



Hearts

A SPECIAL NEEDS ORCHESTRA FOR SPECIAL PEOPLE

for Music

Transforming
Disabilities
into Abilities

(330) 298-5549 and (888) 687-4218

What is Hearts For Music?

Hearts For Music, Inc is a 501(c)(3) non-profit created to provide kids, teens and young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities find a safe, non-judgmental and friendly place to create music as a team or ensemble.

Our Special Needs Orchestra members manipulate and utilize a combination of keyboards, digital devices such as Ipads and acoustic instruments to perform wide range of songs ranging from well known classical symphonies to present day popular music.



Who can participate?

We welcome all individuals with developmental and/or intellectual disabilities such as Rett Syndrome, Down Syndrome or Autism to name a few populations. Children ages 8 and up and adults over 18 years of age are welcome to participate. All participants must undergo an interview and/or assessment by a HFM music therapist or similarly credentialed staff to ensure that our program is a good fit for them and that we are able to accommodate individual needs and/or disabilities. Please note in particular that while we strive to do our very best to accommodate all with special needs, individuals who exhibit aggressive and/or unpredictable behavioral patterns that can be considered harmful to those nearby may be turned away to ensure the safety of all in the group. To ensure a high quality of training and experience for each and everyone of our orchestra members, participation for 2018 is currently limited to 12 individuals per group.

Umm....won't they sound off-key?

In the beginning, probably and often! But the goal of Hearts For Music isn't to train future Mozarts or Beethovens, or to make our beloved orchestra sound as clean and pretty as say the Cleveland Symphony. Our primary mission the elevation of self-esteem and confidence of all who enter our program, as well as to provide them a sanctuary where they can pursue their dreams of performing on stage a reality. Music is the common language regardless of disabilities. At Hearts For Music, there are no failures, just lessons learnt. As with many things in life, it will take time, love, encouragement and patience. This is a journey, not a race. And we never give up trying. Ever.

Where are rehearsals held and when do they start?

We currently have two rehearsal locations within Northeast Ohio: One in Mantua (Portage County) and another in Brecksville (Cuyahoga County). Each rehearsal session for each group of orchestra members is approximately 1 ½ hrs – 2 hours in length. Our program officially kicks off in January 2018. Please do check back with us for the exact date(s) and time(s).

Are there any fees?

As a non-profit, we rely heavily on the generosity of our community to donate funds as much as possible. But donations unfortunately only go so far, and it can be challenging generating enough income to keep up with organizational expenses such as instrument maintenance. To help keep our orchestra and the whole program alive and kicking, HFM participation for 2018 has a fee of \$25.00 per participant per session. We **never** want any child or teen to be denied participation in our program simply because of financial hardship. To that end, we can and will assist needy families in exploring a variety of funding avenues.

I don't have a child with special needs but I would love to help. How can I do so?

Absolutely you can help! Donors and volunteers are at the heart (pardon the pun!) of Hearts For Music. Please consider donating to our orchestra at www.heartsformusic.org or contacting us about becoming a volunteer. Volunteers do not necessarily need formal music training, just a love for music and a sincere desire to see each child succeed. We are also always looking for people with creative ideas and unique skills to help make things better for our orchestra and our organization. Even simply spreading the word about Hearts For Music on social media such as Facebook is a BIG help!

Where can I get further information about this awesome one-of-a-kind program?

Our local Ohio phone number is (330) 298-5549 and our toll-free number is: (888) MUSIC18 or (888) 687-4218. Our website is www.heartsformusic.org. We would love to hear from you!