



*Strengthening the importance of music
in our life and culture since 1940*

NEWSLETTER

Winter 2019

SAVE THE DATE!

**36th Annual
American Eagle Awards**

**Thursday, July 18th
Music City Center
Nashville, TN**



Action Request: Making Policy Work for Music Education

Mike Blakeslee, NAFME

Every member of the National Music Council knows that the health of our musical culture depends on many factors: the distribution of published and recorded music, the manufacture and sales of instruments, accessories, and technologies, and more. But every area of activity in music is based on a strong, ongoing system for providing an education in music to all.

While education can take many forms and show up in many places, the most important – and most nearly universal – venue for music education is in our nation's schools. And those schools collectively form a system that is truly enormous, serving nearly 75 million students.

As in all large systems, there can be a daunting set of policies that drive and direct our schools. At the Federal level, the controlling legislation is the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), a rare bipartisan success passed in 2015 and listing music for the first time specifically as a part of a "well-rounded" education. Other legislation, including the Perkins

Vocational and Technical Education Act and the Higher Education Act, plays a part. And every year, Washington DC goes through a process to determine to what extent those Acts get funded.

That process can get pretty specific: one of the most important parts of ESSA funding, for example, has to do with Title IV, Part A of that act, which includes a fund for delivering a well-rounded education. But as we delve down into the details, one thing becomes uniformly obvious – the most important actions to support music education take place at the state and local levels. Those ESSA dollars are granted by the Feds, but distributed by the states to meet the goals and standards of those states and their local education agencies. You can find lots of information at this [link](#).

Fortunately, 30 states and the Department of Defense Dependents Schools have adopted or adapted the National Standards for music that were disseminated in 2014. That fact gives us a common language for discussing what is needed in a good school program. So, what can an individual or association connected with the Council do? There are three basic components:

1. Educate yourself on the Standards (which can be found at nafme.org/standards; take a good look at the “Opportunity to Learn” standards while you’re there to see what resources are expected in a standards-based education).
2. Keep tuned to news about changes in Federal legislation and appropriations. The Higher Education Act has been queued up for some time, and may move forward any time. A good source

for keeping up is the Advocacy section of NAfME.org.

3. Most important of all, remember that all education is local. More than ninety percent of funding for education comes from the state and local level – and arguably, more than ninety percent of the relevant decisions reside there, as well. Take a look at the [Civic Action Field Guide](#), or visit the NAMM Foundation web site at nammfoundation.org for ideas.

But mostly, get involved in your local community and particularly in doing what you can to help in communities in your state that may not offer a credible music education to students. We have a basically strong system of music education – but all too many students are simply shut out.

As a member of the NMC, you and your colleagues are devoted to music. As citizens and leaders, you are involved in your local and state communities, and often your reach extends far beyond that. Let decision-makers know that!



MEMBER REPORTS

American Association of Teachers of Singing

The American Academy of Teachers of Singing meets five times a year in New York to discuss pedagogical issues in teaching voice; these discussions form the basis for opinion papers, made available on the [AATS website](#).

Readers are invited to post comments through the moderator. Papers written by the Academy are available for the use of other authors as long as there is an acknowledgement of the source.

Our latest paper, **Advancing the Culture of Mentoring in Our Profession**, was published in the Journal of Voice in the 2018 May/June issue and was presented at the NATS National Conference in Las Vegas June, 25, 2018, followed by a robust discussion by those attending. A survey on mentoring was launched at the Conference and the results of that survey are being prepared for publication. The paper was presented in its initial form at the International Congress of Voice Teachers (ICVT) Conference in Stockholm in August of 2017.

American Guild of Organists

Breaking News and Season
Highlights: February 2019

POGORZELSKI-YANKEE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Undergraduate college scholarships support the education of talented young organists who will make significant contributions to the fields of organ playing and organ studies. Applicants are expected to have existing talent and achievements in the field of organ playing and an expressed commitment for post-graduation to teaching, performing, or other serious endeavor with respect to the organ. Applications are due February 15. For more information, [visit here](#).

GALA and ENDOWMENT FUND DISTINGUISHED ARTIST AWARD

The AGO will honor John Walker at its sixteenth annual Gala on April 26 in Pittsburgh. The evening will include a recital by the honoree at Shadyside Presbyterian Church and benefit reception at Mansions on Fifth. Visit www.agohq.org/2019-gala for complete information.

PIPE ORGAN ENCOUNTERS

The AGO will present four Pipe Organ Encounters (POEs) and a

POE Advanced for students ages 13–18. These regional summer music camps provide an introduction to the pipe organ, private and group instruction in service playing and solo repertoire, opportunities to learn about the musical heritage of various religious denominations, and a chance for young musicians to meet others with similar interests. A POE Technical will be offered for students ages 16–23. This summer camp provides an introduction to the art and craft of pipe organ building and maintenance for career-seeking students. For complete information, [visit here](#).

REGIONAL CONVENTIONS

Seven AGO Regional Conventions will be held this summer. The conventions will present dozens of public performances by world renowned soloists and ensembles and will showcase some of the finest organs and performance venues throughout the U.S. Dozens of educational workshops and choral reading sessions will be led by expert presenters and academicians. For complete information, [visit here](#).

Early Music America

Spring for Early Music America is Awards and Scholarships time! These encourage outreach activities, help

young and emerging early musicians with their training, and recognize achievement in the field of early music and historical performance.

EMA offers Summer Workshop Scholarships of \$1,000 & \$1,250; Engagement Awards of \$1,000 to \$1,500; and Travel Grants for participants in Young Performers Festival & Emerging Artists Showcase in Bloomington, IN, in May 2019.

In 2019, we are pleased to introduce the Inaugural Margriet Tindemans Early Strings Scholarship 2019-20 for postgraduate study in an early bowed stringed instrument. One recipient will be awarded a scholarship of up to \$25,000. Tindemans was a master of early stringed instruments and a shining figure in the field of early music.

The Barbara Thornton Memorial Scholarship is also awarded this spring to a young performer of medieval music. The \$4,000 award is in memory of Barbara Thornton, the great medieval expert and teacher, who died just over 20 years ago.

We invite everyone interested in early music to visit EMA's Young Performers Festival and Emerging Artists Showcase in Bloomington, May 22-24, 2019, at which four university ensembles, including from Oberlin College & Conservatory, Peabody, and USC's Thornton School of Music, and The Brandenburg Project from the Community Music School of Ann Arbor will give outstanding historically informed performances of music from several centuries, and two "emerging" professional soloists and two ensembles

will have their own showcase performances.

For more information about EMA's activities and awards, visit earlymusicamerica.org.

NAMM

New Study Unveiled at the 2019 Anaheim Creativity Council Meeting

The Anaheim Creativity Council, which is a partnership between the Anaheim Elementary School District (AESD), the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) Foundation, Yamaha, the City of Anaheim, Disneyland and others met during the 2019 NAMM Show to review a study conducted by Metis Associates and commissioned by The NAMM Foundation to evaluate the impact of having music in AESD schools for the past five years. With support from The NAMM Foundation, the AESD music program grew from having after-school music only in 2014 to having 22 music teachers teaching music during the school day to 16,687 students across 23 sites as of Jan. 2019.

Until 2020! Thank you for Attending The 2019 NAMM Show

Thank you to all of the music educators, college music students and faculty, nonprofit organizations and pianists who joined us at the 2019 NAMM Show! We hope your time at the show was informative, productive and inspiring.

Revisit your time with us by viewing photo galleries [here](#) and be sure to save

the dates for the 2020 NAMM Show, January 16-19, 2020.

Podcast Interviews Broadcast Live from The 2019 NAMM Show

Talking Up Music Education is a podcast from The NAMM Foundation that shares news and stories about music education. The podcast puts a spotlight on teachers, students, parents, school and community leaders and those who are working to create more opportunities for music learning. Interviews included *Black Violin*, *Eric Whitacre*, *J. Dash* and more. Look for these [here](#).

Get Involved in Make Music Day

You are invited to participate in Make Music Day event in your community on June 21! This annual global festival of music encourages first-time and seasoned music makers to come together on the longest day of the year to make music. Learn more [here](#).

MTNA

Find A Teacher Directory

Looking to start music lessons? MTNA offers a Find a Teacher Directory to help you find a qualified music teacher in your area! Visit www.mtna.org and "Find A Teacher" at the top of the homepage to find your perfect fit!

Grants Applications Available

Applications are now available for the MTNA FOUNDATION FUND grants. Program Development, Community

Engagement, Teacher Enrichment and Affiliate Enrichment Grants are due May 1, 2019.

MTNA eFestival

NEW THIS YEAR: The MTNA eFestival, an online-only performance opportunity where you receive a constructive critique from a highly qualified evaluator, is now only \$25! The MTNA eFestival accepts applications for solo piano, brass, woodwind, strings, voice, guitar/mandolin, ukulele, organ, percussion, harp and chamber music (maximum six). Musicians can be beginner through advanced, young or old, amateur or competitor, studying with a teacher or independent. The MTNA eFestival runs year-round with no deadlines. For more information, email mtnaefestival@mtna.org or visit www.mtna.org.

MTNA Student Competitions

The MTNA National Student Competitions are the most successful and prestigious student competitions in the country. Each year, thousands of students compete for top prizes and national recognition. The three-tiered competitions begin with live state competitions. The winners / representatives of each state's competitions advance to a video-only division competition. Division winners compete in the national finals at the annual MTNA National Conference. Competitions include Composition, Brass, Piano, String, Voice, Woodwind and Chamber Music. Competition applications are due Wednesday, September 11, 2019. For more information, visit www.mtna.org.

Save the Date!

MTNA Collegiate Chapters Piano Pedagogy Symposium
Ball State University
Muncie, Indiana
January 10–11, 2020

2020 MTNA National Conference
Chicago, Illinois
March 21–25, 2020

NAfME



2019 NAfME Music In Our Schools Month®:

The theme for the March celebration of Music In Our Schools Month® (MIOSM™) is “All Music. All People.” The NAfME Council for General Music Education announced a new direction for MIOSM, starting with the 2018-19 school year, focusing on lessons for first-graders that help them learn elements of music through some classic children’s songs in English and Spanish. The lessons and songs, however, can be shared at many levels. All are available without charge to teachers for their use during MIOSM and in years to come. To learn more about the new direction of MIOSM, and obtain lesson

plans, repertoire, classroom items, and other materials, visit nafme.org/MIOSM. Follow #AllMusicAllPeople and #MIOSM on Twitter and Instagram.

2019 NAFME Collegiate Advocacy Summit, June 17-19

The Collegiate Advocacy Summit will take place in Washington, DC, this June. Collegiate music education majors are encouraged to attend for professional development, networking opportunities, and making their voices heard for the future of their profession. Registration will open in February, and sponsorship opportunities are available; to inquire, please contact ashleyw@nafme.org. Learn more: cas.nafme.org. Follow the hashtag #NAfMEHD19.



Photo by Ashlee Wilcox Photography

The 2019 NAFME National Conference

The NAFME 2019 National Conference, “Amplify the Future of Music: Opening Doors for All Students,” will take place in Orlando, Florida, November 6-10, 2019. The five content strands include Amplify: Creativity (How do we create a learning environment that supports student voice, creativity, collaboration, and choice—whether via composition, improvisation, in current ensembles, or

other pathways for creative musical endeavors?); Amplify: Student Engagement (How do we engage all students daily within our classrooms and throughout our schools as they create, perform, respond, and connect to music?); Amplify: Instruction (How do we expand instructional practices to support student ownership, voice, choice, and assessment in a standards-based, high-quality music education?); Amplify: Access (How do we guarantee and expand access to music education for every student in our school sites and classrooms, which could involve parents, administration, and other outside connections?); and Amplify: Community (How do we successfully create a musical community within our schools and/or beyond the school walls in urban, rural, or suburban settings?). In addition to the Amplify themes, there will be a showcase of research and quality classroom practice in an informal, “poster session” format. Limited sponsorship and exhibitor opportunities are available (contact ashleyw@nafme.org). More information is available at nafme.org; or email marketing@nafme.org to learn more about sponsorship options. Follow #NAfME2019 for updates.

The 2019 NAFME All-National Honor Ensembles

The 2019 All-National Honor Ensembles (ANHE) will take place November 7-10 at Gaylord Palms Resort & Convention Center in Orlando, Florida. This year’s guest conductors are: Emily Threinen (Concert Band); Soo Han (Symphony Orchestra); Tesfa Wondemagegnehu (Mixed Choir); Todd Stoll (Jazz Ensemble); Bill Swick (Guitar Ensemble); and Scott Burstein (Modern

Band, new this year). The concerts will be open to the public; tickets are \$10 for each day's concerts.

Details: www.nafme.org/anhe. Contact Ashley Wales (ashleyw@nafme.org) for sponsorship opportunities.

Tri-M® Music Honor Society experiences record growth

Tri-M® Music Honor Society is the only national honor society for student musicians in the country. In the past year, Tri-M® has grown to 2,100 chapters in middle and high school, and 84,000 students, who have contributed more than 750,000 service hours in their local communities. Each year three junior division and three senior division chapters are awarded a Chapter of the Year Scholarship Award for their school. Students are also awarded individual awards for their leadership and service, and are encouraged to apply for individual scholarships. Learn more at MusicHonors.com.

NAfME Corporate Membership

NAfME has various levels of membership available for corporations to help you connect to music educators across the country. Benefits include discounts on advertising; cobranded emails to music educators; use of the NAfME Corporate logo; listing in NAfME's corporate directory; discounts on list rentals; webinar hosting; exclusive exhibitor and sponsorship opportunities; and more. To find out more, contact corporate@nafme.org, or visit nafme.org/corporate.

NAfME Advocacy Updates

Congress approves increases in well-rounded education funding

Last September, Congress approved, and the President signed into law an appropriations package which funded the Department of Education for Fiscal Year 2019 (FY19). These appropriations provide money for programs authorized under the 2015 Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), which is intended to support schools in providing a well-rounded education, including music. Title IV-A received a \$17 million funding increase to total \$1.17 billion for FY19. Also known as the Student Support and Academic Enrichment (SSAE) Grants, these funds are specifically intended to support safe and healthy schools, effective use of technology, and a well-rounded education. Title I-A, which can support a well-rounded education for students in need, saw a slight increase to \$15.86 billion. Funding remained steady at \$2.06 billion for Title II-A, which supports a well-rounded education through teacher professional development.

New NAfME resources on civic engagement and funding

Recognizing the fact that most education governance and funding occurs at the state and local levels, NAfME produced the [Civic Action Field Guide for Music Education](#). This resource encourages active civic engagement in support of music education during and after election season. Readers will gain understanding of how education policy is formed, how budgets are determined, and how decision-makers are elected or appointed to their positions. Visit

bit.ly/NAfMECivicActionFieldGuide to download.

The [Title IV-A Toolkit](#) breaks down how a school district can apply for and use funds from the SSAE block grant. The resource enables music educators and advocates to dig deep into the intricacies of Title IV-A, including eligibility for and distribution of funds, assurances, and allowable uses. The toolkit also highlights the comprehensive needs assessment process, one of the key-provisions of Title IV-A. Strategies are provided within the toolkit to help teachers formulate the best plan to get involved with their districts' needs assessments, including using the NAFME 2015 Opportunity to Learn (OTL) Standards. Visit bit.ly/TitleIVAtoolkit to download.

2019 federal policy agenda takes shape

The new year brings new opportunities to advocate for music education. Congress is widely expected to consider reauthorization of the Higher Education Act (HEA)—the federal policy pertaining to post-secondary education. NAFME public policy staff is advocating for the inclusion of ESSA's "well-rounded education" language so that college music education programs have access to federal teacher preparation grants. NAFME is also advocating for funding to support music education at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs), and Strengthening Institutions, as well as innovative university pilot-programs and federal student loan forgiveness for all well-rounded educators.

The full NAFME Legislative agenda includes:

- ESSA FY20 appropriations, including Title I-A, Title II-A, and Title IV-A
- Higher Education Act Reauthorization to support music teacher education
- The Guarantee Access to Arts and Music Education (GAAME) Act
- Congressional Resolution commemorating Music In Our Schools Month® (MIOSM™)

NAfME is collecting stories from districts that have used Title IV-A funds to improve music education to help us advocate for increased funding. Stories can be submitted at bit.ly/TitleIVstories.

National Association of Teachers of Singing

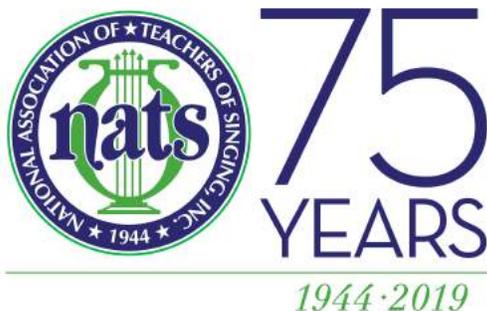
[Announcing the winners and finalists of the NATS Art Song Composition Award](#)

Winning composition "Elemental Earth" by Philip Lasser will be performed at NATS National Conference in Knoxville

Composer Philip Lasser has won First Prize in the National Association of Teachers of Singing 2019 Art Song Composition Award for his composition "Elemental Earth." The work is a cycle of songs for voice and piano on poems by Robert Frost. Lasser's winning work will be performed at the 56th NATS National Conference in June 2020 in Knoxville, TN. The work will also be programmed

on a future concert by the Cincinnati Song Initiative. Second place was awarded to Zachary Wadsworth for his composition “Parlo(u)r Songs.”

[Click here](#) to listen to recordings of Lasser’s “Elemental Earth” and Wadsworth’s “Parlo(u)r Songs” on [SoundCloud](#).



NATS is celebrating 75 years of service to the voice profession

The year 2019 marks the 75th Anniversary of the National Association of Teachers of Singing. This is an exciting time for NATS to celebrate its legacy and build strategic plans for its future.

The NATS anniversary date falls on March 24, which marks the first official business meeting of NATS in 1944 in Cincinnati, Ohio. The meeting took place at an MTNA convention through the efforts of three organizations: American Academy of Teachers of Singing, the Chicago Singing Teachers Guild, and the New York Singing Teachers Association. Founding officers John C. Wilcox, Leon Carson, Richard De Young, Homer Mowe, and William Allen Stults formed the first Executive

Committee. They also became the first five presidents of the association.

Over the decades, NATS has grown to become the largest professional association of voice teachers in the world. The entire NATS family is invited to share in the excitement of this monumental anniversary and become engaged in the association’s vision for the future. Fundraising initiatives of NATS, Inc. and the NATS Foundation will soon be announced which will help the organization grow in service to the voice profession for the next 75 years.

Find out more about the History of NATS on the NATS.org website: <https://www.nats.org/history-of-nats.html>

NATS National Conference scheduled for Knoxville 2020

Plans are underway for the 56th NATS National Conference, which will be held June 26-30, 2020, in Knoxville, Tennessee, at the Knoxville Convention Center.

The biennial NATS National Conference attracts NATS members, voice professionals, students and others from around the world. The NATS Tennessee Chapter will proudly host the event in one of the most accessible conference destinations in the country. Knoxville boasts a sophisticated mix of culture, adventure and cuisine rooted in history and genuine Southern hospitality.

NATS Mid-South Region Governor Angela Holder is serving as Conference Program Chair. The conference offers educational programs, demonstrations, lectures, master classes and

competitions that help celebrate the art of singing and increase knowledge of teachers to help them better assist their students. #NATSinKNOX

[Call for Conference Presentation Proposals](#)

NATS members and friends are invited to submit proposals for special sessions to be presented at the 56th NATS National Conference. All proposals must be submitted online, available at nats.org/Knoxville2020. Proposal guidelines and format are accessible on the NATS website. Submission deadline is June 1, 2019. Poster paper submissions for the National Conference will also be accepted at nats.org, with a deadline of December 1, 2019.



[Wrapping up the NATS Winter Workshop](#)

The latest NATS Winter Workshop wrapped up in beautiful West Palm Beach, Florida, in early January. Local coordinator Lloyd Mims welcomed the participants warmly. The recital hall at Palm Beach Atlantic University served as a truly stunning venue. NATS clinician, dancer-turned-osteopath Jennie Morton (pictured, on right) led sessions on the workings of the body as

applied to performing artists. Frank Ragsdale started the workshop with two fabulous sessions, one geared toward finding music theater repertoire for the crossover singer and one session geared toward coaching. Local pianist Bob Sharon played everything put in front of him with ease. [Read more](#) at NATS.org.

NATS Winter Workshop session video recordings are available on the [NATS Live Learning Center](#).



[NATS Summer Workshop on Diction will take place June 27-29 at St. Olaf College](#)

A “Diction Workshop” program will be offered at the NATS 2019 Summer Workshop. Diction and repertoire

workshops and master classes in Russian and Scandinavian repertoire will be presented, as well as comparative and practical solutions for teaching the standard languages in the private or university studio. The Mentored Teaching Experience will be available for attendees and the exciting NATS National Student Auditions semifinal and final rounds will be held during the workshop.

[NATSAA and NMTC are open for application. Deadlines in September](#)

National Association of Teachers of Singing offers two major national competitions for up-and-coming artists, the NATS Artist Awards (NATSAA) and the National Music Theater Competition (NMTC). Semifinal and final rounds of NATSAA and NMTC will be held in New York, NY, January 10-12, 2020, hosted in proximity to the music industry's top professionals.



2018 NATSAA winner Andre Chiang (left), congratulated by NATS President Linda Snyder

With generous funding from the NATS Foundation, the biennial **NATS Artist Awards** (NATSAA) offers more than \$50,000 in cash and other prizes. This will be the 46th iteration of the prestigious biennial competition. First prize includes \$5,000 Cash, a New York solo debut sponsored by DCINY, a scholarship to attend the American Institute of Musical Studies (AIMS) in Graz, Austria, a \$1,000 gift certificate from Hal Leonard, and a concert at the 2020 NATS National Conference.

NATSAA Eligibility: Age 21-35 on September 9, 2019. Must be a member of NATS or coached for at least or coached by a current NATS member throughout the previous year.

NATSAA Application Deadline: September 9, 2019.

[APPLY ONLINE AT NATS.ORG](#)



Nathaniel Sullivan, 2018 NMTC Winner

The National Music Theater Competition (NMTC) was launched in 2011 as the first national competition for

the emerging professional music theater soloist. Now in its fifth iteration, NMTC has provided industry connections to past competitors and winners that have led to their success on Broadway and other venues. More than \$15,000 in cash and other prizes are awarded through the NATS Foundation, NATS, Inc., and generous sponsors. First prize includes \$5,000 in cash, a \$1,000 Gift Certificate from Hal Leonard, a career management package from Stage Door Connections, and a concert at the 2020 NATS National Conference.

NMTC Eligibility: All singers age 20-28 as of September 15, 2019. Reduced entry fee for students of NATS members

NMTC Application Deadline:

September 15, 2019.

[APPLY ONLINE AT NATS.ORG](https://www.nats.org)

* Complete eligibility, registration, and repertoire requirements are available online at www.nats.org.

National Federation of Music Clubs

The National Federation of Music Clubs will hold the 60th Biennial Convention June 18-22, 2019 in Jacksonville Florida. The highlight of the Biennial Convention will be the Young Artist auditions. Twenty thousand dollars will be awarded to the first place winners in piano, strings, women's voice and men's voice. The winners of the Ellis piano duo competition will also be presented in concert. The Ellis will hold auditions March 29 in Jackson Mississippi. The winners of this competition will receive a twenty thousand dollar first place prize. The Official Call is available online at nfmc-music.org. All members and friends are invited to attend.

National Federation of State High School Associations

The NFHS is launching its fifth music professional development course with Band Safety to help provide a safe environment for your students, the NFHS has partnered with Music for All, BoA, WGI Sport of the Arts, DCI, and Varsity Athletic Bands. This course addresses weather, hydration, injuries and other safety concerns, as well as band-specific content concerning equipment considerations, hearing protection, and more.

Band Safety joins the NFHS' offerings of Understanding Copyright and Compliance, Fundamentals of Interscholastic Music Education, Music Adjudication, and Interscholastic Music Event Management. All of these courses are designed for the music educator to help improve their beginning skills, operate a more efficient and effective music event, improve their adjudication skills, and broaden their knowledge of copyright compliance.

All of these courses are free of charge, can be taken at the user's own pace and schedule, and are found on www.NFHSLearn.com

SESAC

SESAC hosted a dinner for composers, music supervisors, and music executives at the 2019 Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah.



Composer Saunder Jurriaans and SESAC's Erin Collins



Music World News

Your membership in the National Music Council gives you access to the [IMC Music World News eBulletin](#), which presents music news from around the world. The bulletin is emailed to subscribers every two weeks free of charge. It reaches more than 70 countries on all five continents.

Music World News is divided into six sections:

- [Music the artform and artists](#)
- [Music Industry](#)
- [Music Education](#)
- [Policy, Research & Politics](#)
- [Technologies and media](#)
- [The Pointy End](#)



Accountants to the NMC

