



Music Haven “Practice Buddies” Position

Music Haven is a unique nonprofit organization committed to community development and social change through high-quality music education and performances in a variety of communities in New Haven, CT. By anchoring a professional string quartet that provides free after-school music programs and mentorship to a culturally and economically diverse group of children, Music Haven engages both musicians and youth in positive community-building experiences through music.

Music Haven seeks motivated, socially-minded, string instrument playing interns with a sincere interest in building community and mentoring youth who are often labeled as “at risk.” Music Haven, like the children in our program, is a small organization in the process of growing and developing. The staff and interns’ energy and flexibility are essential to Music Haven’s success, and Music Haven requires at least a weekly commitment for those who wish to become a Practice Buddy and mentor students.

Private lessons take place at Music Haven on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons. We seek Practice Buddies who can encourage constructive practice skills and act as positive role models for our youth during and after (or before) their lesson time. We ask that Practice Buddies attend their student’s entire lesson to observe and take notes in order to effectively continue the student’s work. Practice Buddies will not be provided with explicit lesson plans, but will be expected to continue with progress made in the lesson and to reinforce good playing habits.

Responsibilities include:

- Providing weekly musical and personal support to at least one student
- Observing and taking notes in your student buddy’s lesson each week
- Occasionally assisting with program activities outside of lessons

Skills Needed:

- Passion for working with children ages 6-13
- Experience or interest in teaching beginning string instruments
- Willingness to take initiative and come prepared for lessons each week
- Ability to come to lessons reliably each week
- Willingness to collaborate with staff, parents, or other interns
- Flexibility and interest in working in diverse settings and communities
- Spanish speaking skills a plus

Benefits:

- Pedagogical training in beginning students on string instruments
- Involvement in a unique community of exemplary musicians and inner-city youth and families working toward social change
- Connection to New Haven’s diverse communities through high-quality music education and world-class chamber music performances
- Helping to raise the next generation of performers and social activists
- Investing in the future of this city
- Getting a taste for work in the non-profit field
- Deepening a connection to New Haven
- Guidance in using music as a vehicle for social justice

Volunteer Info: *Please fill this sheet out and give it to Sarah*

Name:

Phone:

E-mail:

Date of Birth:

Are you a Student (currently): Y N

Where?

Expected graduation date:

What is your primary instrument?

violin viola cello other: _____

Do you speak any languages other than English? Which? How fluently?