

Project Summary

Project Title: Musical Memories Program

- **Affiliated Institutions:** Capital Region Community Foundation; Michigan State University
- **Initiating Organization:** Burcham Hills Retirement Community
- **Funding Source:** Capital Region Community Foundation
- **My Role:** Artist-in-Residence and Team Leader
- **Project Duration:** January – May 2019
- **Location:** Greater Lansing, Michigan, USA

Key Responsibilities & Contributions:

- **Curriculum and Program Design:**
I developed and implemented interactive educational activities tailored to audiences of varying ages and professional backgrounds, with a special focus on individuals with dementia. These sessions explored the connection between music and memory, aiming to enhance cognitive function and emotional expression through guided musical experiences.
- **Artistic and Community Engagement:**
I performed regularly as a soloist and chamber musician, led ensemble rehearsals, and directed community events including lecture-recitals, workshops, and outreach concerts that brought together students, retirees, alumni, and donors. These performances were designed to promote music appreciation, emotional wellness, and cross-generational understanding.
- **Research Contribution:**
I provided qualitative data and field observations regarding participant engagement, especially among dementia patients and elderly residents. I documented the emotional responses, attention levels, and memory recall triggered by specific repertoire choices and interactive formats. These insights helped refine the program's curriculum and informed broader discussions on the role of music in cognitive and emotional support for aging populations.
- **Program Development and Strategy:**
I collaborated with the program director to articulate the long-term goals and community impact strategy, helping to position the program as a model for arts-based wellness initiatives in retirement and healthcare settings.



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