

# Music Therapy Internship Application



Amy M. Love, MA, MT-BC  
St. Jude Children's Research Hospital  
262 Danny Thomas Place  
Mail Stop 121  
Memphis, TN, 38105  
Amy.love@stjude.org

Dear Prospective Intern,

Thank you so much for your interest in our internship program. A music therapy internship is an important and meaningful time in a therapist's journey. The following information is provided to help you gain understanding about St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and music therapy's role in the healing process. We encourage you to read this information carefully to determine whether St. Jude suits your educational needs as you move towards this next stage in your career.

Should you choose to apply, all materials (**including sealed letters of recommendation, transcript and videos**) should be returned **in one packet** on or before the deadline. *Application materials that do not follow these guidelines will not be accepted.* The deadline is also not a "post-marked by" date. If you require further assistance or have additional questions or comments, please feel free to contact us. We wish you luck as you embark on this next step towards becoming a board-certified music therapist!

Sincerely,  
**The Music Therapy Team**



Amy Love, MA, MT-BC; Internship Director  
262 Danny Thomas Place  
Mail Stop 121  
Memphis, TN 38105-3678  
Main Hospital Phone: 901-595-3300  
Direct Phone: 901-595-7598  
Amy.love@stjude.org

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital was founded in 1962 by the late entertainer, Danny Thomas, on the premise that "no child should die in the dawn of life." Today, St. Jude is the largest childhood cancer research center in the United States in terms of the number of patients enrolled and successfully treated. We are consistently ranked among the top hospitals for pediatric cancer, according to *US News & World Report*. About 7,500 patients are seen at St. Jude annually, most of whom are treated on a continuing outpatient basis and are part of ongoing research programs. The hospital also has 78 beds for patients requiring hospitalization during treatment. St. Jude is a hospital like no other due to our emphasis on primarily outpatient care, allowing kids more time to be kids. Additionally, the hospital never charges families for treatment that is not covered by insurance. Thus, St. Jude has never refused to treat a child because of a family's inability to pay. Instead, the hospital functions primarily on private donations. Our mission is to "advance cures and means of prevention for pediatric catastrophic diseases through research and treatment."

The six-month, full-time music therapy internship is designed to provide exposure to inpatient and outpatient care in oncology and hematology. Specific areas the intern may encounter include: hematology, leukemia/lymphoma, solid tumors, neuro-oncology, diagnostic imaging, radiation oncology, procedures, bone marrow transplant and pediatric intensive care. There will be opportunities for interns to observe and lead individual and group interventions in both inpatient and outpatient settings. Interns will be expected to commit to working full-time, Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Some evenings and weekends may be required, but will be discussed with the intern prior to the occurrence.



As the internship begins, the emphasis lies on observation. This allows the intern to acclimate to the setting and form relationships with the interdisciplinary team. During the third and fourth months, the intern will begin to take on more responsibility, co-treating with the supervising music therapist. The last two months will be the most independent for the intern, as the roles are reversed. The intern will take on the role of primary clinician as the supervisor becomes the primary observer. Interns will also have the ability to design a specific focus that aligns with their areas of interest. They will be assigned a variety of assignments and required readings during their time, including two in-depth case studies and an in-service for another department in the hospital.

During the internship, the intern will have ongoing contact with the internship director, the department's student programming coordinator and the Director of Child Life. As music therapy is housed under the Child Life program, the intern will have the ability to have daily contact with child life specialists. Through interdisciplinary team meetings, rounds and co-treating opportunities, interns will have the chance to work beside physicians, nurses, rehab therapists, psychologists, social workers and chaplains. There is also frequent and ongoing contact with patients, families, volunteers, visitors, donors and educators.

St. Jude sees the value of continued educational opportunities and works with Le Bonheur Children's Hospital to provide continuity of care and additional comprehensive seminars. Interns will be encouraged to attend applicable opportunities. Both hospitals regularly train students in the following specialties: medical, nursing, child life, occupational, speech/language and physical therapy, spiritual care, and social work. Additional opportunities for ongoing education are plentiful, including: Grand Rounds, Schwartz Center Rounds, monthly bioethics webinars and child development webinars. Music therapy is an integral part of the treatment team and is well respected in the institution. Our program has grown and has many resources available throughout the internship. Currently, interns do not have a personal desk, but many areas are available that are suitable for charting, session-planning and other activities. A variety of texts are available through the music therapy office and St. Jude's biomedical library. The music therapy clinical space is for individual and group sessions and houses a wide variety of instruments available for use. Interns will be able to explore various instruments and forms of technology. Intermittently, interns will also be encouraged to be creative with limited resources to be prepared for various scenarios when becoming a practicing music therapist.



In order to be a good candidate for this internship, candidates must have functional use of the guitar and piano, including the use of major and minor keys and diverse accompaniment styles. Good facilitation of voice and varying vocal styles will be required. Applicants should also have knowledge of child development, basic medical terminology, music technology, Progressive Muscle Relaxation and Therapeutic Instrumental Music Playing. The prospective intern should also exhibit professionalism and high emotional intelligence due to the acuity of this patient population. Once a prospective intern's application is complete and he/she is considered to be a good candidate for the program, a Skype and/or on-site interview will be scheduled.

Currently, there is no assistance available for housing, meals or transportation. It is required that all interns have access to a car. A drug screen and criminal background check are required as part of the onboarding process. Drug screens completed by the university need to be completed within 30 days of the beginning of the internship. If the drug screen cannot be completed by the university, the intern should arrange to have this drug screening completed by St. Jude's Occupational Health program, no later than the week prior to the start of the internship. St. Jude will inform interns that background checks must be completed within the 90-day period immediately prior to the initial placement. The intern shall be responsible for making timely arrangements for the criminal background and registry checks. Interns must provide proof of immunizations, including two MMR vaccines, two varicella, Hepatitis B vaccination series, Tdap, influenza and Tuberculin skin testing within the last 12 months. Proof of immunity will also be accepted. The university shall maintain health insurance records for each individual, or advise the intern of the requirement to have such health insurance and provide copies of such records to St. Jude upon commencement of the internship. Interns must also show proof of liability insurance independently or through their educational institution. Additionally, prior to the start of the internship, a signed "Master Clinical Rotation Agreement" between the university and St. Jude, as well as a signed "Exhibit A: Student Requirements" form must be submitted to the Internship Director.



## Required Entry-Level Competencies

To seek out a qualified candidate, the music therapists at St. Jude will use various forms of media during the interview process. Applicants will be required to complete an application and provide two video submissions, using both piano and guitar. Following the initial application process, selected applicants will move onto a phone interview. This will be followed by either an in-person or video interview, depending on the preference of the candidate.

### Music Skills

#### A. Vocal Skills

- Sing with appropriate pitch, rhythm, and volume
- Sight-read simple melodies

#### B. Guitar Skills

- Accurately tune instrument
- Play basic chord progressions (I, ii, IV, V, and vi) functionally in at least 3 keys
- Play in a variety of musical and accompaniment styles including both strumming and fingerpicking
- Transpose accompaniments into various keys

#### C. Piano Skills

- Play basic chord progressions (I, ii, IV, V, and vi) functionally in at least 3 keys
- Play in a variety of music and accompaniment styles
- Transpose simple melodies and accompaniments in various keys

#### D. Percussion Skills

- Play with steady beat and functional knowledge of percussion instruments

#### E. General Music Skills

- Maintain a working knowledge of a variety of repertoire appropriate for various age groups
- Improvise or compose simple songs
- Maintain functional knowledge of music theory

### Therapeutic Skills/Professional Qualities

- A. Collaborate effectively with other disciplines
- B. Demonstrate knowledge of basic music therapy interventions for use in the pediatric setting
- C. Exhibit effective communication/documentation of interactions
- D. Demonstrate professionalism and ability to accept feedback



## Philosophy of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Music Therapy Program

At St. Jude, music is seen as an inherently healing modality. All individuals have a “music child” that can be reached, providing new opportunities to take emotional risks and achieve a higher sense of self-actualization. Due to the flexible nature of music, it has the ability to impact patients and families of various ages, backgrounds and cultural affiliations. Through individualized assessment and treatment planning, a variety of goals can be addressed including: reduction of anxiety, reduction of pain perception, alternate engagement during medical procedures, emotional expression, memory/legacy building, developmental support, family integration and support through physical rehabilitation.

Any patient can be referred to music therapy services by either a member of the treatment team, a family member or by the patient themselves. Once a referral is made, the music therapist consults both the medical chart and the interdisciplinary team to identify potential goal areas, as well as music's potential role in treatment. As a music therapist, I strive to meet the patient and family where they are. This allows for trust and a therapeutic relationship to be established. By allowing the patient/family to lead the direction of therapy, growth of this therapeutic relationship, and flexibility in music interventions, positive outcomes are achievable.

As a music therapist at St. Jude, I believe that music plays its most important role as a connecting force between human beings. I value music as an inherently human experience that should not be limited to a specific theoretical model or collection of interventions. In a research-based institution, it is easy for the medical staff to lose sight of the basic rights our patients and families have to connection and expression. Music can play a crucial role in providing a sense of comfort and normalcy that few other disciplines can provide. I believe a patient-centered approach is the most effective, offering the opportunity for choice, autonomy and patient preferences. In the hospital environment, the patient and families' needs can fluctuate rapidly throughout the day, week or treatment process. It is my role as a therapist to use music as a means of connection to others and provide opportunities for meaning, even in times of suffering.



To best meet the emotional and physical needs of our patients and families, I utilize an integrative approach, drawing from a variety of theoretical approaches including biomedical, neurologic and humanistic perspectives. Utilizing the biomedical approach, I can observe concrete examples of music's effect on the body. These observations, at times, allow for a reduction in opioid use and better interdisciplinary communication with medical staff. A neurologic approach allows patients the opportunity to find ways to reintegrate with their bodies with specific cues and support provided by the music. I believe that incorporating neurologic approaches can facilitate better opportunities for co-treating with rehabilitation therapists and encourage greater body and speech control. Finally, a humanistic approach is crucial when working in pediatric, palliative care. Patients at St. Jude lose many aspects of self, including body image, cultural identity, autonomy and outside connection. It is important that I always keep these basic human needs at the forefront of my clinical decisions.

This integrative approach provides a framework for the music therapist to individualize care to account for patients and families' psychosocial, cultural and medical backgrounds, as St. Jude accepts patients with hematology/oncology diagnoses from around the world. This diverse population has wide-ranging needs such as emotional expression, physical rehabilitation following amputation, or end of life support. Music, in turn, must play a role in motivating, encouraging and supporting patients in their unique circumstances.

At St. Jude, I seek to support patients and families undergoing life-threatening illnesses through music. Music can play a crucial role in promoting positive coping and expression as well as easing symptomology. We will continue to expand our services and explore new, creative ways to incorporate music into the hospital environment.





## Philosophy of Training Interns

Training music therapy interns is imperative for the future success of the music therapy profession. A comprehensive and challenging internship is provided at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in order to help interns refine their professional identity and better understand music therapy's role in the pediatric medical setting. Interns will have opportunities to immerse themselves in the hematology and oncology populations in both inpatient and outpatient settings.

Interns at St. Jude will be given opportunities to use music therapeutically in order to support patients and families undergoing treatment. They will incorporate their professional expertise and understanding of human development and medical knowledge to inform their practice. They will be challenged to refine and individualize music interventions to support the needs of the patient and family, taking into consideration age, developmental level, culture, language, physical ability and musical preferences. Interns will be asked to expand their use of different music therapy approaches to best meet patients where they are. Due to the high mortality rate and acuity of patients in this setting, interns must demonstrate empathy, positive listening skills and implementation of healthy boundaries when working with patients and families.

Music therapists working in the hospital environment often work independently or in small teams to provide support, advocate for services, maintain instruments, and sustain ongoing programming. In order to best prepare for positions in the medical environment, interns will be encouraged to strive for a growing sense of autonomy, flexibility in their practice, and sense of mastery navigating ongoing medical challenges. In order to foster this emerging autonomy, interns will gain more responsibility as their internship progresses. Interns will be encouraged to keep open dialogue with their supervisor and internship director regarding successes, challenges and specific areas of focus.

Supervision is an ongoing and multi-faceted experience between the intern and supervisor. Direct observation provides both parties with the opportunity to address areas for continued growth and celebrate successes in development. The supervisor may also use video recordings for reflection and sharing observations while watching tapes. One-to-one, protected time will be guaranteed for time to process ongoing professional development, difficult medical cases, and required assignments/readings.



As a supervisor, I aim to provide flexibility to best meet the intern's needs throughout the internship. When the intern begins their experience, I believe it is important to provide clear direction and expectations related to the learning process. The internship marks an important step, as the student transitions towards a professional career. I plan to create an open atmosphere for collaboration and development to foster a sense of professionalism. I feel it is important to celebrate accomplishments and provide support throughout the experience, as well as plan for continued areas of growth. I encourage interns to take an active role in determining these areas of growth and creating action plans to achieve those goals.

Many music therapists are called to the field due to their special relationship with music. When considering large caseloads and multiple responsibilities, clinicians run the risk of experiencing a "clinification" of music. In other words, music therapists often utilize music during their working hours and lose sight of music as a form of personal expression. Interns will be encouraged to maintain their relationship with music for self-care and personal insight. Exercises and prompts for reflection, such as referential and non-referential improvisations will be given to the intern to experience independently at their leisure. To support this, interns will also be given time to spend in the music therapy room for their own music.

Providing music therapy to medical, pediatric patients can be challenging, yet rewarding. Interns will be encouraged to recognize stressors in this environment while identifying opportunities for self-care and reflection. Opportunities for a growing sense of autonomy are imperative in order to be successful and establish a sense of professional identity. As a supervisor, I strive to support each intern to reach their greatest potential and make future contributions in the music therapy field.



Amy M. Love, MA, MT-BC  
St. Jude Children's Research Hospital  
262 Danny Thomas Place  
Mail Stop 121  
Memphis, TN, 38105  
Amy.love@stjude.org

### Personal Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
STREET CITY STATE ZIP

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Permanent Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
STREET  
CITY STATE ZIP

### School Information

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
STREET CITY STATE ZIP

### Music Therapy Department Information

Music Therapy Department Chair: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

### Internship Information

Date Course Work Will Be Completed: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Start Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Major Instrument: \_\_\_\_\_ Years: \_\_\_\_\_

Minor Instrument: \_\_\_\_\_ Years: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Instruments Used in a Clinical Setting: \_\_\_\_\_



Why are you choosing to apply for an internship at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital?

What interests you about working in hematology/oncology?

Describe any previous pediatric medical experience:

Areas for growth & areas of strength:



Skills you hope to develop or refine:

What do you expect to learn and/or accomplish as an intern?

What do you look for in a supervisor?

Why have you chosen to pursue a career in the field of music therapy?



Write a brief biography (3-5 paragraphs).





## Music Therapy Internship Application Checklist

### To be included with this application\*:

- \_\_\_\_ 1. Video with examples of musical skills
  - The original video submission must include two songs: one appropriate for use with children and one appropriate for use with adolescents. Video must demonstrate ability to accompany singing with **guitar and piano**.
  - As per AMTA, videos may not include clients. Mock groups can be created to simulate sessions.
  - Videos must be stored on a DVD or flash drive. We **will not** accept electronic submissions.
- \_\_\_\_ 2. Two sealed letters of recommendation by previous music therapy supervisors or professors.  
**Letters should include both strengths and areas for growth.**
- \_\_\_\_ 3. One sealed transcript.
- \_\_\_\_ 4. Resume including practicum placements.
- \_\_\_\_ 5. Letter of Verification from the academic director of student's university.

\* Please mail application, videos, letters of recommendation, transcript, resume and letter of verification in **one envelope** to the address listed. The **entire application** should be **typed** in Times New Roman, 12-point font.

### To be submitted to the Internship Director prior to the start of the internship\*\*:

- \_\_\_\_ 1. Proof of immunizations including:
  - Two (2) measles mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccines or acceptable evidence of measles, mumps and rubella immunity.
  - Two (2) varicella vaccines or acceptable evidence of varicella immunity.
  - Hepatitis B vaccination series or acceptable evidence of immunity such as blood test showing positive antibody titers.
  - Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis (Tdap) vaccination or acceptable evidence of immunity.
  - Proof of current season influenza vaccination.
  - Tuberculin skin testing (TST), within the last twelve (12) months such as PPD test or Tspot serology titer indicating free of TB infection.
  - Drug screen.
  - Criminal background check.
  - Proof of current health insurance.
- \_\_\_\_ 2. Signed "Master Clinical Rotation Agreement" to be completed by the university in conjunction with St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.
- \_\_\_\_ 3. Signed "Exhibit A: Student Requirements."
- \_\_\_\_ 4. Proof of liability insurance either independently or through the university.

\*\* Detailed information on required proof and documentation will be given to the student upon acceptance to the internship.

