



MUSIC HEALS
★ INTERNATIONAL ★

5 Years of Music

CREATING TRANSFORMATIVE SPACES

2018 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 2018 Year in Review

ROB WASSERMAN

★ MEMORIAL FUND ★

Launched by JACKSON BROWNE



286

INSTRUMENTS

Donated Since 2014

8



School and Community Partners

Reverb gives

GRANT WINNER



14

Peer Mentors

52%

48%



Girls and Boys Enrolled

ENROLLMENT DOUBLED

at Summer Music Camp giving **110** children access to music education in a safe community space

425

Students Served



**IMPROVED
MUSIC-MAKING**

for Children with Disabilities
through tablet technology



**3 OUT
OF 5**



Are Returning Students





Letter from Sara

As MHI celebrates five years in Haiti, I am truly amazed by how far we've come. We've grown from 65 children at two sites to a vibrant music program that has reached more than 750 students across eight sites in Port-au-Prince.

2018 was a milestone year:

★ MHI was the first nonprofit that works internationally to win a Reverb Gives instrument grant. This partnership helped us deliver more music to more kids and inspired our advanced students by putting high-quality instruments in their hands.

★ Little Kids Rock's Tony Souza introduced tablets with the GarageBand app to inclusive class teachers, making music more accessible to children living with disabilities. He also led training in advanced class instruction to deepen the skills of our 21 teachers.

★ With great pride, I introduced the Rob Wasserman Memorial Fund in honor of my dad. This would not have been possible without Jackson Browne, who launched the fund. He was joined in concert by Bob Weir, Bonnie Raitt and Paul Beaubrun, all inspiring artists who were close to my father. Thanks to them, our incredible donors and the support of other prominent artists and friends like Lukas Nelson, MHI continues to transform lives with the goal of reaching 1,000 kids by 2020.

As I look ahead, I am filled with the spirit of possibility that our students and their music embody. **I am equally moved by your belief in MHI's work and the five years of progress you have made possible.** Thank you!

Sara Wasserman

Sara Wasserman, Executive Director/Founder

In Honor of Rob Wasserman

A life making music. A legacy making musicians.

In 2018, MHI launched the Rob Wasserman Memorial Fund in honor of Sara's father, a Grammy-winning bassist and lifelong musician. Close friend and musical collaborator, Jackson Browne, generously agreed to be the first supporter. He starred in a benefit concert to kick off the fund, which also featured Bob Weir, Bonnie Raitt and Paul Beaubrun.

The response was overwhelming and contributed to an upsurge in support that will help fuel future growth as MHI seeks to expand its impact. It will also ensure an enduring focus on the Rob Wasserman Memorial Fund priorities:

- ★ Make music education accessible to more children.
- ★ Encourage girls to challenge gender norms by exploring instruments like the bass.
- ★ Promote the bass as a vibrant part of MHI's program.

Rob Wasserman surrounded his daughter with music and always encouraged her to live her dreams. In his memory, Sara invites you to join MHI and grow his legacy by inspiring children through music in Haiti and beyond.



ROB WASSERMAN
★ MEMORIAL FUND ★

Who We Serve

Less than 700 miles from Miami, the challenges of life in a place like Haiti are worlds apart from those of average Americans. Haitians are deeply familiar with the insecurity caused by natural disasters, poverty and political instability. Reminders of the devastating 2010 earthquake still scar Port-au-Prince and the World Bank reports that nearly 60 percent of the population lives below the poverty line, earning \$2.41 or less a day.

In July 2018, a spike in fuel prices and claims of government corruption sent people into the streets. Since then, violent protests and riots have continued to break out, disrupting daily life. When this happens, people shelter in their homes, electric power is cut, shops and schools close and the price of everything, including food and water, skyrockets.

Together with our partners, MHI's music education program provides a safe and reliable space for creativity and growth. Amidst political and social upheaval, we help children build hope, resilience and the skills to navigate a challenging world.

Credit: Estailove St-Val/EPA, via Shutterstock

Our Model

What We Do

In a country where opportunity is scarce, we give children the chance to engage, achieve and thrive through music education. MHI brings together the local operations and expertise of J/P Haitian Relief Organization (J/P HRO) and U.S.-based Little Kids Rock's nationally-recognized curriculum and methodology to offer a free, innovative and culturally-relevant approach delivered by school and community partners. Together, we provide opportunities to explore creative collaboration, self-expression and mastery. Students become engaged learners and leaders while experiencing personal growth and achievement through music programs that build community.

How We Do It

Using a flexible program model adapted to partner goals and needs, we deliver:

- ★ Instruments
- ★ Curriculum and teacher training
- ★ Support for community concerts
- ★ Coaching from renowned musicians
- ★ Summer music camp and peer mentorship
- ★ Inclusive classes for children with disabilities
- ★ Songwriting and professional recording projects

Students receive roughly 200 hours of music training per year and learn to play instruments ranging from guitar, keyboards, drums, bass and ukulele to voice.



Five Years of Growth and Beyond

Student numbers are cumulative since 2014.

2014 → 2015 → 2016 → 2017 → 2018

Curriculum and methodology adapted to Haitian context.

Little Kids Rock trains first 6 teachers.

First instruments delivered to Haiti.

Students perform in first community concert.

Children with disabilities join first inclusive music classes.

First replication of program in 2 new schools.

Haitian musical genres added to song repertoire.

Students perform in 4 concerts.

Students make first professional recording.

First performance with international musicians.

5 students invited to Holy Trinity Music School's summer program.

Program Officer trained as a teacher trainer in U.S.

First Haitian-led teacher training.

Inaugural summer music camp with peer mentors.

World premiere of Fingerprints documentary featuring MHI.

Students perform with celebrated Haitian musician, Alan Cavé.

MHI wins Reverb Gives grant.

Jackson Browne launches Rob Wasserman Memorial Fund.

Music-making app introduced to students with disabilities.

Jason Derulo performs World Cup anthem with students.



65
STUDENTS
2
SITES



295
STUDENTS
6
SITES



754
STUDENTS
8
SITES



Our 2020 Goal

1000
STUDENTS

11
SITES



learn
play
improvise
perform
belong
dream

A space to grow

Plezi Mizik: Composing Futures

"Music makes me feel like a giant, like someone else. I feel different."

- Godson, keyboards/age 17, Year 4



To honor our students' first original recording and increase local awareness, we have adopted their song title as part of our program name. Plezi Mizik translates as "joy in music" and evokes the spirit of hope our students exemplify.

Our program builds discipline, self-confidence and leadership; all skills that serve students in music and other areas of life. They learn to play using familiar genres they love and they also focus on song-writing, with 23 original songs to date. In 2018, they performed at six concerts and 14 peer mentors learned to teach others. Now in our fifth year, several advanced students will soon graduate. Though we don't yet know our program's long-term impact on their lives or how far they will take their training, our assessments indicate that they will leave with greater self-esteem and skills that help equip them for the future.

"I trust myself more and I see what I am capable of."

- Vernaldo, drums/age 10, Year 1



*"After receiving, I am now
in a position to give back
what I have learned."*

- Jose Abigaëlle, keyboards/age 17, Year 5

At age 12, Jose Abigaëlle started playing keyboards the first year of our program. Five years later, she has been awarded a scholarship by a privately-run studio. Beyond attending music class and piano lessons, she regularly performs at church events, recitals and concerts. Jose Abigaëlle also gives back as a peer mentor by teaching keyboards at our summer music camp.



Fifteen-year-old Ashley is in his second year participating in inclusive music classes at Ecole de l'Espoir. He has an articulation disorder and a minor tremor in his upper limbs. Technology has helped Ashley find his place in the band. He plays guitar chords on a tablet using the GarageBand app. According to Ashley, this helps him to not only play with ease, but to feel the rhythm. He enjoys playing in the band alongside his friends. His next goal is to advance to playing drums.

Empowering Children with Disabilities

A Space to Engage

Inclusive music classes at J/P HRO's Ecole de l'Espoir, help create not just a place of inclusion for children living with disabilities, but a context for it through musical collaboration. In 2018, MHI introduced iPad tablets loaded with the GarageBand app to lower barriers to participation. This electronic music-making tool opened up access and instrument choice for students with physical impairments and has had a profound impact on the quality of their experience learning to play music. Using technology as an instrument, we are helping build a culture of inclusion by creating an environment where all children can engage in meaningful learning and the teamwork of music.



.....
"For me, there is no problem playing next to a kid with a disability. I feel happy when I see them happy."
.....

Etienne, keyboards/age 15, Year 2

Looking Forward

I remember when Sara came to me with the vision of bringing Little Kids Rocks' Modern Band curriculum to Haiti. In a country where music is a vibrant part of culture and life, Sara was looking for an approach that teaches kids how to play, compose and improvise using the musical genres they know and love. She also wanted to learn from Little Kids Rock's proven method of bringing student-centered music programs into under-resourced schools. What better way for an organization recognized as a U.S. leader in music education to promote equity than to help MHI enrich the education and lives of children in Haiti.

Five years later, I am proud of Little Kids Rock's role supporting MHI and J/P HRO to build a culturally-relevant music education model that's poised for growth. What lies ahead is consolidation of that model for easy replication, and mindful growth that tests new types of collaboration with nonprofit, public and private partners. Thanks to the generosity and commitment of friends and partners like you, I believe MHI's vision of helping kids engage, achieve and thrive through music education is not only scalable across Haiti, but elsewhere in the world. I can't wait!

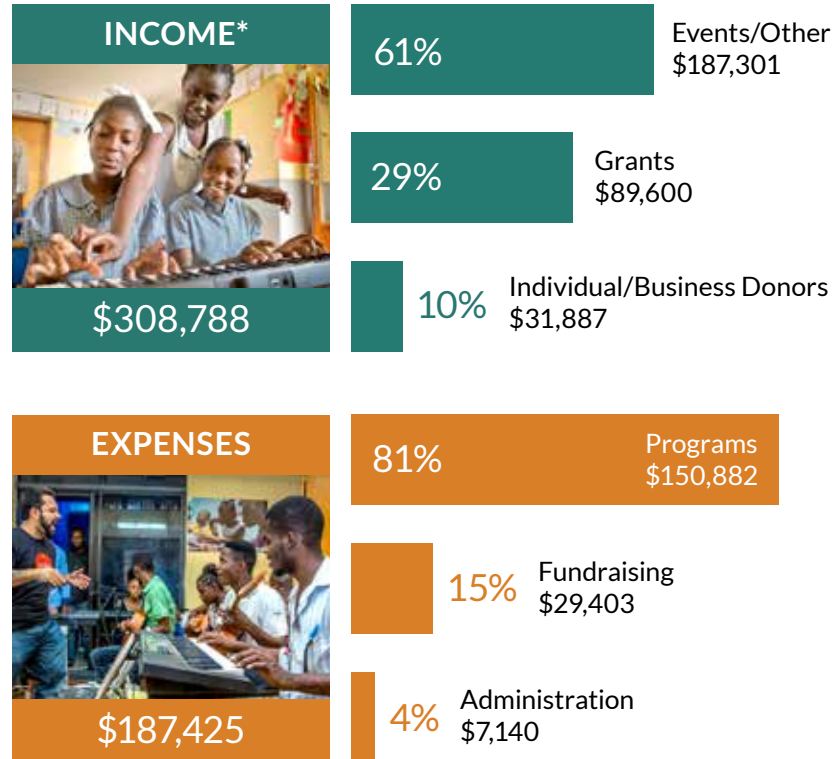
Dave Wish

Dave Wish
CEO, Little Kids Rock and MHI Board Advisor



Our 2018 Financials

Cash-based summary in USD



*The Rob Wasserman Memorial Fund generated 30% of 2018 income: \$93,948. At this important inflection point, the fund is improving organizational sustainability and flexibility. These assets will help MHI grow and respond to the great need in Haiti and elsewhere for music-based youth development programs that engage and inspire.



2018 Leadership

Advisory Board

Lynn Asher
Owsley Brown
Sharik Currimbhoy
Pete Fisher
Isabelle Fox
Richard Habib
Shannon O'Leary Joy
Larry "The Hat" Lautzker
Mary O'Mara
Christy McGill
Gardly Philoctete
Sherri Prince
Douglas Rosenberg
Lisa Rueff
Robyn Shore
Art Smith
Dave Stroud
Clare Wasserman
Natascha & Bob Weir
Dave Wish

In Memoriam

Lou Reed
Rob Wasserman

Board of Directors

Sara Wasserman – President
Stephanie Clarke – Treasurer/CFO
Michele Waldman – Secretary



Programs and Operations

Sara Wasserman – Executive Director/Founder
Jean Marc Didis – Program Manager
Emmanuel Piervil – Program Officer
James Joseph Donatin – Field Agent
Ashley Orton – Strategy and Impact Advisor

Impact Report

Content: Ashley Orton, Tyler McBrien
Editing: Jennifer Wegbreit
Photography: Liam Storrings for J/P HRO
Design: Megan Acio at WIGT.com

Implementing Partners



Supporting Partners

Owsley Brown III
PHILANTHROPIC FOUNDATION

Reverb gives EACH Foundation
TO EACH THEIR OWN.

EARTHSense FOUNDATION
PETE FISHER
WILLIAM HOBI
GEORGE & GLORIANA MEJIA-GUND
DOUGLAS ROSENBERG
BRAD SWABACK
MATTHEW KELLY FAMILY FOUNDATION





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Thank you!

Join Music Heals International

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

If you can donate funds, introduce us to potential partners
or provide expertise, you can make a meaningful difference.
Every action makes our work possible.

We are deeply grateful for your support.

MHI is a nonprofit organization and U.S. 501(c)(3) public charity. EIN 46-4627905.

- \$10,000** Fund a year of music at a partner school.
- \$5,000** Equip a school with instruments.
- \$2,500** Give music-making technology to children with disabilities.
- \$1,000** Train new music teachers and peer mentors.
- \$100** Send a child to summer music camp.