

MUSICAL ROUNDS

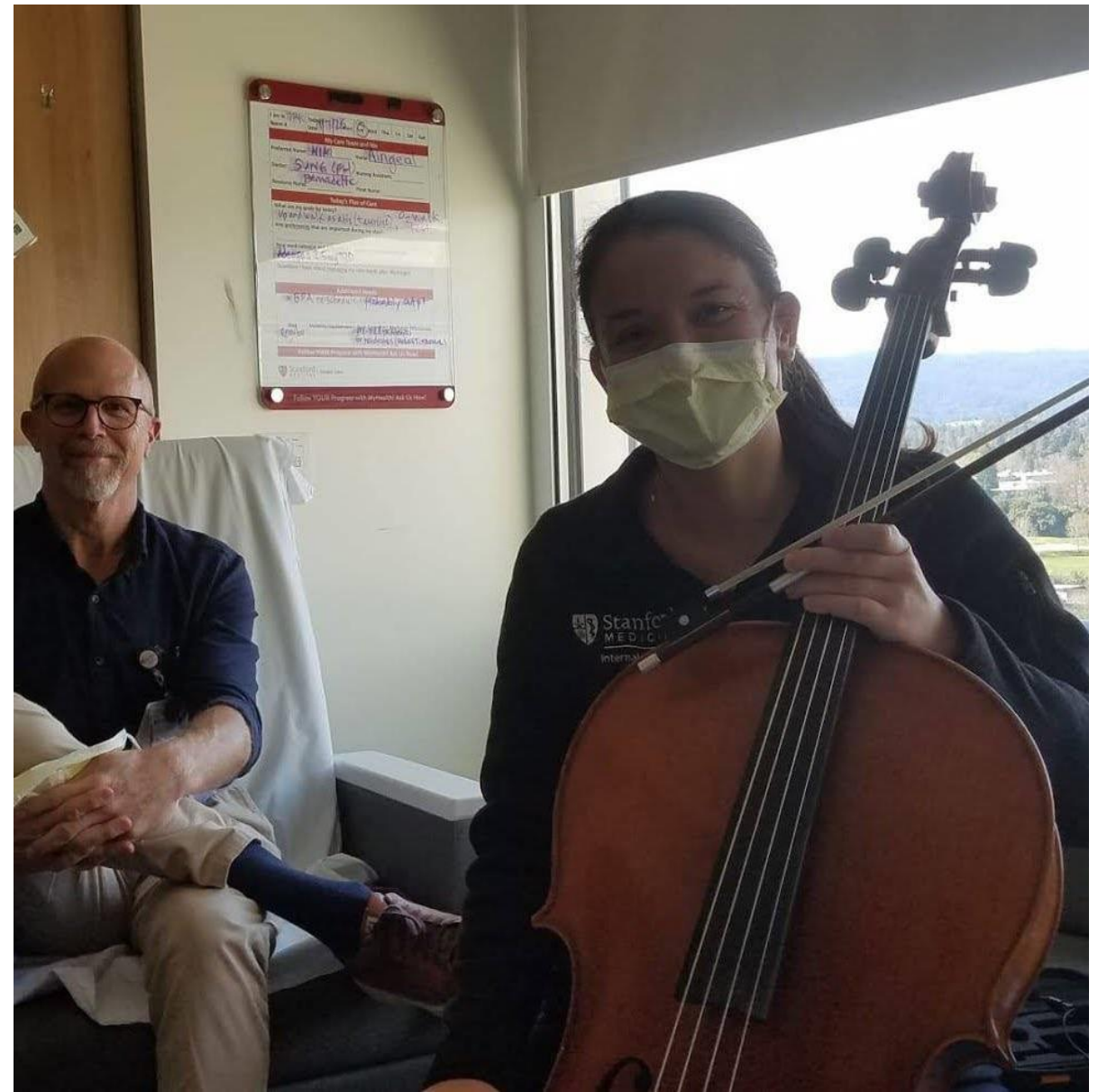
Melanie Ambler MD
Founder of Musical Rounds
Resident Physician at Kaiser Permanente

National Organization for Arts & Health
Cam Busch Award Recipient: October 11th, 2026

**We record patient stories
and transform them into
improvised musical
soundtracks...**

**...and build the evidence,
training, and community to
make music medicine a
standard of care**

1. Referral Team



Stanford
MEDICINE

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U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

**SANTA CLARA
VALLEY MEDICAL CENTER**
Hospital & Clinics

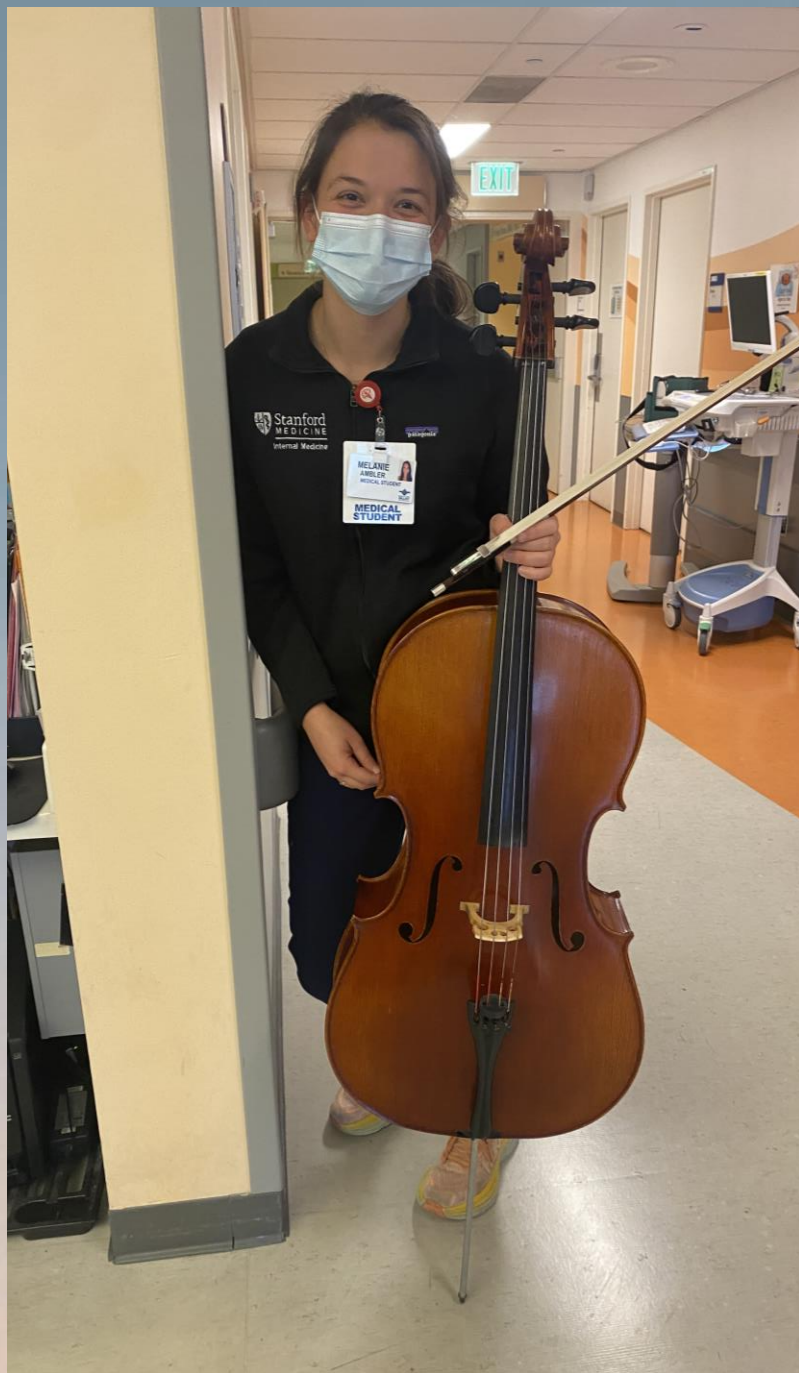


**KAISER
PERMANENTE®**

Coming soon!

2. Consent | Live Session







3. Post-Production

CBS MORNINGS

Medical student uses music to help patients find peace in their final days



CBS MORNINGS

By Elizabeth Cook, **Analisa Novak**, Chris Weicher
Updated on: March 5, 2025 / 5:51 PM EST / CBS News



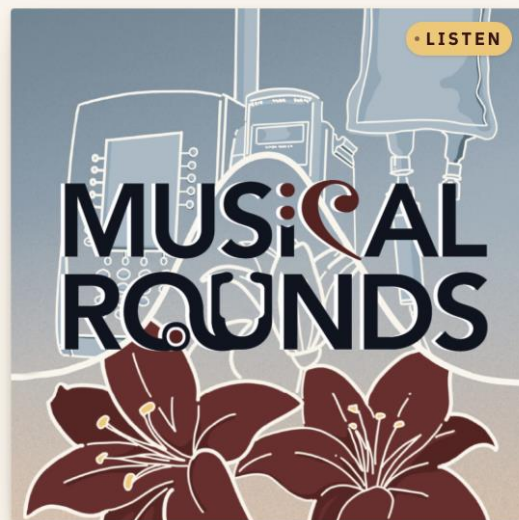
CBS MORNINGS



SEASON ONE • OUT NOW

Musical Rounds *Podcast.*

LISTEN ON



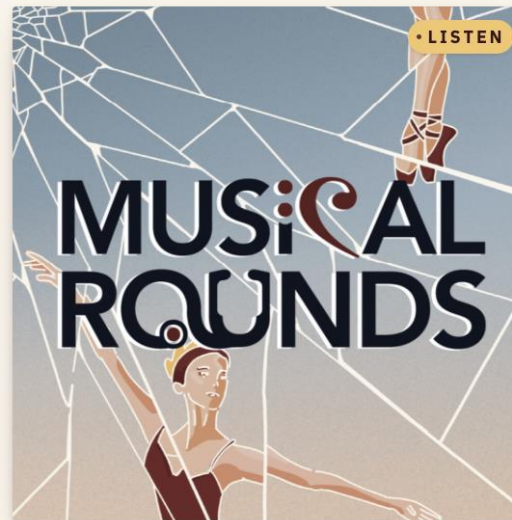
PT 01 • JUNE 2ND

A Duet with the IV Alarm



PT 02 • JUNE 2ND

So, Here We Go



PT 03 • JUNE 2ND

The Glass Doll



PT 04 • JUNE 2ND

As Far Into the Woods

Original Article

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Musical Rounds: A multisite, mixed-methods feasibility study of a musical legacy session in palliative care

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Abstract

Objectives. Patients hospitalized with a life-limiting illness, along with their loved ones, frequently experience anxiety, stress, and pain. Legacy building through storytelling and music may alleviate emotional strain and provide comfort. Musical Rounds is a novel music medicine program designed to reduce distress and support legacy building for adult patients receiving palliative care and their loved ones.

Methods. This multisite, mixed-methods, pre–post feasibility study was conducted across 3 hospitals in California, USA. Participants engaged in live bedside recording sessions in which personal stories were shared with real-time musical improvisation provided by a clinician-musician. Afterward, participants received a personalized edited recording combining voice and improvised music. Pain, stress, anxiety, and comfort were assessed before and after each session using a 0–10 numeric rating scale. Perceived mood changes were assessed through directed qualitative content analysis.

Improvements in patient outcomes during **one** Musical Rounds session.

↓
36%

less
PAIN

4.4 → 2.8

↓
60%

less
STRESS

4.8 → 1.9

↓
59%

less
ANXIETY

4.7 → 1.9

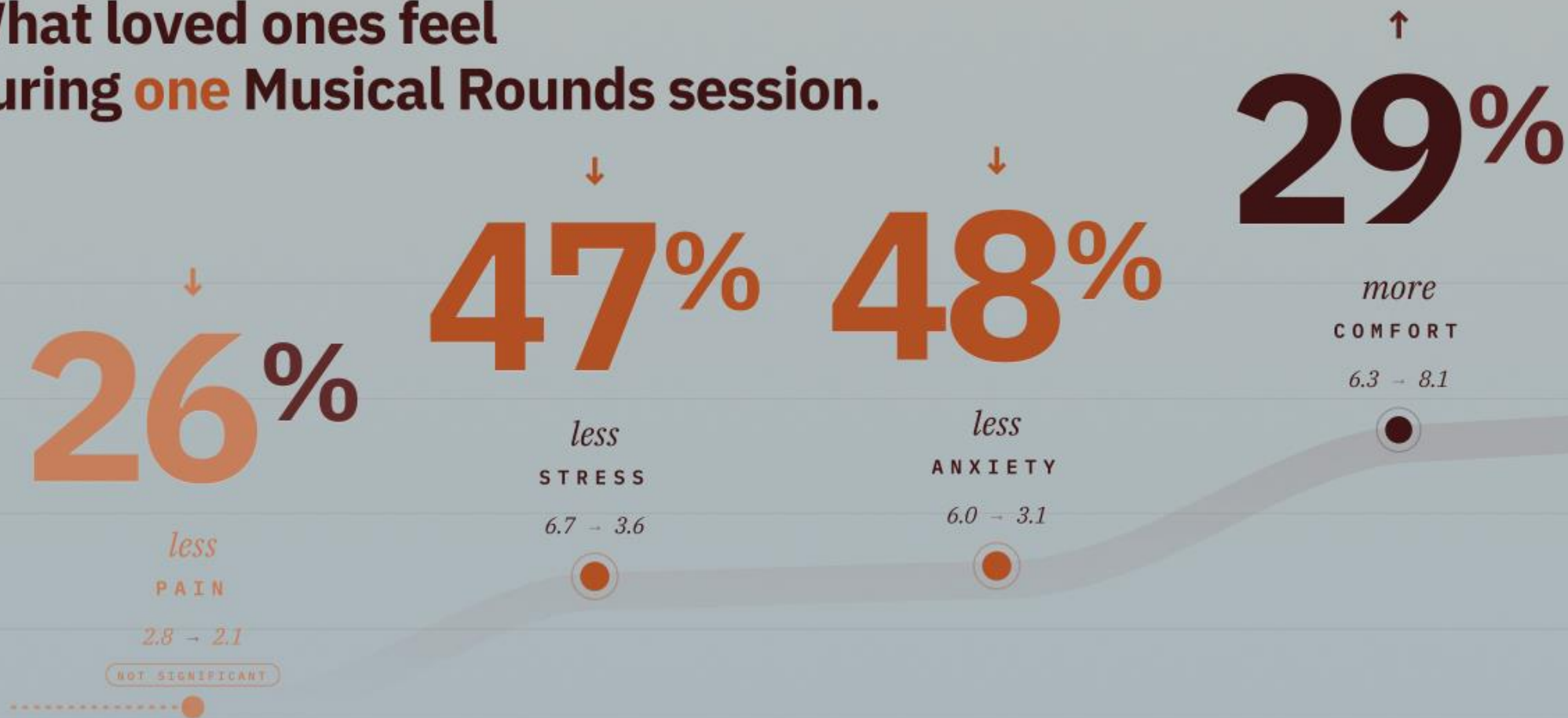
↑
24%

more
COMFORT

6.8 → 8.4

PATIENTS • N = 79-80 • 0-10 SELF-REPORT

What loved ones feel during **one** Musical Rounds session.



LOVED ONES • N = 35-42 • 0-10 SELF-REPORT

Musical Rounds *Trainings*

2 hour virtual springboard training for musicians
interested in having social impact in healthcare

87
trained

"It has transformed our artists' ability to connect with patients, empowering them to create meaningful interactions that combat patient isolation."

Project: Music Heals Us, on the Musical Rounds training



Project: Music Heals Us



AMPLIFY
FOUNDATION

Amplify Foundation

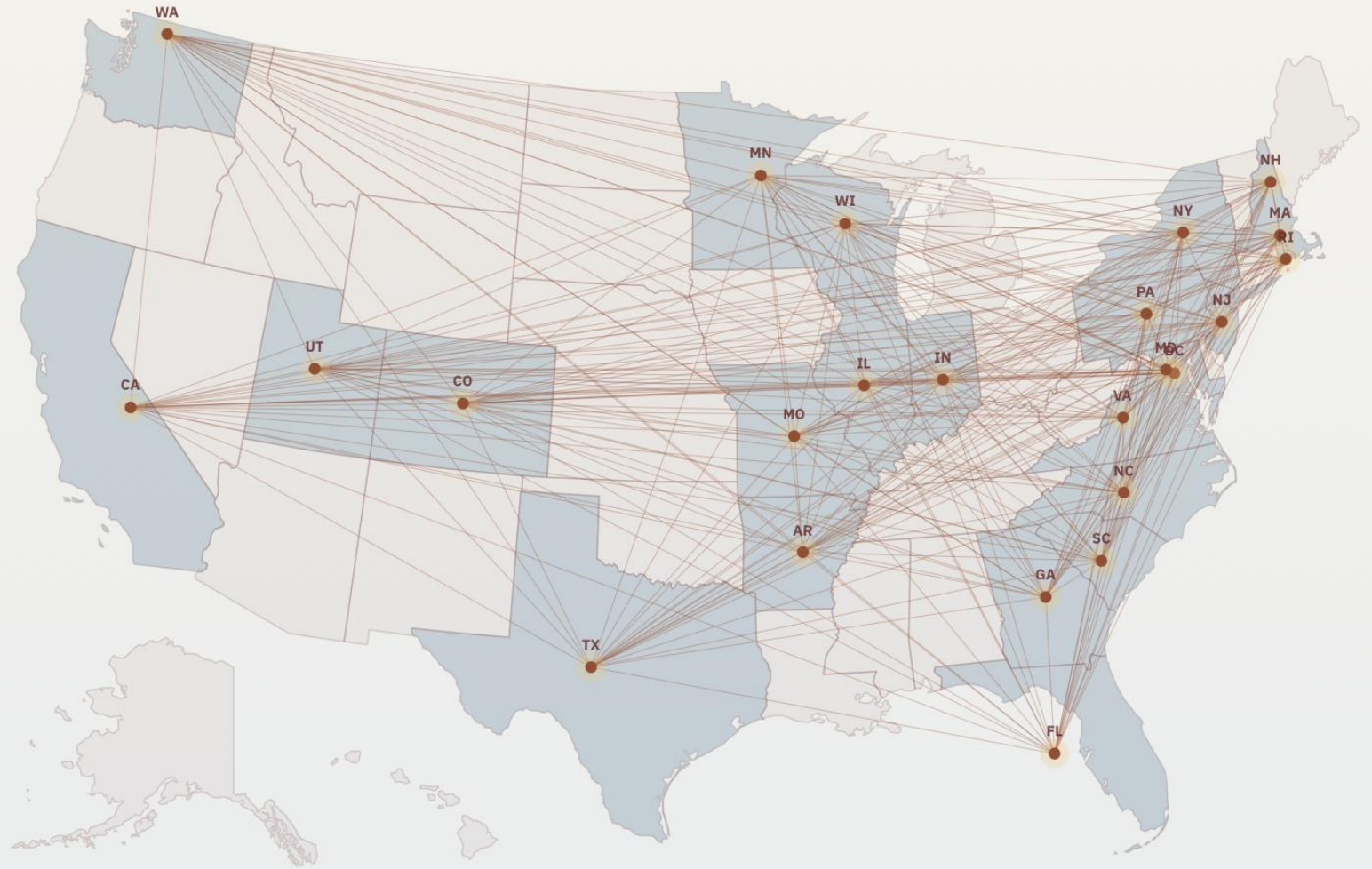


THE WARREN ALPERT
Medical School

Brown Alpert Medical School

113

Spread across 24 states, from Seattle to Providence, Austin to Boston.



AR CA CO DC FL GA IL IN MA MD MN MO NC NH NJ NY PA RI SC TX UT VA WA WI

Musical Rounds *Community Chats*



Elizabeth Woodhouse (she/her)



Melanie Ambler (she/her)



Rachel Balaban



Michael Shofi



Colin Wei



Travis Marcum



Diana Wang



Daniel Bowling



Leo Freedman



Gaby Haeun Li (she/her)



Madeline Tatum



Devin Arrington



Allegra Hein



Jeffrey Wolfe



Will Pittock



Alanice Tam



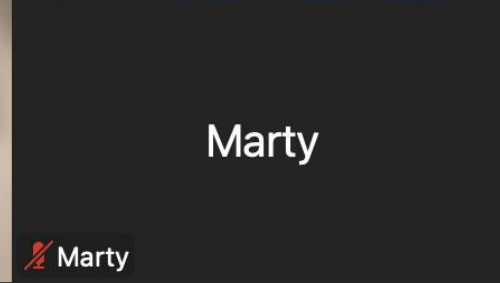
Marilyn RRT RN



Sam Ostroff (he/him)



Emily Meyer



Marty

With deep gratitude to the
patients and loved ones
that trusted us to record
their stories and put them
to music.

...and thank you to **NOAH** and the **Busch family** for this recognition.

Scan here to learn more, join our community,
register for a training, or collaborate!



melanie@musicalrounds.org

musicalrounds.org

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