



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

# NEWSLETTER

Winter 2015

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## **NATIONAL MUSIC COUNCIL ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AND 2015 AMERICAN EAGLE AWARDS TO BE HELD IN NASHVILLE**

Save the Date: NMC's 2015 *American Eagle Awards, Leadership in Music Symposium* and annual membership meeting will be held in Nashville on the afternoon of July 11th. The presentations will coincide with the International Musical Product Association's Summer NAMM Show. This will be the first time the American Eagle Awards will be held outside of New York City. Details to follow!

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## **SINGER-PIANIST BEN FOLDS: "I KNOW HOW MUCH MUSIC EDUCATION DOES FOR LEARNING"**

Singer-pianist Ben Folds presented the Conference keynote address for the National Association for Music Education (NAfME) annual In-Service Conference in Nashville this past October. Here's some of what he had to say about the importance of music education:

"My interest in music starts at the obvious personal level," said Folds, "I wouldn't be where I am without a music education. That's not just as a musician, but as a person who knows how to relate to other people. It was a big deal to me, having a proper music education in the public schools when I was a kid."

He added, "When I look around, I realize we need to speak up so that my kids and my kids' kids have a proper arts education. I know how much music education does for learning." Watch NAfME's video interview with Folds at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KsG9UpsO-6E>.



Folds first found success with the Ben Folds Five, and has gone on to have a successful solo career: writing, recording and performing pop hits, as well as

composing a recent new concerto for piano and orchestra. Ben has also achieved critical acclaim as a judge on NBC's a cappella competition "The Sing-Off," which aired for five seasons.

He serves as a member of the Board of Directors of the Nashville Symphony, and has composed a highly acclaimed concerto for piano and orchestra. He premiered the concerto in Nashville, and has been performing select movements of it and other orchestrations of his pop hits with major symphonies before sold-out crowds across the United States, as well as Europe, the Pacific Rim and Australia. At a number of his concert stops he is also holding master classes at symphony venues for local students.

Ben's self-described love of making music "for humans" was nurtured from an early age by his public school music instructors. As one who believes in the healing power of music, Folds uses his role as a member of the distinguished Artist Committee for the Americans for the Arts to be an outspoken advocate for music education and music therapy.

A Nashville resident, Ben owns and operates the historic RCA Studio A, once managed by Chet Atkins, and the home to thousands of legendary recording sessions in all genres of music—from Elvis Presley to the Monkees, Dolly Parton to Kacey Musgraves, Tony Bennett to the Beach Boys, and Brian Setzer to Hunter Hayes.

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## 2015 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

On January 13th the Music Education Policy Roundtable, a coalition of likeminded organizations and institutions, advocating for high quality music education in America's schools, identified its legislative priorities for the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). The Music Education Policy Roundtable has outlined these priorities for Congress: To create policies and teaching environments that give all students access to a well-rounded education which includes high quality instruction in music.

With the goal of soliciting bipartisan support to accomplish these goals on behalf of all students across America, the Music Education Policy Roundtable has identified five key areas of prioritization in this reauthorization:

**I. STRENGTHENED STATUS:** In order to strengthen the importance of music education in the law, for purposes of both garnering state-level funding and other forms of support, we ask that Congress maintain the core academic subject section in any reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

**II. INCREASED ACCESSIBILITY:** In order to ensure that even the most disadvantaged students have access to high quality music education programs no matter their personal circumstance or background, we ask that Congress strengthen language throughout any

reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act so that it increases clarity as to the availability of such resources for use in this regard.

### **III. EQUITABLE TEACHER**

**EVALUATION:** In order to ensure that music educators are always evaluated by qualified individuals utilizing reliable measures germane to their discipline of study, and to make certain that ultimate accountability for all such measures is directly attributable to music teachers themselves, we ask that Congress offer language in any reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, recommending the institutionalizing of this practice.

**IV. BALANCED ACCOUNTABILITY:** In order to ensure that, in making school district accountability determinations, “well-rounded” factors, such as achievement in music, are considered, in addition to state assessment results in reading/language arts and mathematics, we ask that Congress recognize the reliability of such multiple measures of performance, in developing corresponding State plans, in any reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

### **V. ENHANCED TEACHER**

**PREPARATION:** In order to ensure that all federal granting opportunities for purposes of preparing, training, and recruiting high quality teachers and principals include a measure of consideration as to the importance of high quality music and arts education delivery abilities, we ask that Congress insert further clarifying language in any reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

The National Music Council is a member of the Music Education Policy

Roundtable.

For more information on the Roundtable and its legislative agenda, including the specific requests as they relate to ESEA Reauthorization, please visit the Roundtable’s website (<http://www.nafme.org/take-action/music-education-policy-roundtable/>).

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## **AFM APPLAUDS DOT RELEASE OF FAA REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2012**

The US Department of Transportation (DOT) released the long-awaited final administrative rule on Dec 30<sup>th</sup> which fully implements Section 403 of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2012 – the law authorizing musical instruments as carry-on baggage onboard US air carriers. This historic accomplishment was led by the American Federation of Musicians of the United States and Canada and made possible through efforts by several longtime AFM allies in Congress, as well as AFM Local 161-710 (Washington, DC) officers and rank and file members. The AFM was also assisted by the Department of Professional Employees, AFL-CIO, and by other music industry partners.

During the past year, the DOT has been engaged in dialogue with musicians of the AFM, as well as representatives of airlines and industry associations, to address the difficulties musicians face when traveling by air with musical instruments. Airlines are now required to allow small musical instruments, such as a violin or guitar, to be carried into the cabin and stowed in approved

stowage spaces, if available, and/or under the seat.

“We applaud the efforts of Department of Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx and our AFM allies in Congress for the new administrative ruling on the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2012,” states AFM International President Ray Hair. “For many years, AFM members have been subject to very arbitrary and contradictory size and weight requirements imposed by each airline for musical instruments that are carried on board the airplane or checked as baggage. Airlines will now follow a consistent policy for all musicians traveling with instruments.”

The airlines are now required to train air crews, gate agents, counter agents, and baggage personnel concerning appropriate procedures necessary to comply with all FAA musical instrument transportation policies. The full ruling can be accessed at: <http://www.dot.gov/airconsumer/final-rule-musical-instruments>.

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## **NAMM FOUNDATION INCREASES ACCESS TO TOP YOUTH ARTS PROGRAMS**

The NAMM Foundation empowers life-enriching, after-school arts programs through a new partnership with the [National Arts and Humanities Youth Program](#) (NAHYP) Awards. During a White House ceremony on November 10th, the NAMM Foundation stepped up as the lead sponsor of the awards, which recognize the country’s best creative youth development programs that engage students in the arts to

increase academic achievement, and improve literacy abilities, communication and cultural awareness.

“NAMM members, through their support of the NAMM Foundation, are ensuring that these outstanding programs are available to enrich the lives of talented young people coast-to-coast,” said Mary Luehrsen, executive director of the NAMM Foundation. “As the First Lady herself said, ‘You teach kids more than just skills in the arts and humanities – you light a fire in them; you help them grow emotionally and socially.’ Thousands of young people will have access to music and the arts this year thanks to this recognition.”

Robin Walenta, president/CEO of West Music Co., Inc. and NAMM board treasurer, joined Luehrsen in the East Room to honor the 2014 National Arts and Humanities Youth Awards winners. First Lady Michelle Obama presented the awards to the programs on behalf of the President’s Committee on the Arts and Humanities (PCAH). In addition to the NAHYP, NAMM Foundation’s also a proud supporter of Turnaround Arts, a PCAH effort that infuses the nation’s lowest performing schools with arts.

The 12 exemplary American, community-based, after-school programs and one international program will receive a \$10,000 grant along with capacity-building, networking, and communications support. The NAMM Foundation congratulates the 2014 National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award recipients. For a complete listing of the recipients, [Click here](#).

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## **MUSIC EDUCATION POLICY ROUNDTABLE MEMBERS ASK U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR RELEVANT EVALUATIONS FOR MUSIC TEACHERS**

The U.S. Department of Education (USDOE) has released [proposed regulations](#) on rating teacher preparation programs across the country, which could have a negative impact on music education programs, especially with future teachers hoping to work with underserved students. They expand the annual reporting that institutions are required to submit in order to participate in to receive federal funding.

The new regulations will amend the “Higher Education Act” and the associated “Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant Program” that provided \$119.9 million in funding for future teachers last year to teach in underserved schools. Based on these ratings “low performing programs” would be ineligible to receive TEACH Grants for their students.

Because of the impact the Department’s proposals could have on current and future music educators, members of the Music Education Policy Roundtable, a coalition of like-minded groups, including the National Music Council, who advocate for favorable policies for music education programs and teachers, released a public statement to the USDOE.

“In light of the U.S. Department of Education’s newly proposed teacher preparation regulations protocol, the

Music Education Policy Roundtable would like to take this opportunity to commend the Department for its efforts to develop a robust and effective teacher preparation system, but also to express our deep concern with the methodology recommended to accomplish this vision,” members of the Roundtable stated. “While holding programs accountable for producing excellent teachers in music and all subjects is a goal that member-groups of the Music Education Policy Roundtable strongly stand behind, doing so in a manner that creates needless burden on institutions of higher learning, while giving short shrift to music and other important areas of learning, is a losing proposition.”

The Roundtable’s [statement](#) ([available here](#)) lists three major concerns regarding the Department’s proposal. “It is the Roundtable’s sincere hope to work closely with the Department,” the statement continues, “in order to develop a more inclusive, less taxing system for how our shared goal of implementing a better teacher preparation protocol can be achieved, for the tens of thousands of music educators, nationwide, as well as for all other teachers serving in subject areas other than math or language arts. ... To develop and implement an effective system of teacher preparation regulations, the evaluation of teachers and teacher preparation programs alike must be based on the subject taught by the teacher.”

The National Association for Music Education and the Music Education Policy Roundtable strongly encourage all members of the music education higher education community and other affected parties to supplement the Roundtable statement no later than

February 2, 2015, with their own input on the merits of appropriate teacher preparation regulations for music education, and to include their own suggestions for improving the current proposal.

To read the proposed regulations in full, go the [Federal Register online](#). To submit a comment, [read these useful tips](#), and submit via the Federal Register proposed regulations page by clicking “Submit a Formal Comment” (or read the instructions for other ways to comment) no later than February 2, 2015.

For additional information, contact Catherina Hurlburt at [catherinah@nafme.org](mailto:catherinah@nafme.org) or 703-860-4000, ext. 242.



In March 1985, National Association for Music Education (NAfME) designated March as Music In Our Schools Month<sup>®</sup> (MIOSM<sup>®</sup>). During that month each year, school music programs throughout the United States take the spotlight. A cornerstone of NAfME’s annual celebration is the national Music In Our Schools Month Concert. Both the month-long MIOSM event and the Concert celebrate the 30th anniversary in March 2015.

The 2015 MIOSM Concert songs are:

- “Always Sing”
- “Feel the Beat!”
- “Funga Alafia”
- “J’entends le Moulin”
- “Soldiers’ Joy”
- “The Star-Spangled Banner”
- “We the People”
- “Why We Sing”

The annual MIOSM observation began as a one-day event in New York State; it then grew to a week-long observance. In 1985 it evolved into NAfME’s month-long celebration of school music programs. The purpose of MIOSM is to raise awareness of the importance of music education for all children—and as a reminder that all children should have access to school music programs taught by highly-qualified music educators.

The celebration continues to grow each year, reaching more and more students, teachers, musicians, and music education supporters. Schools and communities throughout the United States and overseas celebrate MIOSM with concerts and other activities.

[Find additional information about NAfME’s Music In Our Schools Month program.](#)

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## **NAMM FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES WILLIAM R. GARD SCHOLARSHIP AND PRESIDENT’S INNOVATION AWARD RECIPIENTS**

The NAMM Foundation announces seven recipients of the [William R. Gard Memorial Scholarship](#) and the 73 recipients of the 2015 President’s Innovation Award. Both programs support college students pursuing

careers in the music-products industry, an investment directly into the industry's future.

“We all came into this industry through different doors, and thankfully found our place in it,” said Joe Lamond, president and CEO of NAMM. “By providing these opportunities for the next generation through the Gard Scholarship and the President’s Innovation Awards we are attracting the best and brightest young people into our industry and ensuring the long-term success of our member companies.”

Named for a former NAMM executive vice president, the William R. Gard Memorial Scholarship supports promising NAMM member employees, who are pursuing a career in the music products industry. The \$2,000 scholarship goes toward academic expenses for employees studying full time at accredited four-year universities. Scholarships are awarded annually and may be renewed for up to three additional years, provided the applicant continues to be employed by a NAMM member and maintains an overall 3.0 grade point average or higher.

Congratulations to this year’s William R. Gard Memorial Scholarship awardees. For a complete list of the awardees, [Click here.](#)

The [NAMM President's Innovation Award](#) is given to students currently enrolled in music business or music education courses. Recipients receive \$600 to cover the expense of attending the upcoming NAMM Show. At the show, awardees participate in [Generation Next](#) programs, have countless networking opportunities with music industry leaders, and explore the

show. Generation Next [registration](#) is now open to college students preparing for careers in the music product industry.

This year the NAMM Foundation saw a 35 percent increase in the number of President’s Innovation Award applicants. Congratulations to the 73 2015 President’s Innovation Award winners.



## MEMBER REPORTS

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### AATS

The American Academy of Teachers of Singing meets five times a year in New York City for discussion on pedagogical matters; opinion papers are written based on these discussions. Two papers are currently being written, one on copyright laws and the changing practices, including electronics, and the other is revisiting ethics, in view of the recent FTC rulings on fair trade. The Code of Ethics has been taken down from the AATS website for revision.

Papers written by the Academy are available on their [website](#) for the use of other authors as long as there is an acknowledgement of the source.

The Academy is implementing online conferencing to accommodate members outside the New York area in order to increase participation in discussion.

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## CHOPIN FOUNDATION

### 2015 National Chopin Piano Competition in Miami celebrates its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Vying for the largest cash prize ever awarded in a U.S. piano competition, 24 of the nation's most gifted young pianists will compete in the 9<sup>th</sup> National Chopin Piano Competition held in Miami from February 21-March 1, 2015 at the Miami-Dade County Auditorium.

Founded by Mrs. Blanka A. Rosenstiel, the first National Chopin Piano Competition was held in Miami in 1975 under the auspices of the American Institute of Polish Culture. Since then, it has been presented every five years by the Chopin Foundation of the United States. It is the only classical piano competition devoted to the works of a single composer that is open exclusively to young American pianists. Previous winners and competitors have gone on to capture top prizes at prestigious international competitions, including the Warsaw Chopin Piano Competition, while enjoying distinguished professional careers.

The competition is open solely to U.S. pianists born between 1985 and 1999. The 24 contestants will compete over eight days and four rounds, with each round taking two days. With the exception of the final round, when six finalists will perform with the Chopin Foundation Orchestra, all competition sessions are free and open to the public.

Among the selected 24 contestants traveling to Miami from 11 states, there are 11 women and 13 men. The youngest is 17 years old and the oldest

is 29. All will be hosted by the local families who have pianos in their homes and have volunteered to "adopt" the young pianists for the time of the competition.

For a full list of contestants, and the competition schedule please visit <http://www.chopin.org>.

Blanka Rosenstiel, founder of the Chopin Foundation, and an underwriter of the first prize, commented: "We increased the top prize to \$75,000 to attract the very best pianists in America to our competition. I'm proud to say that we have succeeded beyond our expectations. In spite of their youth, each contestant has already laid the groundwork for an esteemed professional career as a concert pianist."

The total of all cash prizes awarded at the Competition comes to \$160,000. In addition to receiving \$75,000, the first prize winner of the National Chopin Piano Competition will perform in concerts throughout the U.S. and internationally for bookings arranged by the Chopin Foundation. The prize winners will also receive expense-paid trips to compete in the International Chopin Piano Competition in Warsaw. The top two finalists will automatically advance to the Warsaw competition while the other four finalists must compete in live auditions in April.

The ten-day competition will open on February 20<sup>th</sup> with a Gala Concert featuring performances by all nine members of the Competition jury. The winners will be announced on March 1, 2015 after the two-part final performances are over. The Chopin Foundation Orchestra led by Maestro

Grzegorz Nowak will accompany the six finalists. Tickets to the Gala Opening Concert and to the two parts of the finals of the Competition are available through [www.chopin.org](http://www.chopin.org), Ticketmaster.com, by phone at 1-800-745-3000 or 1-866-448-7849 and at the Miami-Dade County Auditorium Box Office.

Through the National Chopin Piano Competition, the Chopin Foundation of the U.S. fulfills its mission to support talented young American pianists and to make classical music accessible to all. In addition, the Foundation offers scholarships to American pianists, ages 14-17, to assist potential Competition applicants with their musical studies, and also presents the free *Chopin for All* concert series in South Florida.

For more information about the Ninth National Chopin Piano Competition and other Chopin Foundation's programs, please visit <http://www.chopin.org>.

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## DELTA OMICRON

Dr. Dan Forrest, composer and pianist, was inducted as a National Patron of Delta Omicron at the First Baptist Church of Jefferson City, Tennessee on November 15th. He was inducted by Ann Jones, Past International President and Chapter Adviser of Alpha Gamma Chapter at Carson-Newman University. Alpha Gamma and alumni of Delta Omicron were present for the induction ceremony and in attendance for the ceremony was the Knoxville Choral Society and choral forces of the Carson-Newman University Music Department.

Sin Young Park and her composition "Three Preludes for Piano" were

selected as the winner of the 2015 Delta Omicron Triennial Composition Competition. Sin Young Park is a Korean composer and pianist, born in Bordeaux, France. She graduated from Sunhwa Arts School and Sunhwa Arts High School majoring in composition in 2005. After she graduated from Sunhwa Arts High School, she entered Ewha Woman's University and received a bachelor's degree in music composition in 2010.

The piece is being premiered by one of the judges, Dr. John McGinn, who is a member of Delta Omicron. Currently an Associate Professor of Music (Theory/Composition) at Austin College in Sherman, TX, John is the Chapter Adviser and Faculty Sponsor of Epsilon Iota Chapter of Delta Omicron.

Composer/pianist John McGinn received his undergraduate music degree from Harvard University and his doctorate in composition from Stanford University in 1999. Among his teachers are such noted composers as Jonathan Harvey, Leon Kirchner, Ivan Tcherepnin and John Adams. His own works have won several honors and have been performed at colleges and festivals nationwide. As a pianist and keyboardist, McGinn has performed throughout the United States and Europe and appeared on more than a dozen commercial recordings, including the recent CDs *The Fair Ophelia* and *Goddesses* (Navona label) by The Shakespeare Concerts of MA, for whom he served as music director from 2003-08; Luc Ferrari's *Les Émois d'Aphrodite* with the MC Band (Belgian Sub Rosa label); John Adams' opera *Nixon in China* with the Orchestra of St. Luke's (Nonesuch); and a critically acclaimed solo album, *The 20th Century Piano* (AmCam).

Delta Omicron is preparing for the 2015 Triennial Conference to be held July 15-18 at the Hilton Chicago Indian Lakes Resort in Bloomingdale, Illinois. This will be the 43<sup>rd</sup> National and 19<sup>th</sup> International conference of the Fraternity.

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## **MUSIC CRITICS ASSOCIATION OF NORTH AMERICA**

The Music Critics Association of North America will hold its annual meeting in San Francisco this year. Members will attend the world premiere of Marc Tutino's "Two Women" and a new production of Berlioz's "Les Troyens" at the San Francisco Opera; they will also take in a semi-staged production of Beethoven's "Missa Solemnis" presented by the San Francisco Symphony under the direction of its music director, Michael Tilson Thomas. Classical Voice North America, MCANA's latest initiative, will provide coverage of the events at [www.classicalvoiceamerica.org](http://www.classicalvoiceamerica.org)

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## **NFMC**

The National Federation of Music Clubs is celebrating its 58<sup>th</sup> biennial convention in Fargo, ND, June 16-20, 2015. After years as President, Carolyn Nelson of North Dakota will pass the gavel to Michael Edwards of Florida. Michael will be the first male president of NFMC. Other officers, chairmen and committees will be elected/appointed at the convention.

Tentative convention programs include music therapy, music in the Theodore Roosevelt White House, music of the Mighty Wurlitzer, use of the new festival online system, and life at International Music Camp at the Peace Gardens. Concerts will include Richard Glazier with his new program "From Broadway to Hollywood," the new 2015-2017 NFMC Young Artists and BELLissimo. All program divisions will also hold their official business meetings. Other musical moments will be interspersed during the day.

Prior to the convention, the biennial Young Artist competition will be held at North Dakota State University Challey School of Music. Awards may be awarded in piano, strings, men's and women's voice. The first place awards are \$15,000 for each category. Unfortunately the Ellis Piano-Duo competition was cancelled this year due to lack of finalists. The Mauler-Delgado Duo has agreed to represent NFMC for another two years.

The National Federation of Music Clubs will again be a co-sponsor of Arts Advocacy Day coordinated by Americans for the Arts. The mission of the NFMC is to advocate for American music, American musicians and music education.

We encourage members of the National Music Council to like/friend us on Facebook. We offer many scholarships during the year ranging from \$50 to \$15,000. Perhaps you know someone who might qualify. Our website is [www.nfmc-music.org](http://www.nfmc-music.org).

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## NATIONAL FLUTE ASSOCIATION

### 43rd Annual Convention

**Aug 13–16, 2015 • Washington, D.C.**

*E Pluribus Unum!* We come from many countries and backgrounds for a common purpose: to share our music with each other. Meet us this August in Washington, D.C., the ultimate national stage, to join the 43rd Annual NFA Convention, “Out of Many, One.”

Your visit to Washington, D.C., includes the chance to experience the best that our country has to offer: monuments for reflection, gardens and parks for beauty, museums for lifelong learning, people from every background and country, and the energizing center of democracy and collaboration.

August 13–16, 2015, thousands of flutists will gather to celebrate the beauty, inspiration, diversity, lifelong learning, and collaboration that we share. We invite you to join us! More information and registration now available [here](#).

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## SESAC

### SESAC Congratulates Bob Dylan, 2015 MusiCares Person of the Year:

Bob Dylan will be honored as the 2015 MusiCares Person of the Year on Friday, Feb. 6, 2015. Proceeds from the 25th annual benefit gala dinner and concert — to be held in Los Angeles during GRAMMY Week two nights prior to the 57th Annual GRAMMY Awards — will provide essential support for MusiCares. Performers at the tribute concert include GRAMMY winners Bruce Springsteen, Jeff Beck; the Black Keys; Crosby, Stills & Nash; Norah

Jones; Tom Jones; Los Lobos; John Mellencamp; Willie Nelson; Bonnie Raitt; Eddie Vedder; Jack White and Neil Young.

### SESAC’s Linda Lorence Critelli Honored by *Billboard*:



Congratulations to SESAC’s Linda Lorence Critelli, who was honored by *Billboard* Magazine in their recent WOMEN IN MUSIC special issue. Each year the magazine celebrates the music industry’s most successful and influential female executives and hosts a luncheon in their honor in New York City. Critelli was honored in a feature focusing on the women who make it all happen at the performing rights organizations.

### Cary Barlowe Feted for “Where It’s At (Yep, Yep)”:

SESAC co-hosted a party on November 24th at the CMA offices in honor of songwriter Cary Barlowe and his #1 song, “Where It’s At” recorded by Dustin Lynch. This wasn’t Barlowe’s first #1 smash as he also wrote “American Honey” which topped the charts for Lady Antebellum.

### **SESAC Signs Anna Wilson:**

Award-winning singer/songwriter [Anna Wilson](#) has signed with SESAC for representation. The critically-acclaimed jazz singer recently released her fifth studio album, *Jazzbird/Songbird*, which debuted in the Top 10 on the iTunes Jazz Chart. Wilson's songs have also been recorded by Reba McEntire, Brooks & Dunn, Billy Ray Cyrus, Lee Ann Womack, and others. As a vocalist, Wilson has shared billing with Josh Groban, Keith Urban, the Mississippi Mass Choir, Patty Griffin and others.

### **SESAC's James Napier Named Billboard's No.1 Writer:**

SESAC (PRS) songwriter/producer James Napier was cited by *Billboard* Magazine as the No. 1 songwriter for publishing companies in the third quarter. Napier was the co-writer on such hits as Sam Smith's "Stay With Me" and "I'm Not The Only One." He was also responsible for writing the hits for Clean Bandit (feat. Jess Glynne) on "Rather Be" and Disclosure (feat. Sam Smith) on "Latch." Napier also wrote the current Mary J. Blige song "When You're Gone" which she recently debuted online on her official Vevo page.

### **SESAC Celebrates Songwriters & Publishers at 2014 Nashville Music Awards:**

SESAC kicked off CMA Week by honoring the songwriters and music publishers behind the year's most-performed Country and Americana songs at the organization's Nashville Music Awards held November 2nd at the Country Music Hall of Fame. Rob Hatch, who topped the charts with smash hits such as "Goodnight Kiss" by

Randy Houser and "I Don't Dance" recorded by Lee Brice, was named SESAC's Songwriter of the Year. "Drink To That All Night," written by Lance Miller and published by Songs of StyleSonic Music, Melvin's Pistol Music and Melvin's Bullets Music, was named Song of the Year. The song was recorded by Jerrod Niemann, who was on hand to open the show. Tim McGraw, Miller's publisher, made a surprise appearance to bestow the Song of the Year award to Miller. Magic Mustang Music was honored as Publisher of the Year.

