

# **Musicians Benevolent Society of Houston**

## *A brief history*

The Musicians Benevolent Society of Houston (MBS) is a tax-exempt, 501c3 Texas corporation that provides professional musicians with up to \$1,000 in temporary financial assistance for medical emergencies.

MBS has made gifts in the blues, classical, jazz, Latin, rock and Texas music communities in the greater Houston area. Assistance through June 2004 totals \$53,500 impacting 156 musicians and their families. Common forms of assistance include mortgage or rent payments, utility bills, medical insurance deductibles, non-covered medical expenses, special health needs and medical equipment rentals, prescription medicines, doctors' bills, end-of-life care and funeral expenses.

Referrals are by word of mouth, and all transactions are held in confidence to protect the musician's and the family's privacy. Gifts to musicians are one time and non-recurring. Cash gifts are prohibited. Bank drafts are sent directly to a payee or service provider, which ensures accountability and maximum impact.

This all-volunteer organization was established in 1990 and runs on individual and corporate donations of cash ranging from \$25 to \$1,500. In-kind corporate support has ranged as high as \$5,000. To make a tax-deductible gift to the Musicians Benevolent Society of Houston, please make checks payable to MBS and mail to:

Musicians Benevolent Society of Houston  
PO Box 66253  
Houston TX 77266-6253

Questions and referrals for assistance may be directed to Steve Sucher, co-founder, at 713-204-3238, or alternative phone numbers, 713-221-8288 work or 713-204-2965 private cell.