

## Patient Story:

### How Jay got his voice back after cancer

Video	Audio
<b>Jay Masters</b>	<i>Tap, tap, tap ...</i> "Alright, we ready to go?"
	To Jay Masters ...
<b>Jay Masters</b>	"... 3, 2, 1 ..."
	... a strong voice is a gift.
<b>Jay Masters</b>	"This holiday season, don't forget those who are less fortunate."
<b>Vivien Williams</b>	A hobby and vocation. But a diagnosis of an aggressive throat cancer changed everything. His doctor broke the news.
<b>Jay Masters</b> <b>Throat Cancer Survivor</b>	"Then he looked me in the eye and he said, 'What you have is stage 4 cancer.' And my heart felt like it literally dropped out of my chest cavity."
<b>Eric Moore, M.D.</b> <b>Otorhinolaryngology</b> <b>Mayo Clinic</b>	"Jay came to us with a tumor of his throat. That's a little bit unusual in a person of his age and health, but he had what's called a hypopharyngeal cancer."
	Mayo Clinic surgeon Dr. Eric Moore removed the tumor from deep in Jay's throat.
<b>Jay Masters</b>	"I said is this going to affect my voice?"
	You can hear that something did weaken his voice.
<b>Jay Masters</b>	"I do voice-over work professionally. I do emcee work and have for 30 years. You know my voice is very important to me. And he said, 'No, the surgery will not affect your voice,' and he was right. The surgery did not."
	But because Jay's cancer was aggressive, he also endured 4 infusions

	of chemotherapy and radiation. Jay received 30 radiation treatments to target the tumor. Five days a week for six weeks. But afterward, scar tissue, which is a possible side effect of radiation, formed. His voice faded.
<b>Jay Masters</b>	"It was very difficult for me because my voice was ... a part of my personality. It was a part of me that set me apart."
	But Jay was still alive. He had beaten a serious cancer, and was very grateful.
<b>Jay Masters</b>	"I just believe there was divine intervention there."
	Jay transformed a tough situation into a gift of compassion for others.
<b>Jay Masters</b>	"I remember how scary it was to think, you know, I've got cancer. I've got stage 4 cancer. I might die. I might not be here to see my next birthday ... I wanted to be able to help people get through that and see that even though they have a difficult diagnosis, it doesn't necessarily mean that their life is over".
	"It's building up in your system. Yeah. And your body."
	Jay now works for Mayo Clinic, where he enjoys talking to patients to help them cope.
<b>Patient</b>	"This grey one is for brain or lung cancer, because my dad had brain and lung cancer and died from it when I was little."
<b>Eric Moore, M.D. Otorhinolaryngology Mayo Clinic</b>	"From the very first day that I met him, he was ... uplifting us."
	Jay's story doesn't end there. After adjusting to life with a weakened voice, Jay met Mayo Clinic surgeon Dr. Semirra Bayan.
<b>Semirra Bayan, M.D.</b>	"He had a small scar band that involved the front part of his vocal cords. It was fusing them together, and, so, I

<b>Otolaryngology — Head and Neck Surgery</b>	removed, or cut, that scar band and allowed the vocal cords to open back up again."
	Results of the procedure vary from patient to patient, but Jay's voice is once again strong.
<b>Jay Masters</b>	"There are many families who are struggling throughout the holidays."
<b>Jay Masters</b>	"I have a lot to be grateful for. I am very happy and very grateful for my life, and of course my voice, and now I just want to pay it forward and give hope to other people."
<b>Jay Masters</b>	"You can make a huge difference."
	For the Mayo Clinic News Network ...
<b>Jay Masters</b>	"And spread some holiday cheer."
	... I'm Vivien Williams.