THE POWER OF SONG
Understanding the Life-changing Impact of Music Education

KEY BENEFITS OF MUSIC EDUCATION
Access to high-quality music education can transform a child’s health, cognitive development, and support system.

MUSIC IS A WORKOUT FOR YOUR BRAIN
“Musical activity involves nearly every region of the brain that we know about, and nearly every neural subsystem.”
- Daniel Levitin, This Is Your Brain on Music

MUSIC IMPROVES PHYSICAL WELL BEING
“People coping with Parkinson’s can learn to walk more easily when rhythms assist their gait... Less anaesthetic is required when music is played to spinal surgery patients... Premature babies gain weight quicker when they can hear music.”
- Zoe Cormier, The Power of Music for Health

MUSIC BUILDS STRONG, SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITIES
“Music enhances the education of our children by broadening the depth with which they think and feel. If we are to hope for a society of culturally literate people, music must be a vital part of our children’s education.”
- Yo-Yo Ma

TACKLING EDUCATIONAL INEQUALITY
While the benefits of music have been widely studied, in many communities music education is luxury few can afford.

3.8 million K-12 students in the United States don’t have access to music education
42% of Chicago elementary schools lack full funding for arts and music teachers
$3,000 average cost of weekly piano lessons for one child

MERIT MEANS MUSIC FOR ALL
Merit School of Music makes Chicago’s best music education accessible to the city’s driven student musicians, regardless of economic circumstance.

153 Chicagoland zip codes are represented in our student body
70% of Merit students receive financial aid for lessons and instrument rentals
$0 the cost of attending Merit’s prestigious Alice S. Pfaelzer Conservatory

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