

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in the Music-Thanatology Training Program through Lane Community College in Eugene, Oregon. The next program will begin in January of 2010. Enclosed please find information on Music-Thanatology, information about the program format and application process and an application form.

What is Music-Thanatology?

Music-thanatology is a professional field within the broader subspecialty of palliative care. It is a musical/clinical modality that unites music and medicine in end of life care. The music-thanatologist utilizes harp and voice at the bedside to lovingly serve the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of the dying and their loved ones with prescriptive music.

Prescriptive music is live music that responds to the physiological needs of the patient moment by moment. For example, by observing vital signs such as heart rate, respiration and temperature, the music-thanatologist provides music that is tailored to each specific situation. The warmth of this living music can bring solace, dignity and grace to those nearing the ultimate journey at the end of life.

This music can help to ease physical symptoms such as pain, restlessness, agitation, sleeplessness and labored breathing. It offers an atmosphere of serenity and comfort that can be profoundly soothing for those present. Difficult emotions such as anger, fear, sadness and grief can be relieved as listeners rest into a musical presence of beauty, intimacy and compassion.

Music-thanatology is not intended to entertain or distract the patient. Instead, this music allows the patient to enter into the unbinding process of letting go in his or her own very personal way. It affords families a chance to be with their loved one in a very intimate yet safe atmosphere where words are not necessary and the words that are said can come from a deep place, aided by the music.

Since antiquity, music and medicine have a long tradition as allies in healing. Music-thanatology is a contemporary field rooted in that same tradition. It has developed over the past three decades through the foundational work of Therese Schroeder-Sheker. Today there are music-thanatologists practicing throughout the United States and in several other countries around the world.

As medical technology becomes more advanced it is recognized that there is suffering that eludes even the most sophisticated medical treatment. Many physicians and caregivers welcome music vigils as an integral form of care that offers an opportunity for relieving suffering and bringing comfort.

The Music-Thanatology Training Program

This intensive 2-year program utilizes an Adult Learning model. Students reflect on their experiences and expand upon the didactic presentations, musical and clinical skills through home study and clinical internships. There is also a contemplative component in which the student is supported to grow in his/her own personal and spiritual life. The formal program will ideally be just the beginning of life-long learning and growth.

Program Components

- Registration and tuition for Music-Thanatology Training through Lane Community College in Eugene, OR. This is a non-credit program.
- Didactic sessions one weekend per month from January 2010 through November 2011. These will be held in the Portland, OR area.
- Clinical Discussion one Sunday per month from January through November 2010-2011. This will take place on the same weekends as the didactic sessions.
- Schola Cantorum (Singing School) during monthly didactic weekends.
- Opportunity to participate in a yearly concert series.
- Clinical Internship at a facility (hospital, hospice, etc.) working alongside an MTAI certified music-thanatology mentor.
- Assignments related to monthly didactic sessions.
- Independent study materials, including books, videos, tapes, handouts, etc.
- Harp and voice lessons with an MTAI certified music-thanatologist or approved teachers throughout the program. These are paid for by the student in addition to the tuition and course/material fees.
- Purchase or rental of an approved harp for the entire length of the program.

Program Prerequisites

- Demonstration of proficiency on an instrument. This may be done by submitting an audio example with your application (i.e. CD, tape or video).
- Basic understanding of music theory (reading and notation)
- At least 12 hours of Hospice Volunteer Training preferred

Applicants meeting all program requirements will be invited to attend a two-day, on site, interview process in Portland, OR. Musical competence may be demonstrated at this time.

Successful applicants will receive written notice of acceptance into the program.

Application for Music-Thanatology Training Program

The next two-year Music-Thanatology Training Program through Lane Community College begins January 2010. Please send the following Application Materials in one envelope to:

Music-Thanatology Training Program
through Lane Community College
c/o 128 NE 43rd Ave.
Portland, OR 97213

APPLICATION MATERIALS

1. employment resume
2. educational curriculum vitae
3. copy of college transcripts (does NOT need to be an official copy)
4. three letters of reference: two professional, one personal
5. demonstration of proficiency on an instrument
6. personal statement
7. music questionnaire
8. non-refundable application fee of \$50.00, payable to: Jane Franz

Personal statement:

Please write briefly about the following, using no more than five typed pages total. There are no "correct" answers; we are seeking to understand the unique perspectives and experiences that you would bring to the bedside of the dying.

1. What calls you to music-thanatology?
2. Describe your work history. What have you loved in your work? What have you found to be the most difficult and challenging?
3. What personal and/or professional experiences of death and dying have you had?
4. Describe your relationship with music. Summarize your musical journey throughout your life. Please speak specifically about your experience with voice and harp.
5. Music-thanatologists serve the needs of the dying with prescriptive music. What does service mean to you?
6. How do you renew yourself spiritually and emotionally? Describe any contemplative, meditative, or spiritual practices that are a part of your life.

Music Questionnaire

Do you currently own or rent a harp?

Levered **Pedal** **Make and model** _____

Number and type of strings _____

Range of strings (lowest and highest pitch) _____

(Second harp) _____

Have you had private harp lessons? ___ How long? _____

Teacher (name & contact information) _____

Are you a professional harpist? _____ Do you perform publicly? _____

Type(s) of music you perform _____

Please describe your ability to play harp, read music, improvise, and/or compose music.

Do you play other instruments?

What is your primary instrument? _____

Have you had formal training? _____

What are your strengths and weaknesses? _____

Do you conduct? _____ Do harmonic analysis? _____

What is your vocal range: soprano, alto, tenor, bass? _____

Have you studied voice? _____ Describe your vocal ability _____

Do you sing on pitch? _____

Describe how, when and why you sing _____

Have you studied music theory? _____

What are your strengths and weaknesses? _____

