



## MUSIC FOR ALL SEASONS, INC.

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*Professional Performances for Hope And Healing*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**September 16, 2026**

## Music For All Seasons Brings Its Mission to Life on *Advice Unfiltered Podcast*

**Special live episode explores 35 years of music, connection and community, highlights Voices of Valor, and features the show's first-ever live musical performance**

**RED BANK, N.J.** - On August 20, 2026, Music For All Seasons (MFAS) appeared on a special live episode of *Advice Unfiltered with Chris and Tony*, filmed at Retromedia Sound Studios in Red Bank, New Jersey. The episode gave viewers a look at MFAS' 35-year history, its programs and the people behind its work, and included a special video message from Jon Stewart recognizing the organization's 35th anniversary. Conversations featured MFAS representatives, musicians, and veterans from Soldier On. The program concluded with the show's first-ever live musical performance, featuring veterans and musicians and culminating with "We Made It Home (The Journey)" by Two Minds.



Karen Burr, a member of the Music For All Seasons Board of Trustees and daughter of MFAS founders Rena H. Fruchter and the late Brian F. Dallow, shared the story of the organization's beginnings in 1991. Burr spoke about her parents' vision for bringing professional live music to people with limited access to the arts and how that vision grew into Music For All Seasons.

Burr also talked about the range of communities MFAS has served over the years, including seniors, children and young people, hospital patients, people in residential and correctional settings, and veterans. She discussed how the organization's work has expanded beyond bringing professional musical experiences into these settings to include programs that invite participants to take an active role in creating music.

That includes MFAS' Voices programs (Voices of Valor, Voices of Change, and Voices of Empowerment) that bring participants together with professional musicians and mentors to share experiences and create original music.

Voices of Change was also part of the discussion. Burr and the hosts talked about MFAS' collaboration with Common Ground Grief Center, where children and young people worked with musicians and a psychology mentor to create an original song based on their conversations and experiences with grief and loss. Chris and Tony had previously seen the program firsthand and shared their own impressions of the young participants and the experience. MFAS' work with Common Ground followed an earlier Voices of Change pilot with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Union County.

The collaborative process behind the Voices programs was explored further through Grammy-nominated songwriter, producer and musician Ron Haney, internationally performed composer, musician and educator Dave Rimelis, and psychology mentor Ged Dagot. Together, their work illustrates the different roles musicians, facilitators and mentors bring to the collaborative process. Haney develops and produces the music, Rimelis helps organize participants' conversations and ideas into lyrics, and Dagot helps maintain a safe and supportive environment while assisting both the participants and facilitators throughout the sessions.



Haney joined Chris and Tony to talk more about what that collaboration looks like in the room. He explained that the facilitators do not begin with a predetermined song. They listen to the participants, follow the conversation, try different musical ideas, and allow the song to develop from what the group brings into each session. As Haney described it, an individual contribution can eventually become “our idea.”

That shared process is at the heart of Voices of Valor. Veterans may come into the program feeling alone in their experiences, but as the sessions unfold, they often begin to hear parts of their own stories reflected in what others share. Through conversation, listening and creating music together, participants discover that others can relate to experiences they may have carried on their own. Those connections help create the sense of community and belonging that is central to the program.

Haney also spoke about the impact he has witnessed through his years with Voices of Valor. “I always say about this program, this program saves lives,” he told Chris and Tony. He recalled a veteran from one of his earliest Voices of Valor programs who initially seemed reluctant to participate but continued returning each week. After the program concluded, the veteran approached Haney and told him, “You saved my life.” Haney said the experience has stayed with him and shaped how he views the importance of the work.

Haney also reflected on his work with Voices of Change, including facilitating the recent program with children and young people at Common Ground Grief Center. His experience with both Voices of Valor and Voices of Change illustrated how the collaborative process can be adapted to different groups while remaining centered on listening, connection and creating music together.

Veterans from Soldier On also joined Chris and Tony to talk about their experiences. Valerie M. Johnson, a U.S. Navy veteran, spoke about the community she had found during her more than two years at Soldier On. Speaking about the veterans alongside her that evening, Johnson said, “These are my brothers.” She also reflected on her experience participating in Voices of Valor, saying, “Voices of Valor in and of itself, they make you feel like family.”



Another veteran, Christopher DeDomenico, shared how the experience took on an unexpected personal meaning while he was participating in Voices of Valor. DeDomenico, a U.S. Navy veteran, said he was diagnosed with cancer while the group was creating “We Made It Home (The Journey).” Although the others did not know what he was going through at the time, he said the song and the part that resonated with him helped him through the experience. When Chris and Tony asked whether the process had helped him during his cancer journey, DeDomenico responded, “Absolutely. Absolutely.” He also shared with the audience that he is now cancer free.

The episode also featured accomplished saxophonist and multi-instrumentalist Michael Ghegan, who has toured internationally with Roger Hodgson, co-founder of Supertramp, and performed with numerous internationally recognized artists. When Ghegan was invited to participate and learned that the event was for the veterans, he immediately agreed to take part. He later joined the veterans for the live musical



segment, leading them in “The Star-Spangled Banner,” which he described as an honor and his favorite song to play.

The live musical segment culminated with the veterans and musicians performing “We Made It Home (The Journey)” by Two Minds. Chris and Tony introduced the segment as the first-ever live musical performance on *Advice Unfiltered with Chris and Tony*.

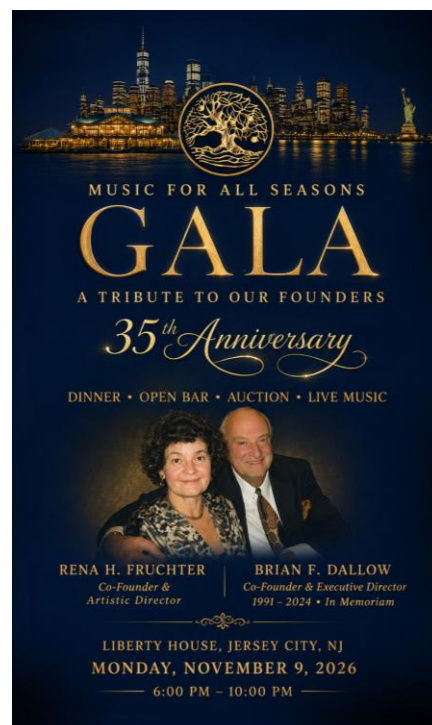
Written and performed by veterans from Soldier On in Massachusetts and New Jersey, “We Made It Home (The Journey)” was created through Voices of Valor by the group Two Minds. Ron Haney and Dave Rimelis served as facilitators, with Ged Dagot as psychology mentor. The original song was recorded at Lakehouse Recording Studios in Asbury Park, New Jersey, with Nick Semanchik as recording engineer. The project was made possible through sponsorship by the Soldier On Foundation.

The live performance gave viewers the opportunity to hear the result of the collaborative process Haney had described earlier in the program, with conversations and individual ideas developed together into an original piece of music.

The episode also included a look ahead to Music For All Seasons' 35th Anniversary Gala, "A Tribute to Our Founders," on November 9, 2026, at Liberty House in Jersey City, New Jersey. The event will celebrate MFAS' 35-year history and honor the legacy of founders Rena H. Fruchter and the late Brian F. Dallow while raising support for the organization's programs.

Throughout the episode, viewers had the opportunity to see what that legacy looks like today, from the organization's history shared by Karen Burr to the collaborative work of its musicians and mentors to the experiences shared directly by veterans involved with Voices of Valor. The live performance of "We Made It Home (The Journey)" brought those elements together through music.

Supporters are invited to help continue that legacy by attending the 35th Anniversary Gala, purchasing tickets, becoming a sponsor, or supporting the event. Proceeds from the Gala will help Music For All Seasons continue bringing its programs and musical experiences to the communities it serves.



### 35th Anniversary Gala tickets and information:

[Music For All Seasons 35th Anniversary Gala | Music For All Seasons](https://givebutter.com/vl2dyg)  
<https://givebutter.com/vl2dyg>



### ► Watch the full episode:

*Advice Unfiltered LIVE Musical Performance with The Veterans*

<https://www.youtube.com/live/5r53p70iLA0?si=wrZGvrTZF6uuVIGu>

### About Music For All Seasons

Founded in 1991, Music For All Seasons is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that nurtures human connection with under-resourced communities through healing musical experiences and inspiring creative collaborations with professional musicians. Through its programs and specialized initiatives, including Voices of Valor, Music For All Seasons brings the restorative power of music to Veterans, survivors of domestic violence, seniors, young people, and other communities.

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