



community musicworks

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**To: The RI Senate Committee on Housing and Municipal Government**  
**From: Sebastian Ruth, Founder & Artistic Director and Kelly Reed, Managing Director**  
**Re: Letter in support of Senate Bill No. 2073**  
**Date: March 5, 2026**

For the past 29 years, Community MusicWorks has served the City of Providence with a free, robust after-school Youth Music Program, through which over 150 students participate annually in instrument lessons, daily orchestra rehearsals, and community dinners that involve parents, families, and the wider community. In September 2024, CMW opened the Community MusicWorks Center, a purpose-built facility for music education and performance, which attracts audiences from around the region. By providing high-quality music education to students in Providence neighborhoods subject to historic disinvestment, CMW has changed young people's expectations for themselves and the community.

How does CMW serve the City of Providence? CMW has enrolled thousands of underserved youth from 7 historically disinvested zip codes of Providence in free programs and summer camps, filling a gap in music education offered by the Providence Public Schools. All CMW graduates complete high school, and over 95% enroll in colleges, and these students are leaders in their high schools. CMW offers students training in instrument repair and audio recording, and employs students and alumni as teachers and administrators. In addition, CMW offers high quality musical programs to our neighborhood and the city at large, emphasizing Providence as the Creative Capital.

Community MusicWorks respectfully requests that the committee consider CMW's many contributions to the City of Providence as an educational charitable organization when considering property and tangible tax exemptions.

Sincerely,

Sebastian Ruth  
Founder & Artistic Director

Kelly Reed  
Managing Director