The Music Therapy Charity - Bursary Report

I am writing to thank you for a valuable bursary that I was awarded in order to help prepare my dissertation research project for submission to a peer reviewed journal. Projects often require substantial work in order to meet the criteria set by a chosen journal and the bursary helped ensure I could allocate time to do this.

My dissertation project title is ‘Songs of Grief: A qualitative study exploring music therapists’ perspectives on the role of popular songs in times of collective grief’. I used thematic analysis to explore music therapists’ perspectives on the how and why popular songs may come to be adopted by communities in times of grief, for example following a terrorist attack. The project requires significant editing in order to meet the submission criteria of the journal and the bursary has allowed me to make time to do this around my other music therapy work.

Since graduating in November, I began working for a regional music trust delivery music therapy in primary schools in the area. I primarily work with children with physical and learning disabilities and songwriting has been a key feature of the work.

I would like to thank you again for contributing to my work as a music therapist.

Yours sincerely,

Duncan Stagg