



**BLUME  
HAITI**  
IMPACT  
REPORT  
2023

# Contents

- 1** FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND BOARD CHAIR
- 2** OUR ACTIVITIES
- 3** IMPACT BY NUMBERS
- 4** THE HAITIAN ORCHESTRA INSTITUTE
- 5** INSTRUMENT REPAIR PROGRAMS
- 6** SUMMER CAMPS
- 7** MUSIC SCHOOLS WE PROUDLY SUPPORT
- 8** STAFF MEMBERS & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
- 10** BOARD OF DIRECTORS
- 11** FINANCIALS
- 12** OUR PARTNERS AND SPONSORS

**“Building Leaders Using Music Education”**

*Cover: A young violinist in Grand Rivière du Nord. Back cover: A young guitarist at the CEMUCHCA Occide Jeanty Annex, Cap Haitian*

## From the Executive Director and Board Chair



**Janet Anthony,**  
Executive Director



**Ricardo Lesperance,**  
Board Chair

**A**s we reflect on the past year, we take immense pride in our team's accomplishments, made possible by the unwavering support of our donors. As of late 2023, Haiti's dilemma, particularly the control of gangs over 80% of Port-au-Prince, has cast a shadow over our partner programs. Nevertheless, in other regions where the daily rhythms of life are more predictable, and even in parts of Port-au-Prince, we have navigated these challenges, reinforcing our commitment to supporting music programs that keep young people safe and provide them with vital outlets for critical thinking, creativity, and independence. Music is the sunlight that breaks through the clouds of dysfunction and despair.

Despite the profound hardships suffered by our partner music schools, we are thrilled to share the successes brought about because of the support of our donors throughout the year. The following pages provide a detailed breakdown of the impact and achievements throughout Haiti that your invaluable donations have made possible.

BLUME Haiti has provided pedagogical and leadership development, extended supplemental salary support

to Haiti's best music teachers, offered instrument repair training, and supplied materials to repair technicians. We have also collaborated with **The Musicians of the Utah Symphony** to revive the **Haitian Orchestra Institute**, supported performances of works by Haitian composers, and facilitated Summer Music Camps around the country.

Continued partnerships with organizations such as **Luthiers Without Borders** (UK branch), **Music Fund** (Belgium), and the **Naperville (IL) Rotary Club**, among others, reflect our commitment to making a lasting difference in the lives of our beneficiaries. BLUME Haiti's highest rating on GuideStar stands as a testament to our dedication to transparency and accountability. We are committed to ensuring that your contributions have the maximum possible impact on positive, lasting change in Haiti.

As we navigate the challenges that lie ahead, we embark on this journey with unwavering hope and determination. We invite you to join us, lending your steadfast assistance, creative solutions, and collaborative spirit. Your continued support is crucial to ensuring our lasting impact throughout the country.

## Our Activities

“  
In a country where  
the state has  
resigned, BLUME  
has become a  
savior... truly,  
it is remarkable  
work that you do.”

–Program director

BLUME Haiti is widely recognized as the primary organization involved in developing, expanding, and strengthening the music education ecosystem throughout Haiti. Our targeted initiatives, outlined below, are strategically designed to improve the accessibility and caliber of music education, fostering a dynamic cultural landscape that ensures the sustainability of music schools for years to come.

**Professional Development.** We mentor young professionals and are developing a knowledgeable, networked, and caring professional workforce for the music education sector in Haiti through:

- Pedagogy workshops and seminars
- Instrument repair seminars
- Access to national and International experts
- Support of young composers
- Online resources

**Student Development.** We nurture music students and expand access to high quality, learner-centered educational opportunities in Haiti and abroad through:

- Tuition assistance
- Scholarship assistance for national and international programs
- National workshops and seminars
- Access to national and international experts

**Program Development.** We strengthen our partner programs and build their capacity, resources, and infrastructure through:

- Supplemental salary support
- Logistical support/grant programs for instruments, supplies, and music
- Direct in-kind donations
- Access to national and international experts

**Special Initiatives.** We inspire and produce national and local initiatives with with significant artistic, cultural, and educational impact including:

- The Haitian Orchestra Institute
- Instrument repair programs
- Summer camp support

**Health & Welfare Assistance.** We model and support a positive and healthy presence in the lives of all those whom our programs reach by:

- Distributing food and nutritional resources
- Promoting safe and sanitary living and learning environments
- Sharing best practices for youth development
- Developing a No Harassment/No Abuse Policy for partner programs
- Responding to basic health and security needs during emergencies

## Impact by Numbers\*

**5,000+**

students served each year

**10**

departments with BLUME Haiti partner music schools, providing nation-wide coverage

**169**

teachers who have received supplemental financial support

**60+**

partner music schools in the BLUME Haiti network

**500+**

instruments distributed to music programs across Haiti

**19**

summer music camps supported

\*since 2014

**39**

music schools that had students participate in summer music camps

**2,000**

students participated in summer camps

**120**

individuals trained in the basics of wind instrument repair

**66**

music programs participated in repair workshops

**550**

scholarships awarded

**26**

scholarship recipients who have started their own programs or are program directors





## The Haitian Orchestra Institute

**C**reated by BLUME Haiti in partnership with the Musicians of the Utah Symphony, the Haitian Orchestra Institute (HOI) is an extraordinary addition to the fabric of musical life in Haiti and brings together up to one hundred of Haiti's most accomplished, classically trained musicians for a week of intensive work with their mentors, musicians from the Utah Symphony. Because most of the participants also teach, the HOI has had an enormous impact on music education across the country.

It comes as a surprise to many that Haiti boasts a significant number of classically oriented musical activities. Despite the myriad challenges the country

faces, there are notable successes, particularly in the thriving realm of classical music education. This not only provides a unique perspective on Haiti's potential but also contributes to the country's standing both domestically and on the international stage.

There have been three iterations of the HOI since 2017, including a hugely successful week of concerts as part of *A Celebration of Haitian Arts and Culture: From Painting to Music* in 2023. In a country with few outlets for young people, music provides options and pathways to success. We are thrilled to join our colleagues from the Utah Symphony and in Haiti to bring and co-create this remarkable event!

In 2023 there were

**143**

auditions for the Haiti Orchestra Institute

**83**

were accepted, representing

**21**

music schools from

**6**

departments



**Sydney Guillaume** conducting the HOI Orchestra in the world premiere performance of his own composition, *Lavil Okap*, during the final concert of the *Celebration of Haitian Arts and Culture: From Painting to Music*, April 2023.

SPECIAL  
INITIATIVES

## Instrument Repair Programs

“  
Take away weapons  
and give young  
girls and boys  
instruments—in 5  
years it will be a  
different country!”

–Summer camp participant

One of the ways BLUME Haiti helps to create sustainability for music schools across Haiti is by providing instrument repair training so that these schools have someone available to work on their stock of instruments. The training program promotes self-sufficiency, optimizes resources, creates economic opportunities, develops valuable skills, enhances the quality of music education, and engages the community in a meaningful way.

In Haiti, music is not just a pastime but a lifeline, and the impact of the instrument repair training program goes far beyond technical skills. This initiative is not just about fixing broken instruments. It also helps to mend the very fabric of resilience and opportunity in a country that has faced great hardship. By restoring **hope** and preserving **culture**, the repair training program creates a brighter future through the **transformative power of music**. The program has proven to be vital for music schools across the country.

With support from Music Fund (Belgium), our Band Instrument Repair expert **Herold Jean Pierre** spent the fall of 2023 in France and Belgium studying advanced repair techniques. Thanks to assistance



**Tchoupy, a Master Luthier, repairing a donated instrument.**

from the Rotary Club of Naperville, he will continue to build on his previous repair workshops, reaching over 120 participants across Haiti.

**Grafiel Hylaris**, aka **Tchoupy**, is a Master Luthier, having been trained both by seminars supported by BLUME Haiti and given by the UK branch of Luthiers Without Borders, and through advanced training supported by the Music Fund (Belgium) in Cremona, the birthplace of the violin. Tchoupy has created departmental and national associations of Luthiers in Haiti and is an active teacher with a number of apprentices located throughout the country.



## Summer Camps

In 2023, BLUME Haiti supported **19** music camps and provided access for almost **2,000** youngsters to attend music camps across the country.

At a time when warring gangs have taken over much of the capital, when violence and mayhem are daily occurrences, music can be seen not only as an act of resistance, but also as an instrument of hope. In fact, during the ongoing turmoil and deteriorating situation in Port-au-Prince, music has emerged as a vital lifeline for individuals and communities, offering solace while encouraging fortitude in the face of

adversity. Indeed, music can be a powerful antidote to despair, helping people find strength and courage amidst chaos.

In times of darkness, music, culture, and the arts bring **light, unity**, and a sense of **hope** that helps revive the promise of a better future. Despite the challenging circumstances in Port-au-Prince, musicians there and throughout the country have shown remarkable resilience and continue to thrive. We are especially proud that we were able to support five programs in Port-au-Prince during the summer of 2023.

Through the use of music as a tool for social change, we are actively investing in the core of Haitian communities. Music camps play a pivotal role in creating a profound and enduring impact on the lives of children throughout the country. In these camps, children gain **self-confidence**, enhance their **focus** and **discipline**, and cultivate **critical thinking skills** that extend far beyond the world of music. Parents consistently highlight the protective role that music schools and summer music camps play in shielding their children from the dangers of gang violence, criminality, and prostitution. Music, in its simplicity, acts as a **unifying force**, breaking down barriers, fostering unity, transcending divides.

Two young girls at the beginning of their musical journey, at the Ambassador's Music Institute, Port-au-Prince.





## Music Schools We Proudly Support

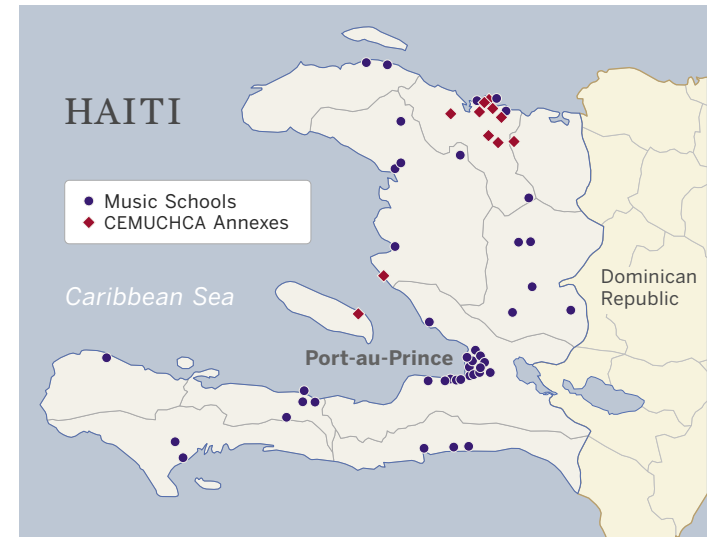
“  
This is a committed  
long-term program  
that spans all of  
Haiti and engages  
young Haitians  
through classical  
music.”

– a former Haitian government  
minister

There has been an explosion of music schools across Haiti, offering hope, opportunity and a path to positive change to a nation facing multiple challenges. These initiatives demonstrate the resilience and creativity of the Haitian people, highlight the transformative power of music in the most challenging of circumstances, and testify to the incredible capacity of the arts to enrich lives and serve as a beacon of inspiration and change in the face of adversity.

BLUME Haiti serves a diverse range of music schools across the nation. From newly established programs to the oldest music school in the country, the more than seven-decade-old **Holy Trinity Music School** in Port-au-Prince, we work with community-based music programs in both urban and rural areas, offering Haitian youth a healthy and safe alternative to the challenges of drugs, gangs, violence, and prostitution.

Our partner organizations share a common mission: to **foster positive social change through music education**. From teachers, administrators, and parents all over the country we hear variations on the theme that it is better to put a trumpet or a violin in the



hands of a child than a gun. Crucially, in Haiti music is one of the very few ways that people of vastly different social classes are able to meet on an equal footing. Through music, children can indeed reclaim their dignity.

The map above shows the extensive network of **60+** music schools that BLUME Haiti proudly supports. The schools serve over **5,000** students and teachers and have made a significant impact on their communities.

## Staff Members & Executive Director

**W**e are thrilled to announce that the BLUME Haiti board has approved the hiring of two more Haitian staff members for a total of four staff members serving music students, teachers, and programs throughout the country. Let's meet everyone!



**Lanaud Derazin, Program Manager**

An experienced music teacher and band director, Lanaud plays the baritone and first met BLUME Haiti board members at the Holy Trinity Music Camp in 2009. At that time, he was the director of programs for the Vocational Center for NonViolence, which was located very close to Haiti's most desperate slum, Cité Soleil, where Lanaud was born. In 2017 Lanaud started his own school in Cite Soleil: Mi Fa Sol Fanmi. Given our long association with Lanaud and our first-hand knowledge of his many skills, he was a natural to hire as our first Program Manager.

"Music is an integral part of my life. It has helped me economically and, even though I am old, it keeps me young," Lanaud says. "The work that BLUME Haiti does in the different departments of Haiti further strengthens the possibility of a better future."



**Herold Jean Pierre,**

*Band Instrument Repair Technician*

An experienced music teacher in his own right, with a lively interest in how things work, Herold was one of the first participants in seminars led by Luthiers Without Borders (UK branch) and supported by BLUME Haiti. He soon showed himself to be a fast, detail-oriented learner and very much a team player. When another of our partners, Music Fund (Belgium), organized seminars for band instrument repair in Cap Haitian, Herold impressed them with his work ethic and determination and they invited him for several months of band instrument repair training in France and Belgium. With these skills in hand, Herold began not only to repair instruments for our partner programs but also, most importantly, to teach others the skills needed to maintain the stock of instruments of music schools around the country. Over 120 students have participated in the first of three instrument repair modules Herold created and teaches across the country.

**Grafield Hylaris, aka Tchoupy,**

*Luthier, String Teacher, Composer, Conductor*

We first met Tchoupy in December of 2009 during a trip to Cap Haitian. He soon impressed us with

“  
**Music is a tool that  
 changes the ideas  
 of people and that  
 can connect people  
 across the world.”**

–Teacher, previous  
 BLUME Haiti scholarship  
 recipient



his eagerness to learn and his extraordinary capacity to fully absorb information. In the intervening years, Tchoupy has become Haiti’s best luthier, a master teacher, and a fine conductor and band leader. With his broad range of musical skills, he has truly become something of a Pied Piper for the entire northern part of Haiti. In 2010 Tchoupy took his first string instrument repair seminar with a team from Luthiers without Borders. Music Fund then collaborated with BLUME Haiti to send him to Cremona, the cradle of violin-making, for professional development. Since his return he has created a luthier association for all of Haiti and continues to pursue his dream to make a violin out of local woods.



**Jonel Etienne,**  
*Woodwind and Music Theory  
 Teacher, Conductor*

We have known Jonel since his first CEMUCHCA camp in 2015. As a student in Janet Anthony’s music theory class, he was always among the group that picked up the material the fastest. A fine flutist and oboist, Jonel has developed into a superb teacher and inspirational young leader. He is just one of the many

dedicated students who have participated in various seminars offered by BLUME Haiti and gone on to become excellent teachers themselves. These young professionals represent the future of music education throughout Haiti. Though primarily responsible for teaching in music schools in the greater South, Jonel is currently working on a comprehensive basic pedagogical curriculum that we hope will soon be implemented by music schools across the country.



**Janet Anthony,** *Executive Director*  
 Co-founder and Executive Director  
 of BLUME Haiti, cellist and long-  
 time music educator Janet Anthony  
 made her first visit to Haiti in 1996,  
 initially teaching at the Holy Trinity

Music School in Port-au-Prince. Since then, she has returned to Haiti almost every year to work closely with students, teachers, and administrators of music programs throughout the country. Having recently concluded a 34-year career at Lawrence University, during which she served for many years as chair of the String Department and held the prestigious George and Marjorie Olsen Chandler Professorship of Music, Janet is a skilled pedagogue who over many years has developed a profound understanding of the unique challenges faced by music educators across Haiti.

# Board of Directors

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Ricardo Lesperance,**  
*Chair of the Board*  
Chicago, IL

**Scott Harrison,**  
*Secretary and rising*  
*Board Chair*  
Cleveland, OH

**Phil Bravo,**  
*Treasurer*  
New York City, NY

**Lindsay Schwartz,**  
*Assistant Treasurer*  
 Fargo, ND

**Rachael Cohen,**  
*Vice Chair,*  
*Resource Development,*  
*Webmaster*  
Chicago, IL

**Jordan King,**  
*Vice Chair, Programming*  
Worthington, OH

**Jacques Anderson Bernier**  
Brooklyn, NY

**Melvin Butler**  
Miami, FL

**Jethro Celestin**  
New Orleans, LA

**Megan M. Early-Soppa**  
Greenville, SC

**Steven Huang**  
Sharon, CT

**Jonathan Perodin**  
Port-au-Prince, Haiti

**Oriel Romano**  
New Orleans, LA

**Marie-Claire Salomon**  
Port-au-Prince, Haiti

## ADVISORY COUNCIL

**Meret Bitticks**

**Sarah Davies Breen**

**David Einhorn**

**Keith Johnston**

**Rachel Pryzgoda**

**Titus Underwood**

**Lecolion Washington**

## HONORARY COUNCIL

**John Jost**

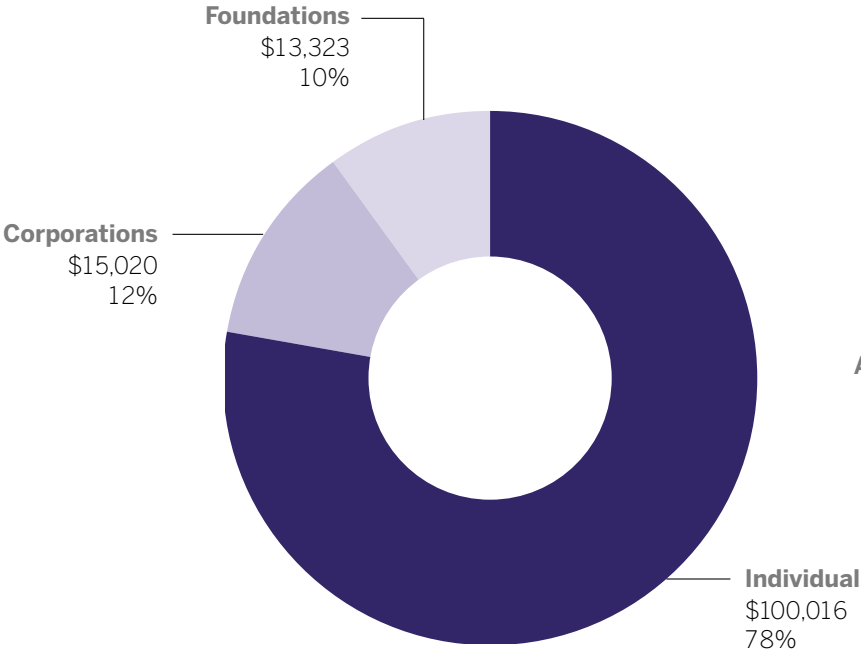
**Maryse Pénette-Kedar**

Three years into our new governance model, board chair **Ricardo Lesperance** will pass the baton of board leadership to fellow founding board member **Scott Harrison** while he takes over chairmanship of the Nominating and Governance Committee.

# Financials

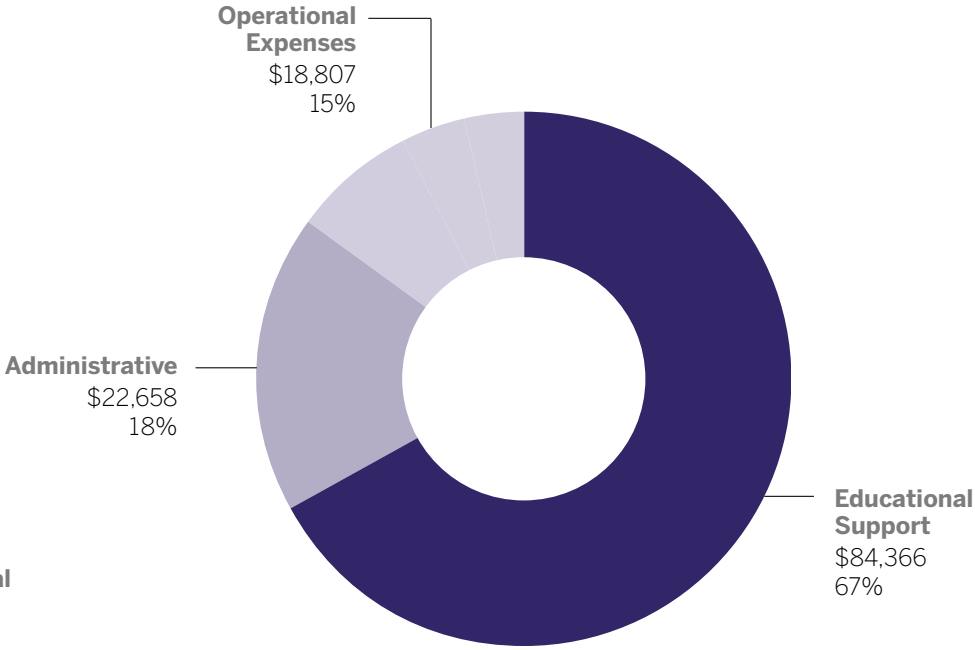
## 2022-23 INCOME

\$128,359



## 2022-23 EXPENSES

\$125,831



Note: \$93,817 (74%) of our expenses directly support activities in Haiti.

## Our Partners and Sponsors



...and many more!

# Donate

*We believe in the power of music to inspire, uplift, and transform communities.*

**Invest in Haitian musicians today!** Your support has been crucial to our efforts. BLUME Haiti's contributors help sustain a vibrant music education ecosystem that acts as a protective shield, a powerful antidote to despair, and a beacon of hope in the midst of extraordinary challenges across Haiti. [blumehaiti.org/donate](https://blumehaiti.org/donate)



**Amplify young voices across Haiti!** Become a champion for young musicians by joining our monthly donor program, the BLUME Haiti Music Makers. You will become part of a dedicated community passionate about making a lasting impact on the lives of young Haitian musicians. As a lifelong advocate for Haiti's musical future, you play a vital role in the unique blend of social, civic, economic, and musical collaboration that is the foundation of our work. By participating, you directly contribute to reaching over 5,000 students in programs that span the entire country. Join us today to create positive change through the power of music! [blumehaiti.org/become-a-music-maker](https://blumehaiti.org/become-a-music-maker)

**To donate via check:**

Make all checks payable to BLUME Haiti and mail to:  
ArtOps  
24901 Northwestern Highway, Suite 312  
Southfield, MI 48075

**Instrument and in-kind donations:** Do you have an instrument in playing condition, gently used sheet music, instrument repair materials, or any other items you are interested in donating? Contact us at: [info@blumehaiti.org](mailto:info@blumehaiti.org)




**BLUME Haiti**

24901 Northwestern  
Highway, Suite 312  
Southfield, MI 48075  
Phone: 1-920-809-8674  
[info@blumehaiti.org](mailto:info@blumehaiti.org)  
[blumehaiti.org](http://blumehaiti.org)

**Follow us on  
social media**

 [blumehaiti](https://www.facebook.com/blumehaiti)

 [@blumehaiti](https://www.instagram.com/blumehaiti)

 [blumehaiti](https://www.linkedin.com/company/blumehaiti)

