

Get Involved

MUSIC TEACHERS

We are looking for volunteers to help teach guitar and piano. This is an excellent way to share the joy of music, and spend time with some endearing young people. No teaching experience necessary – just enough knowledge of guitar or piano to teach beginners. Ability to speak Spanish or Mandarin is a plus, but not necessary. Mainly, we are looking for people with a warm character and interest in getting to know some amazing youths.

Teachers work with individual students or small groups of two to four. We currently teach on Tuesday evenings from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm, but times and days are flexible depending on teacher schedules. If transportation is a barrier, you could join our carpool from Berkeley.

We are also looking for volunteers throughout the Bay Area who would be interested in teaching individual lessons to youths who are placed with relatives or in foster homes in the area.

The Music Sanctuary Project provides guitar and piano lessons to youths detained by Homeland Security.

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During the first year of lessons, The Music Sanctuary Project provided a total of 490 music lessons to 55 kids.

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The students of The Music Sanctuary Project are exceptionally courageous youths at a pivotal moment in their lives.



Contact Us

Music Sanctuary Project
c/o Guitars Not Guns
4 Avis Court
Orinda, CA 94563
info@musicsanctuaryproject.org

Brochure courtesy of
The Elfenworks Foundation
Help one, help many, start a ripple...
elfenworks.org/ripple

THE Music Sanctuary Project

MusicSanctuaryProject.org



**A PROJECT OF
GUITARS NOT GUNS**



ABOUT THE Music Sanctuary Project

The Music Sanctuary Project (MSP) provides guitar and piano lessons to youths detained by Homeland Security and housed at a detention facility near Walnut Creek, California.

THE YOUTHS

The students of MSP are exceptionally courageous youths at a pivotal moment in their lives. They are all teenagers who came to this country unaccompanied by their parents. Many of them are fleeing violence and abuse in their home countries or are victims of elaborate human trafficking schemes. Most were taken into custody by U.S. Homeland Security at the border or airport and sent to detention centers around the country. They sometimes wait at the facility for more than a year while they go through removal proceedings or apply for asylum.

THE MUSIC PROGRAM

MSP volunteers provide weekly music lessons in Chinese, Spanish, and English. During its first year of lessons MSP provided a total of 490 music lessons to 55 youths from China, India, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Honduras, and Ecuador. MSP was established in August, 2006, when a 17-year-old at the Walnut Creek detention facility told his lawyer that he had always wanted to learn guitar. He was grieving the recent suicide of his mother, and feared deportation to Central America where he had fled his father's severe physical and emotional abuse, pressure of gang involvement, and extreme poverty. Realizing that learning to play guitar could mean a great deal for this youth, volunteers from Legal Services for Children raised funds and recruited music teachers to start a music program. In January, 2007, MSP became a program of Guitars Not Guns (www.guitarsnotguns.org), a national non-profit organization that provides guitars and lessons to foster children, youth at risk, and other deserving children.

When possible, MSP gives free instruments to the youths who leave the facility to live with relatives or in foster homes in the San Francisco Bay Area. MSP also helps to link these young people to individuals in the community who can give them free individual music lessons.

Make a Donation

Donations of money and musical instruments are tax-deductible. MSP is a program of Guitars Not Guns, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Please send donations to the address below; make checks payable to "Guitars Not Guns" and write "Music Sanctuary Project" in the check memo. If you would like to donate an instrument and need us to pick it up from you, please email Janelle Orsi at info@musicsanctuaryproject.org.

NEEDS

- » Guitars (we accept all types of guitars, but especially 3/4-sized guitars, such as Baby Taylors)
- » Electric keyboards
- » Related equipment such as guitar tuners, music stands, guitar and keyboard cases, guitar strings, picks, and straps.
- » Money: donated funds help us purchase instruments and teaching materials, and plan special musical events for the youth.

