The National Music Council presented its prestigious American Eagle Award to music industry icons Crystal Gayle, Harry Shearer, and Patti Smith on July 13 at The Summer NAMM Show in Nashville, TN. National Music Council Director, David Sanders, hosted the awards ceremony along with presenters Paul Shaffer, Richard Leigh, and John Ingrassia.

The American Eagle Awards are presented each year to call attention to the importance of music education and respect of creator’s rights, with proceeds going to support the National Music Council’s advocacy efforts throughout the year. The honorees and presenters collaborated for an unforgettable finale performance of the song “People Have The Power,” written by Patti Smith and her late husband Fred “Sonic” Smith.

NMC director David Sanders expressed his gratitude to the each of the 2017 honorees for “speaking so eloquently about the issues that the National Music Council seeks so much to support: Music Education, Creator’s Rights, and the 5 Music Rights developed by the International Music Council.”

Excerpts from the acceptance speeches are below. Click to hear Patti Smith speak about the 5 Musical Rights of the International Music Council, Crystal Gayle discuss the importance of music educations, and Harry Shearer on the importance of Creator’s Rights.
The Nashville event received support from The NAMM Foundation, which also works to advance active participation in music making through scientific research, philanthropic giving and public service programs.

Photos from the event can be found here.

NFHS LEARNING CENTER LAUNCHES FREE COPYRIGHT AND COMPLIANCE COURSE

The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) has added to its growing list of online education courses with the launch of “Understanding Copyright and Compliance,” a free course geared toward music teachers, spirit coaches, and school administrators. The course was developed with the cooperation of the National Music Council, National Association for Music Education, and Music Publishers Association.

Understanding Copyright and Compliance,” available through the NFHS Learning Center at www.NFHSLearn.com, explores copyright laws and how those laws impact the interscholastic community. The course, which expands on topics such as fair use, public domain, copyright infringement penalties and much more, was produced with the assistance of NAfME (National Association for Music Education) and USA Cheer.

“Everybody wants to be compliant, but the problem is that copyright law is so complex that it’s hard to follow,” said James Weaver, NFHS director of performing arts and sports. “What we did with this course was break it down so that it’s easy to understand, and provide a process that when copyrighted materials are used, they’re properly used in a manner that credits the creator of that content.”

Weaver added that in recent years, state associations and its member schools have been met with copyright infringement claims. As a result, he said there was an awareness that schools, administrators, and coaches are not equipped with enough knowledge regarding copyright.

“Whenever we deal with music education and copyrighted materials in the classroom, there’s always that false sense of believing that as a music educator you can use copyrighted material however you want, and that’s simply not true,” Weaver said. “With this course, we are showing them what they can do and what they need permission
to do. It’s all black and white, and it’s all cited back to the copyright law."

The release of “Understanding Copyright and Compliance” brings the total number of courses on the NFHS Learning Center to 55, joining “Introduction to Music Adjudication” and “Introduction to Interscholastic Music” in the music category. This much anticipated course was released as the NFHS Learning Center closed in on delivering its six millionth online education course. This was the third consecutive year that the NFHS Learning Center delivered more than one million courses in a calendar year.

“NFHS Learn is pleased that people have seen the courses as a way to create awareness of a very important topic. We think that this is the best platform to educate the masses on copyright law,” said Dan Schuster, NFHS director of educational services. “It is going to create awareness of copyright law and it is going to change how we look at music in our schools. You cannot just use copyrighted material. If there is copyrighted material, you must get the proper permissions to play it, perform it, sell it, and stream it.”

In the wake of hitting six million courses delivered since the launch of the Learning Center in 2007, Schuster said he wants NFHS Learn to continue to directly impact students. As the courses become more diverse, it’s affording the administrators, coaches, and officials the opportunity to learn about the issues that states are facing throughout the nation.

The Learning Center’s most popular course is “Concussion in Sports” – one of many courses, including “Understanding Copyright and Compliance,” that are valuable to nearly all members of the interscholastic community. Schuster noted that information found on those courses should be considered “pertinent, relevant, and valuable” due to their daily influence on students.

“The future is to continue to confront issues that our state associations are seeing from member schools. This copyright and compliance course, much like the concussion course, is a great example,” Schuster said. "We got out ahead of an issue with “Concussion in Sports,” created the education, and it quickly met the needs of our state associations. We need information on concussions and we needed to educate people on the signs and symptoms. We’re able to do that effectively and efficiently to many people. We now have this copyright and compliance issue that our schools are facing, and we’ve created this piece that’s going to make sure they’re aware of it. It will protect them. We must be able to adapt to the changing environments of our schools.”

NAMM NEWS

Music Education Days and GenNext Registration is Open

Pre K-12 music educators, school administrators, school board members, college students, and faculty are invited to join industry professionals to share music products and innovations from around the world and to celebrate music education for people of all ages. Please pass this opportunity on to music educators, college students and faculty you know! Register here.
Download the Talking Up Music Education Podcast: Episode 35: Celebrating a Legend: Crystal Gayle on Living a Musical Life

Country Superstar Crystal Gayle who is best known for her #1 crossover hit, “Don’t It Make My Brown Eyes Blue,” shares insights about growing up in a musical family, the importance of her favorite music teacher, and why being honored by the National Music Council with the prestigious American Eagle Award for contribution to musical life in America—at Summer NAMM—was so significant. Click Here to Listen!

NAfME NEWS

New Member Benefit for Music Teachers: This fall NAfME is launching a new online community platform powered by Higher Logic called “Amplify” (community.nafme.org). Here, members of the National Association for Music Education can network with colleagues across the country and around the world to share ideas and best practices and seek guidance as well from more experienced educators—in the privacy of a member-only online location. Amplify includes community libraries to share classroom and presentation materials, opportunities to gather with educators facing the same experiences and challenges, and for younger teachers to connect with experienced teachers for mentoring opportunities.

NAfME Academy Online Professional Development: NAfME’s online learning platform, NAfME Academy, has had a successful first year. This on-demand professional development offering now offers music educators 80+ hours of professional development, available anytime on their schedule, and providing immediate implementation in the classroom. Before its first anniversary, NAfME Academy reached 2,500 subscribers who took advantage of more than 4,000 hours of professional development. With nearly 100 available webinars, NAfME Academy continues to grow. Learn more here.

Join NAfME in Cuba this February: NAfME will lead a delegation of music educators in Cuba on February 5-10, to meet with our Cuban counterparts and learn about the challenges and advances in music education delivery at all levels in Cuba. NAfME Immediate Past President Glenn E. Nierman will lead the delegation. Participants must register by November 7, 2017. Details and answers to FAQs may be found here.

NAfME’s 2017 National Music Education In-Service Conference: NAfME’s National In-Service conference will once again take place in Dallas, TX, at the Gaylord Texan Resort and Convention Center November 12-15, 2017. This national music education conference brings music educators and pre-service teachers for professional development, networking, and more, as well as an exciting performance by Presidio Brass courtesy of Jupiter/XO Brass. This year in addition to the Band Directors’ Ensemble led by Peter Boonshaft, there will also be a Choral Directors’ Ensemble led by Jo-Michael Scheibe and an Orchestra Directors’ Ensemble led by Christopher Selby. The conference will also bring together arts supervisors for the two-day Music Program Leaders Summit, where they will address recruitment/retention of teachers, human resources,
credentialing teachers, funding, leveraging resources, and professional development for program leaders. One session will address the work being done in NAfME’s “Perspectives” group, which has focused on the challenges of urban school districts. Sponsorship and exhibitor opportunities are available. Visit nationalconference.nafme.org for more information, or email marketing@nafme.org.

The 2017 All-National Honor Ensembles: The 2017 All-National Honor Ensembles (ANHE) will take place this year, November 26-29, at Disney’s Coronado Springs Resort at Walt Disney World, Orlando, FL. The 2017 ANHE program will kick off on Sunday, November 26, with a special event at the Epcot Theme Park. Guest conductors this year are: T. André Feagin (Concert Band); Margery Deutsch (Symphony Orchestra); Dr. Z. Randall Stroope (Mixed Choir); Todd Stoll, with Lauren Sevian (Jazz Ensemble). The concerts will be free and open to the public. Details: www.nafme.org/anhe.

Music In Our Schools Month® and American Young Voices: The theme for the 2018 Music In Our Schools Month® (MIOSM®) this March is “Music Connects Us,” and NAfME is once again partnering with American Young Voices, which hosts the largest school choir concerts in the world. Even if not located in the northeast, music educators’ students can still participate! A FREE sheet music download, including a lesson plan, teaching aims and objectives that align with the new 2014 Music Standards, and conductor notes will soon be available at nafme.org/MIOSM. Follow the hashtag #MusicConnectsUs on Twitter and Instagram.

NAfME’s Collegiate Advocacy Summit, June 26-30, 2018: The Collegiate Advocacy Summit will once again be held in Tysons Corner, VA, and Washington, DC, this coming June. With the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) in its first year of implementation, and funding for music education remaining an ongoing challenge, this is a critical time to advocate for music. Collegiate music education majors are encouraged to attend for professional development, networking opportunities, and making their voices heard for the future of their profession. 2017 was the biggest turnout to-date for the Collegiate Advocacy Summit, and this continued momentum is expected for 2018. Learn more: hillday.nafme.org.

NAfME’s Biennial Music Research and Teacher Education Conference: The Music Research and Teacher Education Conference (MRTE) will take place again in Atlanta, GA, March 22-24, 2018, at the Westin Peachtree Plaza. Session proposals are being taken through October 2, 11:59PM PT at bit.ly/2018MRTEproposal. Proposals that align with the Conference focus on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Access are encouraged, but all topics are welcome. This conference provides a forum for music education researchers, music teacher educators, program leaders, music administrators, curriculum specialists, P-12 teachers, and graduate students in music education to encounter new, original, and high-quality research and pedagogical innovations that advance music education, thus shaping the future of the discipline and profession. Direct questions to Adriane Darvishian at 800-336-3786, x.218, or biennial2018@nafme.org.
**NAfME Advocacy Updates:**

**NAfME and Roundtable Endorse Rep. Velazquez’s American Arts Revival Act:** The National Association for Music Education (NAfME) is pleased to announce our endorsement of Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez’s (D-NY-7) American Arts Revival Act (AARA). Historically, music educators have not been able to take advantage of loan forgiveness programs, and if passed, this piece of legislation would amend the Higher Education Act (HEA) to qualify music and arts educators for up to $10,000 of student loan forgiveness. Music and arts educators would be eligible for this program if they are employed full-time as a certified or licensed educator by a school district for 5 years or more, and if they have received a baccalaureate or advanced degree in a field relevant to such employment.

**NAfME Reacts to House Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 2018:** The House Appropriations Committee has released their Labor-HHS-Ed appropriations bill, which proposes an allocation of $500 million for the Student Support and Academic Enrichment (SSAE) grants, otherwise known as Title IV, Part A of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Title IV-A, one of the new opportunities created by ESSA, provides supplemental funding intended to help school districts improve access to a well-rounded education for all students, including access to music education. While the National Association for Music Education (NAfME) is appreciative of House Appropriators supporting increased funding for Title IV-A over the previous fiscal year allocation, this remains far below the grant’s authorization level of $1.6 billion and half the original amount proposed by the House last year. This funding level remains too low to operate effectively as a formula block grant and NAfME continues to urge Congress to fully fund SSAE at its authorized level, so the grant is implemented as intended by ESSA.

Additionally, the House’s proposal suggests the elimination of funding for Title II, Part A, over which NAfME expresses deep concern, as these funds are used in part to support the professional development of educators teaching well-rounded subjects, such as music. Congress must do better to invest in key education programs. We call upon Congress to raise the overall funding caps, so that educators can receive the critical resources they require, and so that every student is ensured access to the well-rounded education they need and deserve for academic and lifelong success.

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**MUSIC TEACHERS NATIONAL ASSOCIATION NEWS**

**2018 MTNA National Conference**
The 2018 MTNA National Conference will be held March 17-21 in Lake Buena Vista, Florida. The conference will include master classes, technology and informational sessions, pedagogy sessions, exhibit hall, evening concerts, and much more. Nearly 2,000 teachers, exhibitors and student competitors are expected to attend this event.

**MTNA eFestival**
MTNA recently launched the MTNA eFestival. The eFestival is an online-only performance opportunity where
participants receive a constructive critique from a highly-qualified evaluator. This festival is for every piano student, beginner through advanced. The pianist video records up to 15 minutes of playing and uploads the video(s) to the MTNA online application. The month after submission, the pianist will receive a critique of the performance from a highly skilled evaluator. The MTNA eFestival runs year-round with no deadline and requires an application fee of $60.

MTNA Collegiate Chapters Piano Pedagogy Symposium – Call for Proposals
The MTNA Collegiate Chapters Piano Pedagogy Symposium Hosting Chapter and Committee are seeking digital proposals from collegiate chapters, college students, and newly graduated young professionals to present at the MTNA Collegiate Chapters Piano Pedagogy Symposium at the University of Texas at Austin, January 12-13, 2018. The proposal submission deadline is 3:00 P.M. Eastern Time Friday, September 29, 2017.

MTNA GP3 Forum
The 2018 National Group Piano and Piano Pedagogy Forum will be held August 3-4 at Oberlin College at Oberlin, Ohio. This forum aims to share teachers’ day-to-day activities, discuss how the direction of music education is affecting the approach to professional development and plan how music educators must contribute to the course of group piano and piano pedagogy now and in the coming years.

MTNA/Stecher & Horowitz Two Piano Competition
MTNA recently partnered with Melvin Stecher and Norman Horowitz to launch the MTNA—Stecher & Horowitz Two Piano Competition. This competition differs from the MTNA student performance competitions because it consists of only two rounds: a Preliminary Round, by video submission; and a Final Round, which takes place live at the National Conference. The MTNA—Stecher and Horowitz Two Piano Competition is open to pianists between the ages of 19-29 as of January 1, 2018. Online applications are available on September 13, 2017. The application and video submission deadline is January 3, 2018 at 3:00 p.m. EST. The MTNA—Stecher and Horowitz Two Piano Competition requires a non-refundable application fee of $140. For more information, visit www.mtna.org.

SESAC NEWS

GRAMMY® award-winning, multi-platinum recording artist and songwriter Adele, has moved to SESAC Performing Rights for representation in the United States, it was recently announced by John Josephson, chairman and CEO, SESAC Holdings, Inc., the only Music Rights Organization in the U.S. Adele, whose chart-topping singles include “Rolling in the Deep,” “Someone Like You,” “Set Fire to the Rain,” “Rumour Has It,” “Skyfall,” and “Hello,” is the music industry’s top-selling artist of the decade.

"We are humbled and grateful to have been selected to represent Adele’s performing rights in the United States," said Josephson. "With each new release, she surpasses her own prior record of achievement and confirms her place as a global superstar in a category all her own."
With the release of her multi-platinum debut album, '19,' in 2008, Adele earned 2 GRAMMY® Awards, including “Best New Artist.” Her second release, '21,' was named the 2012 GRAMMY® Album of the Year and sold an unprecedented 35 million copies, eclipsing all other sales records. Adele released her third studio album, '25,' in late 2015, which went straight to #1 in 100 countries around the world and became the only album to sell over 3 million copies in one week. '25' has gone on to sell more than 23 million copies worldwide, and has earned Adele five additional GRAMMY® Awards.

During her career, Adele has garnered more than 130 awards and received more than 250 nominations for some of the industry’s most prestigious honors to include the GRAMMY Awards®, Brit Awards, an Academy Award, a Golden Globe Award, Billboard Awards, American Music Award, and Ivor Novello Awards, among others. Adele just completed a multi-year international tour, and performed her finale in the U.K. at London’s Wembley Stadium.

AMERICANS FOR THE ARTS UNVEILS FINDINGS OF FIFTH ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY OF NONPROFIT ARTS INDUSTRY

A new national study by Americans for the Arts finds that the nation's nonprofit arts and culture industry generated $166.3 billion in economic activity in 2015 - $63.8 billion in spending by arts and cultural organizations and an additional $102.5 billion in event-related spending by their audiences.

This activity supported 4.6 million jobs and generated $27.5 billion in government revenue. Arts & Economic Prosperity® 5 (AEP5) is the largest study of its kind and was released on June 17, 2017, at Americans for the Arts' Annual Convention in San Francisco.

AEP5 documents the economic contributions of the nonprofit arts industry nationally as well as in 341 local study regions, representing all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Data was gathered from 14,439 arts and cultural organizations and from 212,691 members of their audiences. The full report, a map of the 341 study regions and a two-page economic impact summary for each region, a sample PowerPoint presentation, and a media toolkit for advocates can be found here.
The National Federation of Music Clubs 59th Biennial Convention was held June 20-14, 2017 in Dayton Ohio. There were 230 attendees, many outstanding concerts and workshops at the gathering.

A $20,000 first place prize was awarded to Ellis Duo recipients Eric Tran and Nathan Cheung. They are known as the “Happy Dog Duo” and dazzled attendees in the closing concert. The Young Artist auditions were also held during the Convention and first place prizes were awarded in the amount of $20,000.

The 2017-2019 Young Artists are:

Men’s Voice: Andre Chiang
Women’s Voice: Natalie Conte
Piano: Kevin Ahfat
Strings: Sujin Lee

The 2017-2019 Young Artists were presented in concert and all received standing ovations. Complete bios and concert bookings can be found at nfmc-music.org

President Edwards presented Grammy winner Zuill Bailey with a NFMC Citation for the many contributions Zuill has made during his professional concert career. Zuill was the youngest NFMC Young Artist recipient in 1991 at the age of nineteen. In 2006 and 2007, he was awarded the Classical Recording Foundation Award for the Beethoven Complete works for cello and piano. Zuill Bailey has produced over thirty CD’s, and his recording of the Michael Daugherty Tales of Hemingway won the 2017 Grammy Award in Classical Instrumental Solo. His recording of the Dvorak Cello Concerto is listed in the Penguin’s Guide as one of the top 1000 classical recordings of all time.

At the conclusion of the convention NFMC re-elected its 33rd President. Michael R. Edwards. Edwards was the first male president elected in NFMC’s 119 - year history. Elected officers for 2017-2019 are:

President
Michael R. Edwards (Florida)
First Vice President
Frances Nelson (Mississippi)
Recording Secretary
Jeanne Hryniewicki (Wisconsin)
Treasurer
Barbara Hildebrand (Tennessee)

Michael Edwards challenged members to become more involved in the community and to meet the musical needs of the community. The President’s Theme is "Keeping the Music Alive for the Future".

The 2018 NFMC Conference will be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin June 19-23, 2018.

Mu Phi Epsilon held their triennial convention in July in Denver, CO. Mu Phi has always been a service organization with music as its focus. The convention recognized members and chapters who have given more than 75,000 hours of service through music from coast to coast.
Convention highlights included opening night performances by the United States Air Force Wind Quintet and Rampart Winds; additional performances by The Order of the Flying Purple Funk band, a collegiate organization from Lynchburg, VA, who give back to their community a portion of their earnings to sustain the instrumental program in the schools of Lynchburg; and a tabling event to assist attendees in writing to their congressman about the importance of continued arts support.

The keynote address was given by Deborah Jordy, Executive Director of Scientific and Cultural Facilities District in Denver, CO. Jordy has been on the board of directors for Americans for the Arts since 2011.

Attendees at the convention celebrated the service Mu Phi Epsilon provides at the grass-roots level to support music in local communities, and came away energized with innovative ideas and enthusiasm to continue the work.

**REFLECTIONS ON ARTS ADVOCACY DAY**

Filled with anxiety that I didn’t know what I was doing, I recently attended Arts Advocacy Day in Washington D.C. on behalf of the National Music Council and Mu Phi Epsilon. This is the only national event that brings together a broad cross section of America’s cultural and civic organizations, along with thousands of grassroots advocates from across the country. Arts Advocacy Day has been instrumental in advancing key legislative initiatives, including increased funding for the federal cultural agencies and enlightened tax, international, and education policies. To say the event was amazing is an understatement.

The first day was a day of legislative training sessions for more than 700 arts advocates with representatives from every state. We learned about the current arts issues circulating on Capitol Hill and how to become effective advocates for increased support for the arts. On the second day, we hit the pavement! With our schedule in hand, we visited as many congressmen that could be visited. Personally, I visited with 4 senate offices (Sanders, Kaine, Murray, Young) and 5 representatives’ offices (Byrne, Grothman, Walberg, Adams, DeSaulnier).

With all that is happening in the busy life of a congressman, I’m not sure my visits had any impact, other than to make me feel empowered that I was doing something for the arts. However, my visits energized me to continue my support and become more active in my support of the arts, for me, specifically music.

Rosemary Ames, Mu Phi Epsilon