

Since the earliest civilizations, man has used music for healing. In ancient Greece, music healers were revered with close ties to priests and rulers alike. Egyptian healers referred to music as medicine for the soul and often included chant therapy in their practice. During the Renaissance, music was used as a remedy for melancholy, despair and madness. In late 18th century America, articles published in magazines describe the use of music to heal mental illness and fever.

Today, music continues to serve the needs of those suffering from illness or disability. The profession of music therapy was established in the 1940s when professional musicians, including members of Local No. 1, volunteered to provide music programs in Veteran's Administration hospitals. Recognizing the need for appropriate training, the National Association of Music Therapy was formed in 1950 to improve education and clinical training for music therapists. Today, the American Music Therapy Association includes more than 2,000 certified music therapists working in hospitals, schools, geriatric facilities, drug and alcohol programs, correctional facilities, day care centers, and private practice. Music therapists work with children and adults with a wide range of disabilities, providing research-based interventions to improve physical, social, cognitive, and communication skills. These professional music therapists carry the credential MT-BC for Music Therapist-Board Certified indicating they have completed a minimum of a Bachelor's degree in Music Therapy, a six-month clinical internship, and an examination by the Certification Board for Music Therapists. For more information about music therapy, visit [www.musictherapy.org](http://www.musictherapy.org).

There are approximately 25 professional music therapists currently working in the Cincinnati area.

In addition to professional music therapists, there are many other musicians volunteering to provide music in area healthcare and hospice settings, including members of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra. Some musician volunteers have completed additional training, different from a music therapy degree.

Certified Music Thanologists complete four semesters of training through distance learning from the Chalice of Repose Project. Music thanatologists present musical vigils at the bedside of transitioning patients either in a hospital, hospice, or nursing home setting. [chaliceofrepose.org](http://chaliceofrepose.org)

Healing Harps is a program of the International Harp Therapy Program. These harpists complete two week-long trainings and 80 hours of supervised experience working with patients in hospitals, nursing homes, and hospices. [www.harptherapyinternational.com](http://www.harptherapyinternational.com)

Certified Music Practitioners have completed 5 weekend trainings and 45 hours of supervised experience in the Music for Healing and Transitions Program. They service the people of all ages who are ill or dying. [www.mhtp.org](http://www.mhtp.org)