The Musician Treatment Foundation was founded in 2017 by orthopedic surgeon Alton Barron, MD. The primary mission of the foundation is to assist in providing free surgical and non-surgical care for shoulder, elbow, and hand injuries suffered by needful professional musicians so they can get well and keep the music playing for all. MTF was made possible by the generous and talented founding Board of Directors that includes widely acclaimed musicians Elvis Costello and Diana Krall; distinguished Dean of Dell Medical School Clay Johnston, renowned journalists Bob Woodruff and Lee Woodruff, and other prominent professionals.

Musicians bring beauty and song to the world, but the majority cannot subsist from just making music and many live below the poverty line. Over 40% of professional musicians lack adequate health insurance and many have none. Common shoulder, elbow, and hand problems that allow most of us to continue working, can prevent musicians from making music, making a living and supporting their families. The Musician Treatment Foundation is here to help with care, education, and a network of skilled orthopedic surgeons.

The costs of specialized orthopedic surgery can be staggering. The average overall cost is over $35,000 for the treatment of a rotator cuff tear that requires surgery. The average time to return to work following rotator cuff surgery is 3 to 4 months. Without health insurance, these costs and time away from performing can easily mark the end of a musician's career. MTF strives to identify musicians in need, physicians willing to provide care at no cost to the musicians, and funding to cover the costs of surgical equipment, facilities, and medicine.

MTF is a 501(C)(3) nonprofit that in just over three years has assisted in providing free shoulder, elbow, and hand care to deserving professional musicians that would otherwise have cost well over $1.25 million. Our goals are clear, our values strong.

We are also educating all musicians and music lovers alike about upper limb injuries, whether caused by trauma or by repetitive stress. Through our blogs and our Musician Monday series all can learn about our family of artist supporters who have shared their stories of injury, healing, and how they were able to keep the music playing!

While we are actively caring for our musicians, we are building our Physicians for Musicians network of like-minded shoulder, elbow, and hand surgeons around the country to expand our capacity to help more musicians. MTF works synergistically with other nonprofits in the music world, such as Health Alliance for Austin Musicians (HAAM), SIMS Foundation, Sun Radio Foundation, and Underwater Sunshine Fest.

We are also featuring a number of our healed musicians through online spotlights as well as opportunities to hear their music locally and virtually. Together we bring music, care information, and inspiration to needful musicians and other underserved communities. After over a year of limited contact we are planning our first Physicians for Musicians Benefit Concert on Saturday, July 24, 2021 in Austin. We are bringing together an amazing array of prominent and local artists for a unifying and uplifting night of collaboration showcasing immense musical talent. Join us and celebrate the return of live music in Austin!

We are all beneficiaries of the universal healing power of music. Music of all genres engenders cognitive, emotional, and physical wellness for the world. We need your donations, large and small, your corporate and in-kind support, and your help in spreading the word about MTF to KEEP THE MUSIC PLAYING!
About Musician Treatment Foundation

The Musician Treatment Foundation (MTF) was established in 2017 as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit with the mission of helping uninsured and underinsured professional musicians receive free essential surgical and non-surgical orthopedic care for their shoulders, elbows, and hands. MTF has assisted hundreds of musicians devastated by injuries to their upper limbs with care valued at $2 million.

MTF was founded by orthopedic surgeon O. Alton Barron, MD, an upper limb specialist who has been caring for professional musicians for over 25 years. It is guided and supported by a distinguished Board of Directors that includes widely acclaimed musicians Elvis Costello and Diana Krall; Clay Johnston, MD, inaugural Dean of Dell Medical School; Lee and Bob Woodruff, founders of The Bob Woodruff Foundation; and prominent professionals in business, education, medicine, and law.

Professional musicians bring beauty and song to the world, yet so many live below the poverty line and the majority need another job to subsist. At the same time, over 40% of professional musicians lack adequate health insurance and many have none. A shoulder, elbow, or hand problem can prevent musicians from making music for a living and supporting their families.

A financially challenged musician may be forced to end their music career when they cannot afford the orthopedic surgery they need to continue playing. MTF connects musicians in need with experienced orthopedic surgeons in our nationwide Physicians for Musicians network who are willing to provide free care to the musicians. The foundation then covers the other costs of surgery such as anesthesia, diagnostics, equipment, and facilities fees. MTF helps uninsured, injured professional musicians keep the music playing for us all.

Community Impact

In Austin, New York, and other music cities, MTF has helped hundreds of professional musicians receive critical surgical and nonsurgical care from experienced orthopedic surgeons at nominal or no cost to the musicians. MTF’s Physicians for Musicians network of like-minded shoulder, elbow, and hand surgeons enables us to serve musicians across the country, whether at home or on the road. To date, MTF has provided this critical care valued at $2 million to hundreds of musicians across the country.

We also support our healed musicians by creating opportunities to hear their music live and online. MTF brought music, information, and inspiration to musicians and underserved communities during the pandemic both virtually and in person. In 2022 MTF presented a free bi-monthly concert series at Beerburg Brewing in Austin showcasing 10 musician beneficiaries along with online Musician Spotlights. Our benefit on December 2, 2022 Elvis Costello & Friends was an amazing night of music and celebration at Austin City Limits Live that included MTF beneficiary Allan Mayes with Rosanne Cash, John Leventhal, Sarah Jarosz, La Marisoul, Nina Díaz, Valerie June, and Charlie Sexton. Please stay tuned for upcoming MTF events in Austin, Nashville, and New York.

We also educate musicians, both amateur and professional, about upper limb injuries, whether caused by accidental trauma, repetitive stress, or an underlying condition. You too can learn about these injuries from our family of artist supporters who have shared their stories of injury, healing, and how they were able to keep the music playing in the CARE section of our website.

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<td>FACILITY $17,000</td>
<td>SURGEON $9,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANESTHESIA $4,000</td>
<td>PHYSICAL THERAPY $5,000</td>
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$35,000
is the average cost of treatment for a torn rotator cuff or a ruptured hand tendon
Our goals are clear, our values strong, and our outcomes powerful. MTF works strategically to assist and reach musicians in tandem with other nonprofits in the music world, such as Black Fret, HAAM, House of Songs, Preservation Hall Foundation, SIMS Foundation, Sonic Guild, Sun Radio Foundation, and Underwater Sunshine Fest.

MTF’s amazing band of supporters also includes major corporations, music labels, orthopedic implant companies, and well-known musicians as well as small local businesses who believe in our mission and generously support our efforts through donations, grants, and special events. Learn more about them and how you can join our band of supporters at MTF Supporters.

We are all beneficiaries of the universal healing power of music. Music of all genres engenders cognitive, emotional, and physical wellness for the world. We need your donations, large and small, your corporate and in-kind support, and we need your help in spreading the word about MTF to #KeepTheMusicPlaying!

Social media serves as a critical tool to share MTF’s mission with musicians, partners, and supporters. MTF relies on its distinguished Board of Directors, its growing Physicians for Musicians network, and its family of artists, partners, and supporters to further awareness of our mission, inspire donations, and attend our events. Our goal is to reach musicians who need MTF assistance. As our overall reach continues to increase, so does our ability to assist more musicians, engage supporters, and promote MTF events to keep the music playing. Please follow us!

Mission

The Musician Treatment Foundation (MTF) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that has a unique mission to assist in providing free surgical and non-surgical shoulder, elbow, and hand care for underinsured and uninsured professional musicians.

Since inception, MTF has helped financially challenged professional musicians receive specialized surgical care valued at $2 million in Austin, New York, and other music cities through our nationwide Physicians for Musicians network.

We need you to help MTF #KeepTheMusicPlaying! Please join our mission by being a corporate sponsor, major donor, or annual supporter. You may learn more about all the ways you can join us at MTF Links.
O. Alton Barron, MD  
Founder & President  
Orthopedic Surgeon, AltonBarronMD.com

As a practicing orthopedic surgeon for over two decades, Dr. Barron witnessed the devastating impact of upper-limb injuries on working musicians. After providing pro bono or greatly discounted surgical care to musicians whenever possible, he realized that he had to find a way to bring this service to many more musicians in need. Dr. Barron’s vision gave rise to the Musician Treatment Foundation and its Physicians for Musicians network.

Irene Chang-Cimino  
Executive Director & Vice President  
Musician Treatment Foundation

Bradley A. Connor, MD  
Founder & Medical Director, New York Center for Travel and Tropical Medicine

Elvis Costello  
elviscostello.com

Mark E. Jennings  
Managing Partner and Co-founder, Generation Partners

S. Claiborne “Clay” Johnston, MD, PhD  
Chief Medical Officer, Harbor Health

Diana Krall  
dianakrall.com

Mark Lieberman  
Creator, The Artists Den & President and Co-founder, Force Therapeutics

Gregory Morey  
Co-Founder, ZeroTouchDigital

Connia Nelson  
SVP & Chief Human Resources Officer, LifeWay Christian Resources

Randa Safady  
Vice Chancellor for External Relations, University of Texas System

R. Adam Smith  
Director  
Salomon Encore

Lee Woodruff  
Writer & Co-founder, The Bob Woodruff Foundation

Robert Woodruff  
ABC news correspondent & Co-founder, The Bob Woodruff Foundation

Ken Yamaguchi, MD, MBA  
Sam and Marilyn Fox Distinguished Professor of Orthopedic Surgery, Washington University School of Medicine
To fulfill the mission to care for uninsured and underinsured professional musicians, MTF is expanding its outreach through signature events, its nationwide Physicians for Musicians (P4M) network of orthopedic surgeons, and an online musician registration platform. These efforts will enable assistance and continuity of care for local, touring, and visiting musicians. MTF is also producing digital content to educate injured musicians, highlight healed musicians, and promote our mission.

MTF invites you to join us at our annual benefit concert in Austin or a special event in another American music rich city. Our benefits have been generously supported by world-renowned artists, most notably Elvis Costello, Diana Krall, Bill Evans, Joan Jett and the Blackhearts, Keith Carlock, Mike Stern, Sarah Jarosz, and Shawn Colvin. We hope you will consider vital support by sponsoring an event and joining us in person!

MTF events feature our charitable P4M doctors and great music by our wonderful beneficiaries and supporting artists. MTF’s success to date has been made possible by generous support from Atlantic Records, Centene Charitable Foundation, Midtown Surgery Center, New York Center for Ambulatory Surgery, Pinnacle Surgery Center, Prosperity Bank, and David Yurman. Our first benefit in Nashville will take place on Sunday, March 12, 2023 at Brooklyn Bowl Nashville. It will be an amazing concert featuring Elvis Costello, Billy F Gibbons, and Bill Evans with Keith Carlock, Darryl Jones, Charlie Sexton, The Imposters and others to be announced. There’s still time to sponsor or underwrite the Nashville benefit, including purchase of a $10,000 Club Box for 8 (6 seats, 2 standing) with complimentary food and beverage, access to VIP After Party, and special photo opportunity with Billy F Gibbons.

Find your place in our band of corporate supporters! To become an event sponsor or underwriter please email us at wendy@mtfusa.org.

MTF is grateful for all support for our mission and operations. Donations enable us to maintain our P4M network of highly skilled orthopedic surgeons willing to waive their fees in treating injured musicians and allows MTF to cover all, or nearly all of, the costs for the surgical facility, anesthesia, diagnostics, and equipment. Help us to build our reserves to ensure MTF is able to fund care for all professional musicians who cannot afford the care they need. Please join us as a donor!

Major donors at these levels will be recognized for sustaining our efforts for years to come.

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<th>$100k Platinum Donor</th>
<th>$50k Gold Donor</th>
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<tr>
<td>Personalized MTF Chrome Record and VIP premium benefit seating for 8</td>
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If you would like to become a major donor please email irene@mtfusa.org for more information.

MTF appreciates donations of any amount to support the annual operating expenses that are critical to fulfilling MTF’s mission. Thank you gifts will be provided to donors at $5,000 level and above.

Please visit www.mtfusa.org to make a donation, to learn more about MTF, and to subscribe to our newsletter.

Please support us and help #KeepTheMusicPlaying!