



NOTEWORTHY

YOUR MUSIC HAVEN NEWSLETTER | VOL. 11 | APRIL 2024



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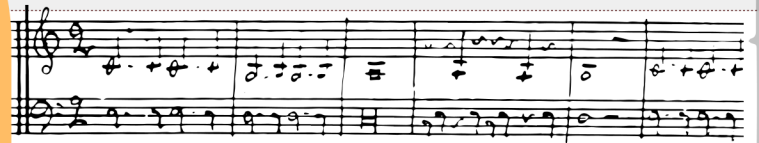
Letter From The Executive Director

The anticipation of Spring brings hope and appreciation for brighter days, and I want to share some exciting news. In the fall, we will expand into piano education. This new initiative will allow more students to join our program and for current students to broaden their musical journey. I also want to take this opportunity to congratulate four talented musicians who will graduate this year. Please read about their Music Haven experiences in this edition. Thank you for your continued support, and I hope you will walk beside us as we launch our new piano program and continue to expand in more exciting ways.

With gratitude and appreciation,

Milda Torres McClain

Milda Torres McClain



Welcoming our newest Board Member!

At the start of 2024, we welcomed the newest member of Music Haven's Board of Directors. Meet Amanda Watts (he/they), an artist, activist, and neuroscientist from Atlanta, Georgia who merges their passions by researching and innovating at the intersection of music and medicine to facilitate healing and wellness. Amanda earned a Bachelor of Arts in Neuroscience from Duke University and currently serves as Lab Manager and Research Assistant in the lab of AZA Stephen Allsop, MD, Ph.D. at Yale and Howard Universities, where they study the healing properties of music, meditation, community, and psychedelics, particularly in folks of African descent.

visit us at www.musichavenct.org

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If you would like to donate to Music Haven, please scan the QR code below!



Ayana: 13th Year, Ms. Yaira's Studio

Harmony In Action (Philip), MH Quartet (Patrick)



Since my start at Music Haven, I have been surrounded by teachers and staff who are devoted to capturing and unveiling students' full and sometimes unrecognized potential. Admittedly, there was a period of time when I contemplated quitting the violin. I fell into a cycle of stagnancy and self-doubt. My violin began to take the form of the "boogeyman," because it knew all sides of me. It saw my weaknesses, my flaws, my mistakes, and my fears. I began to pull away from everything I knew to be the violin and the place I knew as Music Haven.

During Friday Orchestra, I would sit in the back and try to fade away from the group. I disengaged with the symphonies and the harmonies that rang, battling with internal dissonance. Questioning my adequacy and lack of motivation, I put up a wall and kept everyone out.

It wasn't until 2020 when I performed with Harmony In Action at my first annual MLK concert, alongside Saint Luke's Steel Band, that something changed for me. Although I had played at several concerts before, this one felt different. As I witnessed how the harmonies ricocheted off the church walls and breathed life into the room and the eyes of the crowd, it was then that a newfound appreciation for the power of music was unlocked.

Filling the church with a sweet blend of Caribbean music and the cascading melodies played by the strings, I felt like I was a part of something bigger than myself. I was left with a glimpse of what the community of Music Haven could be for me. Two months later, the shutdown provided a chance for me to reset.

Returning to in-person lessons a year and a half later, my entire perception was altered. Not only did my attitude shift but my spirit was lifted. I found my reason for playing again. I was no longer afraid to let my violin see me for who I really was, and my violin revealed to me my strengths, persistence, gratitude, and resilience.



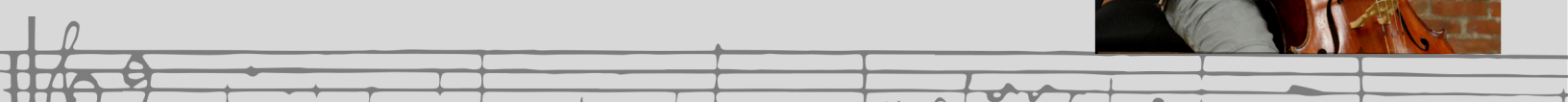
Max: 9th Year, Mr. Philip's Studio

Harmony In Action (Philip)

When looking back at my life and musical evolution, it's very easy to point to Music Haven as the place that allowed and spurred me to find my stride and articulate how I want to incorporate music into my life going forward. Though my interest in music didn't begin here, coming to Music Haven gave me the connections, education, and experience to figure out what music means to me, and how I can take that with me post-graduation.

I had always liked music, but until Music Haven, it was a largely solo experience for me. Sure I played in the school band, but it was less a musical environment and more a social one. Joining Music Haven and picking up the cello in that first beginner class set me on a path that would help shape me into who I am today. It allowed me to make the connections needed to play in an orchestra as well as chamber groups, activities I hope to take with me when I move on to college.

Finally, Music Haven has allowed me to explore my interests even outside of music and has helped me decide on what I'd like to do with the rest of my life. I've been given the opportunity to help teach music to younger students, cementing to myself that I wish to go into an education-based career and go on to help others the way all my teachers (both music and otherwise) have been able to help me grow and improve.



Prince: 9th Year, Ms. Riana's Studio

Harmony In Action (Philip), MH Quartet (Patrick),
Former Teachers: Yaira, Colin, and Annalisa

Since enrolling in Music Haven at eight years old, I have learned the skills to develop into a strong student and leader in the community. Things don't always come easy to me, and it took a lot of time and practice. Playing violin and viola has instilled a love for music in me. I always was shy and as a result, was very antisocial. As I progressed in my extracurricular activities I met more people that had things in common with me. I finally felt I could interact with other kids and not feel nervous or scared.

Performances truly helped me grow more confident and exposed me to many wonderful opportunities. I performed at the Shubert Theatre, Woolsey Hall, and many other places throughout New Haven. I started to feel empowered like the performers in the symphony when I was dressed in my suit with a large crowd watching me. I played as a team with my ensemble members, who became my friends.

In my junior year, I worked at Music Haven as a student support coordinator, assisting students with homework, and as a teaching assistant of the Music Bridge class, dedicated to refugee students from all over the world. During that time, I was able to connect with all 90 students by greeting them and checking in with each student as they arrived. I developed trust among my peers and became a role model. With Music Bridge, I learned to make beautiful music together with others, despite language and cultural differences.

I practiced daily and worked hard to improve myself as a musician so that I could help the younger students enhance their skills. I received gratitude and praise from the parents and felt proud when the young musicians performed. Their transformation filled me with joy. This motivated me to expand my reach into working on social justice projects in New Haven with various leaders in the community. As I look towards my future, I know that with the skills I have learned, and with an open mind and heart, I will continue to grow.



Miriam: 11th Year, Mr. Gregory's Studio

Harmony In Action (Philip), Former Teachers: Tina,
and Annalisa

Over the years, I've seen my progression and passion for music grow. I've used music throughout my life in so many ways, which makes me the person I am today. In 2023, I decided to be a part of the Miss Puerto Rico Pageant of Greater New Haven. Before that year, it had been ten years since a Miss Puerto Rico was crowned. When I found out that there was a talent portion, I immediately knew I had to play the violin.

I created a dance choreography and learned how to play the song "Preciosa" by Marc Anthony. With the help of my music teacher, Ms. Annalisa, not only did the piece help me win Miss Talent but I was also crowned Miss Puerto Rico of 2023.

I had so many years of lessons and experiences here that have led me to create and perform in a way I never knew I could. Being at Music Haven has taught me so much more than just music, and understanding the responsibilities we have to our community. Coming to my final performance at Music Haven, it breaks my heart that these eleven years have come and gone so quickly, and my time here as a student is coming to an end. I'll never forget the amazing music teachers I've worked with throughout the years.

With my new beginning, I want to make sure my career involves helping people in my community. I have decided that after I attain my High School and EMT Diplomas, I will be applying for fire departments, once I turn 18. I am beyond excited to see what this path in life will take me- but I don't plan on going anywhere yet so don't miss me too much! Thank you, Music Haven. You guys have helped me become who I am today and have inspired me to grow even more.

<3 I love you guys so much, but the curtains must close <3





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"Music Haven gives me a sense of familiarity and tranquility. Listening to the music carries my worries and brings me peace of mind."

Carlos, 5th year violist, Ms. Riana

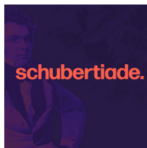


MUSIC HAVEN EVENTS 2024

The Haven String Quartet serves as Music Haven's permanent quartet-in-residence & teaching faculty.



MARCH 30 7:30 PM
PATRICK DOANE SONATA CONCERT:
SCENES FROM THE AMERICAS
 UNITARIAN SOCIETY OF NEW HAVEN
 700 HARTFORD TPKE., HAMDEN, CT
 FEATURING WILLIAM BRAUN, PIANO



MAY 11 7:30 PM
HSQ CHAMBER SERIES:
SCHUBERTIAD
 UNITARIAN SOCIETY OF NEW HAVEN
 700 HARTFORD TPKE., HAMDEN, CT



MAY 19 4:00 PM
PATRICK DOANE SONATA CONCERT:
SCHUBERT EXTRAVAGANZA
 UNITARIAN SOCIETY OF NEW HAVEN
 700 HARTFORD TPKE., HAMDEN, CT
 FEATURING WILLIAM BRAUN, PIANO



MAY 22 12:30 PM
THE HAVEN STRING QUARTET:
PLAYING IMAGES
 YALE UNIVERSITY ART GALLERY
 1111 CHAPEL ST. NEW HAVEN, CT
 WITH ARTWORK BY JOSEPH STELLA



MAY 23 7:00 PM
THE HAVEN STRING QUARTET:
AFTER DARK
 ARMADA BREWING CO.
 190 RIVER ST, NEW HAVEN, CT



ABOVE: The Haven String Quartet (HSQ) members, Gregory (violin), Yaira (violin), Philip (cello), and Riana (viola). The HSQ is Music Haven's resident ensemble and each musician teaches and mentors a studio of Music Haven students, ages 6-18.