

# OFFICIAL REPORTS



## Musicians Foundation: Offering Support to Professional Musicians and Their Families for More than 100 Years

by Jay Blumenthal, AFM International Secretary-Treasurer

Founded in 1914, Musicians Foundation is an independent nonprofit organization dedicated to providing financial assistance to musicians and their families in times of need, crisis, or transition. Now, I hope I've gotten your attention because this is an organization that has been dedicated to supporting professional musicians for more than a century.

Musicians Foundation was incorporated by the New York Musicians Club The Bohemians. Members and supporters over the last century have included many distinguished artists and philanthropists such as Pablo Casals, Jascha Heifetz, Elkan Naumburg, Sergei Rachmaninoff, Arthur Rubinstein, Gustav Schirmer, Charles Steinway, Isaac Stern, and Arturo Toscanini. Legacy gifts have been an important resource of funds for Musicians Foundation aid grants.

### Who Is Eligible?

In order to be considered for an aid grant from Musicians Foundation, a candidate must have worked as a professional musician for at least five years and paid their taxes in the United States. Applicants must submit tax statements demonstrating that their principal income is derived from work as a musician. A screening committee reviews all grantees to confirm the validity of each individual application, including review by a physician in cases of medical need, as well as evaluation by a licensed social worker.

### How Does It Work?

That said, for those who meet the requirements, Musicians Foundation has provided support nationwide to thousands of musicians across all genres. It offers the assistance necessary for them to weather financial difficulties and personal setbacks with dignity and security. Funds raised through concerts, events, annual dinners, and bequests, as well as generous individual donations, have enabled Musicians Foundation to spend a century giving back to the people who make the music, reflecting

on its "shared source of joy, inspiration and incomparable, irreplaceable artistry."

Support includes one-time assistance for periods of acute need (medical crisis, crime victimization, etc.), as well as ongoing help for long-term costs, including nursing home and hospice care. Funding is given in the form of

direct payment to vendors, such as medical practices, housing rental authorities, and insurance companies.

### How to Donate/Apply

Visit [www.musiciansfoundation.org](http://www.musiciansfoundation.org) to learn more about Musicians Foundation and read

its latest news and true stories of support. There you can apply for support or, better yet, make a donation.

If you have any questions about the application or the application process, call or email Musicians Foundation at (212) 239-9137 or [applications@musiciansfoundation.org](mailto:applications@musiciansfoundation.org).



**HISTORY**—Musicians Foundation was founded in 1914 to help professional musicians and their families in times of need, crisis, and transition. Since its inception, the foundation has granted life-changing financial assistance to thousands of qualified musicians. Numerous artists, including Pablo Casals, Yo-Yo Ma of Local 802 (New York City), and Isaac Stern; songwriters Robert Lopez and Kristen Anderson-Lopez have been involved with Musicians Foundation during the last century. More information here: <http://www.musiciansfoundation.org/who-we-are/founding-history/>.

**BASIC OPERATIONS**—Musicians Foundation assists musicians and their families by granting financial aid that covers bills and essential expenses during difficult times. Following an accessible, fully online application, we send vendorized checks (made payable only to the biller) to musicians in need who meet our eligibility requirements\* (<http://www.musiciansfoundation.org/apply/>). The applications can be completed by a musician for him/herself, by a musician for his/her

family member\*\*, by a family member of and for a musician, or by a friend of and for a musician. All granted applications are screened by a review committee made up of Musicians Foundation board members.

**TODAY**—Musicians Foundation is increasing its accessibility and visibility within the music community. A fully-online application, new Facebook profile, and easy online donation system all allow Musicians Foundation to help more musicians. All donations are tax-deductible and directly impact the number of musicians the foundation is able to assist.

*\* Currently, we assist nearly all of the applicants who qualify. As competition for aid grants increases in the future (with more applicants), our policy for who we help will require adjustments in order to select the applicants most in need.*

*\*\* If a musician is applying for an aid grant to help a family member, the musician must have a personal, financial investment involving the family member's situation.*

### LINKS

**Website:** <http://www.musiciansfoundation.org/>

**Facebook page:** <https://www.facebook.com/musiciansfdn/>

**Guidestar:** <https://www.guidestar.org/profile/13-1790739>

**Pre-application (first of two parts):**  
<https://musiciansfoundation.submittable.com/submit>

**Recent article in Chamber Music:**  
<http://bit.ly/chambermusicmag>