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NEWSLETTER Spring 2005

U.S. CONGRESS VOICES UNANIMOUS SUPPORT FOR BOOSTING MUSIC EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS

Congress Resolution Also Lauds NAMM's efforts

March 3, 2005, WASHINGTON, D.C.—
The U.S. House of Representatives, acting on the recommendation of the House Committee on Education & the Workforce, expressed unanimous support for the value of school-based music education when it passed a Concurrent Resolution Tuesday that says music instruction "is an important component of a well-rounded academic curriculum and should be available to every student in every school."

Congressional Resolution 45, which passed on a voice vote, also recognized NAMM, the International Music Products Association, for its leadership in emphasizing the importance of school music programs in the academic and social development of children.

The resolution adds Congressional weight to struggles in communities across the country to maintain funding for music and arts education. It comes at a time when those programs are targeted for cuts, despite the overwhelming evidence of music's benefit to learning.

Central to the debate Tuesday was the inclusion in the federal No Child Left Behind Act that music and arts education is part of the academic core curriculum. This Congressional endorsement re-states the value of music education as a vital element in a quality education for all children.

The text of the resolution, introduced by U.S. Reps. Jim Cooper of Tennessee's 5th District and Randy "Duke" Cunningham of California's 50th District and was backed by 21 co-sponsors, reads simply and eloquently: "It is the sense of Congress that music education grounded in rigorous instruction is an important component of a well-rounded academic curriculum and should be available to every student in every school." The resolution goes on to state, "the Congress recognizes NAMM, the International Music Products Association, for its efforts to emphasize the importance of school music programs in the academic and social development of children."

"We thank Representatives Cooper and Cunningham and all of their colleagues for continuing their support of efforts to maintain music education funding in our schools," said Joe Lamond, president and CEO, NAMM, the International Music Products Association. "We at NAMM, and our business networks, will do our part to translate this sense of the Congress expressed today into local action. For so many kids, music is a pathway to success in

school – we will continue to work hard to improve access and opportunity for all children in the country.”

U.S. Rep. John R. “Randy” Kuhl, Jr., from New York’s 29th District, was one of the resolution’s co-sponsors. He noted in his remarks on the House floor that “research has shown that students’ involvement in their school music program is crucial to a complete education. Musical study develops critical thinking and self-discipline skills, and improves a child’s early cognitive development, basic math and reading abilities, self-esteem, S.A.T. scores, the ability to work in teams, spatial reasoning skills and school attendance.”

U.S. Rep. Cooper, who introduced a similar bill in the previous Congress that passed the full House on a vote of 402-0, noted in his remarks to the House that music education “helps your high-achieving kids and it helps your low-achieving kids. So this is a truly valuable part of our school curriculum. It should be offered in all of our schools so that all of our children have the chance to learn the joys of music.”

“Although the Department of Education sees music education as a prerequisite to college, and countless studies have shown the vast impact of music education, it is still missing from too many schools, particularly public schools in inner city neighborhoods,” said another co-sponsor, U.S. Rep Danny K. Davis, of Illinois’ 7th District. “Local budget cuts are depriving approximately 30 million students of an education that includes music. It is not only at the local level that is forcing schools to abandon music education, but the lack of federal funding as well.”

Research has consistently shown the wide-ranging value of music education to the full academic and social performance of young

people. Specifically, studies show that early music training has a profound influence on children’s ability to think critically and to reason. From reading scores to math performance to the ability and willingness to fend off use of illegal substances, music education, as well as participation in music-making programs, have proven to be central to a successful academic experience.

The Commodores, Take 6 and American Idol Stars Deliver More Than 33,000 Petition Signatures on Capitol Hill to Support Music Education

At a special Congressional reception held on March 10th to support music education, Grammy® Award-winning artists The Commodores, Take 6 and *American Idol* stars Justin Guarini, Diana DeGarmo and John Stevens presented more than 33,000 petition signatures signed by teens across America who want music in their schools. The event culminated in a special performance by these legendary and emerging recording artists for members of Congress, their staff and families.



The celebration capped a full day on Capitol Hill for representatives of NAMM,

Stars Sing Out for Music in Schools

the International Music Products Association, the American Music Conference (AMC), SupportMusic.com, The Commodores, Take 6 and the *American Idol*

stars who spent the day visiting lawmakers on Capitol Hill to help bring much-needed attention to the benefits of music education and music making for children and teens.

“According to the Music Education Coalition, it’s estimated that the current round of budget cuts will deprive as many as 30 million students of an education that includes music,” says Justin Guarini. “That’s more than 60 percent of those enrolled in grades K-12 nationwide. That statistic is incredibly unfortunate, because we know first hand that kids who study music do better in school and in life. This petition reinforces the fact that kids want and need music in their schools.”

“Hundreds of thousands of kids are losing the opportunity to participate in school music programs because of drastic budget cuts in arts programs,” added Joe Lamond, President and CEO of NAMM, which promotes music, music research and music education. “Music education offers too many benefits to developing minds for this issue to go unnoticed. We need to give kids the opportunity to have a well-rounded education, and we need to empower more of them and their parents to voice their concerns.”

The petition to Congress on behalf of music education got its start in June 2002, when Justin Timberlake broke the news on MTV’s *Total Request Live*. Since then, TEEN PEOPLE magazine, NAMM and AMC’s free web resource for teens, themusicedge.com, have encouraged and empowered thousands of young people to get engaged in civic involvement and add their names alongside celebrities like Clay Aiken, Nick Lachey, Sean Paul, JC Chasez, Nick Cannon, Yellowcard, Amber Tamblyn, Ashlee Simpson, Pharrell Williams, Smaire Armstrong and Adam Brody.

During the month of March, NAMM advances national efforts to increase awareness and support for music as vital to a quality education for all children. NAMM urges parents, children, educators and community officials to support music education in schools by visiting www.amc-music.org. Information on building local advocacy efforts for music education is also available at www.supportmusic.com, a public service and grassroots advocacy initiative from the Music Education Coalition.

MEMBER REPORTS

MENC Celebrates Music In Our Schools Month 2005

MENC, the National Association for Music Education, had initiatives taking place throughout the month of March:

MENC ADVOCACY CAMPAIGN: "WHY MUSIC?" RADIO PSA SERIES - MENC's 2005 Music In Our Schools Month radio public service announcement campaign was launched March 1.

THE 2005 WORLD'S LARGEST CONCERT: Aired on PBS and the Armed Forces Network on March 10. This year's theme was "Music: The Heart of Education," and the program featured some of America's favorite songs. Vocal music and orchestrations were available for free download. Visit <http://www.menc.org/guides/wlc/WLCFront.html> to view the 2005 teacher's guide.

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM PROJECT: The March 10 launch on the lawn of the US Capitol was featured on Good Morning America. The event featured musical

legends The Oak Ridge Boys, "The President's Own" U.S. Marine Band, elected officials, and school choirs and Girl Scouts singing "The Star-Spangled Banner." Teachers around the country planned local launch events. MENC produced free teaching and advocacy materials. A new book of patriotic music lessons was also released. More information at [www. thenationalanthemproject.org](http://www.thenationalanthemproject.org).

COPYRIGHT AWARENESS WEEK: MARCH 21-25, MENC, together with musical celebrities 3 Doors Down, Deborah Allen, Gavin DeGraw, John Legend, Martina McBride, Paul Overstreet and Leslie Satcher, teamed up with the Copyright Society of the USA to teach students why copyright is an important part of supporting creative people. See <http://www.menc.org/information/copyright/awarenessweek.html> for more details

ANNUAL "100 BEST COMMUNITIES FOR MUSIC EDUCATION" NOW ACCEPTING ENTRIES – MENC and a coalition of other leading music and education organizations once again joined forces to present the annual "Best 100 Communities for Music Education" survey. The survey was online at <http://www.amc-music.org>. Towns and cities across America have reported that the survey has made a real difference to local music programs - not only as a spotlight on their successes, but as a shield at budget time. In addition, the host of media stories that appear each year about the survey and its outcome help raise awareness about music education as a national issue. The 2005 "Best 100" list will be released this spring.

BMI News

Cecil L. Walker of Atlanta, GA, former President & CEO of Gannett Broadcasting, was elected Chairman of the BMI Board of Directors in October 2004. He joined BMI's board in 1998, previously serving as Vice Chairman. Recently named BMI President & CEO Del R. Bryant was elected to his first four-year term on the board.

BMI hosted its third annual Songwriters Snowball and Composer/Director roundtable at the 2005 Sundance Film Festival. VP of Film/TV Relations Doreen Ringer Ross moderated the roundtable, "Music and Film: The Creative Process," which included directors Kevin Bacon and Rodrigo Garcia and composers Michael Bacon, George S. Clinton, and Peter Golub (who also directs the Sundance Composers Lab).

In September 2004 BMI partnered with the Washington, DC chapter of the Recording Academy to host its annual signature advocacy event, *Grammys on the Hill*, recognizing outstanding legislators and artists who have improved the environment for the music community. The gala evening honored Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-NY) for her work promoting the arts as both a Senator and First Lady; Rep. Mary Bono (R-CA) for pursuing strong copyright protection in Congress; and Grammy Award-winning BMI artist Natalie Cole for her exceptional 30-year music career.

Awards For BMI Songwriters And Composers:

Carlos Santana will be honored as a BMI icon at the 12th annual BMI Latin Awards (4/21/05 in Las Vegas). Past BMI icons have included Brian Wilson, Chuck Berry, James Brown, Isaac Hayes, Loretta Lynn, Little Richard, Bo Diddley, Holland-Dozier-

Holland, Dolly Parton and others. Santana's new album, his 3rd for Arista, should be released about the same time.

George Tsontakis received the prestigious Grawemeyer Award for Music Composition for 2005. The \$200,000 award was given for his "Violin Concerto No 2." Tsontakis's winning work received its world premiere in 2003 by soloist Steven Copes and the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, and was recorded in September 2004 on the Koch label.

Carlos Carrillo has been named the winner of a Carlos Surinach Commission Award. Carrillo was selected for the honor by the artistic staff of the American Composers Orchestra (ACO) from a pool of BMI-affiliated composers who were recent winners of the BMI Student Composer Award. The ACO premiered "Algunas metáforas que aluden al tormento, a la angustia y a la Guerra," at Zankel Hall in January 2005. The Carlos Surinach Commissioning Program is made possible by a generous legacy from composer/conductor Surinach, who left his entire estate to the BMI Foundation to be used to support young classical composers.

Composer/conductor **John Williams** and songwriter/artist **Sir Elton John** were among the six recipients of the 2004 Kennedy Center Honors. The gala Kennedy Center performance (12/5/04) honoring this year's award winners was attended by President Bush and First Lady Laura Bush, and by artists from around the world. Other 2004 honorees include Warren Beatty, Ossie Davis, Ruby Dee, and Joan Sutherland.

Brazilian composer **Gilberto Gil** has been named one of the 2005 winners of the Polar Music Prize for his contributions to music. Gil, who is also Brazil's culture minister, will receive 1 million kronor (\$137,043)

from His Majesty King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden at a gala ceremony on May 23, 2005. The Academy cited Gil for his "unflinching creative engagement in bringing to the world the heart and soul of the rich music of Brazil," and called him a "unique composer powered by immense talent and curiosity. A unique musical ambassador powered by firm cultural conviction."

Black History Month is being celebrated by the Detroit Symphony Orchestra with the world premiere of **Hannibal Lokumbe's** oratorio "Dear Mrs. Parks," which debuts at the DSO's Classical Roots concerts. The Classical Roots Gala on Feb. 19 will honor the composer with a Lifetime Achievement Award and Lokumbe will participate in a number of educational events in the week prior in his role as the DSO's African American Resident Composer.

Songwriters Guild of America

Over the past few months, The Songwriters Guild of America has added staff and expanded member services.

President Rick Carnes worked closely with Executive Director Lewis Bachman to coordinate Bachman's transition from a full-time director to a part-time consultant. Carnes brought Rundi Ream, previously with the Nashville office, to the administrative office in New Jersey to serve as the SGA's Chief Operating Officer.

Project managers have been placed in the SGA offices in Los Angeles (Aaron Lynn), New York (Mark Saxon) and Nashville (Evan Shoemaker). The new staff members have been actively coordinating enhanced online services for members, including

online song pitch opportunities, song critiques, ASK-A-PRO sessions, intensive songwriting workshops and more. For decades, SGA has maintained an active presence in Washington, DC to monitor and influence legislative activity on Capitol Hill, to participate in litigation involving royalty distributions and the interpretation of copyright laws, and to work with others in the music industry to further the interests of creators.

SGA has been on the front lines of some of the most important legislative victories in recent years, including passage of the Copyright Term Extension Act of 1998 (lengthening the copyright term by 20 years), approval of the Audio Home Recording Act in 1991 (providing royalties to songwriters and others from the manufacturers of digital audio equipment and tapes), enactment of the Copyright Royalty and Distribution Reform Act of 2004 (improving the process through which creators obtain royalties in proceedings at the Copyright Office), and numerous anti-piracy bills seeking to address the worldwide scourge of theft of intellectual property. In addition, SGA has filed briefs in many courts in key cases involving the constitutionality of the term extension law, enforcement of anti-piracy laws, and interpretation of copyright laws generally.

The new year and the new Congress portend more of the same. SGA has already been intimately involved in negotiations over possible legislative changes to section 115 of the copyright law, governing the mechanical license -- to try to assure that creators receive their fair share under any new system. The Guild has also been working on the Family Entertainment and Copyright Act of 2005 (S. 167) to make

certain that provisions dealing with pre-release infringements are sensible and workable. SGA expects an active legislative year on anti-piracy issues as well. Finally, in perhaps the most important intellectual property law case before the Supreme Court in a generation, SGA has filed a brief in *MGM v. Grokster* arguing in favor of applying secondary liability principles against companies that produce file-sharing software that is utilized almost exclusively to steal the works of creators.

Sigma Alpha Iota International Music Fraternity

Many exciting things are happening in Sigma Alpha Iota International Music Fraternity! The fraternity has moved into its own home in Asheville, NC and will dedicate the new National Headquarters on June 12, the anniversary day of our founding. In July SAI will hold its first Leadership Conference for all elected officers, directors, and chapter representatives at the Starr Pass Marriott in Tucson, Arizona. This conference is being made possible by the Century Drive, a \$1,000,000 fundraising drive honoring the 100th anniversary of SAI's founding.

And, because of the successful Century Drive, SAI Philanthropies, Inc., the charitable arm of Sigma Alpha Iota, has added several exciting scholarships and grants to their offerings. At the undergraduate level, two new scholarships have been established: a \$1,500 Jazz Studies scholarship and a \$2,000 Music Business/Technology scholarship. At the graduate level there is a new \$3,000 International Studies grant. Philanthropies has also established a new category of grants

for alumnae members called Professional Development/Educations grants.

The SAI Hazel E. Ritchey Loan Fund for undergraduates was increased to \$2,500 per loan, and a new loan fund for alumnae, called the Founders Loan Fund, was established.

Each year SAI Philanthropies awards more than \$77,000 in grants to individuals, chapters, and music festivals. We are very proud of the winners of these awards and the impact they have on the world of music. If you would like to read a full listing of our projects, visit the website at www.sai-national.org/phil.

National Association of Teachers of Singing

The Association closed the 2004-year with a record number of 6,295 members. The number of retiring and delinquent members remained high, but the number of new members more than took the place of members who resigned or were dropped.

The 2004 convention was held in New Orleans, July 8-12 with mezzo soprano Jennifer Larmore as the featured guest artist. Regular parts of every convention are the semifinal and final rounds of the NATS Artist Awards Competition. The current winner of this prestigious award is soprano Marcia Porter, a member of the voice faculty at The Florida State University School of Music. In addition to a cash award of \$5,000, she will be featured in a solo recital at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall on March 29, 2005, sponsored by Mid-America Productions and NATS. She will also be a featured artist at the next NATS Conference

which will be held in Minneapolis, June 30-July 4, 2006.

The Association is host this summer to the International Congress of Voice Teachers (ICVT). These international events occur every four years. The conference is being held in Vancouver, British Columbia, August 11-15, 2005 (www.icvt5.com). ICVT is comprised of members of eighteen associations of voice teachers from the U.S., Canada, Europe, and the Pacific Rim.

A NATS workshop on Music Theater technique and styles is being held during the first week of April 2005 in Seattle. This workshop is a continuation of collaboration between NATS and the Music Teachers National Association, and is being hosted by MTNA at their annual conference. Another workshop is set for January 2006 in San Antonio.

Officer elections were held in 2004 and officers were installed at the Association Meeting in New Orleans in July 2004. Current officers are Jane Dillard, President (NC); Roy Delp, Past President (FL); Martha Randall, President Elect (MD); Paul Kiesgen, Vice President, NATS Artist Awards (IN); Kathryn Proctor Duax, Vice President, Field Activities (WI); Karen Peeler, Vice President, Membership (OH); Scott McCoy, Vice President, Workshops and Conferences (NJ); and Robert Edwin, Secretary/Treasurer (NJ).

MTNA

Music Teachers National Association, in conjunction with its volunteer leaders, national staff and corporate and association partnerships, has continued to develop new programs and initiatives to meet the needs of

its independent and collegiate teacher membership and further the value of music study nationwide. Activities and new initiatives since September 2004 include:

MTNA National Conference

The MTNA National Conference will be held April 2–6, 2005, in Seattle, Washington. Highlights of the conference will include:

- Opening Session keynote address about Recreational Music Making by neurologist and author Barry Bittman
- Evening concerts by pianist Angela Cheng, mezzo-soprano Adriana Zabala and American Pianists Association Fellows Tom Rosenkranz, Michael Sheppard and Adam Birnbaum
- National competitions finals and winners' concerts
- National Association of Teachers of Singing Spring Workshop
- Technology Track, sponsored in part by the International Association of Electronic Keyboard Manufacturers
- Group Teaching Track, presented in partnership with the National Piano Foundation
- Pre-conference workshops, *Pedagogy Saturday IX* and *Professional Studio Saturday*
- Master classes for piano, voice and strings
- Exhibit hall and industry showcases

MTNA-RPMDA Outreach Initiative

MTNA and the Retail Print Music Dealers Association (RPMDA) have developed a partnership initiative that will strengthen relationships MTNA members and local associations have with print music dealers. The initiative includes three modules, marketing/advertising, public relations and education, and is designed to promote the value of music making and music study for

all ages, in addition to developing mutually beneficial relationships between teachers and print music dealers.

National Anthem Project

MTNA partnered with MENC: The National Association for Music Education and other leading educational associations to support the National Anthem Project: Restoring America's Voice. MTNA will use its network of 24,000 independent and collegiate music teachers to continually promote this project over the next three years.

Research Study

To find out more about the independent music teacher, MTNA is currently in the process of surveying its membership to find out about trends in music teaching. Results of this study will be used to help MTNA better serve its members. Additionally, the findings will serve as a market development tool to increase appreciation for music and music study.

From the Top

Executive Director Gary Ingle was asked to serve on the advisory board of *From the Top*, a not-for-profit multi-media organization. The board is designed to lend credibility, support and counsel to *From the Top*. MTNA has been a longtime supporter of the program and co-sponsored a taping of the radio show in November 2003, in Cincinnati, Ohio.

European Piano Teachers Association

Executive Director Gary Ingle and President Phyllis Pieffer attended the European Piano Teachers Association (EPTA) Conference October 15–18, 2004, in Rome, Italy, and continued developing international ties with EPTA.

Canadian Partnership

MTNA continues the development of its partnership with the Canadian Federation of Music Teacher's Associations (CFMTA) and the Royal Conservatory of Music (RCM) to hold a joint National Conference in Toronto, in March of 2007. This partnership cultivates a new forum for the exchange of ideas and increases opportunities for professional networking.

SupportMusic.com

Since July 2003, MTNA has been actively involved with SupportMusic.com. Through publishing Arts Awareness & Advocacy columns, lending support in legislative petitioning and participating in regular conference calls, MTNA continues to work to preserve music education in schools.

ASCAP

ASCAP, the largest and longest running performing rights organization, with over 200,000 members and seven million musical works in its repertory, finished its 90th anniversary year and is stronger than ever. ASCAP members received 291 nominations for the 47th Annual Grammy Awards and swept the two music categories at the 62nd Annual Golden Globe Awards, with Howard Shore and Mick Jagger (PRS) winning awards.

The 2005 General Annual Membership Meeting was held in New York on April 4th at the Hammerstein Ballroom. ASCAP webcast the meeting, live, for the first-time, allowing members around the world to be part of the annual meeting. The webcast will be archived to allow for future viewing.

In agreements with the Radio and Local Television industries, ASCAP has

negotiated over \$2.7 Billion of licensing fees for its members. ASCAP and the Radio Music License Committee (RMLC), representing most of the nearly 12,000 commercial radio stations in the U.S., announced a new agreement totaling in excess of 1.7 Billion dollars. This is the largest single licensing deal in the history of American radio. ASCAP and the Television Music License Committee (TMLC), representing over 1,200 local television stations, announced a long-term agreement covering the stations' performance of ASCAP music in their analog and digital broadcast signals, as well as station websites.

On January 24th, ASCAP filed 24 separate copyright infringement actions against nightclubs, bars, and restaurants in 15 states and the District of Columbia. These establishments have publicly performed the copyrighted musical works of ASCAP's songwriter, composer and music publisher members without receiving their permission to do so, resulting in lost income."Informing business owners of their obligations under Federal Copyright Law is one of ASCAP's key roles," said Vincent Candilora, Senior Vice President of Licensing at ASCAP. Just over a week after filing actions, the move has been a resounding success as a number of the establishments have already settled their past due fees.

In other ASCAP news, the first ASCAP/Lotte Lehmann Foundation Song Cycle Competition has been created. The competition, named for legendary soprano Lotte Lehmann, was established to recognize talented young composers who write for voice. Additionally, ASCAP and IAJE commissioned two composers in celebration of the centennial year of composer/bandleader/arranger/pianist William "Count" Basie (1904-1984). The

works were premiered at the Opening Session of the 2005 IAJE (International Association for Jazz Education) Annual Conference on January 5th in Long Beach, CA. The commissionees were in the Established Composer category; Bob Florence from Los Angeles; and in the Emerging Composer category, Sherisse N. Rogers from New York. ASCAP also honored 13 chamber music ensembles, festivals and presenters during the annual Chamber Music America Conference in New York. The winners of the ASCAP Awards for Adventurous Programming were invited to share their experiences in winning over audiences through their commitment to performing adventurous programs, this at a special session that immediately followed the Awards presentation, moderated by George Steel, the Director of the Miller Theatre at Columbia University.

The ASCAP Foundation

“Creativity in the Classroom,” a new program launched by The ASCAP Foundation, is designed to help students recognize their own creative work and to understand their rights as creators and owners of the intellectual property they create: a poem, a song, an essay, etc. In today’s environment of illegal music downloading and file sharing, MENC: The National Association for Music Education and The ASCAP Foundation have chosen to give teachers a new set of tools to educate their students in the seldom taught area of intellectual property. The “Creativity in the Classroom” program, initiated and funded by The ASCAP Foundation, is also supported by the following organizations: the National Association of Elementary School Principals; the National Schools Boards Association; the National Association of Secondary Schools Principals; the American Bar Association;

and the U.S. Copyright Office. More information about “Creativity in the Classroom,” including lesson plans for educators, is available on the MENC website at:

<http://www.menc.org/information/copyright/creativity/contents.html>.

The 25th annual Rudolf Nissim Prize was awarded to Andrew Norman for *Sacred Geometry*, a 10-minute work for orchestra, selected from amongst nearly 300 submissions. Norman received a \$5,000 prize.

The winners of the annual Young Jazz Composer Awards were announced and will be presented during ASCAP’s Jazz Wall of Fame event in June.

The Rose Family Trust has established The ASCAP Foundation David Rose Scholarship, to be awarded annually to a qualified college-level student working towards a career in scoring for film and/or television who is participating in ASCAP’s Film & Television Scoring Workshop.

The Heineken Music Initiative and The ASCAP Foundation have teamed up once again to launch a grant program for emerging R&B songwriters in key music markets around the country including Atlanta, Chicago, Los Angeles, New York, Miami, Philadelphia and Washington D.C./Baltimore.

MEMBER NEWS

MEIEA is preparing to put on its annual conference. This year it is being hosted by the University of Miami, April 1-2. For further information, visit <http://www.canerecords.com/meieaconf2005/MEIEA2005.htm>

The **National Federation of Music Clubs** will hold its National Convention on June 20-27 in Austin, Texas, where the group will choose new Young Artists winners to be supported for two year concert tours. NFMC has four recitals (two in New York City) coming up in the Fall and Spring for these Young Artists. The Federation has added several new clubs to the membership and has secured new funding for awards.

The **Beta Omega Chapter** and **Muncie Alumni Chapter** of **Mu Phi Epsilon International Music Fraternity** will premiere a composition entitled *Hammer of Los* by Dr. Eleanor Trawick. This commissioned work will be presented as part of the celebration for the opening of the Sursa Recital Hall in the New Music Instruction Building at the School of Music of **Ball State University** in Muncie, Indiana. The performance is April 19, 2005 in the Sursa Recital Hall.

This commissioned composition and the funding for its performance is made possible through the *Helen Haupt Alumni Chapter Project Grant* awarded annually by the **Mu Phi Epsilon Foundation**. This is a joint effort of the Beta Omega Chapter, Muncie Alumni Chapter and Patrons of Mu Phi Epsilon.

The **National Guild of Community Schools of the Arts** unveiled its newly redesigned website, www.nationalguild.org, at its 67th Annual Conference in Boston last November. Among the new site's many features are a searchable online database of member schools, resource center, and a publications directory. In February, the Guild launched a new program, the MetLife

Foundation Partners in Arts Education Program, to advance community school / public school arts education partnerships. The three major program objectives include publishing the Partners in Excellence Handbook, a guide to best practices in community school - public school practices; producing two training institutes; and distributing grants to support exemplary partnerships. Detailed information is available at www.nationalguild.org.

The **International Alliance for Women in Music** is involved in a number of advocacy projects including: promoting the broadcast performance of music by women on both national and international radio stations; planning of our annual June concert to occur at the National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington DC; planning of our May 2006 Congress to take place at the University of Miami in 2006; the adjudication of the Pauline Alderman Awards for writing on women in music, as well as the Search for New Music Awards for compositions in all genres by women composers; IAWM participation in the World Music Days in Los Angeles 2005 (a UNESCO project); as well as the continued expansion of our website www.iawm.org.

The **Music Publishers' Association of the United States** will hold its annual meeting on Friday, June 3, 2005 at the Millennium UN Plaza Hotel in New York City. The meeting will feature two panel discussions; *Copyright and Related Matters Here and Around the world*, and *Music and Technology: New Developments and Future Gazing*. An update of U.S. copyright legislation and litigation matters will be given by keynote speakers Frederick Koenigsberg, Esq., and Diane Gioia.