



*Providing assistance to professional musicians and their families in need since 1914*



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## MISSION

Making music for a living means making sacrifices. Many professional musicians endure years of arduous study and hours of dedicated practice. They pay for lessons and invest in their instruments and their equipment. They spend months on the road, living from one performance to the next. They risk a host of ailments and injuries related to the physical demands of their vocation: from trigger finger to hearing loss, tendinitis to vocal cord nodules. And today, with sweeping changes to the music industry, they are confronted with an increasingly uncertain job market. At the same time, they face issues of illness, aging and unexpected personal setbacks as we all do. The Musicians Foundation addresses head on the chronic financial insecurity so prevalent amongst artists who devote their lives to creative expression. Acknowledging the real cost of a rich musical culture, we take care of the individuals who make the music that ultimately sustains us all.

## ABOUT

Founded in 1914, the Musicians Foundation is the country's oldest independent nonprofit dedicated to providing financial assistance to musicians and their families in times of need. Since its inception the Musicians Foundation has provided nation-wide support to thousands of musicians across all genres, offering compassion, respect and the support necessary for them to weather financial difficulties and personal setbacks with dignity and security. Funds raised through concerts, annual dinners, as well as generous individual donations have enabled the Musicians Foundation to spend a century giving back to the people who make the music – our shared source of joy, inspiration, and incomparable, irreplaceable artistry.

# TESTIMONIALS



*“In a moment, a stroke changed everything. Suddenly, the music that had always flowed through Bruce’s fingers no longer flowed. Bruce’s life changed from making music to basic survival. Afterwards when we struggled to keep him alive, it was a great blessing to have the Musicians Foundation. Words cannot express the depth of our gratitude.”*

- Cynthia Riddle, friend of Bruce Langhorne, Grant Recipient

*“With all the records, I never saw any royalties. We couldn’t make our monthly mortgage payment and would have been homeless. The help we got from the Musicians Foundation has been a sheer blessing and we thank God every night for their help.”*

- Jimmy Scott, Grant Recipient



*“Bad luck shouldn’t put a stop to practicing your craft. The Musicians Foundation helped put the power back into my hands to turn that luck around.”*

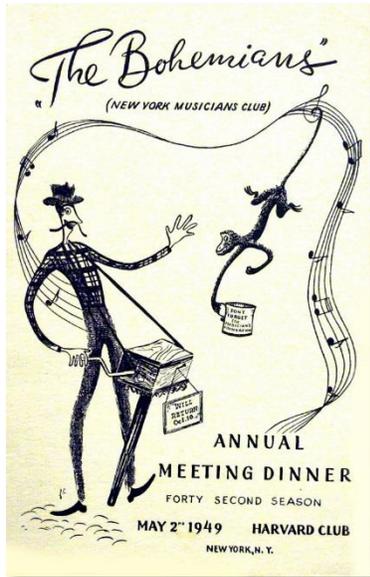
- Brett Umlauf, member of SIREN Baroque, Grant Recipient

*“I feel extremely blessed and grateful to the Musicians Foundation for their generosity in helping me fund the repair of my upright bass... The generous contribution by the Musicians Foundation has allowed me to continue my quest as an artist, an improviser, and communicator with the world we live in. I will be forever grateful and indebted to this great organization”*

- John Menegon, Grant Recipient

*“It’s been a year since you helped me (Bennett Teaching Studios) by paying one month of my mortgage. I am happy to say that because of that payment, BTS is still in business and teaching children and adults... It is a fact that BTS would not be operational had you not helped and for that one payment I thank you immensely. THANKS!”*

- Scott Bennett, Grant Recipient



## HISTORY

The Musicians Foundation was incorporated in 1914 by the Bohemians, a New York-based musicians club whose membership has included many of the most renowned names in the music industry for over 100 years. Forward-thinking and philanthropic, the original Bohemians decided that rather than invest in a permanent clubhouse for their own, they would direct their formidable fundraising abilities toward creating and endowing an organization “to provide voluntary aid and assistance to professional musicians and their families in case of need.” The Musicians Foundation is the remarkable result of this initiative, and has gone on to become the nation’s oldest charitable organization working on behalf of musical artists.

## GET INVOLVED

The Musicians Foundation has always drawn on the talents of people who love music to raise funds for musicians who have fallen on hard times. The time and resources you devote to the Musicians Foundation will help artists be able to continue to bring music to new audiences. Have an idea for an event to bring visibility to the Musicians Foundation and raise funds? Please contact us! [Info@musiciansfoundation.org](mailto:Info@musiciansfoundation.org). Otherwise consider other opportunities to raise funds on behalf of the Musicians Foundation:

### HOST A DINNER OR CONCERT

Offer your home or favorite performance space and invite your friends to an evening of music that contributes to the greater good. We can help you design an event.

### SET UP A TIP JAR

Throw up a tip jar at your next show and give yourself the opportunity to talk about the Musicians Foundation cause and the chance to raise money!

### GIVE A BENEFIT CONCERT

Play your heart out to alleviate the suffering of fellow musicians.

### DONATE ROYALTIES

Usage-based payments to music writers and composers can offer significant support to other artists in need.

### DONATE YOUR PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Whether you are a social worker, a lawyer, a composer, a marketing specialist, a doctor, or an instrument repairer, your skills can be put to good use on a committee at the Musicians Foundation.

## STAFF

### **B.C. VERMEERSCH – Executive Director**



In a career that spans more than four decades, Dr. B.C. Vermeersch has achieved recognition as an arts and music educator in both the public and private sector. He is also a producer of public programs and concerts and a trusted administrator of non-profit and philanthropic groups.

He was Director of Greenwich House Music School for over twenty-five years and has served as the Executive Director of the Musicians Foundation since 1996. He holds Bachelors and Master's degrees from Wayne State University, Detroit, and a Ph.D. from the University of California at Santa Cruz. He also earned a Certificate from the Columbia University Institute for Not-for-Profit Management. He was born and raised on Detroit's East Side.

### **NICK RIFKEN – Executive Assistant**



Nick Rifken has had the opportunity to work in a multitude of arts-related positions as a performer, band leader, and administrator. He has been a liaison for the annual Sphinx Convention since its inception in 2013, acted as director of the University of Michigan Samba Band *Vencedores* from 2012 until 2014, and was backline and percussion tech for Yo-Yo Ma's Silk Road Ensemble Spring Tour in February 2015. Nick has also been an active professional drummer and percussionist in the greater Ann Arbor/Detroit, North Jersey, and New York City region for the past 8 years performing with songwriters, Motown, pop, rock, folk, musical theater, and country groups. Nick holds a Bachelors of Music Degree in Percussion Performance from the University of Michigan.

## CONTACT

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