



MUSIC HEALS
★ INTERNATIONAL ★

How Music Heals

2023 IMPACT REPORT

Our Mission

Music Heals International brings music and musicians to the children of Haiti and globally to inspire achievement, resilience and creativity.

Our Vision

A world where children engage, achieve and thrive through the power of music.



MHI 2023 in Review



3
5



3 out of 5 are
Returning Music Students

Years of Music Education



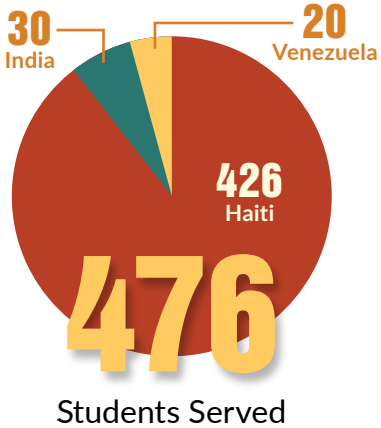
Haiti



India



Venezuela



Lives Impacted Since 2014

1,600+



Students Enrolled



56%



44%



Music Teachers



Platinum
Transparency
2024

Candid.

62 Students
+ 16 Mentors

SUMMER MUSIC CAMP



Schools and
Community Partners

Letter from Sara



As new and ongoing humanitarian crises devastate communities across the globe, I have been thinking deeply about the role MHI and our partners have played in the lives of over 1,600 kids for the past ten years in Haiti, and now India and Venezuela. Efforts to make the world a better place can seem impossibly small in the face of so much pain. But then I think about the incredible impact our music program can have on just one young person like Dalio Dominique, who joined in 4th grade when we launched our work in Haiti. Today, at the age of 20, Dalio teaches music and continues to play alongside other advanced students. He recently shared this message:

"I wanted to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude for the unwavering support and guidance you've given me over the years. Your belief in me and your encouragement have been instrumental in helping me discover my passion for music. Thanks to your mentorship, I've been able to turn this passion into a fulfilling career [teaching music] that sustains me today."

Your kindness, patience and love have not only shaped my musical journey but have also touched my heart in ways I can't fully express. I am forever grateful for the countless hours you've dedicated to nurturing my talent and for being a constant source of inspiration. Thank you for being the guiding light in my life and for believing in me even when I doubted myself. Your impact on my life is immeasurable."

In every community where we implement MHI's music education program through partnerships with CORE, OSCAR and Wayuu Taya Foundation, you are empowering kids to realize their potential and heal, despite the hardship of poverty and the ongoing security crisis in Port-au-Prince. Thanks to your contribution to MHI's work, Dalio's story is just one of 1,600 and counting. Everyday our music program helps kids feel heard, seen and supported. Drink in how good that feels. Let's continue to spread this power of music.

In gratitude,

Sara Wasserman, Executive Director and Founder

Our Model

Our model is based on ten years of progressive learning in Haiti. MHI and our local partners continue to prove its effectiveness as we engage more children and replicate it in different parts of the world.

Our Model Provides

- ★ Music Education
- ★ Instruments
- ★ Student-led Repertoire
- ★ Safe Spaces
- ★ Inclusive Classes
- ★ Peer Leadership
- ★ Summer Music Camp



Our Programs

In times of uncertainty, music serves as a source of strength; a constant when consistency can be hard to come by. For so many of our students, **MHI's music education program provides stability in unstable times.** Over the past ten years, this has given 1,600 kids and counting the skills and a safe space to explore their interior and exterior worlds through music. Here are some examples of how our programs achieve that.

How Music Heals



Original Music

Students often write and record original songs to help them make sense of a world that all too often does not. One example is their take on “M'anvi viv nan peyi a,” translated to: “I want to live in my country.” It's a touchingly honest response to the turmoil and daily disruptions kids face growing up today in Haiti. This song provides a powerful example of how MHI gives students the tools and training to express themselves through music.



SCAN THE QR CODE
*to listen to original music
from MHI students in Haiti*



Plezi Mizik au Féminin

Like many countries, in Haiti gender barriers limit opportunities for girls – but not at MHI. Our impressive all-female band, Plezi Mizik au Féminin, puts girls at center stage. Whether stealing the show at last year’s National Girls Leadership Summit in Haiti, tearing up the stage at MHI’s summer camp, or playing for crowds at the PAP JAZZ festival, Plezi Mizik au Féminin builds confidence, leadership skills, a sense of well-being and hope for the future.



SCAN THE QR CODE
*to watch a performance
by our all-female band*

MHI’s Global Reach

All students deserve to experience the creativity, connection and joy that music inspires, while developing the skills, diligence and sense of mastery that music education fosters. That’s why MHI has expanded our programming to include communities beyond Haiti. Through a new partnership with Wayuu Taya Foundation, we’re providing music education to Indigenous students in rural Venezuela who are learning to play acoustic guitar and other instruments. In India, we work with students at the Kannada Bhavan Education Society’s school in Mumbai who are integrating local rhythms into the music curriculum and are learning to write and perform songs.

SCAN THE QR CODE
*to meet MHI students
in Mumbai, India*





Our Impact



Jose Abigaëlle (age 21, piano and bass)

"There are a lot of traumatized kids who have had a bad experience this year. The music classes really help us let go of our stress and depression. No matter the difficult moments that we face or our anxiety, as soon as we pick up our instruments we feel a different vibe and forget our problems and our worries."



Dalio (age 20, guitar and vocals)

"I used to be known as a turbulent kid. When I began playing music, I became more mature. Music has opened a lot of doors for me like my first time in a recording studio. I never thought that could happen. It's the best memory I have."

In Haiti there is stress and the gangs are giving people a hard time, but I think that music is giving me hope for tomorrow. I take my guitar and say thank you for everything you've done for me."

Looking Forward



When I first traveled to Haiti I had never visited a Caribbean country where I didn't speak or understand the language, yet being there in person greatly informed my understanding of the community's needs.

I saw firsthand how our program was serving each group of students, including the special needs class. I left with a deeper understanding of Haitian culture.

During my second and third trips to Haiti, I was delighted to learn that students were focusing primarily on Haitian music as they were more motivated to study songs that they were familiar with. Through this experience, we realized the musical repertoire had to be more representative of what students listened to on a regular basis. Our curriculum now focuses on student-centered repertoire and it's been a joy to see this develop in a variety of ways in Haiti, India and Venezuela.

My biggest hope is that students learn more about themselves and their limitless potential as human beings

through music-making. Many of our students are facing unimaginable life challenges in their communities. **We hope they view music as a haven where they can forget about these issues even if for a short period of time. Beyond this, I hope that students walk away with an increased sense of confidence in their ability to grow as individuals, not only through music, but also in their general studies or whatever they choose to dedicate themselves to.** Musical study inherently teaches self-discipline, concentration, collaboration and a wealth of other important life skills that can be transferred to other aspects of students' lives.

Tony Souza

Independent Music Education Specialist and MHI Board Member

Our Financials

Summary in USD



INCOME

\$208,360

- 55% Events/Other \$113,570
- 36% Grants \$76,000
- 9% Individual/Business Donors \$18,790



EXPENSES

\$215,775

- 84% Programs \$181,273
- 9% Fundraising \$19,112
- 7% Administrative \$15,390

Change in Net Assets: **-\$7,415**
Shortfall covered by \$33,277 surplus in 2022



2023 Leadership

Board of Directors

Dennis Strazulo – President

Melissa Pegus – Treasurer

Stephanie Clarke – Secretary

Paul Beaubrun

Pete Fisher

Ashley Orton

Merl Saunders, Jr.

Tony Souza

Sara Wasserman

Betsy Zeger

Programs and Operations

Sara Wasserman - Executive Director/Founder

Emmanuel Piervil - Program Manager

James Joseph Donatin - Field Agent

Jean Louvens - Technical Advisor

Arvind Premanand - India Program Manager

Tyler McBrien - Communications

Impact Report

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Richard Habib

Shannon O’Leary Joy

Larry “The Hat” Lautzker

Gloriana Mejia-Gund

Lukas Nelson

Gardly Philoctete

Douglas Rosenberg

Chef Art Smith

Clare Wasserman

Jeny Wegbreit

Natascha & Bob Weir

Dave Wish

In Memoriam

Jean Marc Didis

Dan Hicks

Lou Reed

Rob Wasserman

Implementing Partners



Supporting Partners

Owsley Brown III

PHILANTHROPIC FOUNDATION

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EarthSense Foundation | Matthew Kelly Family Foundation



Dennis & Pam Fisco | Chris & Lesley Fisher

William Hobi | Sandro Sangiacomo

The Smith Family | Brad Swaback | Ben Weisshaut





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Join Music Heals International

Help children engage, achieve and thrive through the power of music.

We are deeply grateful for your support.

MHI is a registered U.S. 501(c)(3) public charity: EIN 46-4627905

- \$10,000** Sponsor a year of music at a partner school.
- \$5,000** Give to the Rob Wasserman Memorial Fund.
- \$1,000** Purchase instruments for new partnerships.
- \$500** Support peer leaders as they learn to teach.
- \$100** Send a child to summer music camp.

SCAN
TO
DONATE

