



MUSIC HEALS
★ INTERNATIONAL ★

2025 IMPACT
REPORT

Communities in Harmony



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.

Our Model

MHI's music education program is rooted in partnerships, serving students since 2014 with CORE in Haiti, and replicating our model with Wayuu Taya Foundation in Venezuela and Slam Out Loud in India. We offer a free, innovative and culturally relevant approach through school and community partners that impacts approximately 500 students annually.



MHI Provides

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



Letter from Sara

At Music Heals International, we have always believed that music has the extraordinary ability to bring people together. A living testament to that ability, our students, teachers, mentors, parents, partners and staff across Haiti, India and Venezuela join in a shared purpose every day: creating safe, joyful spaces where children can learn, express themselves and feel that they belong.

Our theme for this report, *Communities in Harmony*, is a reflection and celebration of that work. Like the individual voices and instruments that come together to create a song, every person in our community plays an essential role. Each contribution is meaningful on its own, but together, they create something greater. We foster *Communities in Harmony* through every partnership, wherever we go, but nowhere has this been more visible than in Haiti, where our work began over a decade ago.

What started as a music program has grown into something larger than we ever dreamed. Students have developed confidence, friendships, discipline and a renewed sense of joy. Teachers and peer mentors have become role models, guiding young people through music while helping them recognize their own strengths and possibilities. The impact extends beyond the classroom, creating a powerful ripple effect throughout families and the wider community.

Even amid extraordinary challenges, these communities continue to show us what is possible when people come together to rally behind their children. They have transformed the classroom into a source of stability, connection and hope.

As you read this year's impact report, I hope you see more than numbers and milestones. I hope you see children discovering their voices, educators nurturing the next generation, parents feeling reassured that their children are safe and supported, and communities united through music. I hope you see communities in harmony, coming together to create something greater than the sum of its parts.

Thank you for believing in this mission and for making this work possible now and for generations to come.

In gratitude,

Sara Wasserman

Sara Wasserman, Executive Director and Founder



MHI 2025 in Review



1
2


1 out of 2 are
New Music Students

Years of Music Education



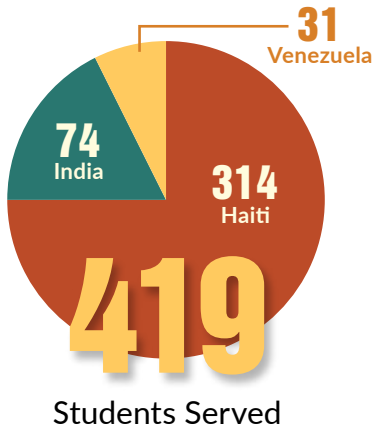
Haiti



India



Venezuela

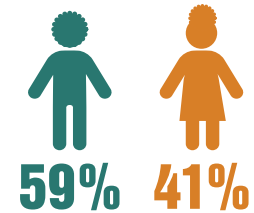


Lives Impacted Since 2014

2000+



Students Enrolled



Music Teachers



Schools and
Community Partners



47 Students
+ 10 Mentors
SUMMER MUSIC CAMP



**KANPE
SUMMER
CAMP
STUDENTS**



Our Programs

"Communities in Harmony" is shown in the stories of students, teachers, and families whose lives have been transformed through music. These reflections from Haiti, India, and Venezuela illustrate how music inspires hope, preserves culture and brings communities together.



"Music is spiritual. Everywhere you go, it creates a language that we don't have to speak the same way or have the same views to understand. Music always finds a way to connect people."

These programs are especially important in the communities where we work, for places that don't have a lot of visitors, because music brings in teachers, creates a sense of community and gives children a sense that they can dream. If they can dream, they can think outside the box. When that happens, we open something in their mind that nothing else can give them except through the feeling of music and creating together as a community."

– Paul Beaubrun
Musician, MHI Board Member





Sisters Priti and Jyoti, along with their friends Mahi and Karishma, wrote an original song after the suicide of a close friend. They used music to honor their friend's memory and her story through song. With music they found a way to express their grief, but also their love for their friend. They hope their tribute will leave a lasting legacy by gently urging their community to respond with empathy, compassion, and respect.



"Music Heals International has not only helped us preserve our culture, but has also empowered our children to embrace it. It has kept our traditions alive, strengthened our identity and created a space where our children can feel proud of their heritage and dream of a brighter future. And for me, to witness this, to see the smiles, to hear the music and to feel the hope is something I will always treasure."

– Patricia Velasquez
Founder, Wayuu Taya Foundation



Our Impact

The following quotes, shared by students in Haiti, offer a glimpse into the lasting impact of the music program over the past 12 years. Their words speak to a community strengthened through music, where young people have found confidence, connection, support and hope.



"Over the past 12 years, the program has brought many positive changes to the community. It has brought children and adults closer together and has helped children develop a sense of love and care for one another.

During periods of loss, the program provided me with tremendous support. The program leaders were present for me and several staff members made themselves available whenever I needed assistance. They made it clear that they were there to support me no matter what."

– Jose Abigaëlle Cetoute

Keyboard, 24 years old, 12 years in the program

"When I look at the challenges our country is facing today, I see that music can play an important role in transforming lives. It may not solve every problem on its own, but it can inspire people, especially young people, to choose a better path. Programs like this give children a positive environment where they can learn, express themselves and develop discipline.

This project also has great cultural value. It helps preserve and promote Haiti's musical heritage while preparing a new generation of talented musicians who can proudly represent our country, both nationally and internationally."



– François Nelwilgentz "Dorly"

Teacher, 37 years old, 12 years in the program

Looking Forward



Ann Lee is Co-Founder and CEO of CORE (Community Organized Relief Effort), launched in the wake of the 2010 Haiti earthquake, bringing over two decades of humanitarian experience to CORE's global emergency response, recovery and community resilience work.

In southern Haiti, schools have few resources for arts education. It is the same lack of access MHI has been addressing since 2014 — the lack of access to a safe, steady place for a child to feel like a child again. Music becomes a language for these children to express everything they carry — and everything they're capable of. **Through the program, students don't just learn an instrument; they learn discipline, teamwork and the self-confidence to trust in their own voice.**

Studies conducted by MHI and CORE have shown that students perform better academically when they participate in music education, with measurable improvements in focus, discipline and classroom engagement.

Events bring communities together and offer a moment of normalcy, hope, and possibility. **A recent music competition drew more than 200 students, staff, families and community members, who gathered to celebrate musical achievement, Haiti's cultural heritage and the resilient children carrying it forward.**

As the program grows beyond Port-au-Prince into places like Les Cayes, I hope it reaches more children the way it reached that first child in the displacement camp, with the same warmth, the same consistency and the belief that every child deserves a hand to hold.

CORE and MHI work well together because we are cut from the same cloth. **We share the same ethos: that real change in Haiti takes generations, and that we must be committed to seeing it through with patience, while still showing up urgently, every single day, for the child in front of us right now.**

– Ann Lee
Co-Founder and CEO of CORE

Our Financials

Summary in USD



INCOME

\$233,861

55% Grants
\$128,034

43% Events/Other
\$100,960

2% Individual/Business Donors*
\$4,867

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



EXPENSES

\$259,252

84% Programs
\$217,240

10% Fundraising
\$25,969

6% Administrative
\$16,043

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

\$25,391



2025 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

Jennifer Chalos - Development

Impact Report

Content: Matthew Fuller, Tyler McBrien

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Abdon Jean Laurent for CORE, Nesly Valcourt

Design: Megan Acio at WIGT.com

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Jeny Wegbreit

Natascha Weir

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In Memoriam

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Bobby Weir

Implementing Partners



Supporting Partners

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MUSIC HEALS ★ INTERNATIONAL ★

U.S. OFFICE

35 Miller Avenue, #254

Mill Valley, CA 94941

+1 415.860.6101

info@mhinternational.org

mhinternational.org



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

