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Noah Bloom
Executive Director
Dear Friend of NMS,

The arts have always played a major role in helping people feel connected to the moment:

• Hearing voices raised in song puts us in tune with the profound poetry of our world.
• A passage at a funeral reminds us of the cycle of life.
• A brilliantly acted play inspires us by revealing the complexities of the human spirit.
• The first dance at a wedding fills us with optimism for what’s to come.

The arts are essential to our ability to make sense of the world, explore feelings of joy or pain, and share in communal experiences. Since 1911, all of this and more are woven into the everyday fabric at NMS. For tens of thousands of people, we have provided the artistic space to build connections to themselves and each other.

For me, like for so many others, these connections are personal. During my years at NMS, I have been a student, a parent, a teacher, a donor, a program director and am now executive director. NMS has been a home that has grounded me at many important phases of life, providing a strong foundation of learning, creativity and growth. It is a place I return to time and again to experience the joy, optimism, and beautiful sense of community that only the arts can provide.

In this report, I am pleased to share with you a small sampling of the impact NMS has had on our students, families, faculty, and donors at every stage of life. Together, we are navigating an unbelievably challenging time by reminding ourselves of the beauty that surrounds us and is within us. Amid all of the unknowns that we are living through, one thing remains constant: NMS is here for you, and will always help you stay connected.

Thank you for continuing your support of NMS!

With warm gratitude,

Noah Bloom

Noah Bloom
Executive Director
MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Neighborhood Music School is to deepen the human experience and build connections through the learning, practice, and presentation of the performing arts.

CORE VALUES

The Performing Arts: The performing arts are an essential part of the human experience at every stage of life.

Diverse Community: We celebrate each individual, nurture lasting relationships, create a sense of belonging, and understand that we are stronger when we learn from our differences.

Educational Excellence: Our talented and passionate teaching artists engage each student’s interest and enthusiasm, providing the tools they need to reach their unique potential.

Equity: We actively promote equity in arts education, enable broad access through financial aid, and remove barriers to learning and participation.

Joy: Together, we create joyful experiences that provide fulfillment, feed our souls, and energize us.

This year, NMS has joined many other New Haven organizations by taking the city’s Arts for Anti-Racism pledge. With all that is going on in our country right now, the Board, staff and faculty at NMS have been working hard to fight for equity.

We have been taking a deep look at our values, board recruitment, staffing, programming, allocation of resources, and partnerships to ensure we are honoring this commitment. Due to the timing of this report, many of these initiatives are not included here, but we will keep you updated as the year goes on, and will share much more in next year’s impact report. We are committed to this ongoing work.
YOUR SUPPORT IS VITAL TO OUR SUCCESS!

THANK YOU for staying connected with us during this challenging time. NMS has a long history of responding in the face of adversity. From our earliest beginnings as a settlement school for city immigrants and progressing through two world wars, two pandemics, and multiple financial crises, NMS has adapted while remaining true to its mission. During these past seven months of our building shutdown, our faculty, staff and board have grown stronger as a team. We have embraced and faced new challenges daily. We have found creative ways to teach music, dance and theatre online, honoring our commitment to stay connected with our students. We have revised our budget and refined our mission and core values. And we have never lost sight of the reason we exist: YOU.

YOUR commitment, YOUR support, YOUR connectivity helps us survive and thrive. PLEASE HELP us continue to serve the students pictured here and so many more. YOUR GIFT is important to us, now more than ever before. Please fill out the enclosed envelope or go online to make your gift today.

THANK YOU!

WWW.NMSNEWHAVEN.ORG

Art is not a solitary event. It is an opportunity to come together, to share an experience, to search for new ideas, to see the world in radically different ways. Our sense of ‘I’ becomes an understanding of ‘we,’ thanks to the arts. Now we can pass the gift forward, hoping that exposure to the arts will create more complex, creative, innovative human beings.
NMS AT EVERY STAGE OF LIFE

The NMS community is composed of people of all ages, from diverse backgrounds and experiences, and at various stages of their lives. **We gather together to create joyful experiences that provide fulfillment, feed our souls, and energize us.**

Our school offers a unique opportunity for lifelong learning in the arts not found anywhere else in the Greater New Haven area. Even in the midst of a worldwide pandemic which has kept our building closed to most of our students, the growth of our online community of learners and performers has kept our connections strong.

Here in these pages is just a sampling of images and quotes from students, parents, faculty and supporters who have stayed connected throughout this past year.

**THANK YOU FOR TAKING THIS JOURNEY WITH US!**
I have spent my professional career as an investor, relying on good return on investments. As a parent, I know there is nothing more important than the investment I have made by enrolling my children in NMS at an early age. Now all three of my kids are on successful journeys and the ROI of an NMS education is indisputable.

From the moment we arrived for our first visit, we were welcomed with open arms, open minds and open hearts. The Preschool teachers create an environment where art, music, imagination and love come first and the learning happens naturally.
At NMS, my children were able to see and explore the world in ways I could have never imagined. Learning and interacting with others through the arts helped shape them into passionate, creative, open-minded, empathic young people.

"Being a part of NMS’s after school program hasn’t been easy for my son who is diagnosed with high-functioning autism. Though the program isn’t specifically for special needs kids, it is so well-designed that it’s able to accommodate his struggles. With the help of his caring teachers, it has become a constant, a bedrock, a touch point, for him as well as the other students. They’ve become a community and understand how people have different strengths and weaknesses, and can work together."

"At NMS, my children were able to see and explore the world in ways I could have never imagined. Learning and interacting with others through the arts helped shape them into passionate, creative, open-minded, empathic young people."
We are impressed by the programs Neighborhood Music School has for including and supporting youth and the degree of commitment to their needs... to award scholarships, provide professional development, and create mentorship opportunities.

We have loved our time at NMS. Thank you so much for working with my son, providing unique developmental experiences which have certainly springboarded him into a better future than he would’ve had if your amazing program had never existed.
What stands out about NMS is the kindness that exists with the faculty and staff. The caring environment allows for a community where everyone can feel connected. My teachers opened up my creative being - they stepped back to allow me to progress in my personal musical journey of discovery.

“I wanted to share - second week of Zoom lessons. I was brought to tears - maybe a combination of the sweet music, hearing the teacher’s gentleness, and seeing my teen open up, and connect... all the stress of these days lifts and it is just this simple, beautiful moment.”
Although I miss being in my studio and with my students in person, online lessons are working better than anyone thought. My students are making good headway on their instruments. It’s wonderful staying connected!

Through my piano lessons at NMS, I have found meaningful ways to connect to the world and enrich my own career. As someone who came very late to the world of music and artistic expression (I started lessons at 50!), recognizing how powerful the connections are between the arts and all other forms of learning has been transformative.
My Vintage Voices class has made a huge difference in my life since my husband died in 2007 and in the lives of many others as well. This group of people over 60 has sustained itself and each other through movement and music for 11 years... The experience changes on Zoom, but the camaraderie of moving and singing together is even more important and the songs all the more uplifting and meaningful in Covid times.

The lockdown laid waste to daily adventures and routines that kept me happy and active in retirement. Although my family is among the lucky ones with our bread winner still working and no illness, there was a huge void in my life. My music theory class filled this void and the need to have something to look forward to, to stay connected, to keep my mind and my heart engaged.
For more than 100 years, NMS has adapted and evolved, creating new programming along the way. Many of our most cherished programs were developed in response to community need: Individual lessons, Ensembles, Suzuki, Preschool, Dance, Audubon Arts, Summer Jazz, and DELTA (Developing and Empowering Leadership Through the Arts).

In Fall of 2019, NMS enrolled its first class of sixteen 7th grade students in ATLAS (Academic Theatre Lab on Audubon Street) Middle School. These students learn to become independent thinkers by using the theatrical process to explore essential questions in literature, science, history, math, and beyond. This program is an innovative model which is part of a growing educational movement focusing on authentic experiential learning.

NMS was able to keep ATLAS functioning even in the midst of the pandemic, pivoting quickly to distance learning, offering students seamless instruction with consistent structure and support while maintaining their deep community connection. Highlights from this inaugural year included workshops, matinees and backstage tours at Long Wharf Theatre, virtual visits to cultural institutions across the globe and an all-virtual production of William Shakespeare’s A Midsummer Night’s Dream.
REVENUE
- Tuition & Program: 79.7%
- Contributions: 15.0%
- Investments: 3.9%
- Other: 1.4%

EXPENSES
- Faculty Salaries & Benefits: 53.9%
- Administrative Salaries & Benefits: 16.0%
- Financial Aid: 10.0%
- Building & Maintenance: 6.1%
- Administrative: 5.4%
- Development & Marketing: 3.9%
- Tuition Discounts: 2.4%
- Program: 2.3%

GROWING OUR COMMITMENT TO EQUITY THROUGH FINANCIAL AID

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Financial Aid</th>
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STUDENTS RECEIVED SCHOLARSHIPS TO ATTEND BERKLEE COLLEGE OF MUSIC, NYU, UCONN, YALE UNIVERSITY & MORE

131 FACULTY MEMBERS \(\mid\) 1,970 YEARS AT NMS

SUCCESSFUL STUDENTS

2,454 STUDENTS FROM 104 CITIES & TOWNS

97 NHPS STUDENTS IN TUITION-FREE DELTA \(\mid\) 100% OF DELTA SENIORS GRADUATED \(\mid\) 49 STUDENTS SELECTED FOR CT MUSIC EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION FESTIVALS REGIONAL & ALL-STATE

STUDENTS RECEIVED SCHOLARSHIPS TO ATTEND BERKLEE COLLEGE OF MUSIC, NYU, UCONN, YALE UNIVERSITY & MORE

STAYING CONNECTED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HOURS OF 1:1 LESSONS PER DAY</th>
<th>IN PERSON</th>
<th>MARCH-JUNE</th>
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<tr>
<td>ON-SITE</td>
<td>FULLY REMOTE</td>
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<th>PERFORMANCES</th>
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<tr>
<td>150+ IN RECITAL HALL</td>
<td>VIRTUAL PERFORMANCES BROADCAST TO 15,000+ INTERNATIONAL VIEWERS</td>
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THANK YOU!
NMS gratefully acknowledges the many generous donors, institutions, businesses, and foundations listed below who thoughtfully supported our students and programs from July 2019 – June 2020.

$20,000 & Up
Anonymous
Andrew Auerbach
Carolyn Foundation
Alexander & Jennifer Clark
The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven
Country Music Association
Anne Curtis
Amity & Michael Doolittle
Possum Fund
State of Connecticut Department of Economic
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The Weiner Family and One of a Kind Foundation

$10,000 to $19,999
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Sara Ohly
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$5,000 - $9,999
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Elizabeth Cayer
Janet Saleh Dickson Memorial Fund
James English
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Judith Dozier Hackman
The Arthur Allen Leff Family Giving Fund
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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!
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Ted Whitten
Terry Wild
John & Virginia Wilkinson
Amanda Zubek

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If there is an error to the listing of your name, please accept our apologies and contact the Development Department at 203-624-5189 so that we can make the necessary correction.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!
IN HONOR OF

Sal Amato
Chris & Myron Radawiec

Naomi Borenstein
Jethra Kapp

Istvan B’Racz
Harry Kane & Tanya Segel

Michele Cohen
Beth & Fredrick Richter

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Kathy Giampietro
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Sue Zoellner-Cross
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Nicholson Associates, Inc
Vera Taylor

Theresa Szemanczky
Helen Ruth Estes
Jane T. Santa

Catherine & Michael Visconti
The Charles A. Mastronardi Foundation
NMS has always been a refuge from the busy world bustling outside its front doors. It’s a place to slow down, concentrate and make the performing arts take center stage, while also providing fundamental life lessons that shape this conscientious, collaborative community.