



1. What is Melodies for Miracles?

Melodies for Miracles is a collaborative, practice-pledge initiative that encourages students to practice with purpose while raising funds for Children's National Hospital. Students track their practice hours, collect pledges, and all funds raised directly support pediatric care.

2. Is participation required?

No. Participation is completely optional. Teachers and studios are invited to participate in a way that feels realistic and aligned with their current capacity.

3. What is the teacher's role in the project?

Participating teachers support student engagement by encouraging consistent practice, checking in with students about weekly or monthly practice hours, and recording student-reported hours using the provided studio tracker. Teachers do not collect money or manage donations.

4. How do students track their practice hours?

Students track their practice at home and report their hours at the end of each week or month (depending on studio preference). Teachers then enter or confirm those hours using the studio practice tracker. Clear instructions and templates will be provided.

5. What is the time commitment for teachers?

The time commitment is designed to be light and integrated into regular lessons. Most teachers spend a brief moment during lessons checking in on practice hours and a short amount of time updating the studio tracker periodically.

6. What materials will be provided?

Participating teachers will receive a project overview and timeline, student practice trackers, a studio tracker for recording hours, family-facing letters and sponsor letters, a central website link and QR code for donations, and clear step-by-step instructions.

7. How does the fundraising piece work?

Students collect pledges based on their practice hours by reaching out to sponsors within their own community. Students will be provided with a ready-to-use sponsor letter explaining the project and how their support benefits Children's National Hospital. Teachers share a central website link and QR code. All pledges and donations are submitted directly to Children's National Hospital. Teachers do not collect money.

8. Will there be ongoing support during the project?

Yes. Participating teachers will be invited to monthly Zoom check-ins for encouragement, questions, and sharing strategies that are working across studios. SAGWA's website will also host practice tips, shared ideas, and reminders throughout the project.

9. What if only a few students in my studio want to participate?

That's completely fine. Studios may participate with one student, a small group, or their full studio. There is no minimum participation requirement.

10. How do studios determine their participation goal? Each studio determines its goal by multiplying the number of participating students by 77 practice hours.

This allows goals to remain age-appropriate and realistic for each studio.

11. How long does the project run?

Melodies for Miracles runs from January 12 through April 19, with a clearly defined beginning and end date.

12. What is the overall fundraising goal?

Our collective fundraising goal is \$10,000 in support of Children's National Hospital. Each studio's contribution—large or small—plays an important role in reaching this shared goal.

13. Is there a culminating event or celebration?

Yes. The project concludes with a culminating concert and celebration bringing students, families, and teachers together to recognize the collective impact of their efforts. Details will be shared as the project progresses.

14. What if I'm interested but unsure I can fully commit right now?

Completing the interest form does not commit you to participation. It simply helps us understand interest levels and plan appropriate support. Teachers will have time to review materials before deciding.

15. Who can I contact with questions during the project?

Support contact information will be shared so teachers know exactly where to direct questions throughout the project.

16. Can students participate in Melodies for Miracles for community service hours?

At this time, Melodies for Miracles is not offering community service hour certification. In this inaugural year, we are intentionally keeping the focus narrow to ensure a strong and sustainable launch. In future years, we may explore whether this is a possibility.

17. Can chamber groups and teachers participate in Melodies for Miracles?

Yes, absolutely. Chamber groups may use ensemble rehearsals and practice time as part of their participation. Teachers and individual musicians are also welcome to participate using their own practice or ensemble work in support of the project.