



MUSIC HEALS
★ INTERNATIONAL ★



Music Connects

2024 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 2024 in Review



3
5



3 out of 5 are
New Music Students

Years of Music Education



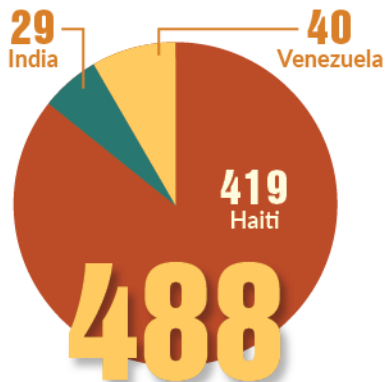
Haiti



India



Venezuela



Students Served



Lives Impacted Since 2014

1,875



Music Teachers

Students Enrolled*



60%



40%

* MHI strives for gender parity in our programs, however, the security breakdown and ongoing violence in Haiti reduced girls' participation to 37% in 2024. By contrast, girls represented 63% of our students in Venezuela and 49% in India.

Platinum
Transparency
2025

Candid.

60 Students
+ 13 Mentors

SUMMER MUSIC CAMP



Schools and
Community Partners



Letter from Sara



When I took my first trip to Haiti in 2012, I went as a volunteer to teach music to kids rebuilding their lives after the devastating 2010 earthquake. I felt an intuitive connection — a voice telling me to go, that I could do something to make a difference. Little did I know that during my visit, the seeds of Music Heals International would be planted and that shortly after, MHI would take root and grow. Two years later, while I was working with our team in Haiti, my father passed away.

What began as a connection to the kids and the culture also became a tribute to my father's legacy through the creation of the Rob Wasserman Memorial Fund in 2018. This fund supports MHI's long-term financial stability and enables us to respond strategically to new opportunities that improve access to music-based youth development programs. Since beginning our work in Haiti, we've expanded into India and Venezuela. **At the heart of each of our three music programs is a partnership built on trust and mutual respect.**

In today's world, it's more important than ever to remember that we are all connected — and that music is a powerful tool we can share. **When we play music or sing, we aren't thinking about anything else, we're simply creating and expressing our deepest emotions.** This was particularly meaningful in 2024, when we saw the profound impact of insecurity and violence on students in Haiti. It dramatically affected the participation of girls (37%) and the number of kids with disabilities decreased by two-thirds. As an organization, we have always prioritized gender balance in our programming and supporting the most vulnerable kids in the community. Despite the challenges, we continue to work with our team in Haiti to create opportunities for girls and students with disabilities to learn and grow in a safe space. **Over the years, what keeps me motivated is witnessing our students in Haiti, India and Venezuela using music as their driving force to imagine and build lives beyond the limits of their circumstances. It's an honor to do this work every single day.**

In gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sara Wasserman".

Sara Wasserman, Executive Director and Founder

Our Model

Our model is based on over a decade of progressive learning in Haiti. In recent years, MHI has expanded our music education program to Venezuela and India. We offer an innovative and culturally relevant approach through school and community partnerships that engage nearly 500 students annually.

The success of MHI's music education program is rooted in our partnerships. With CORE in Haiti, The Wayuu Taya Foundation in Venezuela, and Slam Out Loud in India, we have impacted nearly 2,000 lives since 2014.

Our Model Provides

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



Our Programs

The study of music teaches self-discipline, concentration and a wealth of other important life skills that can be transferred to other aspects of students' lives. From the classroom to center stage, and summer camp concerts to the recording studio, our programs strive to instill leadership, build resilience and inspire hope. When students speak about our music program, they share common themes of impact and connection.



"MHI helped me to focus and practice, and most importantly, to invest love into music in order to progress. I was really very shy, but thanks to music and performances, I was able to manage my shyness and develop leadership. It helped me gain more self-confidence and develop a sense of initiative."

– Yvenson

18 years old, guitar student since 2018



Haiti



India

"I started playing instruments, especially the guitar, soon after COVID began, first through MHI's community sessions and later in MHI's school program. Since then, I've learned chords and songs, and recently, I performed at a big school function. I also performed for my parents. I never thought I'd play a musical instrument, let alone play one well and gain confidence."

– Jyoti

13 years old, guitar student since 2021



"My advice to students just starting to play an instrument is to be disciplined, be responsible and practice all the time so it feels natural. When I am stressed or anxious, I listen to music or practice, and it really calms me down, for real."

– Carla Sofia

14 years old, drum student since 2024



Venezuela



Our Impact

Since 2014, MHI's music education programs have benefited more than 1,875 children and youth through partnerships in Haiti, India and Venezuela. Each year, 40 to 60% of students return, drawn by opportunities for personal growth and leadership development through community-based programs that honor and reflect the unique cultures of each country. Actor, supermodel and humanitarian Patricia Velásquez, founder of our partner organization in Venezuela: **The Wayuu Taya Foundation**, highlights the transformative power of music within Indigenous Wayuu communities.

"Through this partnership, Indigenous children have learned to perform traditional songs, connecting them with their roots and sharing that pride with their families. I have seen it with my own eyes, how a child who barely spoke in class suddenly shines when given the chance to play a song; how a young girl who once looked down at the ground now stands tall with a guitar in her hands. For Wayuu Taya, making music education a priority has meant restoring that hope and giving our children the courage to dream again."

"MHI not only helps us preserve our culture, but empowers our children to embrace it with pride. It keeps our traditions alive, strengthens our identity, and creates a space where children can feel proud of their heritage and dream of a brighter future."

– Patricia Velásquez



SCAN THE QR CODE
to read Patricia's
full interview.



Looking Forward

My first encounter with MHI was in 2015 when my wife and I were in Port-au-Prince, Haiti with friends learning about the work of MHI's partner CORE, then known as J/P HRO. Having studied music throughout my teenage and college years, I have always had a high regard for the unique qualities that music education and performance instill. Music was a lifeline thrown to me during my challenging middle and high school years. That lifeline took on a whole new meaning when set against the backdrop of perpetual uncertainty in the Western Hemisphere's poorest nation, Haiti. Right there at one of MHI's community music programs, I witnessed children truly thriving amidst this uncertainty.

I love MHI's work because it brings music, one of my life's greatest passions, to people who have the least. Having served on numerous non-profit boards inside and outside of the entertainment industry, I have been able to carry forward ideas and best practices which we employ at MHI. I am also fortunate to be able to foster relationships developed throughout my career with people who help advance MHI's mission. Given the extreme conditions in communities where MHI operates, the support MHI receives through the generosity of others makes such a substantial impact. A little really does go a long way.

Life is so much more fulfilling when we focus the spotlight on serving others. I love sharing the opportunity to experience the fulfillment that comes from using music's intangible qualities to make a tangible difference in the lives of people who need it most.



Pete Fisher

Entertainment Industry Consultant and MHI Board Member



Our Financials

Summary in USD

INCOME



\$245,634

- 55% Grants \$135,000
- 44% Events/Other \$107,981
- 1% Individual/Business Donors* \$2,653

**MHI's practice changed in 2024 to account for donations related to benefit concerts under Events/Other instead of under Individual/Business Donors.*

EXPENSES



\$263,266

- 84% Programs \$221,604
- 9% Fundraising \$22,461
- 7% Administrative \$19,201

Change in Net Assets:
Difference covered by the Rob Wasserman Memorial Fund

-\$17,632



2024 Leadership

Board of Directors

Dennis Strazulo – President

Melissa Pegus – Treasurer

Stephanie Clarke – Secretary

Paul Beaubrun

Pete Fisher

Ashley Orton

Tony Sauza

Sara Wasserman

Betsy Zeger

Programs and Operations

Sara Wasserman - Executive Director/Founder

Garry Calixte - Haiti Program Director

Emmanuel Piervil - Haiti Program Manager

Jean Louvens - Haiti Technical Advisor

Arvind Premanand - India Program Manager

Vladimir Rodriguez - Venezuela Lead Trainer

Tyler McBrien - Communications

Impact Report

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Photography: Jay Blakesberg, Lesme Franco, Arvind Premanand,
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Advisory Board

Owsley Brown

Richard Habib

Shannon O'Leary Joy

Larry "The Hat" Lautzker

Gloriana Mejia-Gund

Lukas Nelson

Clare Wasserman

Jeny Wegbreit

Natascha & Bobby Weir

Dave Wish

In Memoriam

Jean Marc Didis

Dan Hicks

Lou Reed

Rob Wasserman

Implementing Partners



Supporting Partners

Owsley Brown III
PHILANTHROPIC FOUNDATION

George Gund & Gloriana Mejia-Gund | EarthSense Foundation
Douglas Rosenberg | Matthew Kelly Family Foundation



Richard & Roberta Cummings Charitable Fund | NCF
Dennis & Pam Fisco | Chris & Lesley Fisher | The Smith Family
Andrew & Rebecca Logan | Sandro & Jeannie Sangiacomo
Brad Swaback | Ben Weisshaut





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Thank You

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 student leaders as they learn to teach.

\$100 Send a child to summer music camp.

SCAN
TO
DONATE

