

Seattle Historical *Arts* for Kids

historicalarts.org

Statement on musician fees

We are often asked if we can donate the services of our professional musicians and/or our youth performers to other not-for-profit events, such as fundraisers. Thank you for your interest! Live music makes a wonderful addition to any social gathering, and we're delighted that you're drawn to what we do.

Operating within the nonprofit model ourselves, we understand the desire to accomplish a lot with minimal funds. No matter who absorbs the costs, though, music is expensive. Like other highly-skilled professionals, musicians spend enormous amounts of time and money acquiring the craft, purchasing and maintaining the tools, pursuing professional development, preparing new material, and keeping business practices up to date. Even outings by young students require coaching and coordination by adults in order to be constructive for the kids and successful for the audience. Free performances are a costlier donation than we are usually in a position to give.

Our mission at Seattle Historical Arts for Kids is to involve young people in the beautiful, inspiring world of historical performance. If that world is to continue to exist for them in the future, local artists need to be able to thrive in the field. As SHAK has found its own feet, we've made a commitment to offer a professional fee to the guest musicians who play for our own events—even our fundraisers. If we didn't, we'd be working directly against our own mission.

Does the long-term survival of the performing arts align with your mission too? We encourage other organizations to join us. Let's strengthen our community's musical resources, together!