

Mayo Clinic Medical Edge

O02 Drummer Beats Heart Disease

Intro: All he ever wanted to do was play the drums in a rock and roll band. The young man you're about to meet was living that dream. But a serious heart problem silenced his music. With doubts about living to see his 24th birthday, he went to Mayo Clinic to find help and hope.

Video

Audio

Voice of Vivien Williams	For much of his life, drummer Justin Vigile has known that there was a serious problem with his heart.
Justin Vigile	"I was diagnosed with hypertrophic cardiomyopathy."
Voice of Vivien Williams	A rare type of the inherited disease caused one of the pumping chambers of his heart to not work properly.
Steve Ommen, M.D. Mayo Clinic Cardiologist	"Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, or HCM, is a genetic predisposition to the heart muscle being too thick.
Voice of Vivien Williams	When Justin's implantable defibrillator went off during a gig, Justin knew his heart was failing.
Justin Vigile Has hypertrophic cardiomyopathy	"It sent me for a loop. I managed to keep playing through a set."
Krissy Pulsinelli Justin's friend	"I remember seeing his last show and wondering if it was going to kill him, because... That's how determined he was, he was going to play drums."
Voice of Vivien Williams	And he could, for a while. But over time, symptoms got much, much worse.
Justin Vigile	"I couldn't walk. I couldn't get out of bed."
Voice of Vivien Williams	Doctors in Justin's hometown told him the news.
Justin Vigile	"Your heart is failing It will get worse and at some point this is it. This is the beginning of the end."
Voice of Vivien Williams	By the time Justin was in his early 20's he was told his only option was a heart transplant.
Mary Beth Vigile Justin's mom	"We were down to maybe 3 to 6 months, he had."

Voice of Vivien Williams	Justin, his mom Mary Beth and his dad Anthony were not willing to give up on the search for ways to keep Justin's heart beating.
Anthony Vigile Justin's dad	"I really believe that your time is not complete here. You have a purpose.
Voice of Vivien Williams	Their search for answers took them to Mayo Clinic. To a specialized team led by cardiac surgeon Dr. Hartzell Schaff and Dr. Steve Ommen.
Hartzell Schaff, M.D. Mayo Clinic cardiac surgeon	"Here's a young man who has his whole life in front of him and not only is he symptomatic and shows symptoms of his heart disease, he was depressed and discouraged because of the illness and the prospects he had at that time."
Voice of Vivien Williams	Dr. Schaff and his team gave Justin another option. To have an operation that was the result of decades of teamwork and research at Mayo Clinic.
Hartzell Schaff, M.D.	"Continuity, collaboration and innovation."
Voice of Vivien Williams	The goal is to relieve symptoms caused by the thickening of muscle in the apex of Justin's heart. During the operation Dr. Schaff opens the small pumping chamber and enlarges it by removing excess muscle tissue. This increases the amount of blood pumped out, and lowers pressures inside the heart.
Anthony Vigile	"It was an amazing, almost spiritual thing watching him come back to life."
Mary Beth Vigile	"You didn't just give me back a boy who could sit in a chair. You gave me back a boy that could drum again."
Justin Vigile	"I want to be an example."
Voice of Vivien Williams	Justin was determined to become strong and healthy. Within a year of his operation, he was back on stage, the leader of his band Extractus.
Justin Vigile	"I'm coming back and I'm going to do it in a way that's really big."
	For Mayo Clinic News Network, I'm Vivien Williams.

Anchor tag:

Dr. Schaff says this operation is still relatively new. Justin's parents say it is an answer to their prayers.

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