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September, 2018

My Dear Fellow Music Lovers,

Greetings. I write to you as an artist who has had the good fortune to create interdisciplinary work with an emphasis on expansive use of the human voice for over fifty years. My work has enabled me to interact with (and learn from) other artists, fed my curiosity, and allowed me to address issues that matter not only to me but to my fellow human beings around the world. It has been a wonderful journey.

Not every professional musician has been as fortunate. In August of 2017, when Hurricane Harvey struck Texas and Louisiana, inflicting massive damage, a 48-year-old performer and educator lost his home. He reached out to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). When FEMA assistance proved insufficient to ameliorate his dire circumstances, he contacted the Musicians Foundation, which provided funds toward the restoration of his home. This is merely one example, of many, showing the Musicians Foundation's problem-solving activities.

Today I use my voice once again, in service of the Musicians Foundation, the country's oldest independent nonprofit organization devoted to providing financial assistance to musicians, and their families, in times of need. But the Musicians Foundation is not only continuing the mission it established in 1914, it is leading the way by expanding its outreach in order to meet 21st-century realities. The Musicians Foundation has successfully launched an online application process and has updated its social media presence. What are the results?

- ★ A dramatic jump in the number of visits to the Musicians Foundation website
- ★ Comparable increases in the Musicians Foundation Facebook views and Google searches
- ★ Greater efficiency and security in identifying, and responding to, musicians in need
- ★ Reliable application systems that can readily be modified to keep up with changing times, technologies, and organizational growth
- ★ Almost double the number of applicants, compared with last year

An increase in applications for help means an increased need for donations. I am speaking up. Now is the time for your voice, your donation. Help us be of help. We cannot do it without you.

In the joy of music, I send you warm regards,

Meredith Monk

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