

SOUND SERVICES



Grant Expands Hearing Services for NOMC Patients at New Orleans Speech and Hearing Center

Thanks to a generous new grant from the local Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat Foundation services for musicians will expand for 2013 and 2014. In addition to the hearing evaluation, the NOMC patients tested at NOSHC will receive ear plugs for hearing protection. Hearing aids will be provided for those who qualify. The NOMC patients pay a small \$5.00 co-pay for the services. The hearing aids are provided by the Foundation at no charge to the patient. More advanced musician ear molds are available for purchase at \$175.00 a pair.

NOMC patients who are eligible are all musicians, vocalists, school band leaders, djs, and soundmen and who have had a wellness visit to the NOMC within the past 6 months. Call (504) 412-1366 to make an appointment at NOMC today for the referral.



Dori, 4th year Doctor of Audiology Candidate and intern at NOSHC, performs a hearing evaluation in a sound treated booth

Will.I.Am & Tinnitus



"Black Eyed Peas frontman will.i.am is the modern version of an old-school rock star: His group sells millions of albums, performs at huge stadium tours and, as such guitar-slinging icons as The Who have in the past, rocked halftime at the Super Bowl.

According to an interview with the British paper, The Sun, there's another thing Will has in common with The Who: like that group's legendary guitarist Pete Townshend, will.i.am says he suffers from the painful condition tinnitus. The malady, which is common among musicians who've been exposed to loud music for prolonged periods, includes such symptoms as a constant ringing or buzzing in the ears.

"I can't be still. Work calms me down," Will, 35, says of

Noise-
Induced
Hearing
Loss

Musicians and their

fans who are exposed to sound levels of 85 dB and higher for prolonged periods of time are at risk for noise induced hearing disorders. There is no surgery or medicine that will reverse the damage. NOSHC Audiologist Ashley Brewer says, "The first signs of hearing loss are tinnitus and/or muffled hearing following exposure to noise. Sometimes these are temporary, however after prolonged noise exposure they can become permanent. The best way to protect your ears is to wear hearing protection when exposed to noise or loud sounds."

Comparison of Duration Per Day in Hours to Allowable Sound Level in dBA (Slow-Response SPL)

Duration per day (hours)	Sound level (dBA, slow response)
8	90
6	92
4	95
2	100
1	105
½	110
0.25	115

PEL = 90 dBA (TWA), or 100% Dose

Chart shows permissible exposure limit for noise is 90db at an eight hour time limit.

*(PEL) : permissible exposure limit
(TWA) : time-weighted average*

Chart from www.osha.gov

Meet The NOSHC Audiologists



Melody Benedic, Au.D., CCC-Audiologist & Ashley Brewer, M.C.D., CCC-Audiologist

Melody Benedic, Au.D., CCC-Audiologist

LSU Health Sciences Center, Doctor of Audiology, 2010
Louisiana State University, B.A. Communication Disorders, 2006

Why is it important for NOMC patients to get their hearing checked?

Melody: "It is very important for musicians to get their hearing

the maddening noise in his ears, a malady that is especially cruel to a producer whose ability to mix and blend sounds is crucial to his career.

"I can't be quiet, as that's when I notice the ringing in my ears," he describes. "There's always a beep there every day, all day. Like now. I don't know exactly how long I've had this, but it's gradually got worse."

And while the ailment has slowed down Townshend and forced the famously aggressive guitarist to sometimes resort to strumming an acoustic during Who shows, Will says he's taken the diagnosis as a spur to make even more music.

"I don't know what silence sounds like anymore. Music is the only thing which eases my pain," he explains.

As proof of the severity of the illness, the paper describes the producer/rapper regularly working his finger into his ear and shaking his head during the interview to try to silence the noise in his head. The content of the interview wasn't confirmed to MTV News by a spokesperson for the group by press time..."

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checked because hearing is their most valuable instrument. Without good hearing, they can't successfully perform."

Why do you enjoy working with NOMC patients?

Melody: "I enjoy working with NOMC patients because they are very interesting people with big personalities."

What does music mean to you?

Melody: "I've loved music since I was very little. I played in my high school band and I danced for 16 years. Music has always been a vital part of my life. Music is what makes New Orleans, New Orleans. It gives New Orleans its identity."

Ashley Brewer, M.C.D., CCC-Audiologist

LSU Health Sciences Center, M.A. Communication Disorders-Audiology, 2003
Louisiana State University, B.A. Communication Disorders, 2001

What does music mean to you?

Ashley: "Because of living in New Orleans, music has always been a part of my life. My husband has been in a band for 15 years. We love sitting our back porch and listening to music from local festivals in our area."

Why is it important for NOMC patient to get their hearing checked?

Ashley: "I think it is important for musicians to get their hearing tested and to protect their hearing so they can continue to create music that makes New Orleans what it is today."



Audiologist Melody fixing a hearing aid



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New Orleans Musicians' Clinic

New Orleans Musicians' Clinic (NOMC) and Assistance Foundation (NOMAF)



Hours: Monday-Thursday 10am to 4pm

504-415-3514 - info@nomaf.org