Senior Resident Musician (violin), Artistic Director
Milda Torres McClain  Executive Director
Gregory Tompkins  Senior Resident Musician (violin), HSQ Business Manager
We Took the Pledge

In 2020, Music Haven signed on to Together New Haven’s Arts for Anti-Racism Pledge. This initiative of the City of New Haven’s Department of Arts, Culture, and Tourism aims to “amplify voices of BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) in arts and cultural organizations.” It commits us to changing internal culture to not only include open discourse on race and racism, but also to address racism when it happens, to seek out and provide a space for art that is focused on racial justice, to identify and dismantle policies and practices that create barriers for BIPOC leadership, to actively employ, support, and present works by more BIPOC artists, to address issues of accessibility, and to offer more participatory programming for the community. It calls on us to not only acknowledge the history of our organization’s relationship with and impact on BIPOC communities but also ensure that knowledge informs our programming decisions going forward.

Learn more at togethernewhaven.com/pledge

A Commitment Taken To Heart

Access and equity have always been at the center of Music Haven’s mission. As a free program, we recognize that simply meeting financial needs doesn’t achieve access or equity. Being an anti-racist arts organization is about pushing beyond access and equity to create a space of liberation for our students, their families, and everyone in our Music Haven community. It requires acknowledging white supremacy and addressing racism within our organization and beyond. This work is ongoing. Here are a few of the steps we’ve taken in the last year:

1. Music Haven staff continue the commitment to internal growth and programmatic change. Staff participated in facilitated DEI trainings with TTK358 Solutions last year, and have committed additional time in the calendar for more trainings and workshops in the upcoming year.

2. The Haven String Quartet redoubled their commitment to playing works by underrepresented composers and composers of color—every concert, all year long. The 2021-2022 season featured 6 works by BIPOC composers, and in the 2022-2023 season, two-thirds of the pieces programmed are by underrepresented composers.

3. We created a new position, Manager of Student Belonging, to ensure that every student feels seen, welcomed, and included in Music Haven’s program. From conversations about the issues and events that impact students, to celebrations that honor students’ identities and heritage, we want each student to find a home at Music Haven.

4. Our teachers have developed and deepened culturally responsive curricula and repertoire. In 2021, Music Haven commissioned Suite de Danzas y Cantas en Forma de Variaciones by Luis Gustavo Prado which features modular parts for varying levels and ensembles. The piece explores Latin American music, dance, and folk traditions, with each movement taking listeners to a new culture and place.
The Haven String Quartet celebrates a commitment to performing works by composers of color, women, and those still living.

Raven Chacon  
**Journey of the Horizontal People**

Raven Chacon is a Pulitzer Prize-winning Diné composer from Fort Defiance in the Navajo Nation. His piece *The Journey of the Horizontal People* uses a variety of extended techniques to explore a futuristic creation story with echoes of the traditional mythologies of the Navajo people. In this piece, the quartet conveys the journey of a group of people from west to east seeking others like themselves. In the end, this group of travelers “became the very people they were seeking.”

Adolphus Hailstork  
**String Quartet No. 1**

In our program this year, we shine a light on Adolphus Hailstork, an African American composer and one of the many influential composers who studied with Nadia Boulanger. Hailstork says: “I tried to integrate African American elements with my Euro training and sometimes my works are strictly without any racial influence and sometimes very strongly and deliberately focused on using African American elements. And sometimes I blend them and juxtapose them. I spent most of my career trying to be honest with myself. I call it ‘authentism’ and that’s my ‘ism.’”

Jessie Montgomery  
**Strum**

Jessie Montgomery is an acclaimed composer, violinist, and educator. She is the recipient of the Leonard Bernstein Award from the ASCAP Foundation, the Sphinx Medal of Excellence, and her works are performed frequently around the world by leading musicians and ensembles. Her music interweaves classical music with elements of vernacular music, improvisation, poetry, and social consciousness, making her an acute interpreter of 21st-century American sound and experience.
Carlos Simon’s An Elegy: A Cry From the Grave

Carlos Simon’s An Elegy: A Cry From the Grave is an artistic reflection dedicated to those who have been murdered wrongfully by an oppressive power; namely Trayvon Martin, Eric Garner and Michael Brown. The recurring ominous motif represents the cry of those struck down unjustly in this country. While the predominant essence of the piece is sorrowful and contemplative, there are moments of extreme hope represented by bright consonant harmonies.

Joel Thompson
In Response To The Madness

Joel Thompson writes of In Response to the Madness: “What does this music do for all the chaos in the world? This craft to which I’ve dedicated my life cannot directly cool the planet, save lives, or reinstate civility and understanding into our government and society. The piece is merely a response to the madness - one to which I hope listeners can relate - but I also hope it gives voice to our current angst and perhaps inspires us to change our tune.”

George Walker
Lyric for Strings

George Theophilus Walker was an American composer, pianist, and organist. He was the first African American to win the Pulitzer Prize for Music. Dr. Walker began to play the piano at the age of five, and studied at the Oberlin Conservatory, the Curtis Institute of Music, and the Eastman School of Music. Dr. Walker’s music was influenced by a wide variety of musical styles including jazz, folk songs, and church hymns, as well as classical music: he drew from his diverse knowledge of previous music to create something which he could call his own. Lyric for Strings is dedicated to Dr. Walker’s grandmother, a formerly enslaved person, who died shortly before its completion.
Ayana

Age: 16
Instrument: Violin
Years in Music Haven: 11
Teacher: Yaira Matyakubova

"To me, being a musician is more than reading notes on a page and keeping in rhythm with the music. Being a musician to me is becoming one with the music and understanding what the composer is trying to convey and being an outlet to share the same somber, celebration, and inspiration to the audience. Being a musician to me is having the privilege of working with other people who are equally as passionate about the music and the power it holds to bring everyone together through this special bond we call music."

— Ayana
Adina

Age 14
Instrument Violin
Years in Music Haven 10
Teacher Yaira Matyakubova

“I want the world to know that Music Haven is a great place for young kids to learn how to play an instrument and it’s a nice tight knit community space to make good friends. The teachers and staff are great people.”

—Adina
Percentage of students surveyed who report that their teachers “support me to envision my future”.

Percentage of program satisfaction for surveyed students, who would recommend the program to their friends.

Percentage of students surveyed report that their teachers “express often to me that they expect me to try hard and do my best”.

One-on-one lessons completed this year: 972,000+

Percentage of our graduates who enroll at a 4-year college or university: 95

Music haven: by the numbers

2022 ALUMNI REUNION
Percentage of students surveyed who report that their teachers “support me to envision my future”

Percentage of program satisfaction for surveyed students, who would recommend the program to their friends

One-on-one lessons completed this year

Percentage of students surveyed report that their teachers “express often to me that they expect me to try hard and do my best”

Percentage of our graduates who enroll at a 4-year college or university

Percentage of students surveyed who report that their teachers “support me to envision my future”

Music Haven: By the Numbers
Building Community and Collaboration

The Haven String Quartet (HSQ) embodies a different way to be a professional string quartet – one that is grounded in the Music Haven community. In this model, the HSQ members divide their time between the rigorous performance calendar of the string quartet and the demands of a full teaching schedule. In the mornings, they rehearse as a quartet. In the afternoons, each of the quartet members teaches a studio of 15-20 Music Haven students, including one-on-one lessons, weekly studio classes, coaching student ensembles, and mentoring young musicians in their studios. With an average tenure of nearly 10 years at Music Haven, each member of the quartet builds close relationships with students and their families over many years.

Free and accessible Community Concerts have long been a mainstay of the HSQ, with performances in public libraries, community centers, retirement homes, and accessible spaces throughout the city. The members of the HSQ also bring their passion and skill to in-school classroom programs and special workshops, weaving interactive learning, story-telling, and music into dynamic concert and workshop experiences for all ages. The HSQ partners with corporate and non-profit leadership teams to spark collaboration, storytelling, and innovation in the workplace through professional development workshops. For more than a decade, the HSQ and Yale University Art Gallery have collaborated on Playing Images, a concert series that is free and open to the public. These interactive sessions are held in the gallery and connect viewing a work of art with live performance.

As with all fee or ticket-based programming of the HSQ, 100% of funds generated through these concerts and workshops support Music Haven’s free after-school programming.

Photos
1. The Haven String Quartet
2. The Haven String Quartet playing at the New Haven Free Public Library
3. The Haven String Quartet playing at Music Haven’s family concert at College Woods Park
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**Afterschool Lessons**

In addition to weekly *one-on-one lessons*, Music Haven students play in a variety of ensembles and chamber groups, rehearsing weekly and performing throughout the year at libraries, community events, and neighborhood festivals. All students play in *student quartets* and chamber groups coached by our resident musicians. Our middle school chamber orchestra builds music-reading skills and teaches students to work and play together with other young musicians. Students in *Harmony In Action (HIA)*, our advanced chamber orchestra, also plan social action projects, host guest speakers, participate in workshops and masterclasses, and attend concert trips.

**Group Classes**

Music Haven students have multiple opportunities a week to reinforce their learning in group classes, including a weekly *Suzuki Playdown* and a *Studio Class*. In a Suzuki Playdown, students play together through a cumulative review of pieces they’ve learned from the Suzuki method, from the most advanced song they know all the way down to *Twinkle Twinkle Little Star*. In weekly Studio Classes, students get the chance to perform portions of their current solo repertoire for their peers and teacher, and learn how to give and receive feedback from one another.

**Family Workshops**

Music Haven families have always been the foundation of our community. We know that *family involvement* is integral to student success, and this year we are creating new ways for parents and caregivers to get involved in their young musicians’ growth. With workshops to teach parents how to encourage and guide their students’ practicing at home to classes where family members can learn how to play a string instrument themselves, music making is truly a family activity!
**Music Bridge**

*Music Bridge* is a beginner violin class serving recent immigrants and refugee students. Many of the first Music Bridge students are now 5th or 6th year Music Haven veterans, and they play with, learn alongside, and mentor new arrivals in this inclusive and supportive class. Music Bridge not only builds music skills, but also relationships and communication skills across boundaries of language and culture.

**HERE to Play**

Our *HERE to Play Initiative* (HERE stands for “Health & Emotional Recovery Education”) recognizes that our students deal with traumas and stresses that can significantly impact their physical and mental health, and we understand they need the space, tools, and supports to respond, recover, and build the skills to do that every day. *HERE to Play* includes access to healthy snacks, meditation classes, physical activities such as yoga, as well as access to trauma-informed mental health supports through a partnership with Clifford Beers.

**Leadership Through Music**

High school-aged *Music Haven Fellows* are trained to assist group classes and serve as mentors and practice buddies to our younger students. Our *Academic Success Program* offers on-site homework help and tutoring for students between their lessons, ensemble rehearsals, and other Music Haven classes. Through the *College & Career Pathways Program*, high school students get help with the application and financial aid process, writing their personal essays, and visiting colleges. They also have the opportunity to learn from guest speakers, explore non-traditional career paths, and learn about vocational training.
Leah

Age 14
Instrument Violin
Years in Music Haven 5
Teacher Annalisa Boerner

“I want the world to know that Music Haven is very fun and it’s nice to learn with great teachers. It is easy to make friends and connect with peers and staff.”
—Leah

“I’ve seen Leah blossom whilst at Music Haven. Her maturity and self-confidence are palpable. Leah is also a prime example of music reinforcing parts of the brain used when doing math/science. She is an A student in her math and science classes. Thank you [to Music Haven] for all of your hard work and dedication to our children. It is an honor to be part of the Music Haven Family.”
—Irma
Leah’s Mom
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– Irma
Leah’s Mom
Being a musician means the world to me. It means I love it very much...it's very lovely to have another person with a violin to play with.

- Yesmin

[People at Music Haven] are really nice and they can make you learn lots and lots of new stuff. And you can have fun while being here.

- Yara

I feel that I'm getting better at my instrument, and if I continue to do cello and get better, I could go far.

- Maëlle

[I continue to come to Music Haven] because it's very fun, all the teachers are very nice, and all the students are very nice as well.

- Ashley

Music haven: From our students

The most important thing that I've learned at Music Haven this year is that your instrument will always be there waiting for you when you're ready to pick it back up.

- Aleanis

I want to share all of the different kinds of music I've learned with the world.

- Christopher
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- Ashley

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- Christopher
Thank you to all who provided in-kind donations and other forms of support and collaboration, without which we could not deliver high quality programming to so many.

Chabaso Bakery
City of New Haven Parks and Public Works
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Erector Square, LLC
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STUDIOTEO
New Haven Symphony Orchestra
Caribbean Style Vegan
Mystic Aquarium
St. Luke's Steel Band
Shubert Theatre
Clinard Sculpture Studio
Unitarian Society of New Haven
Madeline's Empanaderia
Board of Education - Transportation
New Haven Promise
Car E.R.
Leo

Age 14
Instrument Violin
Years in Music Haven 4
Teacher Patrick Doane

“Being a musician means everything to me because I love playing and performing for people.”
—Leo
We are so grateful to the nearly 700 individuals who made gifts to Music Haven this year!

Every gift matters, and every donor’s decision to support Music Haven makes this work possible. Listed below are Founding Donors, those who gave this year and have been supporting us since our very first year, and Loyal Donors, those who have made five or more donations in the past seven years. For a full list of donors, please visit musichavenct.org.

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Robert Wechsler and Emily Aber
Victor and Laura Altshul
William and Donna Batsford
Anne Marie Bedford
Harold Stern and Sandra Boltax-Stern
William Braun
Guido and Anne Calabresi
Lawrence Zukof and Pamela Carley
Joseph and Phyllis Crowley
Hugh and Judy Cuthbertson
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Sarjan and Joseph Banks
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We are so grateful to the numerous donors, foundations, businesses, and partners that support Music Haven’s program throughout the year. Donations to Music Haven sustain our award-winning afterschool music program and give nearly 100 New Haven students a chance to play.

**Our Funding Sources**

- Individual Donations (36.3%)
- Foundations + Private Grants (31%)
- Federal, State + Local Grants (26.6%)
- Earned Revenue (6.2%)

6 Ways You Can Support Music Haven

We are always grateful for direct donations! And, if you're looking for more ways to support Music Haven, you can:

- **Bring a friend to a Music Haven concert**
- **Give a gift of stocks or securities**
- **Donate an instrument to Music Haven**
- **Name Music Haven as a beneficiary in your will**
- **Follow us on social media and share our content**
- **Make a contribution from your IRA**

We are so grateful to the numerous donors, foundations, businesses, and partners that support Music Haven’s program throughout the year. Donations to Music Haven sustain our award-winning afterschool music program and give nearly 100 New Haven students a chance to play.
Maryam

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Instrument</td>
<td>Violin</td>
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<td>Years in Music Haven</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teacher</td>
<td>Yaira Matyakubova</td>
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"Music Haven is cool! It’s free and you might become a musician!"
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The Haven String Quartet performs dozens of concerts in Greater New Haven annually.

**OCTOBER**

**OCTOBER 15**
7:30pm
“In Response To The Madness”
Unitarian Society of New Haven
700 Hartford Turnpike
Hamden, CT 06517

**NOVEMBER**

**NOVEMBER 5**
11am
Up Close with the Haven String Quartet & Students
Mitchell Branch Library
37 Harrison Street
New Haven, CT 06515

**DECEMBER**

**DECEMBER 10**
11am
Up Close with the Haven String Quartet
Fair Haven Branch Library
182 Grand Ave
New Haven, CT 06513

**DECEMBER 10**
7:30pm
“21st Century Tonality”
Unitarian Society of New Haven
700 Hartford Turnpike
Hamden, CT 06517

**FEBRUARY**

**FEBRUARY 11**
11am
Up Close with the Haven String Quartet
New Haven Free Public Library
Location TBA

**FEBRUARY 16**
6pm
HSQ Pops Concert
Music Haven
315 Peck Street
Bldg. 5, 2nd Floor
New Haven, CT 06513

**MARCH**

**MARCH 25**
11am
Up Close with the Haven String Quartet
New Haven Free Public Library
Location TBA

**MARCH 25**
7:30pm
“Etherial Explorations”
Unitarian Society of New Haven
700 Hartford Turnpike
Hamden, CT 06517

**MAY**

**MAY 20**
7:30pm
“Two Meditations”
Unitarian Society of New Haven
700 Hartford Turnpike
Hamden, CT 06517

Visit musichaVenct.org/events for up-to-date information