

SYMPHONYNH



**Massachusetts
Eye and Ear**

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Symphony NH and Massachusetts Eye and Ear collaborate in Music Therapy Initiative

NASHUA, NH – Symphony NH and Massachusetts Eye and Ear announce a new collaboration between the organizations led by Dr. Mark Varvares that brings medically-based music therapy programs to Massachusetts Eye and Ear patients. The program commences with a day of seminars and music performances on May 4th at Massachusetts Eye and Ear.

Crystal Weaver, a music therapist from St. Louis University and leading music therapist in the St. Louis Symphony and St. Louis University's own music therapy program, will lead discussions about "The Role of Music Therapy as a Clinical Intervention in Head and Neck and Cochlear Implant Patients" and "Creation of a Medically Based Music Therapy Program in the Acute Care Setting." The afternoon presentation will be followed by a live performance by Symphony NH musicians and Massachusetts Eye and Ear residents and a reception. To request information about this event, contact Symphony NH at (603) 595-9156 or snh@symphonynh.org.

"Research in music therapy supports its effectiveness in many areas such as: overall physical rehabilitation and facilitating movement, increasing people's motivation to become engaged in their treatment, providing emotional support for clients and their families, and providing an outlet for expression of feelings," based on findings by the American Music Therapy Association.

Symphony NH Executive Director Marc Thayer and Dr. Mark Varvares of Massachusetts Eye and Ear are known for their past work in organizing similar collaborations between the St. Louis Symphony and St. Louis University. Thayer says, "we are pleased to collaborate with Massachusetts Eye and Ear and give our musicians the opportunity to participate in such a meaningful and effective initiative. Once this program is established we hope to create similar music therapy programs in New Hampshire."

To learn more about the Music Therapy Initiative contact Symphony NH at snh@symphonynh.org or call (603) 595-9156.