



Hungry for Music

A 30-Year Retrospective



Hungry for Music is celebrating its 30th year of providing the gift of music to youth with a hunger to play. Our musical mission has a long history of making a positive impact on young musicians.

As you will see in the following highlights, it not only took financial resources, but human resources to create the force for good that Hungry for Music is today.

Jeff Campbell
Founder & Director
Hungry for Music

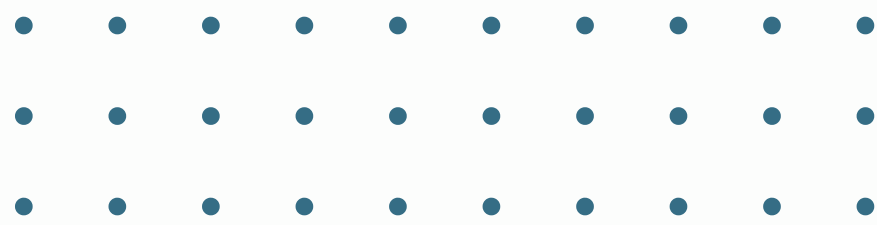


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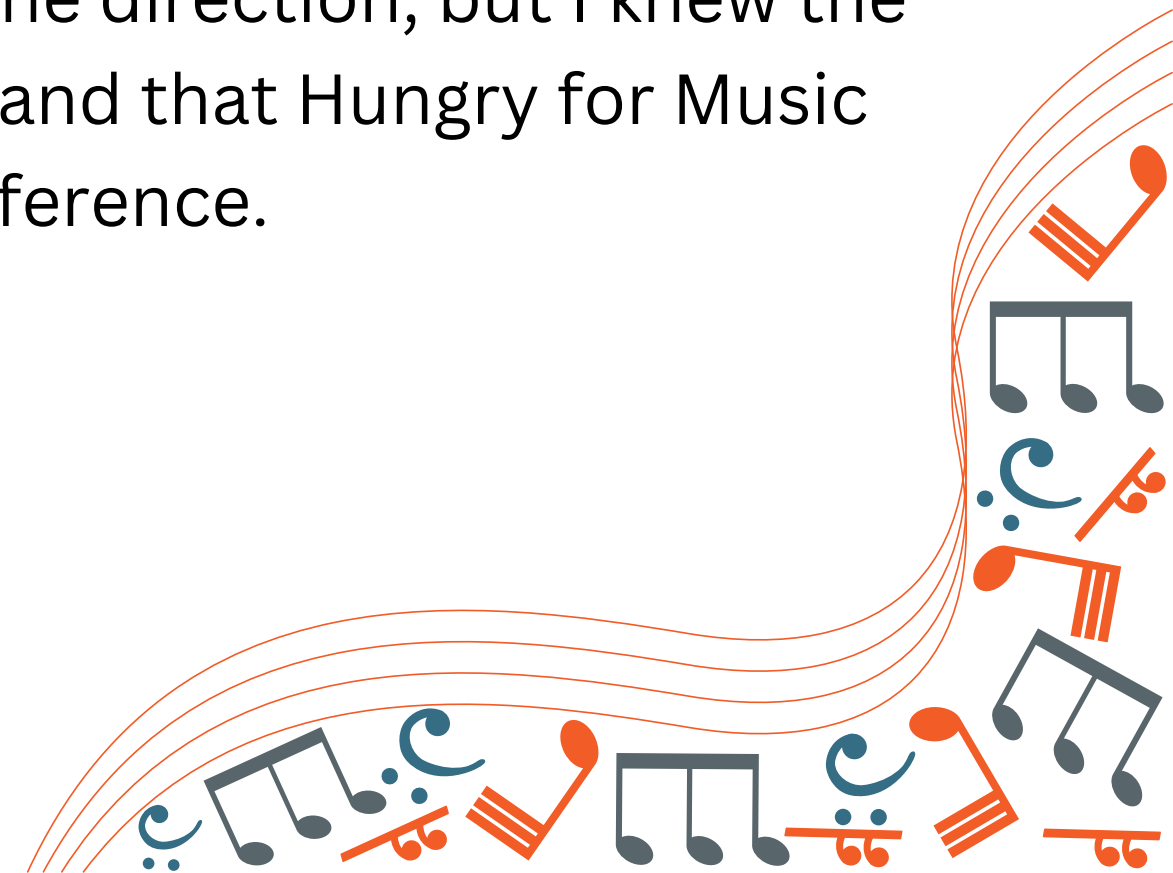
HOMELESS **BENEFIT**

When I first moved to the Washington, DC area in 1987, I had never witnessed so many homeless people in my life. Their plight saddened me. Walking down the street, I observed a talented busker who lifted my mood and inspired me to curate a homeless benefit featuring DC area street musicians and other local talent.

The first “Hungry for Music” benefit concert was in 1992 at The George Washington University’s Lisner Auditorium. I was taking nonprofit management classes there. I asked one of my professors to make the idea a class project and she agreed.

We held a second homeless benefit in 1993. The following year, we founded Hungry for Music as a nonprofit charity, with the intention of bringing the positive qualities of music to others.

I wasn’t sure of the direction, but I knew the power of music, and that Hungry for Music could make a difference.



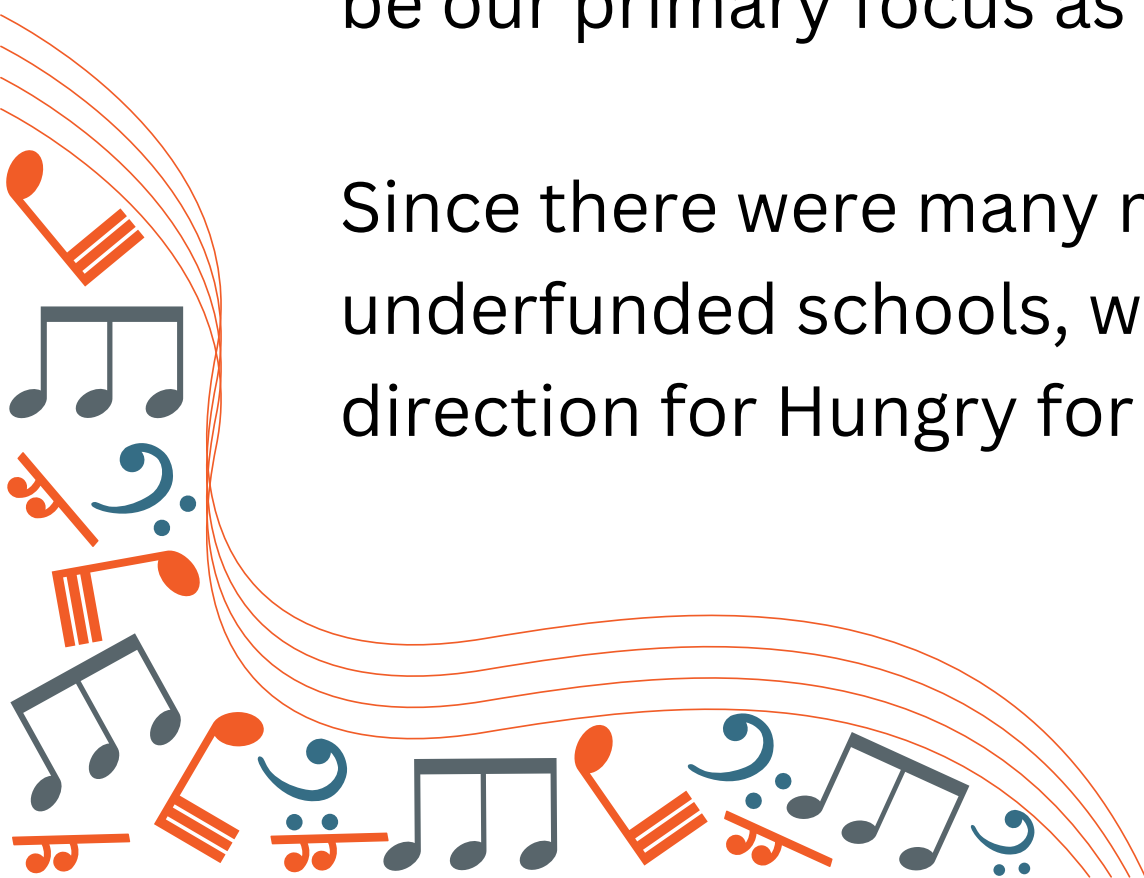


OUTREACH CONCERTS

Hungry for Music was a part-time endeavor for me in our first dozen years. In the first few, Hungry for Music presented concerts at homeless shelters, children's hospitals, youth centers, and retirement homes.

We also began accepting music instruments to donate to youth music programs, and in 1997, I decided that this would be our primary focus as a nonprofit.

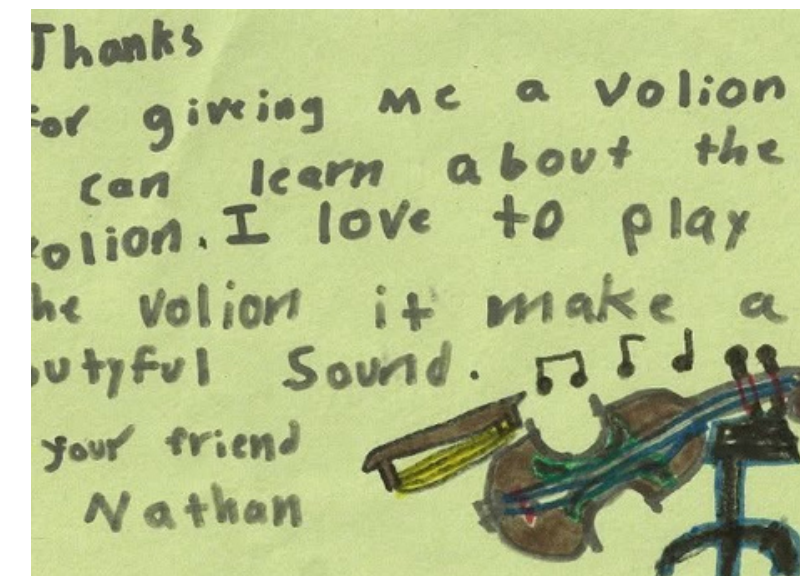
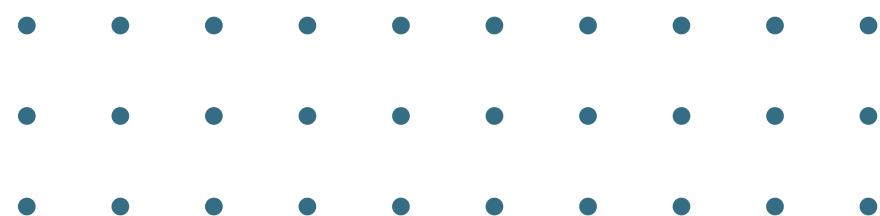
Since there were many music education programs and many underfunded schools, we decided that this was the best direction for Hungry for Music to go.



EARLY PROGRAMS SUPPORTED

Hungry for Music's distribution of music instruments began slowly, as our mission grew into providing a supportive role for schools and after-school music programs. Early instrument donations went to DC, Maryland, and Virginia music programs.

In 1998, we received a request for a trombone from a teacher in Michigan. This was our first delivery outside the DC Metro area. At that time, we decided that if we have the inventory, we would support music programs in other states. That later included programs in other countries.



INTERNATIONAL DONATIONS

In the early years, Hungry for Music began sending violins and violas to Paul Anastacio's Fiddle Outreach Project that supported Mexican programs and Bridges Across Borders, who have outreach to Mexico and Central and South America.

In 2009, Montgomery County, Maryland had a program called Sister Cities that had a cultural exchange with other countries. They reached out to us for instrument donations for their first sister city in El Morazon, El Salvador.

I really didn't have any intention to donate instruments internationally, but we decided that we could support international programs if the instruments could be picked up or delivered locally to a sponsor organization that would deal with the time-consuming customs paperwork and shipping costs.



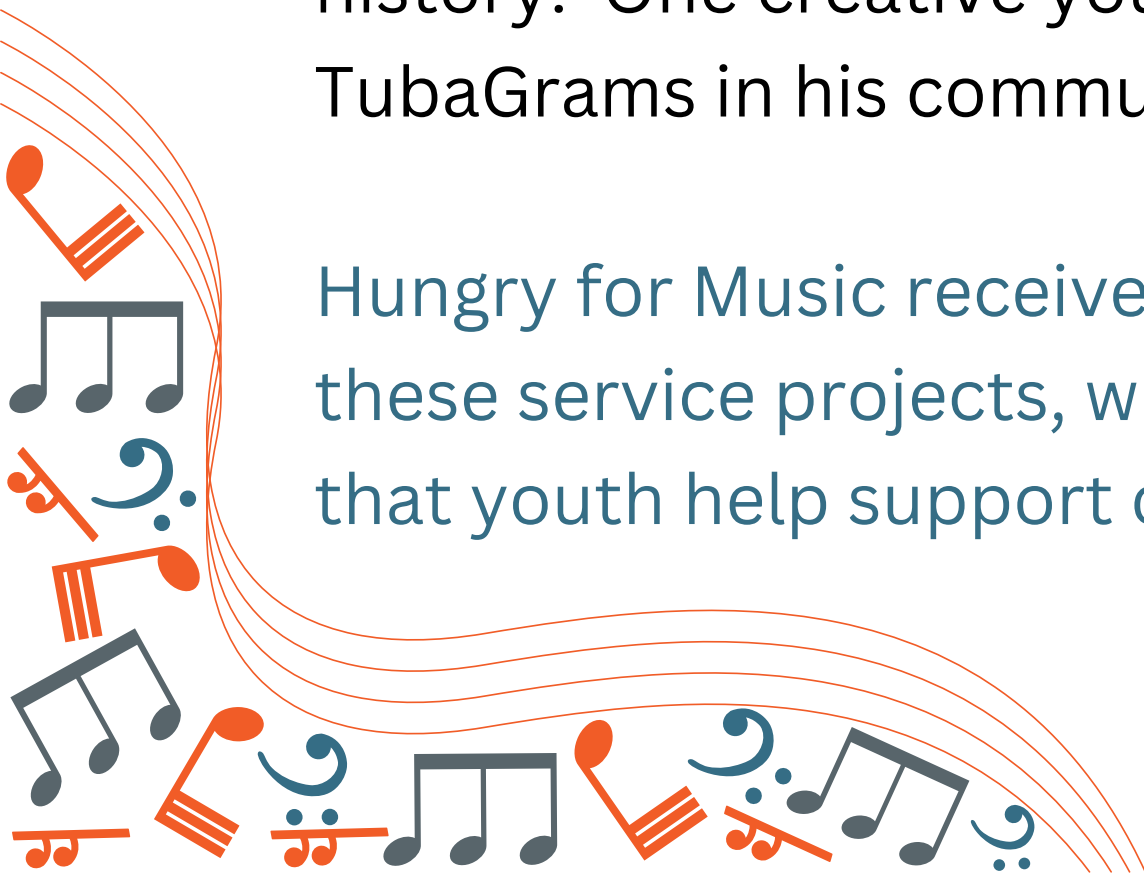
While our primary focus is the United States, we have donated to 38 countries in our history. In 2024, we were able to support 14 international programs.

YOUTH SERVICE PROJECTS

Hungry for Music could not do what it does without the support of youth service projects, including bat/bar mitzvahs, Eagle Scouts, Girl Scouts Silver Stars, and high schools. Most of the time, the kids will organize an instrument drive, but some will also raise funds by performing a concert.

We have also had kids busk for funds, which is special, given our history. One creative young man raised funds by performing TubaGrams in his community.

Hungry for Music receives hundreds of instruments annually from these service projects, which are vital to our outreach. The fact that youth help support our mission gives me hope for the future.



Hungry for Music volunteers are another integral part of our operation. Without them, we would be lost. They provide a multitude of support for our outreach.

We have volunteers all over the country who help with instrument pickup, repair, and administrative support. Our mission could not be successful without their dedication. I greatly appreciate it.

Over the years, we have been very lucky to have awesome volunteers who have helped us along the way.

In the fledgling years, **Alan Friedman** dedicated a lot of his time promoting Hungry for Music at event tables, picking up instruments, and fundraising by selling CDs. **Kay Coyte** in Louisville, has helped us establish a great network there. **Jim Gormley** and **Alan Harrington** have serviced hundreds of guitars.

Most recently, **Gene Feight** has been coming to our distribution center once a week to assess and repair all sorts of strings. There are many more, and the list goes on; but these stand out.



VOLUNTEERS

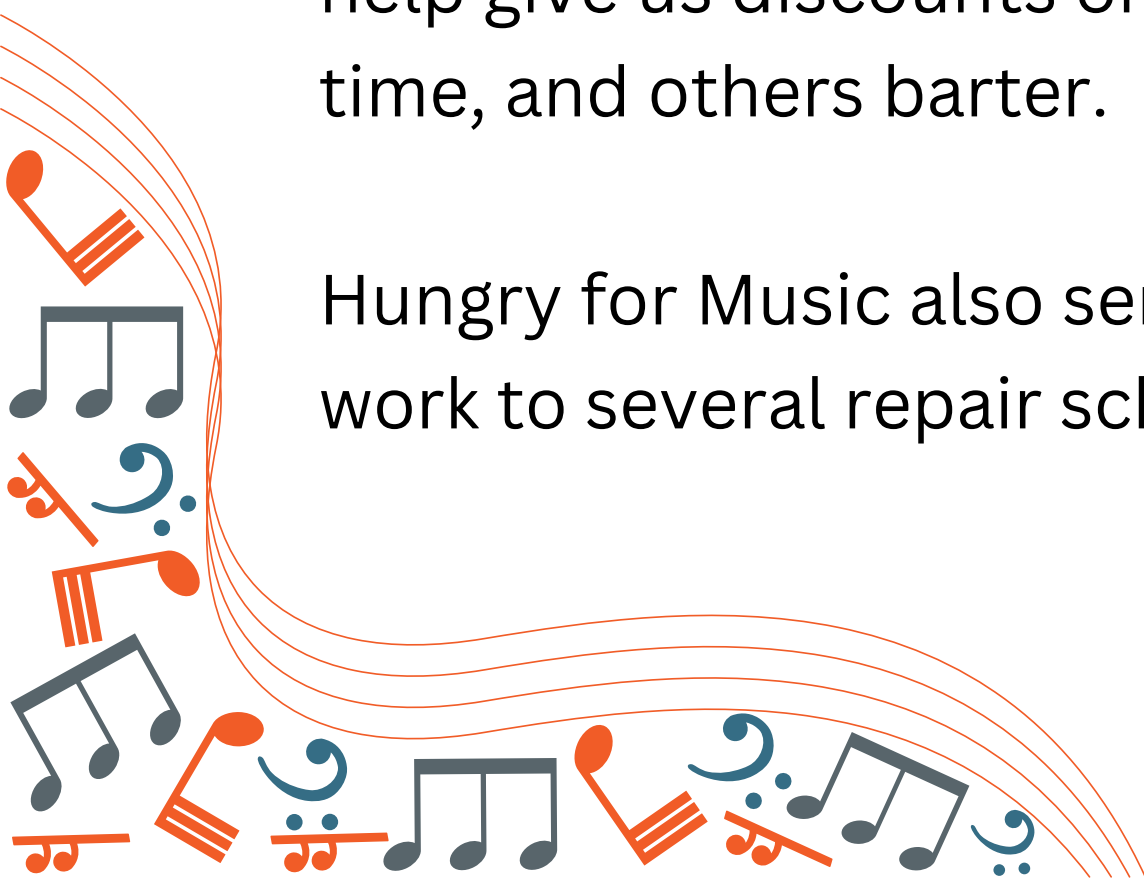


INSTRUMENT REPAIR

With the volume of instrument donations increasing and in varying conditions, it became necessary to find people to help with repairs.

Today, we have over a dozen luthiers and brass and woodwind repair folks who assess and repair incoming instruments. Many of the individuals and businesses who help give us discounts on repairs and some donate their time, and others barter.

Hungry for Music also sends instruments that need major work to several repair schools around the country.

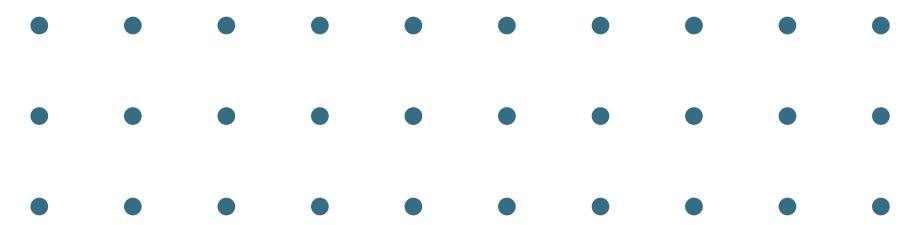


ORANGE ROCKPORT GUITARS

In 2003, Rockport Shoe Company had a promotion that involved displaying Epiphone guitars in their store locations. Of course, after the promotion, they needed a place to donate the guitars and found Hungry for Music!

We received 100 bright orange guitars with the Rockport logo. At the time, it was the largest donation we had received.

We were able to distribute the guitars within a year to individuals and various rock music programs, including Girls Rock Camp and Little Kids Rock.

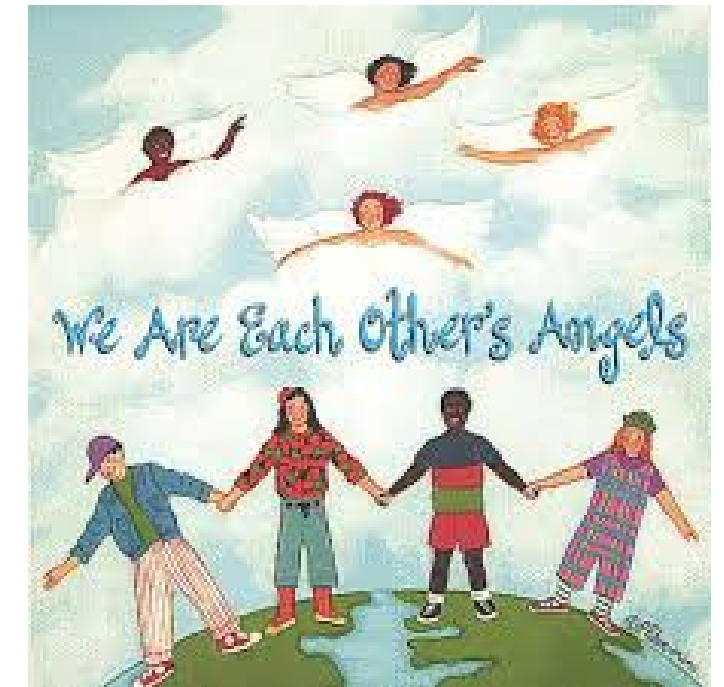


COMPILATION CD PROJECTS

I was having a challenging time acquiring grant support for our fledgling organization. One foundation representative suggested I move from the area because of the number of other metropolitan DC area music and arts organizations that would be competing for the same funds. At first, I disagreed, but over the years I began to understand the wisdom of that suggestion.

In 1995, I wanted to create a CD recording project that would help promote Hungry for Music's mission and also showcase local DC area talent. So began "The Holiday Feast" (eight volumes) and "Chanukah Feast" (two volumes) series.

Hungry for Music also released other themed CDs, including an angel-themed ("We Are Each Other's Angels"), a baseball-themed series, and artist tributes.

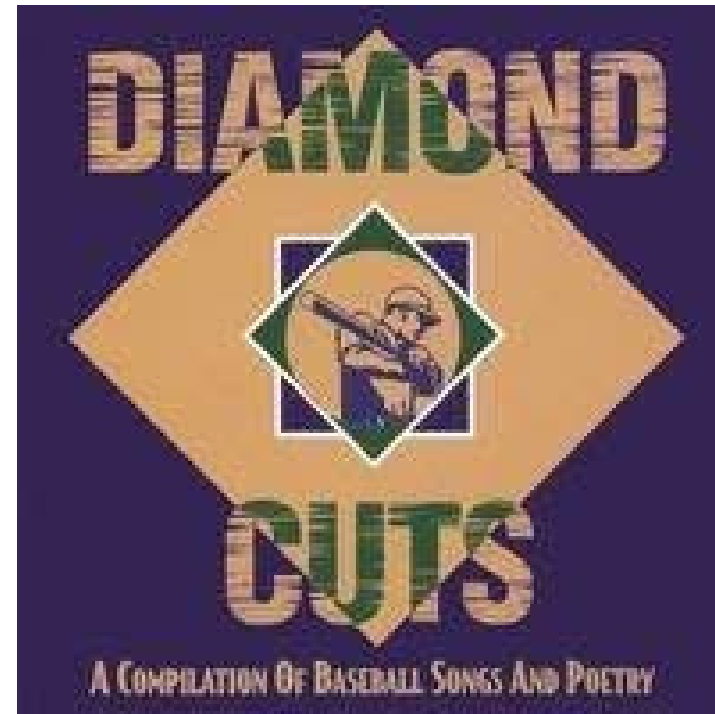


The Hungry for Music CD releases played an important role in our growth, and I am forever grateful to the musicians, sound engineers, and recording studios who put their time, talent, and energy into these projects.

DIAMOND CUTS

Admittedly, it was an idea out of left field (pun intended), compiling a baseball song compilation as a fundraiser!

All I can say is that I had never intuitively felt that strong about something. Not everyone agreed. I'm happy I listened to my intuition, as this project helped grow our mission.



I was able to license songs from Bob Dylan, Paul Simon, Bruce Springsteen, Jerry Jeff Walker, George Winston, and many more for the project.

After its 1997 release, the word spread and, all of a sudden, Hungry for Music was in The New York Times and on National Public Radio's (NPR) "Morning Edition."

This project helped launch Hungry for Music as a national and multinational nonprofit organization.

I ended up producing ten more volumes and the series ended when compact discs sales significantly slowed.

HUNGRY FOR CRAWFISH

Another event that helped get Hungry for Music off the ground was the annual crawfish boil fundraiser organized by a group of Louisiana friends.

Beginning in 1994, the Hungry for Crawfish Boil definitely helped us survive the early challenging years. It was a fun event and important fundraiser for Hungry for Music.

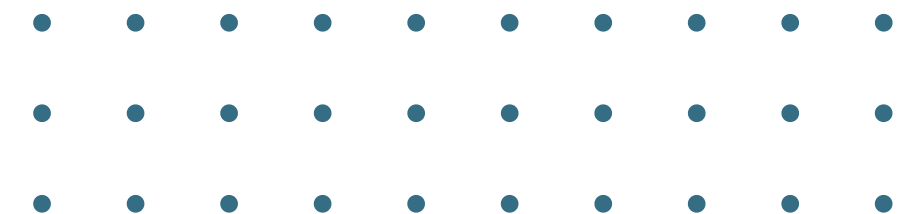
I greatly appreciate and am grateful for the effort that was put forth by the Hungry for Crawfish gang.



COF-A-QUE

Some of the group involved in Hungry for Crawfish were also involved in a BBQ competition event called COF-A-QUE (Circle of Friends barbecue). This event came along in 1999, during a growth spurt in our outreach, and the funds raised helped us through this period. One year, over \$10,000 was donated by the event and guitar raffle.

I am very thankful for the support and have nice memories of Quail Ridge Lake in Aldie, VA, where the event was held.

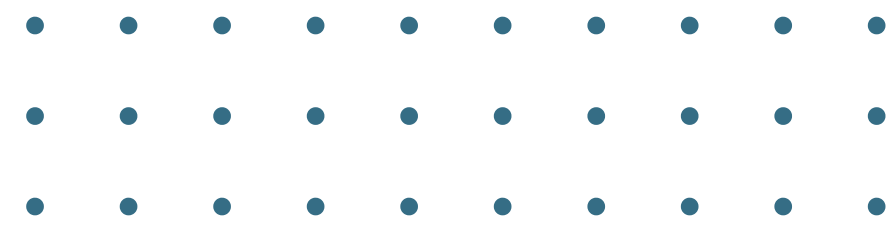
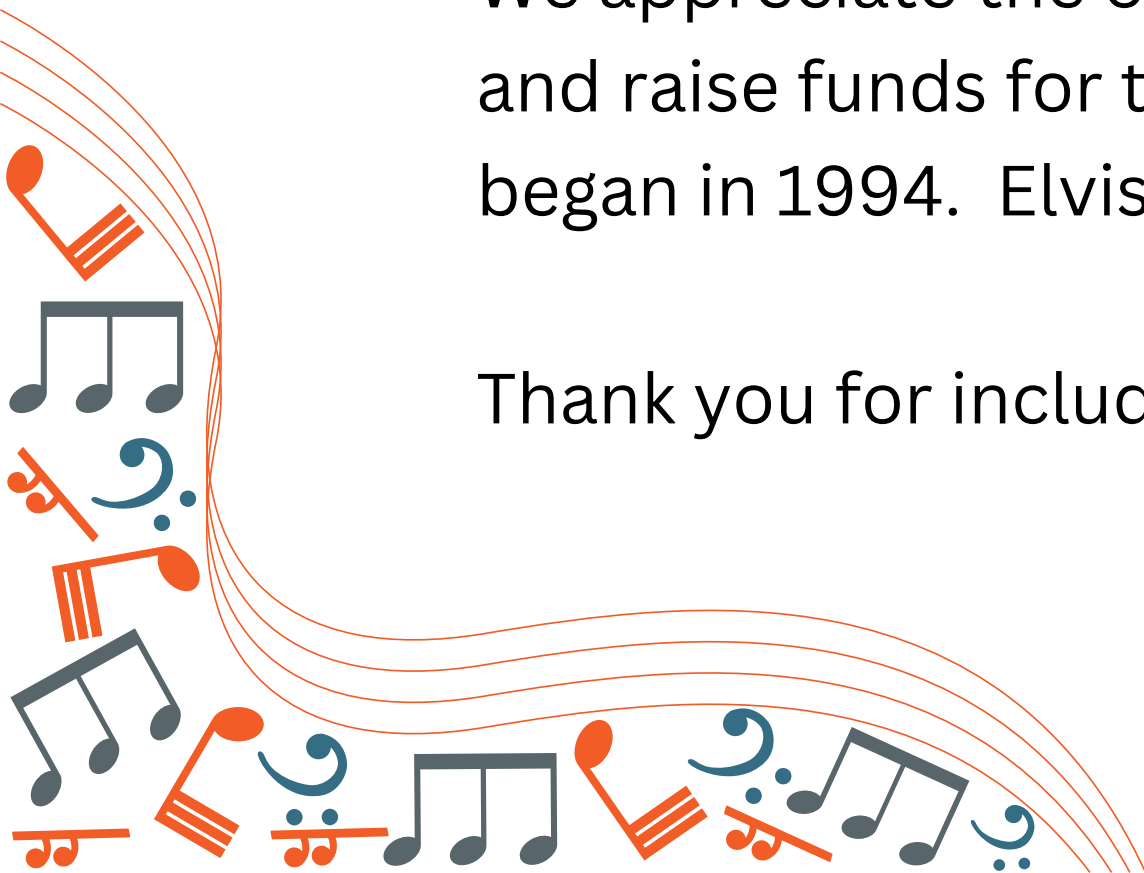


NIGHT OF 100 ELVISES

Carol Carroll and Craig Curley have created one interesting and fun event. This rousing tribute to The King is a music extravaganza that is a Baltimore tradition, held annually the first weekend in December. They recently held their 28th event!

We appreciate the opportunity to promote our mission and raise funds for the cause at this annual event that began in 1994. Elvis has NOT left the building.

Thank you for including us!



TIMELY ENCOURAGEMENT

At times, it was very challenging to keep the organization going. We were understaffed and underfunded. During these times, something always happened to remind me that I needed to stay the course and not give up. The most memorable was when I heard from a young woman in Mexico who had received a violin from Hungry for Music when she was living in an orphanage at the age of twelve.



She was now 21, attending college, and the only woman in a community mariachi band. This is what got me: she went back to the orphanage to teach violin. Of course, we sent violins to her students.

“Playing the violin is so special. It is the possibility of advancing in life when all else seemed difficult to me. I found a family in all those whose passion is music. I now have the possibility to give the opportunity to other small ones to learn as I did. To give a chance to those without opportunities. It is a way of life – a way to support my community and to be more alive.

I believe that even you do not know how much you have changed my life and other people’s lives – through your organization and your dedication to people you do not even know.” ~ Nora

OTHER TESTIMONIALS

"Since 2009, Hungry for Music has played a crucial role in bringing IMW's mission to fruition through annual instrument donations. As IMW has grown from serving six to 600 students annually, Hungry for Music has been there every step of the way, placing much-needed rock band instruments into IMW classrooms across the city and into the hands of our students."

We are deeply grateful for the dedication and generosity of Jeff Campbell and his team and literally could not do what we do without the instruments and equipment they provide."

Mike Simons

Intonation Music Workshop, Chicago

"Hungry for Music has been a lifesaver for Junior Appalachian Musicians, Inc. (JAM), since it incorporated in 2008 as a regional organization."

Hungry for Music has continued to support JAM with donations of guitars, banjos, and mandolins, and as a result, you can hear those instruments ring throughout Southern Virginia, Western North Carolina, Upstate South Carolina, and starting in Fall of 2014, East Tennessee. JAM, Inc., is proud to have Hungry for Music as a partner!"

Brett Morris Martin

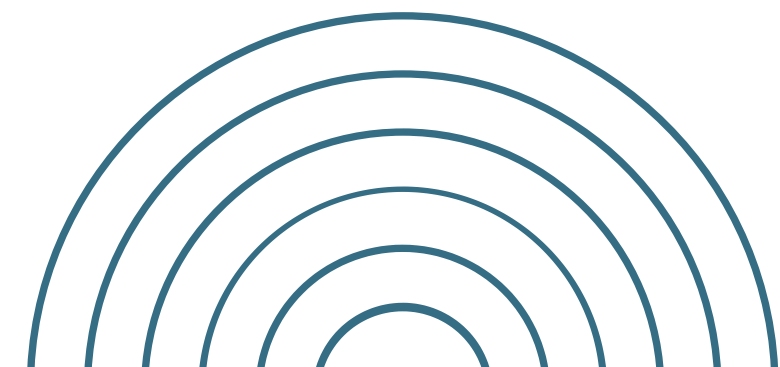
Junior Appalachian Musicians

BIG BERTHA - THE MAGIC MUSIC BUS

In 2016, a pro golfer, Ken Green, had an RV he was no longer using. I inquired about it, and he ended up generously donating it to Hungry for Music. It was creatively wrapped with our logo and music instrument images by graphic artist Keith Dana.

Big Bertha is a great way to promote Hungry for Music and plant musical seeds across the country. I drove Big Bertha to every continental state except North Dakota, picking up and delivering instruments and making music connections. Bertha has played a BIG role in Hungry for Music's growth.

She is still running and is looking forward to getting back on the road soon.



ROCK & ROLL HALL OF FAME

I met Craig Harris, Director of the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, when he was employed by the Baseball Hall of Fame. Hungry for Music presented a couple of benefit concerts with performers that had appeared on Diamond Cuts, including George Winston.

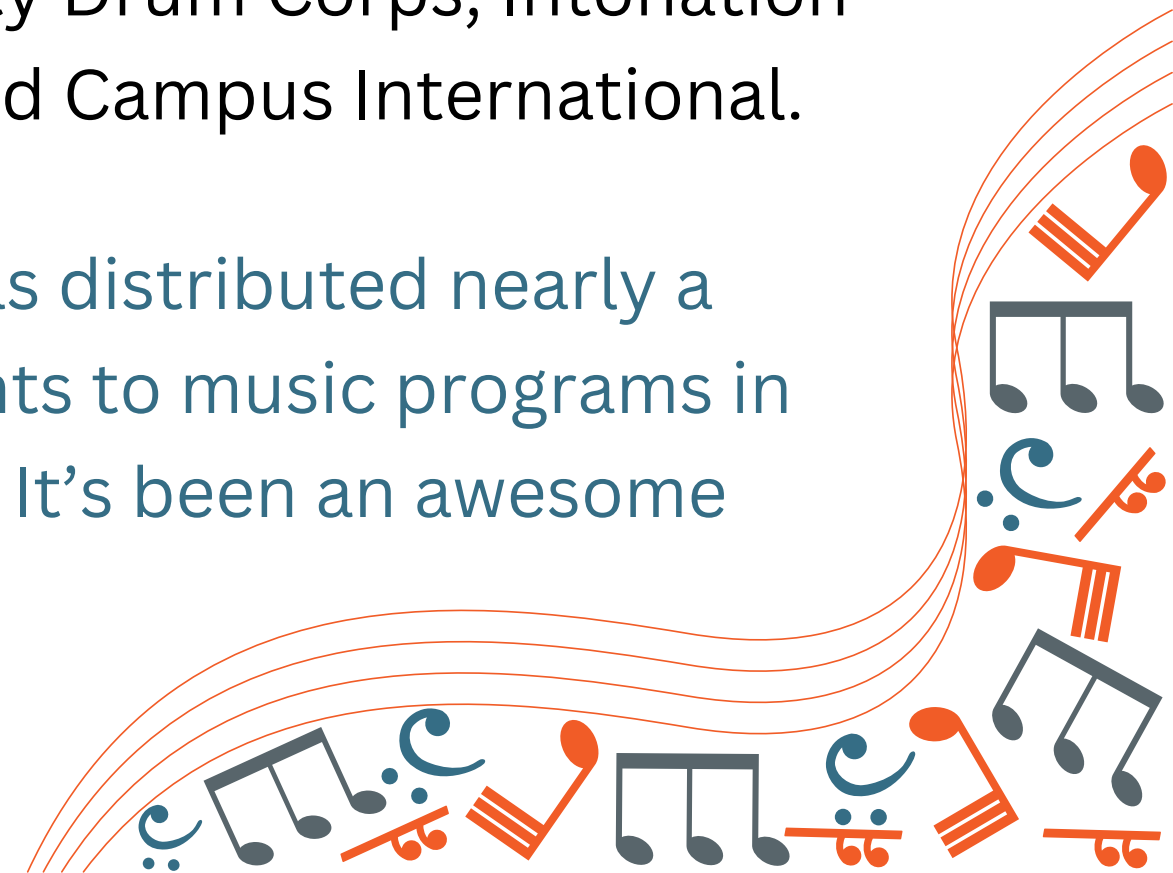
When Craig took the job at the Rock Hall, I reached out to see if he would be interested in showcasing some of the programs we support.

Starting in 2016, the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame has conducted annual week-long music instrument drives for Hungry for Music.



The Rock Hall has presented bands from the top music programs we support, including Rock to the Future, River City Drum Corps, Intonation Music Workshop, and Campus International.

Hungry for Music has distributed nearly a thousand instruments to music programs in the Cleveland area. It's been an awesome partnership!





TODD RUNDGREN'S SPIRIT OF HARMONY FOUNDATION

Todd's fans rock! We have received support from the Spirit of Harmony Foundation (SOHF) since 2017, when they supported us on our Magic Music Bus Tour. Rundgren's fans collected over 300 instruments to support us on that tour and more in separate instrument drives.

Most recently, SOHF included Hungry for Music in events related to Todd Rundgren receiving the key to the Village of Bearsville. We held a music instrument drive and collected over 100 instruments from the community and delivered instruments to programs in the Hudson Valley in his honor.



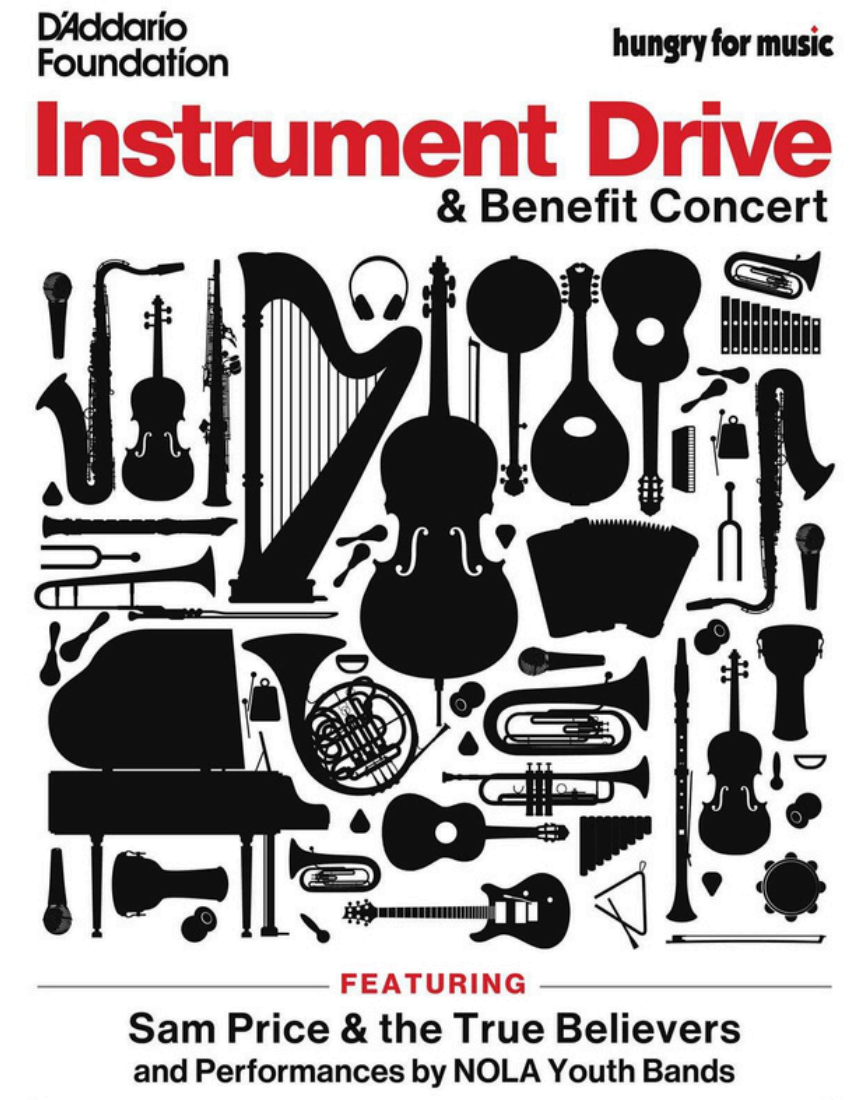
We are grateful to SOHF for their continued support of our mission.

D'ADDARIO FOUNDATION

The support we received from the D'Addario Foundation since 2017 has been incredible! I am so thankful for their support with every kind of strings and drumheads. Their contribution to our mission has been invaluable.

We have also partnered with D'Addario on several instrument drives in Los Angeles, Chicago, Pittsburgh, New Orleans, and New York that have been very successful. I believe if every corporation was as generous as D'Addario, it would be a much better world.

In 2024, Hungry for Music contributed several hundred violins to support the D'Addario Foundation's Immersive Music Challenge that will help school districts and charter systems throughout the country implement effective music-based mentoring programs.



We support other D'Addario-sponsored music programs with music instrument donations whenever we are on a distribution trip. It's a wonderful partnership.



FAMILY FOUNDATIONS

After scraping by for years with raffles, small benefits, merchandise sales, individual donations, auctions, etc., foundations began to notice our ever-growing outreach and started contacting us.

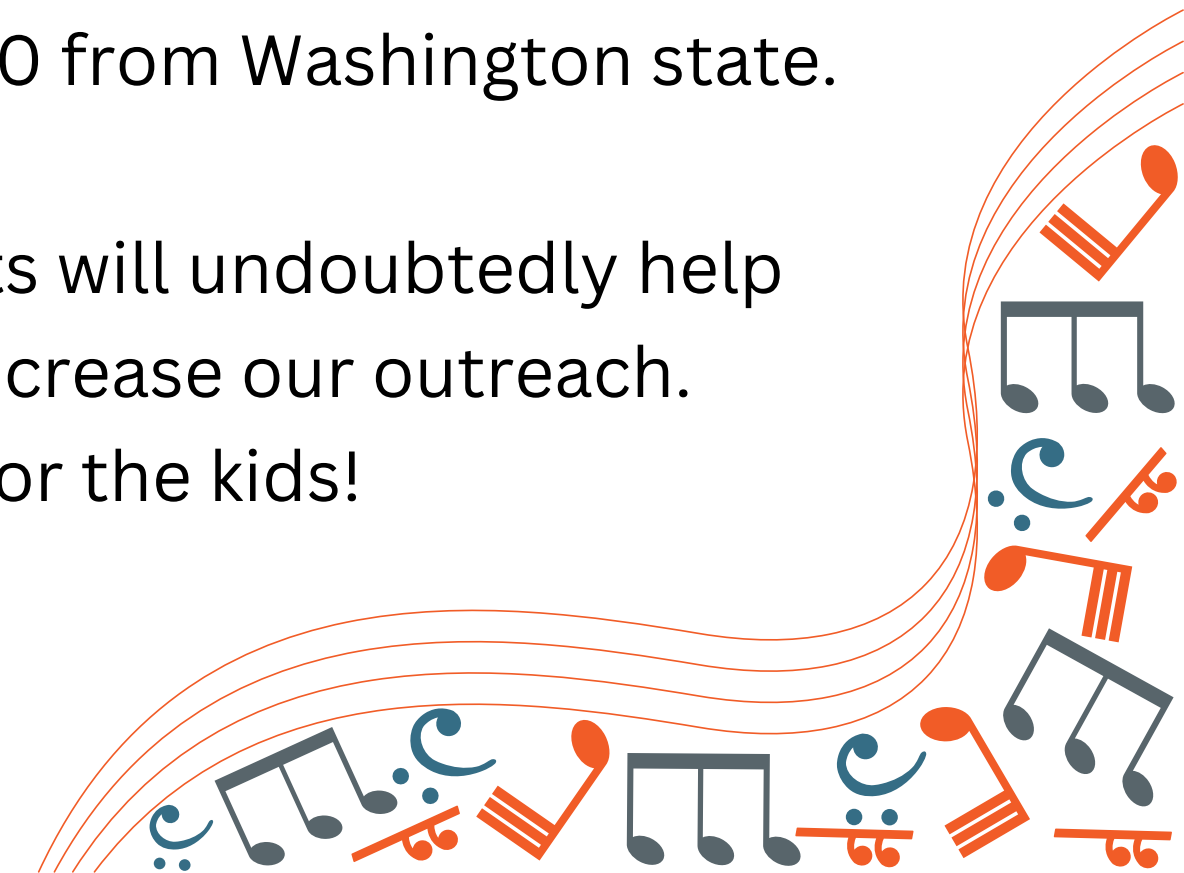
Peachtree House Foundation was one of the first to reach out to us. Their continued support since 2020 has allowed us to purchase a reliable van, hire more support staff, pay for more repairs, and purchase instruments.

The growth of Hungry for Music would not be possible without them.



In 2024, we received two large foundation grants, one being the largest that we have received in our history. The Ilsababy Foundation granted Hungry for Music \$40,000. We also received an anonymous donation of \$25,000 from Washington state.

These generous gifts will undoubtedly help Hungry for Music increase our outreach. More instruments for the kids!



AVETT BROTHERS **BENEFIT CONCERT**

I was grateful to the Avett Brothers and Cheerwine for including us in 2019's Legendary Giveback Benefit Concert in Salisbury, Maryland. They made Hungry for Music a benefactor and gave us the opportunity to spread the word about our mission.

It was a blast and a huge success because of a community of great folks at Cheerwine, the Avett Brothers, and their staff.



HARP STORY

In 2018, a Young Musicians Foundation teacher in Los Angeles requested a harp from me at a D'Addario Instrument Drive event at Ace Hotel. I asked her, "How much would a harp be?" She replied, "Eighteen." I thought she meant \$1,800 and told her we could help her if she would reach out to me in the fall.

When fall came around, we communicated, and I realized it was an \$18,000 harp she was requesting. I was confident that I could raise \$1,800, but not \$18,000! So, I sent a prayer into the universe and, miraculously, the next week a donor in Manhattan offered a \$20,000 Lyon & Healy harp!



It was one of those experiences that gave me faith in spirituality and the connection we all share. It also confirmed to me that I was doing exactly what I am supposed to be doing in this world and reminded me that if I don't ask, I am not going to receive. The miraculous story was included in the book, "88 More Ways Music Can Change Your Life."

DAVID BYRNE'S AMERICAN UTOPIA

In 2021, David Byrne and the cast and crew of the Broadway production “American Utopia” donated \$10,000 to Hungry for Music’s outreach in lieu of having a production party.

Three other charities also received the same gift. It was truly an honor to receive this gift from an artist I greatly admire and from a highly regarded Broadway production.



OTHER PROMOTIONAL EVENTS

Dave Grohl - Reverb Gives

We had received several grants in the past from Reverb, but being chosen to receive one related to their Dave Grohl promotion in 2018 was way cool.

Rocker Dave Grohl sold some gear and memorabilia and let Reverb Gives distribute it to musical charities they support.



The Hoot

The Hoot, an awesome little family festival at the Ashokan Center in the Hudson Valley, is held every Summer & Winter. The Ashokan Center inspires learning and building community through shared experiences in nature, history, music, and art.

Hungry for Music was one of the sponsors of this event from 2016 to 2022 and the Ashokan Center collected instruments for us.



RECYCLED INSTRUMENT ART

Some of the music instruments that Hungry for Music receives cannot be distributed because they are not worth repairing. For these instruments that have seen the last of their playing days, we find artists who make them into new creations. Hungry for Music has presented two Arts Shows in the past, one in New York at Opus 40's art gallery and one in DC at the Gibson VIP Showroom.

In 2020, I also commissioned artist Bud Wilkinson to create a music instrument tree at our distribution center. Bud has also taken over dozen guitars and made different creations, including a bench seat.



MONUMENTAL INSTRUMENT DONATIONS

Strad Rental Strings

In 2020, The Strad rental company in Redding, Connecticut, took the opportunity during the Covid pandemic to close their business.

Hungry for Music was the lucky recipient of over 1,300 stringed instruments. Within the first year, we had distributed over 900 of them in 30 states.



Bond Audio Ukeleles



Because of overstock, Bond Audio in Indiana had over 3,000 quality Marvel comic-themed ukeleles they wanted to move out of their warehouse. Suzanne D'Addario let us know about this opportunity and we told them we would take all they wanted to give.

We distributed every last one to programs all over the country. Over 1,000 ukes went to the American Federation of Teachers, who distributed in Florida, Chicago, Pittsburgh, and Cleveland.

DISTRIBUTION CENTER

After many years of searching for the right place and operating out of multiple storage units and smaller spaces, Hungry for Music finally found a space big enough to fit our needs.

In the heart of Virginia's beautiful Shenandoah Valley, Hungry for Music's Distribution Center is a dream come true, giving us a versatile space that can serve as a triage, storage, office, repair, and performance space.

We moved in May 2022, just in time for another massive instrument donation.



RAYBURN'S 5,000 INSTRUMENT DONATION

This was quite the job. In 2023, Hungry for Music was offered over 5,000 music instruments by another Connecticut-based music rental company that had closed its doors after over 50 years of serving the New England area.

The challenge was that we needed to clear their warehouse out within a month. With the help of Hungry for Music's multiple-hat wearing employee, Sam Tyler, and many earth angels who seemingly appeared out of nowhere, we were able to clear out the warehouse in nine days. The approximate conservative value of the donation was \$2.5 million.



Quite the boost to our inventory! The quality of the instruments was better than expected, with many needing little or no repair.



Thank you to Suzanne DAddario for helping to seal the deal.

DOUBLE MEDIA HIT: NPR & AARP MAGAZINE

Just prior to the Covid pandemic, Hungry for Music received some awesome coverage from National Public Radio (NPR) and AARP magazine.

NPR Morning Edition's Chad Campbell produced a story about Hungry for Music's outreach, featuring our partners, Junior Appalachian Musicians (JAM).

We have donated nearly 1,000 instruments (guitars, mandolins, banjos, fiddles, dulcimers, upright basses) to JAM since 2008, when they had one program in Southern Virginia. Now, they have 60 programs in five states.

In 2020, we also had a mention in the AARP magazine with Bruce Springsteen on the cover. Under a page with the headline, "A Place to Donate Your Stuff," Hungry for Music was listed under "Music Instruments."

That article resulted in dozens of boxes of instruments showing up weekly on our doorstep over the following months.

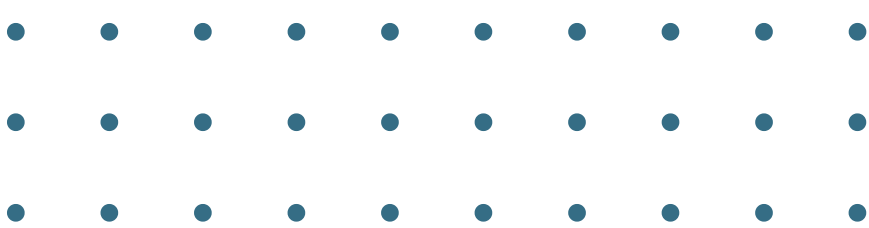
We still receive donations from donors who learned of Hungry for Music in AARP magazine.



MUSIC INSTRUMENT UPGRADE

Over the years, Hungry for Music’s inventory has increased to include more intermediate and professional model instruments. This has given us an opportunity to donate some of these instruments to young musicians pursuing a music education degree in college who lacked the funds to own a quality instrument.

“Music is very personal, after a stressful day at school I go home and play my Tuba. Everyone has their escape, mine is music. Hungry for Music gave me an amazing opportunity to pursue music education in college on an excellent instrument that I wouldn't have been able to afford otherwise. Thank you so much!” ~ Grant





SUPPORT STAFF

The last five years have been a whirlwind and we've experienced a significant increase in the volume of music instruments flowing in and out. It truly takes a team effort. Besides repair folks and volunteers, Hungry for Music's support staff keeps the beat going.

Cassie Clark began doing small tasks for us over four years ago and worked her way to becoming our Operations Manager, keeping up with the constant flow of instruments, vetting requests for instruments, and ensuring delivery. She has been an important part of our growth and we could not have managed it without her.

Dee Wright of Tangerine Web Works has been working with us for nearly 10 years. She designed and maintains the Hungry for Music website, produces the newsletter, and handles donation acknowledgments. We receive a lot of compliments on our website and are lucky to have her support.

Sam Tyler has been with us for over 15 years, performing many jobs, including designing Hungry for Music promotional materials, driving for instrument pickups and deliveries, and helping out at our distribution center. Sam's many roles are greatly appreciated.



hungry for music
ESTABLISHED 1994

THANK YOU!

We hope you enjoyed our
30-year retrospective.

If you have any questions,
please contact us:

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