

Singing Our Way Through: Testimonials

From Patient Families:

“I could not imagine music that would speak to this experience the way this does. It is a real gift. There is something comforting about listening to music that is both beautiful and able to express the painful, terrifying and sometimes isolating experience we share. And the music is positive without minimizing the reality. I felt less alone listening to it.”

- Shannon, mom to Nico (age 2), ALL

“I can't say enough great things about this music. The lyrics are especially beautiful and capture perfectly, at least to me, what this experience has been like. The CD has a great deal to offer everyone, including those who are fortunate enough not to have cancer enter their lives.”

- Nicole, mom to Evan (age 3), ALL, and Michael (age 10)

“Mariah was a bit down yesterday. We decided to play the CD – before I knew it, we were both singing and dancing!”

- Yadira Jimenez, aunt to Mariah (age 9), ALL

“I'm amazed how the songs are both therapeutic and just pure fun.”

- Nancy, mom to Elena (age 7), ALL, and Ana (age 10)

“Thank you so much for the CD. ‘This Little Light of Mine’ brought me to tears. Your work is amazing and so very important.”

- Tom, dad to Maddy (age 15), ALL

From Medical Professionals and Support Organizations:

“Monday's performance was truly awesome. It was impossible to not laugh, cry, and sing along. Alastair really captures the essence of the cancer journey and presents it in beautiful music. He has turned family trauma into a gift for many to enjoy. I was delighted to be there and experience it with my family.”

- Dr. Anders Kolb, Pediatric Hematology/Oncology, Nemours Hospital for Children

“Having worked in the field of pediatric oncology for four years, it is rare to find a person who has so passionately created such a valuable gift for kids and families facing the challenges of cancer. I work with a child who is here from Spain for treatment. Singing on Alastair's album and performing in Alastair's CD release party gave him the gift of being brought together with other kids who understand what he is going through. I watched the positive impact that being part of this project has provided. *Singing Our Way Through* offers not only great music, but a way for families and children to connect with one another. It truly is a joyful, positive creation!”

- Gail Erdos, co-Director, Our Space, Inc.

“Hi Alastair! I wanted to let you know about an adoring fan here at the clinic. She watches your ‘When I Get Bald’ video whenever she takes her medicine, and says she's proud to be bald because of Clio. She loves the video so much and it has helped her so much in clinic that I was wondering if we could get her a copy of the music video for her to have?”

- Kate Cusack, Activities Specialist, Dana-Farber/Children's Hospital Cancer Center

“The music provided by *Singing Our Way Through* has brought smiles and laughter to the children here at Christopher's Haven. It allows children to realize that they are not alone and to have fun with difficult subjects such as the loss of hair. Standing ovation for such a lovely CD which has brought so much joy to our families!!”

- *Deana Lozano, Family Services Manager, Christopher's Haven, Inc.*

“As a Child Life Specialist who has the privilege to work with the bravest patients and families, I'm always searching for new, innovative ways to bring comfort and joy to my patients. Hair loss and becoming bald is often a very sensitive and emotional experience for patients and families, as it's a visual reminder of the true toll illness is taking on these young, innocent children. When a friend sent me the link to the 'When I Get Bald' video, I was instantly touched. I laughed, cried, and tried to sing along! The interaction between Alastair and his daughter in the video is so sincere. I am confident my patients and families will truly be able to identify and connect with the message of 'When I Get Bald.' It will undoubtedly provide them comfort and joy!”

- *Meg Zaleuke, Child Life Specialist, BMTU, Cincinnati Children's Hospital*

“Our patients and families loved the CDs. Oftentimes our patients face many visits with long hospitalizations. They are scared and overwhelmed by the complex medical demands. Music provides a distraction that can make the experience more tolerable. The unique lyrics on *Singing Our Way Through* give kids hope and encouragement during a difficult time.”

- *Aleeza Granote, Pediatric Social Worker, Cardinal Glennon Children's Medical Center*

“I have been working with a 12 year old boy for several months. He is a patient in our oncology unit and is in isolation, so he spends nearly every day, all day, in his hospital room lying in his bed. As a music therapist, I use different techniques with this boy. Sometimes we listen to recorded music. Soon after I received *Singing our way Through*, I gave a CD to the boy and asked him to pick a song to listen to. He picked 'Have You Ever Been Jealous?' We listened together. The patient told me that his younger brother was jealous of all the gifts he, the patient, received during his stay in the hospital. The song clearly resonated with something this family was dealing with in a very real way. Hospital life is so unusual and atypical. It was very reaffirming for this boy that jealousy is a common problem for families with a child in the hospital. The song was a great way to help this boy understand this issue.”

- *Elizabeth Stolte, Pediatric Music Therapist, Stollery Children's Hospital*

“Having a live performance for the patients and families to attend is always a joy. It brings families together and allows them to forget about the hospital aspects of the day and focus on something fun and enjoyable. Alastair's music really lends a fun atmosphere for the kids to interact, dance, and sing... There was one particular boy who was really enjoying the song about the monkeys. I saw him the following week and he was still singing it.”

- *Miranda Guardiani, Child Life Specialist, Boston Children's Hospital*

“I loved the CD...THANK YOU!!!”

- *Dr. Ashley Speckhart, Oncologist, Maine Medical Center*

“The music is fun, upbeat, and appropriate, with a variety of good life lessons and inspiration tucked in.”

- *Shelly Charles, Children's Cancer Association MusicRx Specialist*