



A FEW NOTES ABOUT SWAN SONGS

Swan Songs, a 501(c)(3) corporation, was founded in 2005, although the non-profit actually took root in the early nineties when Austin musician Christine Albert and psychotherapist Gaea Logan began organizing private concerts for music lovers who were terminally ill or nearing the end of life.



Today, Swan Songs is responding daily to an ever growing number of requests for this loving and poignant gift. No matter the style of music or musician, Swan

Songs brings to the home or health care facility intimate, personalized concerts that enable patient, family and friends to focus beyond the illness and come together through music.

Carolyn Wonderland, Jimmy LaFave, Van Wilks, Ed Miller, Will Taylor, Karen Mal, Jon Emery, Christine Albert, Craig Calvert—so far over 100 musicians have fulfilled musical last wishes.

“When someone is in the transition process, the hearing is the last sense to go. What peacefulness and comfort you bring to those who are beginning their everlasting voyage and to their loved ones who watch them sail away.”

—Family Member

Country music, classical, Mariachi, bluegrass, opera, blues, Irish, Motown, big band, bagpipes, Lithuanian accordion, Christmas, harp, gospel, hymns, folk, Elvis, Beatles, and more have brought smiles and more than a few grateful tears to patients and family members alike. To date, Swan Songs has:

- Organized over 525 concerts
- Served patients in Austin, San Marcos, Kyle, Round Rock, Bastrop, Wimberley, Georgetown, Lockhart, Dripping Springs, Seguin, Taylor, and Pflugerville
- Worked with, among others, Hospice Austin, New Century Hospice, Grace Hospice, Dell Children’s Hospital, Central Texas Medical Hospice, Heart to Heart Hospice, Odyssey Hospice, Silverado Hospice, Provident Memory Care, Bluebonnet Palliative Care, and Gentiva Hospice, as well as countless caregivers, chaplains, social workers, and family and friends



With a strong board, an effective staff and a receptive community, Swan Songs is expanding its outreach efforts. However, meeting more requests means strengthening our infrastructure to organize the concerts, recruit musicians and volunteers and to provide comprehensive training.

“After traveling around and singing to people in theaters and clubs ...the hour I spent in that living room gave me more of a sense of purpose than my usual stage show. Christine made it so easy for me to do a small thing that had an immediate impact of joyful family togetherness. It was an honor to be included in that.”

—Eliza Gilkyson, Musician

Anyone in a non-curative phase of treatment may request a favorite style of music or a specific Austin area musician. Concerts are intimate, acoustic and 30–40 minutes in length.

Swan Songs

Christine Albert
Founder and CEO

Gaea Logan – *Co-founder*

Board of Directors

- Cindy Lind – *Chair*
- Craig Calvert – *Secretary*
- Tricia Yost – *Treasurer*
- Dr. Joe Annis
- Rabbi Cantor Marie Betcher
- Rev. Dr. Carla Cheatham
- Dr. Ron Devere
- Randy House
- Terry Lickona
- Jeff Nash
- Richard Perna
- Joe Stallone

Musicians are offered an honorarium, but there is no financial obligation on the part of the family. Swan Songs’ mission is to bring comfort and joy to individuals at the end of life and support the Austin music community in the process.

In turn, Austin area musicians have responded to the call: Ray Benson, Eliza Gilkyson, Kat Edmondson, Butch Hancock, Joe Ely, Jimmie Dale Gilmore, Sara Hickman,



Learn how you can get involved and support our efforts at www.swansongs.org • email: info@swansongs.org Or call 512-416-7926, or write us at: Swan Songs • PO Box 41475 • Austin, TX 78704

SWAN SONGS
musical last wishes