

Kennesha Michelle



**IMPACT
REPORT
KENYA 2018**

IMPACT SNAPSHOT

150+

Students

Experience music instruction

20+

Students

Prepared and Participated competition in the National Kenya Music Festival

3

Months

Supporting educators, students, and children onsite in Kenya's rural countryside.

- Lived nearly 3 months on-site in Juja Farm, Kenya
- More than 150 students experienced to music instruction out of 245 students enrolled at Happy Life Christian School (from Pre-K through Grade 7)
- Approximately 20 students prepared for the Kenya National Music Festival
- Some students participated across multiple competition categories
- Preparation took place over 6–8 weeks, with overlapping group training
- Each category required about 3 weeks of focused preparation

FESTIVAL OUTCOMES

- **Piano:** 5th and 6th place (out of 72 participants)
- **Recorder Ensemble:** 4th place (out of 12 groups)
- **Indian Cultural Dance:** 4th place (out of 24 groups)
- **Clarinet:** 11th place (80%, out of 18 participants)
- **Saxophone:** 11th place (80%, out of 18 participants)
- Plus additional participation in solo cultural dance performances

Beyond the Festival...

- Developed a choir with approximately 50 children was formed.
- First-time full choir performance on 29 July 2018.
- Featured on 2 national television stations broadcast in the nation
- In 2019, a returning student placed 1st as a solo performer in the Indian Cultural Dance category at the National Kenya Music Festival

MISSION 2018

I traveled to Kenya in 2018 with a clear assignment to serve through music. Before I arrived on June 17, 2018, I did not fully know what would come from it. I came to Kenya with what I had and used it to support and introduce music wherever it was needed.



Though the mission was not clearly defined at first, what unfolded over the course of several weeks while being there revealed more than I expected. When I arrived, I was notified that the children were registered for the 92nd Annual National Kenya Music Festival and they would be their first time participating. I came prepared to teach music, but I did not know that my timing would align with preparing students for the festival.



This report reflects what took place during that time in Kenya, and the impact made in their community. This is not a final picture, but that shows what can happen when students are given the space and support to learn something new.



**“Expect great things from God,
attempt great things for God.”**

– William Carey

Over the course of nearly three months in Kenya, more than 150 students at Happy Life Christian School were engaged in supplemental music instruction. At the time, the school had approximately 245 students enrolled through Class 7, with approximately 20 students preparing for competition at the national festival in the areas of piano, recorder ensemble, cultural dance, clarinet, and saxophone.

Each category required about roughly three weeks of preparation, which took place over the course of a six to eight week period, with different groups beginning at different times with overlap as the work continued.



NATIONAL KENYA MUSIC FESTIVAL

The National Kenya Music Festival provides a national platform for students to develop and present their talents in music, dance, and spoken performance. It creates opportunities for students to be mentored, grow in their abilities, and be seen beyond their local environment. The festival also supports the preservation and appreciation of Kenya's diverse cultures that contributes to the national identity with broader recognition. At the national level, first place winners in each category are invited to perform at Presidential State House before the dignitaries at the end of the two-week event. From there, selected groups advance to represent at the East Africa Drama, Music, and Dance Festival held in Uganda.

STUDENT PARTICIPATION & RESULTS

Students were placed within full national categories alongside participants from across the country. The following is a list of the results in more detail:

- Two piano students competed in category of 72 participants and placed 5th and 6th, with scores of 84% and 83%.
- A recorder ensemble group of 8 students competed among 12 groups and placed 4th with a score of 82%.
- The Indian Cultural Dance group of 15 students competed among 24 groups and placed 4th with a score of 86%. Compared to other groups, the highest score being 90%.
- 4 additional students participated as solo performer entrants in Indian Cultural Dance. There were at least 10 participants, but placement scores for these performances were not recorded.
- 1 clarinet student and 1 saxophone student competed within the woodwind category of 18 participants and placed 11th, each receiving a score of 80%.



MUSIC PREPARATION & COMPOSITION



While preparing for the festival, part of my work included composing and arranging music for the students to perform. Music needed for instruction and competition was not readily available. Printed scores of Kenyan songs are limited, which meant that students did not always have access to the proper score.

To work through this, I used a notation software called Noteflight to create written music for students to use as they practiced. I even had to transpose music to include recorder different voicing so they would be competition-ready.

The 3 pieces developed during this time were:

- *“Mungu Wangu Atakupigania”* for saxophone
- *“When the Saints Go Marching In”* arranged for clarinet
- A Kikuyu Medley combining *“Ngai Wakwa”* and *“Ngoro Yakwa”* for recorder ensemble

As the students worked through the music, they listened closely and repeated sections until they became more familiar with both the structure and the sound. This became part of how they prepared, not only learning how to play, but also learning how to play in sync and with the music.

LEARNING IN THE CLASSROOM



While preparation for the festival was taking place, music instruction continued across multiple grade levels. Students in Pre-K and Kindergarten were introduced to music through songs and repetition. Students in Class 4 through Class 7 received more structured teaching across several weeks. While, students in Class 1 and Class 2 were given foundational exposure to rhythm and note identification where time allowed.

Instruction focused on rhythm, timing, note recognition, and vocal development. In situations where instruments were not available, teaching was adapted so that students could still understand the foundations of music through voice and movement.

“If God’s love is for anybody anywhere, it’s for everybody everywhere”

– Edward Lawlor



SINGING AS A CHOIR

Alongside classroom instruction and festival preparation, something else began to take shape.

A choir was formed.

By the end of July, after being in Kenya for nearly six weeks, there was a strong desire to have the children sing together as a choir before those selected for the National Music Festival traveled for competition within me. Approximately 50 children from the children’s home participated in learning how to sing as a group.



One of the songs introduced to the children that they learned was “I Believe” by Jonathan Nelson. After the July 29th performance, it was shared with me that this was their first time singing as a full choir. At that point, it became clear that the children were hungry from more.

VISIBILITY

After returning from the National Kenya Music Festival, the competition students were featured on Kameme TV and KTN News.

Kameme TV is a widely viewed Kenyan television station broadcasting in the Kikuyu language, and KTN News is a national 24-hour news channel in Kenya. This coverage brought national recognition to the students and the work they had been part of. The Kameme TV segment aired, lasting more than 10 minutes on national television and featuring the entire performances from the festival participants. While the exact basis for this coverage is not confirmed, I believe this initiative reflected the level at which the students were participating during that time.



“Train up a child in the way he should go, even when he is old, he will not depart from it.”

– Proverbs 22:6

BUILDING A LEGACY

As the creative arts work developed, steps were taken to ensure that what began during this time would not remain limited to a single visit. This included developing a music curriculum and instrumentation plan that introduced foundational concepts and support student development.

The work did not end with the 2018 festival. It only began. A returning student who performed with the Indian Cultural Dance group, placed 1st as a solo performer the following year (2019). I was blessed to hear of this news as it reflected the continued growth and how students can continue to improve and develop when they are given the opportunity.



6th October 2025

To,

Whom It May Concern

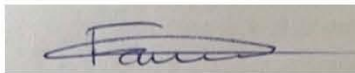
Recommendation for Kennesha Michelle

Happy Life was founded in 2002 to rescue and care for abandoned babies in Kenya, Happy Life Children's Home (HLCH) opened its doors in February 2002. The Home has since expanded to become the first pillar of the Happy Life Mission, Kenya whose vision is: 'To bring hope and transformation through a three-fold ministry that includes a Home and a Hope for adoption for abandoned children in Kenya; Quality Christian Education/Trade and Quality Health Care.

Kennesha Michelle has been instrumental in the growth of Happy Life Mission, especially in the education pillar. In 2018, Kennesha came to visit us for three months. She taught children music, especially vocals, and collaborated closely with the music teachers while she was here. She also taught the children an Indian dance, which they performed at the national competition that year. Over the years, her lessons have made learning to play the keyboard enjoyable for our children. She also contributed to the development of the school's first music curriculum and, thanks to her hard work which enabled our school to advance to the National Music Festivals in Kenya.

We at Happy Life Mission are grateful for your visit and commitment to service, which had a tremendous effect on our mission, the children, and our staff, who felt loved and thoroughly enjoyed learning from you. We always endeavor to collaborate with kindhearted people like you and groups to support our ongoing efforts to give hope and transformation to the less fortunate and vulnerable children. As a result, we are thrilled about your visit and our future collaboration.

Yours Sincerely,



Faith Ndungu

Director, HLM Kenya.



HAPPY LIFE CHILDREN'S HOME

"Hope For Abandoned Babies"

P.O Box 63660-00619
Nairobi, Kenya

Tel: 0714 593926

E-Mail: happylifech2002@gmail.com

www.happylifechildrenshome.com

Blogspot: www.happylifekenya.blogspot.com

H.L.C.H

Located along Lumumba Drive Behind TRM, Roysambu

4th October, 2025

To

Whom It May Concern.

RECOMMEDATION FOR KENNESHA MICHELLE

It is my honor to recommend Kennesha Michelle for her amazing 3 months dedication at Happy Life Children's Home and Happy Life Christian School. Kennesha visited us in the year 2018 for a period of 3 months where she fully dedicated her time to service. While she was with us, she worked closely with the music teachers and taught children music, particularly vocals. Additionally, she trained an Indian dance, which the children performed at the national level that year. Our children have enjoyed learning to play the keyboard over the years thanks to her instructions.

She also helped develop the first music curriculum in school and, through her dedication, helped our school compete all the way to Kenya's National Music Festivals. Apart from the training, Kennesha spent her time interacting with the children, leaving them with a lasting memory. We recommend her amazing work at Happy Life, and we look forward to having her back at the Happy Life Mission.

Yours Sincerely,

Joseph Ng'ang'a

Administrator, HLCH Juja Farm.

H.L.C.H

Sheltering the abandoned

Since 2002

Children are a gift from the Lord, the fruit of the womb His reward. Psalms 127:3



ABOUT KENNESHA

Kennesha is an educator, musician, and missionary whose work is centered on strengthening music education within schools and communities. Her work has taken her into partnership with schools, orphanages, and ministries, where she supports the development of music instruction in ways that can continue over time. This includes working directly with students, supporting teachers, and helping shape how music is taught within existing structures.

Through this work, she has seen the challenges that affect music education in Kenya, including limited resources, reduced instructional time, and a shortage of trained music educators. In many cases, music is taught in a way that remains theoretical, without consistent opportunities for students to engage with it in practice. Her approach is to work within what is available, helping schools make use of the resources they already have while building toward something more consistent.

She also brings experience from her background in technology, holding a Bachelor Degree of Science in Computer Information Technology from Norfolk State University. Whether through music, education, or technology, Kennesha approaches each opportunity by responding to what is needed and working with what is available.

Her work continues as she returns to Kenya to build on what has already begun.

LOOKING AHEAD & SUPPORTING THE CAUSE

**“Love is the root of missions;
sacrifice is the fruit of missions”**

– Roderick Davis

What began in 2018 is not a finished work. As I prepare to return to Kenya, the focus is to continue building on the work that has already been established.

When you give toward this mission, you make it possible for me to reach more children and students. The fruit of the work is the lasting impression and impact on the lives of these children. I believe some will become musicians, while others will carry their new skills into their chosen life path. But through it all, God will be glorified. Your support, whether one-time or ongoing, makes all the difference. Together, we can help others grow and experience the life-changing love of our Messiah.



You will find several ways to contribute to and support this mission.



Non-Tax Deductible

CashApp: [\\$KenneshaW](#)
Paypal: paypal.me/KenneshaMichelle
Website: www.kenneshamichelle.com/missiontokenya/mission-2026

Tax Deductible

Website: www.meigiving.org/donate/KW4286

This is a direct link to make a tax-deductible donation through Mission Enablers International (MEI). Donors can create an online account to manage or review giving by creating a login for all USA giving types.

Cash or Check AND Bill-Pay donations

If you want to mail a donation by writing a check or sending a Bill-Pay through your bank, please make the check payable to **Mission Enablers International or MEI** and send it to:

MEI
P.O. Box 2127
Bentonville, AR 72712

International Donation options are also available for Canada, German, and the United Kingdom. **ALL DONATIONS SHOULD BE CLEARLY MARKED WITH ACCOUNT NUMBER (Designation Code): KW4286 if you are using MEI.** Please make sure to use this number when donating and my name, Kennesha Walker, in the reference fields. All personal correspondence should be sent via email to letsconnect@kenneshamichelle.com, as I will not receive it if sent through MEI. Donations can be recurring or one-time. All donors will receive a tax receipt at the end of the year from MEI.



Donors are strongly encouraged to seek guidance from a qualified financial or tax advisor prior to giving. Please note that legal, financial, or tax advice regarding donations cannot be provided.

Kennesha *Michelle*

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