

Music Haven After-School Lessons Program Evaluation Report 2010—2011

Prepared by Sarah Perkins, Program Coordinator
Tina Lee Hadari, Executive Director

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Program evaluation results reveal consistently strong program delivery and progress toward intended goals.

Methodology:

Annually each spring, students, parents, teachers, and staff provide feedback on Music Haven after-school programming. Through evaluation forms consisting of both open-ended and scaled questions, as well as conversations between teachers, students, parents and staff members, Music Haven collects information to help understand the value of our after-school programming as well as areas that need attention or improvement.

96% of student surveys were collected by the collection deadline, and 100% were collected by the end of the program year. This report includes results from the initial 96%. 89% of parent surveys were collected and included in this report.

PROGRAM QUALITY

100% of Music Haven students who replied to the question, "Would you recommend Music Haven to your friends?" answered "yes". Some students also supplemented the answers with statements that more people should know about Music Haven, that Music Haven has been a great experience, and that they hope their siblings will also get to experience Music Haven.

STUDENT LEARNING

Through the results of scaled questions, several conclusions can be drawn from Music Haven program evaluations: Music Haven students learn skills that help them work better with others, challenge themselves, and be more creative.

Youth at Music Haven gain skills to work better with others:

- 86% of Music Haven students express that they either agree or strongly agree with having improved at working in a team over the last year.

- 80% like to help others more.

- 84% of Music Haven youth state that they can communicate better with others

- 73% say that they get along more with different kinds of people.

- One student declares, "On Wednesdays violin makes me feel better, and it helps me get along with other people."

Music Haven students learn to challenge themselves:

86% of Music Haven students state that they have learned to work harder at things they want to accomplish.

71% of Music Haven youth state that they are better problem solvers this year than they were last year.

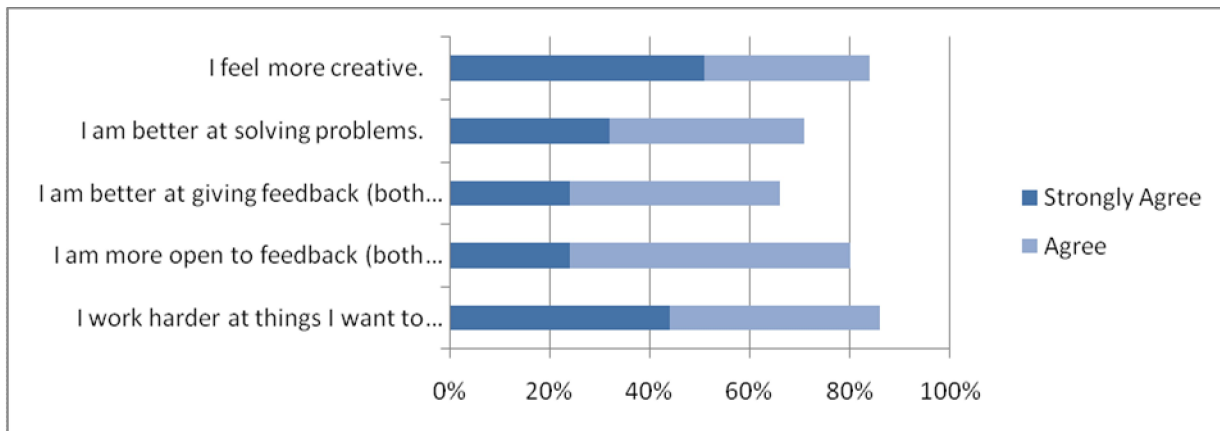
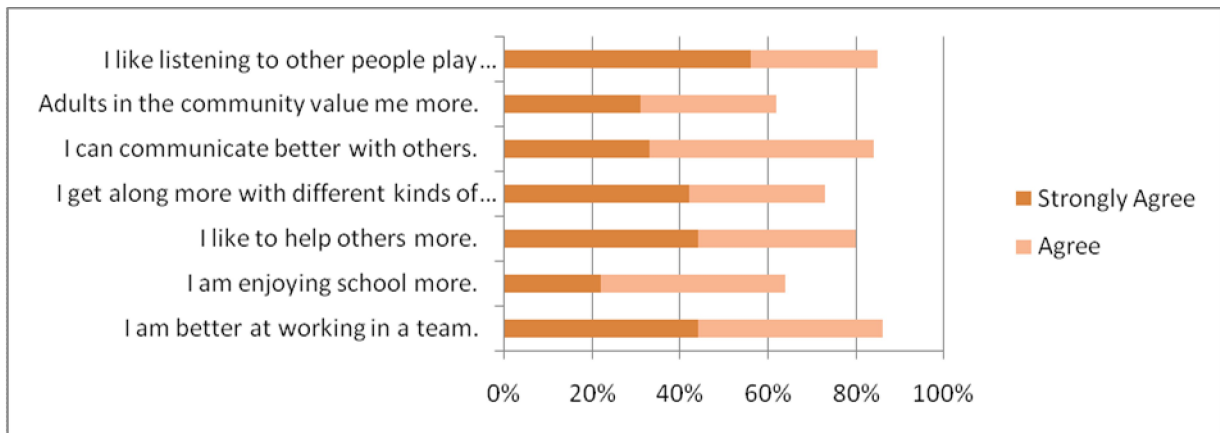
One Music Haven student explains, "I work harder at things I want to accomplish because ... of how much the teachers want us to reach our goals"

Music Haven youth are creative:

84% of Music Haven students say that they either strongly agree or agree to feeling more creative because of Music Haven.

85% state that they like listening to other people play music more than they did last year.

One student uses her violin as a creative outlet and knows that she can "experiment with all types of songs on [her] violin."



PARENT FEEDBACK

Parents and caregivers were also asked to provide feedback about Music Haven programming and the impact it has on their children. They were given similar questionnaires to those given to the students, and similar and stronger themes emerge:

Music Haven youth gain skills to better work with others:

95% of Music Haven parents express that they either agree or strongly agree that their children are better at working in a team because of Music Haven.

90% of parents see that their children like to help others more.

92% of parents state that their children can communicate better with others.

97% of parents state that their children get along more with different kinds of people.

Music Haven youth learn to challenge themselves.

92% of parents state that their child has learned to work harder at things they want to accomplish.

87% of parents state that their children are better problem solvers this year than they were last year.

Music Haven students are creative.

84% of parents either strongly agree or agree to their child feeling creative .

95% of parents state that their child likes listening to other people play music more.

Qualitative comments from the parent evaluations fit into a number of different categories. Some of the most prominent themes include: developing positive behavior through skills, building a sense of community, and working with positive role models.

Parents indicate that good behavior and other positive life skills were developed through Music Haven. Some comments include:

- “ ___ has had a change of heart when it comes to her behavior in school, by seeing that she can look forward to having constant constructive criticism thrown her way because she is expected to live under certain responsibilities to continue to excel in something she sees a future in; but most of all is she loves what she does and doesn't want to be withdrawn for not following the rules set for success.”
- “ ___ shows great improvement working as a team with her teacher and classmates, since she joined Music Haven.”
- “ ___ has learned from Ms. Yaira that patience must balance with high standards, humor, and hands-on precision if real learning will bloom.”
- “ ___ is very good at giving constructive feedback; she has also been setting specific goals (ex. I want to join the swim team by the end of the summer.) She works hard to meet them.”
- “We went to a concert at Yale at the beginning of the year, and I expected the kids to get tired and maybe even bored, but I was SO surprised when they went on and on about how great it was— they loved hearing the double bass (for the first time) and [my son] said recently that he wanted to learn to play the double-bass someday. Even our four-year old who came enjoyed it!”
- “At first it was very difficult for [my son] to take any criticism....but now he is willing to hear what you have to say, good or bad”
- “She takes the time to think about a problem to come to a solution versus just doing anything.”
- “She asks for feedback more often; is less defensive about constructive making corrections.”

Parents state that Music Haven fosters a positive sense of community. Regarding her daughter, one parent writes: "she has friends from other schools and neighborhoods that she wouldn't otherwise have; several times I have found her helping one of your first/second grade violinists with her music." Another parent comments that her "family loves listening to [her daughter] play the violin."

A third theme to emerge through parent evaluations includes working with positive role models. One parent writes: "I believe that the teachers at Music Haven are great role models, because they are showing the children that someone does care about them and their education despite their economic status or where they come from." Another stated, "I love the teachers here at Music Haven. They truly take lots of interest in the students -- not only in their music but their classwork as well as their behavior."

FAVORITE MOMENTS

Students were asked to think back to their favorite moments at Music Haven over the past year, and several themes emerged: performing and going to events, having friends and a sense of community, and mastering skills.

23 students (51%) mention Performance Parties as their favorite moments of Music Haven. Others specify different events that they really enjoyed: 6 students said their favorite was pumpkin picking, 4 students liked the Smilow Cancer Center Performance, 3 mentioned the Yale Art Gallery trip, 3 liked the beatboxing cellist workshop with Kevin Olusola, and the list continues. Going on trips and participating in the Performance Parties are the most highlighted aspect of Music Haven by the youth when asked about their favorite moments.

Many other students reflect about the relationships they form at Music Haven. Some responses refer to the specific relationship with their teacher: "spending time with my violin teacher," "Mr. Matt helping me play cello," and "Reading with Ms. Marilyn." Others responses relate to their friends at Music Haven: "To see Nicolas," "Seeing Donasia," "Being with my friends," "Helping my friends." One student mentions "making new friends" as her favorite part of Music Haven.

The third theme that emerges is related to building and mastering skills. Two students state "rosining my bow," while others like playing "the egg game." Juries are mentioned, as well as group class, and "listening to the teachers play." Some students cite personal or leadership skills development such as "talking about how to help the younger kids" as their favorite moments from Music Haven. And finally, a number of students mention being proud of learning specific songs: "Man in the Mirror", the Music Haven Rap, and "When I played the Spooky Song."

THE MOST IMPORTANT THING

When students were asked to state the most important thing they learned at Music Haven, some similar and some varying themes came up: mastering skills and specific pieces, being a part of a community, and working hard and having responsibility.

Many students feel as though the specific skills they learn on their instrument are the most important:

"Concentrating on my bow."

"How to put my fingers in place and play music. And almost reading notes."

"The most important thing I learned is how to keep good posture."

"Reading notes with no letters."

Others stated the importance of being a part of a community:

"The most important thing I learned in Music Haven this year is to believe and have confidence in Music."

"Learning about music and helping out with others."

"To cooperate with others!"

"To treat others the way you want to be treated."

Still others pointed out the importance of hard work and responsibility:

"Always practice."

"Don't back out."

"Working hard."

"I learned that to practice gives you a lot of experience and helps you with songs which are harder."

"One thing I learned is how to work. Playing violin is hard work, and I learned how to play violin."

"I learned that if you try hard enough you can accomplish anything. This is because now I play difficult songs.

When I break them down and practice a lot, I get it."

"The most important thing I learned at Music Haven is how to be responsible with my violin"

CONCLUSION

Due to a change in evaluation methods, it is difficult to compare these results with those from previous years. However, based on the data collected, it is clear that the results reveal consistently strong program delivery and progress toward intended goals. In the following several years, Music Haven should continue to use this method of data collection in order to track trends and growth of its students and families.