What It Means

“Last night grandma was so energetic and talkative. She stayed awake until 11:30 talking about her life and fun times. We laughed so hard, including her. I know it was the energy brought in the house from her concert. Love to you all for such a wonderful organization and passion for what you do. It will be forever remembered.”

— a Family Member

“I am so grateful to have been a witness to his dancing feet, his arms grabbing for the beat and to have been able to not only lift his spirit, but also be lifted in return. To see him respond to the music is what we musicians live for. I know his whispered “thank you” and shaking my hand when we were taking pictures was a lot to muster from a tired body that carried his spirit through a long life. I’ll cherish the experience forever.”

— Musician Woody Russell

“…one of the sweetest women I have ever met. She was sadly losing all memory and was suffering with the awareness she didn’t know who she was anymore. But last month, a Swan Songs concert was arranged for her. She just couldn’t stop smiling. The family videotaped those smiles and those eyebrows, lifted in awe and adoration. For 45 minutes, Swan Songs gave this woman her life back. She reconnected with who she knew herself to be through the music.”

— a Hospice Worker

Who We Are

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
Jeff Nash
Richard Perna
Joe Stallone

Advisory Council
Theresa Amaya
Craig Deats
Patti Halladay
David Hughes
Terry Lickona

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How It Works

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.

Now, more than a decade later, 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 the medium of music.

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. 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 patients at the end of life and support the Austin music community in the process.

In turn, musicians from Central Texas and beyond have responded to the call: Ray Benson, Eliza Gilkyson, Carolyn Wonderland, Kat Edmonson, Butch Hancock, Jimmie Dale Gilmore, Joe Ely, Sara Hickman, Jimmy LaFave, Van Wilks, Ed Miller, Will Taylor, Karen Mal, Jon Emery, Bob Schneider Ray Wylie Hubbard—over 330 musicians have fulfilled musical last wishes.

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

- Organized over 700 concerts
- Served patients in Austin, San Marcos, Kyle, Round Rock, Bastrop, Wimberley, Georgetown, Lockhart, Dripping Springs, Seguin, Taylor, Pflugerville, and many more
- Worked with 49 different care facilities and countless caregivers, family, friends, chaplains and social workers

With a committed, engaged and experienced board and staff, combined with a receptive community, Swan Songs’ outreach efforts are bearing fruit. However, to meet the growing number of requests and to expand our reach means strengthening our infrastructure to organize the concerts, recruit the musicians and volunteers who make them possible, and to provide these wonderful people with comprehensive training. Learn how you can get involved and support our efforts by visiting www.swansongs.org

In advance, thank you for your interest and generosity.

501(c)(3) Tax Exempt Organization  Contributions are tax deductible  Fed Tax ID#: 20-3174875