

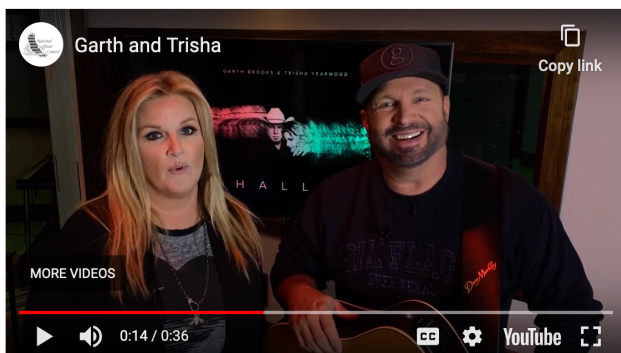


*Strengthening the importance of music
in our life and culture since 1940*

NEWSLETTER Winter 2021

National Music Council Thanks and Honors Music Educators Across America

To honor the heroic efforts of our nation's music teachers and administrators, who are working tirelessly to "keep the music playing" in our schools and for our children during the pandemic, the National Music Council invited artists and songwriters to share their support for music education and music teachers. Many responded not only with words, but by submitting brief videos thanking instructors for their commitment to our children. They want to let music teachers know that their efforts really make a positive difference, especially in times of crisis.



The NMC will be releasing a compilation video of some of the wonderful artists who contributed messages, including Garth Brooks, Trisha Yearwood, Steve Winwood, Donald Fagan, Nile Rodgers, Paul Shaffer, Take 6, and the late Chick Corea.

The Council requests that all member organizations release a statement (the suggested wording of which is currently being prepared) to announce the video, and to highlight the work music teachers are doing in schools to keep the music playing. The statement will be sent out to membership later this month with a release date of March 1st to coincide with *Music In Our Schools* month. We encourage your participation in this effort to thank our music teachers!

[You can view some of the videos on our website.](#)



Performing Arts Aerosol Coalition Update

Last spring, more than 125 performing arts organizations gathered together with the common goal of saving performing arts activities through commissioning scientific research into the aerosol dispersion of performers and musicians. With the good work of this coalition and the hard work of our research team, millions of students across the United States and around the world were able to continue their courses and activities.

We are still awe struck in the amount of support and cohesion provided by the performing arts community. COVID-19 has been very efficient at showing weaknesses and strengths, and one of the prouder moments from 2020 was the strength of the performing arts community. There is still much work to do, but this study and its results has been a victory to be celebrated.

A review of what has been accomplished with our work together, as well as complete information from the study can be [found here](#). We will continue to update this page as new updates are available. We should see published results in the next few weeks that have been peer reviewed. We will also be extending the research for the next few months to continue exploring and refining aerosol transmission in performing arts as it relates to disease transmission. We want to ensure that all aspects of this research can be completed, and we are not stopped due to a calendar year change.

Join the Arts ARE Education Advocacy Campaign!

The National Music Council encourages all of its members organizations and their

constituents to [“sign the pledge”](#) supporting the Arts ARE Education campaign, which began January 19th at NAMM’s Believe in Music Week (<https://www.artsareeducation.org/>).

This campaign is in support of strong music and arts education programs next school year. We know that there will be headwinds for next school year, including budget cuts, a focus on remediation, and the continued need for PPE equipment that is specific to music and performing arts classrooms. In response, the Arts ARE Education campaign is a call to action for all interested music educators, advocates, and community members. The call includes:

- A [pledge](#) that any individual or organization can take, pledging their support for arts education and the work that they will undertake at the local level (<https://www.artsareeducation.org/sign-the-pledge>).
- A [school board resolution](#), requesting school board’s to fully support arts education in the coming school year (<https://www.artsareeducation.org/our-resolution>).
- A [state legislator ask](#) to fully fund public education (<http://bit.ly/ArtsAreEdStateAsks>)



[Arts ARE Education](#) Advocacy Campaign

NMC Chairman's Report: Music Industry Issues In Which NMC Participated in 2020

National Music Council Chair Charles J. Sanders presented a report to the attendees of this year's on-line, Annual General Meeting in January of 2021 concerning the many music industry issues in which NMC participated over the past year. NMC takes consensus positions on industry legislative and administrative matters only with the unanimous consent of its board, and only in ways consistent with all applicable laws and regulations. Here is a list of some of the highlights:

1. **The CASE Small Copyright Claims Act**-- NMC was proud to support the successful efforts of virtually the entire US music community to gain enactment of legislation that establishes a small claims system for copyright actions in the US. This opt-out system, set up within the US Copyright Office, is expected to be especially helpful to individual creators and independent copyright owners in the protection of their musical works in a more cost-effective manner. NMC plans to actively monitor implementation of the Act. For more information, please refer to:
<https://copyrightalliance.org/trending-topics/copyright-small-claims/>
2. **Implementation of the Music Modernization Act (MMA)**-- NMC supported the successful effort in 2018 to gain enactment of the MMA (<https://www.copyright.gov/music-modernization/>), which among other benefits, established a new US mechanical rights licensing system

through the entity known as the Mechanical Licensing Collective (MLC). NMC has continued to support the enactment of rules by the US Copyright Office that ensure maximum protection for the rights of music creators and copyright owners, and fairness in all aspects of the law's implementation. All songwriters, composers, lyricists and music copyright owners are urged to familiarize themselves with the MLC website, which provides instructions as to how to best secure full benefits under the new law. For more information, please refer to:
<https://www.themlc.com/>

3. **Appointment of Shira Perlmutter as the 14th US Register of Copyrights**-- NMC applauded the selection of Shira Perlmutter, having stressed to the Librarian of Congress the need for the appointment of someone who not only possesses the legal, administrative and technical expertise necessary to guide the office through a period of long-needed modernization, but also someone with a deep knowledge, respect and affection for the arts and creators on a national and international basis. Register Perlmutter's background and biography are set forth here:
<https://www.copyright.gov/about/leadership/shira-perlmutter.html>
4. **Monitoring of Other Legislative and Administrative Issues**-- NMC continued to monitor several other issues before US Congress, State Legislatures, and the Courts during 2020, including ongoing, potential legislative actions regarding (a) the scope of various rights and

protections concerning the creation of musical arrangements, (b) the effect of various tax-related laws in California concerning independent contractors (including those in the music industry), (c) the availability to music industry members of federal benefits under economic stimulus packages passed during the COVID-19 pandemic crisis, (d) the potential for placement of limitations on sovereign immunity defenses to copyright infringement actions against state entities such as public schools, and (e) Congressional review of the “safe-harbor” and “notice and takedown” provisions of the US Copyright Act and their effects in limiting the liability of internet music distributors for copyright infringement.

5. **Copyright Act “Restatement”**-- NMC continues to oppose an effort by the American Law Institute (ALI) to issue a “restatement” of the US Copyright Act that heavily favors the expansive view of fair use, especially in regard to the Internet. For an update of Congressional Judiciary Committee views, see: <https://www.ipwatchdog.com/2020/03/04/debate-continues-ali-congress-copyright-restatement-project/id=119575/>
6. **US Trade Representative Support on Canadian and South African Copyright Laws**--NMC filed comments with the United States Trade Representative (USTR), urging it to encourage foreign nations to enact stronger copyright protections for their creators and copyright owners. In particular, USTR was asked to support Canadian and South African

copyright law reforms, with careful attention paid to encouraging limitation of the fair use doctrine to serve as a narrow exception and defense to copyright infringement, and not turned into a recognized “right” of copyright users.

7. **Opposing Violence Against Music Creators**-- NMC joined in efforts to support justice for the late Hachalu Hundassa, Ethiopia’s most famous singer-songwriter, who was murdered (potentially in retaliation for his peaceful political activities) in August 2020. NMC, along with the International Music Council (IMC), is committed to advocating for the protection of musical artists and creators seeking to peacefully exercise their rights of free speech without fear of harm, around the world. See: <https://www.imc-cim.org/>
8. **Support of Efforts Around the World to Close the “Value Gap”**— Also together with IMC, NMC is working to lend support to the European Union’s initiative to close the so-called “value gap” between those who create and sustain musical creation, and commercial users of music (including those who distribute such works on the Internet). For an update on that important area of international copyright law, see the analysis of the recently adopted Digital Single Market Copyright Directive on the EU governmental website: <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/eu-copyright-legislation>
The next step will be the implementation of the Directive in individual member nations of the EU.
9. **COVID-19 Programs**-- In addition to NMC’s activities concerning its

key support for aerosol studies and its organization of “thank you” tributes from music celebrities to America’s music teachers, NMC was also proud to join the American Federation of Musicians in support of a performance program designed to buoy the spirits of front line health care workers during in New York City during its worst months of the pandemic in 2020.

Believe in Music Week: The Online Global Gathering to Unify and Support the People Who Bring Music to the World Concludes



A convergence of 93,226 industry leaders, buyers, sellers, music educators, artists, media and music makers from 187 countries and territories gathered this past week to take part in NAMM's Believe in Music week, the online, global gathering to unify and support the people who bring music to the world. The event, which spanned Monday, January 18 – Friday, January 22, saw industry professionals virtually convene in 983 special sessions and events, engage with 611 hours of live-streamed and programmed content, which included nearly 200 education, training and professional development sessions presented by 391 speakers, and experience new products from 1,227 participating brands in the Marketplace, all

to celebrate the power and resilience of music and to plan for the year ahead. “While we knew we could not truly replicate The NAMM Show, we felt that this unprecedented time made it even more important for us to gather the global industry with a Marketplace to launch new products, provide an extraordinary education campus and to bring everyone together as a community to promote music and to set the stage for industry recovery and growth,” said Joe Lamond, NAMM President and CEO. “What surprised me the most was the incredible amount of quality content that was created by NAMM and our members for Believe Week and the fact that we might have inadvertently just created the best music social network out there!”

Chris Martin, NAMM Chair and CEO of Martin Guitar, said, “As you may have heard, the guitar business is pretty good despite the ongoing challenges of the pandemic. While some of us are doing ok, other members of our association and the communities they serve to continue to struggle. Believe in Music week served to help those in need while benefiting the industry at-large with education and the opportunities to connect.”

With its mission to support the people who bring music to the world, generous members and participants raised or pledged nearly \$500,000 in matched funds for [12 nonprofit beneficiary organizations](#) as well as other NAMM Foundation charities that work to advance access to music-making. The idea for the matching campaign was conceived and led by NAMM Chair and CEO of Martin Guitars, Chris Martin. After witnessing the devastating impact of COVID-19 across the industry, Chris and Diane Martin offered a personal donation of \$100,000 to kick-off the giveback campaign and matching program. Industry leaders who answered the call to donate include Joe

Castronovo, Korg USA; JC Curleigh, Gibson; David Kalt; Chris Lombardi, Drum Workshop; Joel Menchey, Menchey Music Service; Tom Sumner, Yamaha; Chuck Surack, Sweetwater; Chris White, White House of Music; and Andy Zildjian, Sabian; and others, as the donations continued to come in in the days after Believe week. [Read the release here.](#)

On the opening day of Believe TV, Fred and Dinah Gretsch, the Gretsch Company and **Jerry Ash** and the Ash Family also announced the creation of the Bernice Ash Memorial Scholarship Fund in [The NAMM Foundation](#).

The event took place on the Swapcard platform and created a social network of industry activity from members found across the globe to network, learn and be inspired. At press time, 33,379 international registrants - from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe - representing over 187 countries and territories - attended.

"The NAMM team's creativity represents the best of 'the show must go on' spirit by providing HARMAN and the rest of the industry with a platform on which we can connect with our customers," said David Glaubke, director of corporate communications, HARMAN. "Believe in Music week is a brilliant use of technology that brings forward programs and products to individuals who might not ordinarily have the opportunity to attend the show. While we wish we are all together in Anaheim, we are pleased that NAMM was committed to delivering the best possible experience."

At the Marketplace, the latest technologies and gear were presented across brand experience pages, showcasing brand stories and information, along with special events. At press time, 768 brand events were held throughout the week.

Mitch Gallagher of Sweetwater offered "Believe In Music week was a tremendous opportunity for everyone — not just the trade — to take part in the excitement of NAMM! Believe In Music brought us all the new gear we love and crave, along with a critical element for anyone interested in playing, writing, or recording music: inspiration. More than a substitute for the traditional trade show, Believe in Music week established a new venue for manufacturers, retailers, press, and music-makers to connect, interact, and learn from one another. A huge success!"

Networking was top-of-mind for many. David Jahnke of Hal Leonard shared, "While nothing can replace the in-person experience, BIM week has given us the opportunity to introduce ourselves to members of the music retail and educational community that might not have the opportunity to go to NAMM. Virtual BIM has been the next best thing to being there."

Leslie Stirm of Instrumental Music Center echoed that enthusiasm. "The best part of BIM week is that it sparked excitement! It's been a tough year, and it's been hard to generate excitement about talking to vendors because we didn't have much good news to report. Believe in Music week felt like a virtual NAMM show! We had meetings both on and off the platform, and it was robust, innovative and well thought out! My staff and I attended AIMM meetings, vendor meetings, educational sessions, Top 100 Dealer Awards, and I presented at the Best in Show. It has helped our business flush 2020 down the drain and refreshes our focus on the future."

Three main TV stations, **Believe, Artist, and Gear TV**, offered live interviews, new gear features and special performances. On Thursday and Friday, **Believe TV** served as the main hub of activity and

featured the likes of Lamond and co-host [Herb Trawick](#) (*Pensado's Place*) for two full days of industry updates, interviews with "Unsung Heroes," and a series of special events. Each morning began from the live anchor desk at Gnarlywood Studios in Carlsbad, California, featuring live interviews with multi-platinum, GRAMMY® award winners **Garth Brooks** and **Melissa Etheridge** as the recipients of 2021's "Music for Life" award. In his interview, Brooks, who was fresh off a celebratory performance for the U.S. Presidential Inauguration the previous day, told stories of adaptation and recognized the importance of his tour team and bandmates, as well as the best advice he could offer emerging leaders in the industry. "The Bottom line: treat people the way you want to be treated. Make people feel the way you want to feel... If you truly get this gig... give it every chance you take the stage -- it may be your last -- get everything out of it that you can...leave it all on the stage."

On the future of live concerts, he remarked, "You never know what's going to come in life. In the future, I will approach playing again like I never have before because it's never been taken away from me... so get ready. It's going to be a flurry of activity like you've never seen from artists, fans, everybody - get ready, I can't wait."

On Friday morning, Gibson Brands President and CEO James "JC" Curleigh shared his thoughts on the state of the industry and a rising generation of new creators and players, and ways to connect. After, **Melissa Etheridge** joined Lamond and Trawick for a live interview on her career, the pandemic, and pivoting to her online platform, Etheridge TV, where she performs three times per week for fans. In the interview, she shared her thoughts on her career and why music is so important: "What we do is so important, and it has

been through all through time – can you imagine a life without music? We have a gift, and that gift has to be given, shared to be experienced. I give thanks every day that I get to do this every day." Etheridge closed the interview with an abridged performance of her hit, "Come to My Window." Following the interview and performance, a special Martin Guitars Jam in Place featured a performance from guitarist **John Mayer**.

Brooks and Etheridge joined other artists at Believe week, including **Glen Ballard; Jackson Browne; Chick Corea; deadmau5; Nathan East; Lzzy Hale; Orianthi; Patrice Rushen; Billy Bob Thornton; Diane Warren;** and more. Legendary composer **Mel Brooks**, presented by Hal Leonard, shared the story behind some of his most memorable compositions; **Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis**, presented by Roland, discussed the intersection of the artist and product relationship; and keys legends **Herbie Hancock, Greg Pillinganes, James Poyser, Terrace Martin, and Robert Glasper** joined Korg to discuss their approach to making music.

International artists also enthusiastically joined the Believe TV celebration in a series of performances, including a show by GRAMMY® award winner **Wu Tong**, India's largest YouTube band, **Sanam**, as well as percussion legends, including **Gino Banks, Taufiq Qureshi**, who played a session with **Louiz Banks**, and Brazil-based jazz guitarist, **Dney Bitencourt**.

Believe in Music Week offered several tracks geared toward different areas of interest: *Education to Meet the Challenges of Today and the Opportunities of Tomorrow; Business for the New Future; Audio Production and Technology; Entertainment Technology; an Artist Track, and a NAMM Foundation Track.*

For more details and the full press release on *Believe in Music Week* including *The Grand Rally for Music Education*, *Top 100 Awards Honoring the Industry's Leaders and Innovators*, *36th TEC Awards*, and more, [click here](#).

At present, the industry looks forward to gathering in Nashville at Summer NAMM, July 15-17, 2021, at Music City Center. The **National Music Council** will present its annual **American Eagle Awards** for lifetime contribution to American music at a gala dinner at the NAMM Show on the evening of Thursday July 15th.

Until then, visit the [Believe in Music](#) platform, open to all until February 28, 2021.

Music Competition Launched to Raise Awareness of Child Labour



The Music Against Child Labour Initiative, which brings together musicians to raise awareness of child labour, is launching a song competition on 3 February 2021 to mark the UN International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour. The competition aims to harness the power of

music to help combat child labour, which affects 152 million children worldwide. Musicians of all genres are invited to submit a song to inspire governments and stakeholders to take action to eliminate child labour, which affects nearly 1 in 10 children worldwide.

While child labour has decreased by almost 40 per cent over the last two decades, the COVID-19 pandemic threatens to reverse that progress.

The global Music Against Child Labour Initiative, launched in 2013 by the ILO, JM International and the International Federation of Musicians (FIM), together with renowned musicians and key partners from the world of music has two key aims: raising awareness of child labour through music, and empowering children, including children formerly in child labour, through music.

Musicians can submit their competition entries to one of three categories: a global category for all artists; a grassroots category for music projects involving children affected by child labour; and a CLEAR Cotton project category for national competitions run in Burkina Faso, Mali, Pakistan and Peru, where the ILO works with partners to combat child labour and forced labour in the cotton, textile and garment value chains.

Winners will be selected by a panel of technical and music experts, based on musical quality, the relevance of the message, song originality, and the inclusion of a call to action. Entries will be reviewed by the award-winning composer AR Rahman and other artists from the musical world.

“The power of music lies in its ability to make people feel certain emotions, to connect and bring us together,” said Rahman.

Winners will be awarded a cash prize, a professional music-video recording of their song; and the opportunity for their song to be part of the global World Day Against Child Labour event in June 2021. The competition deadline is 12 April 2021.

The competition is being run by the global youth music organization Jeunesses Musicales International in collaboration with the International Labour Organization, under the umbrella of the Music Initiative.

For information about the competition and how to enter, visit:

www.musicagainstchildlabour.com

or

www.facebook.com/musicagainstchildlabour

The ILO CLEAR Cotton project, co-funded by the European Union and implemented in collaboration with the FAO, combats child labour in Burkina Faso, Mali, Pakistan and Peru by supporting the efforts of governments, social partners and the cotton sector actors at a national level and by empowering communities and stakeholders.

MEMBER REPORTS

American Academy of Teachers of Singing

The American Academy of Teachers of Singing was formed in 1922 to serve in an advisory capacity to the voice teaching profession and was one of the founding organizations of NATS. Though we are

fewer than 40 in number, we represent a wide variety of experiences, and we celebrate all styles of singing. We meet five times a year to discuss pedagogical issues in teaching voice. These discussions form the basis for opinion papers which are published in the NATS Journal of Singing and made available on the AATS website: americanacademyofteachersofsinging.org. Papers written by the Academy are available for the use of other authors as long as there is an acknowledgement of the source.

For the first ever NATS virtual conference in June 2020, AATS presented 3 short papers:

-Mentoring: Take(s) Two

-Choosing a Summer Program: Guidelines for Singers

-In Support of Teaching the Transgender-Non-Binary Singer

We also published the following statement:

In these challenging times, as thousands of protesters march around the world, the American Academy of Teachers of Singing stands with them in solidarity against the physical acts and mindsets that contribute to racial injustice.

We strive to be inclusive in the celebration, performance, and academic study of diverse cultures and the music they represent and cannot ignore the systemic injustices that affect these same cultures and communities. Our duty as educators and thought leaders is to help increase awareness, and drive change.

For change to come, we must make a concerted, communal effort to be part of the solution. It's times like these that challenge our commitment to social justice and call into question our own action or inaction. As Elie Wiesel said, "We must always take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented."

Let us sing together and stand with intention.

Black Lives Matter

American Guild of Organists

Online Programming, Resources, and Assistance Due to COVID:

The AGO replaced in-person programming in 2020 with online meetings, webinars, and performances, including a 5-day Organ Fest, which presented performers and new music compositions that had been commissioned for the 2020 AGO National Convention in Atlanta.

Due to temporary closures of many churches, which are the primary source of employment for Guild members, the AGO curated an online page of resources including links to relief funds, tools for working remotely, and helpful information for remaining productive during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The AGO and the Royal College of Organists entered into a new reciprocal agreement to benefit organists on both sides of the Atlantic by providing additional online resources during the COVID-19 stay-at-home orders. AGO members unable to renew their dues because of financial hardship were able to renew through a membership renewal fund established by donors.

Online Programming in 2021:

Four Pipe Organ Encounters will be offered this summer along with AGO OrganFest 2021 and continuing education webinars.

Major Bequests Received:

The AGO received more than \$800,000 through bequests in 2020. These funds are being used to support operations and

special projects identified by the AGO National Council.

F. Anthony Thurman,
Director of Development and Communications

ASCAP

As the only US PRO founded and governed by our songwriter, composer and music publisher members, ASCAP has always had a strong connection to the needs of the music community we serve. For us, the past year has been focused on constant innovation, transforming how we operate in order to continue delivering on our mission of serving our nearly 800,000 members in the midst of a global pandemic and an ever-evolving music industry.

In the spring of 2020, ASCAP pivoted to 100% virtual operations and remote work for all employees. We shifted our annual conference, [The ASCAP Experience](#), to a virtual format in record time, hosting 38 free online sessions over the course of eight weeks featuring leading ASCAP members, with more than 10,000 registered participants from over 120 different countries. We also hosted all seven of our awards shows virtually, and launched several new online composer and songwriter programs like ASCAP Screen Time and showcases SPF, RoadNation and Sunday Inspiration.

ASCAP worked hard to help our members weather the pandemic. We accelerated our distribution of Symphony, Recital and Education royalties to give our members more financial security at a time when they needed it most. And we fought hard in Congress for [COVID-19 relief measures](#) that would help our members, helping to rally a broad music industry coalition. We also made a

sizeable [MusiCares](#) donation for COVID relief to help ASCAP songwriters and composers in need.

ASCAP continues to lead the fight to defend the value of music and protect the rights of music creators in our nation's capital. When the [US Department of Justice \(DOJ\) announced](#) it would close its two-year long review of the ASCAP and BMI consent decrees in January 2021, we were disappointed that no action was taken. But we were encouraged to see the DOJ announcement acknowledge truths we have long understood: Composers and songwriters are the backbone of the music industry and must be paid fairly; blanket licensing is incredibly efficient; ASCAP and BMI are innovating to serve the needs of the industry; marketplace solutions are the answer – not compulsory licensing; and the value of music is best decided in a free market. As the marketplace continues to evolve, ASCAP's commitment to continuous innovation and defending the value of our members' music will never waiver.

Importantly, we also launched [Songview](#) in 2020, a comprehensive data platform developed in partnership with BMI, which enables ASCAP and BMI to now display more detailed, authoritative and consistent copyright ownership data for performing rights for more than 20 million songs in our combined repertoires, all in one place for the very first time.

ASCAP has long recognized that our global music creator family has an impact far beyond our own industry. In 2020, we proved over and over again that music can be a force for good in the wider world. To that end, we were honored to help fund New Music USA's [Amplifying Voices](#) program, as well as to launch [Music Unites Us](#), [Fight for Change](#), our [HBCU Intern Leadership Program](#) and the [ASCAP Citizen](#) campaign - initiatives

that harnessed the power of music to build a more connected, just, inclusive and engaged society.

In 2021, ASCAP is committed to continue leading by example. In February, we kicked off [a month-long campaign](#) to pay tribute to the Black music creators who have defined and transformed our culture since the very beginnings of the music industry. We look forward to driving more innovation and progress for music creators and making history together in the coming year.

College Band Directors National Association

In response to the pandemic and inability of many college bands to meet or perform due to restrictions, CBDNA formed the first ever Intercollegiate Marching Band which performed virtually at the College Football National Championship game on January 11, 2021. With close to 1,500 performers representing 200 bands, the group performed Beyoncé's "End of Time." For more info and to watch the performance, go to www.cbdna-imb.com.

"Joining in unity during a time when college marching bands have been forced to the sidelines, the CBDNA Intercollegiate Marching Band will keep the spirit alive by performing virtually together."

For more information and to watch the performance, visit www.cbdna-imb.com

Dr. Mark Spede, National President

Delta Omicron

The Delta Omicron International Music Fraternity Triennial Conference will be postponed to July 27-30, 2022 in Norfolk, Virginia.

Delta Omicron is pleased to announced the results of their composition competition. David Hamilton's piece "Night Songs III" for male voice is the winning composition. Hamilton is one of the most widely performed composers in New Zealand in addition to being a highly respected choral director and influential music educator. David's works have been commissioned by most major New Zealand groups including Radio New Zealand, New Zealand Symphony Orchestra, Auckland Choral Society, Chamber Music New Zealand, the New Zealand Youth Choir, and the Auckland Philharmonia. His works are increasingly being performed outside New Zealand, with recent performances in Brisbane, Melbourne and Canberra (Australia), Vancouver and Toronto (Canada), Seattle, San Francisco, Washington D.C. and Georgia (USA), Manchester and York (England), and Galway (Ireland).

The Delta Omicron Foundation awarded grants to members for summer study. Another area that the Foundation is focusing on is financial support for national music organizations that foster youth music education particularly in low-income areas. The Foundation supported the Denver Youth Artists Orchestra, the Colorado Youth Symphony Orchestra, and the Denver Children's Choir through an estate memorial to Zelma Zimmerman Mawhinney. This year, through a gracious gift from Michelle Worthing in memory of her husband Dr. Richard Worthing, we are supporting the San Diego Youth Symphony Conservatory's Opus Program.

Music Performance Trust Fund

In 2020, the recording industry's Music Performance Trust Fund found alternative ways to bring resources to professional musicians in North America despite the pandemic's devastating impact on live musical events.

The COVID-19 health event began just as the MPTF announced new grant budgets for the fiscal year that was to begin May 1. The Trust Fund expected to support over 3,000 free live music events in communities throughout the United States and Canada, with the grant budget featuring the largest increase in decades, expanding from \$1.2 million in 2019-20 to \$1.7 million available for 2020-21.

To continue to support the music community, the MPTF established two new funding opportunities -- live streaming grants and a Music Family Scholarship -- which have meant that nearly \$1 million has been distributed to professional musicians and their families in the United States and Canada during this exceptionally challenging year.

The MPTF's live streaming grants support solo and ensemble musicians as they perform on the MPTF's Facebook page. We have hosted more than 300 live jazz, classical, blues, zydeco and other genre performances, attracting diverse North American audiences to discover artists from outside their own community. Our goal is to provide grants to sponsor as many as 500 live streaming events before the end of the fiscal year. Follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter to be updated on our next live streaming events and more.

A scholarship fund was established to encourage the children of professional

musicians to pursue higher education and to become leaders in their chosen fields. \$100,000 was disbursed to 125 applicants to support their growth and achievement; recipients were selected based upon the strength of their essays, which described the impact of growing up in musical families.

Learn more about our scholarship recipients at [here](#).

Traditional MPTF-sponsored events include free performances at senior centers and assisted living facilities, music education programs in hundreds of school districts, as well as in parks and other gathering places across the U.S. and Canada. We anticipate that free, live music will return soon, and that music will help bring communities together once again.

For more information on the MPTF, visit musicpf.org

Music Teachers National Association

2021 MTNA Virtual Conference

The 2021 MTNA Virtual Conference will be held March 13-17. MTNA has curated its most extensive and best conference program ever and will deliver it all to attendees in the comfort of their own homes or studios. MTNA's commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion plays a prominent role as the association celebrates how music teachers and musicians from diverse backgrounds and experiences have shaped and are shaping today's music teaching profession. For more information or to register, visit www.mtna.org.

Business Resources

MTNA has created a new Business Resources section of its website to meet the ever-changing demands that music teachers face. Content will continue to be added and updated to ensure teachers have access to resources necessary to grow thriving studios and fulfilling careers. While much of the content is open to all, full access is only available to association members. For more details, visit www.mtna.org.

NAMM

Believe in Music Content Available Through Feb 28

Thank you joining us Believe in Music Week. With thousands of brands and education to check out, we are keeping the digital platform open through Feb. 28. Registration is FREE. [Register today](#).

Arts ARE Education National Advocacy Campaign

Arts ARE Education is a new national campaign designed to support the ongoing value of music and the arts for PreK-12 students in the post-pandemic era. You are encouraged to reach out to state legislators using the templated letter tool to urge that they fully fund public education for next school year. [Take action](#).

The Smart Women in Music (SWIM) Summit Application Period Open

The Smart Women in Music Fund (SWIM) is pleased to announce the second annual SWIM Summit Leadership Program May 4-7, 2021, at the NAMM Headquarters in Carlsbad, California. Applications for the Summit Scholarship open now, and close on February 28, 2021.

[Apply today](#)

National Association for Music Education

NAfME Music Research and Teacher Education biennial conference and PreK–12 Learning Collaborative: This conference will take place February 25–27 in a virtual format. It will include four blocks of presentations, followed by a poster session (with breaks provided throughout). **Saturday, February 27** will include the Senior Researcher Address and additional meetings. We are pleased to feature a keynote address by Mackie V. Spradley, Clifford K. Madsen, and Marie McCarthy. PreK–12 music educators are invited join in a new vision for music education at Bringing the Future into Focus, the 2021 NAfME National Conference. This event will include powerful sessions from music educators from around the country. Sessions will be presented both asynchronously and live with PreK–12 live sessions available on Saturday, February 27, ending with a virtual happy hour.

The NAfME member rate of \$50 includes all programming (the 2021 Music Research and Teacher Education Conference and the PreK–12 Learning Collaborative). The non-member rate is \$195. Attendees can receive a print copy of the classic publication *Vision 2020: The Housewright Symposium on the Future of Music Education*—updated with new context for 2020—for just \$15 with registration. Learn more and register at <https://bit.ly/MRTE2021>.

NAfME Corporate Membership: NAfME’s K–12 music educator members are looking for innovative solutions to their challenges in the music classroom—needs that your company could meet. Introduce your company to this engaged and receptive audience through NAfME Corporate

Membership. With a variety of options, including our new **Platinum** level, your company will have the opportunity to strategically market your brand while utilizing platforms that educate and encourage collaboration with music teachers. Stand beside an established and respected music education association that supports its members, promotes music making and access to music education for all school students, and advocates for music in all our nation’s schools. Benefits include discounts on advertising; cobranded emails to music educators; sponsored blogs and social media posts; use of the NAfME Corporate logo; listing in the NAfME 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 Eastern Division conference: This conference will take place virtually April 22–24, and is open to all NAfME members. The theme is “We All Belong! Proven Practices and Perspectives for Today’s Music Educators.” This conference will focus on proven practices in the current climate of synchronous and asynchronous teaching, in both hybrid and in-person settings. Culturally responsive teaching, social and emotional awareness, creative, and innovative teaching concepts, and engaging delivery of instruction are among the themes that will weave through the conference strands. Learn more and register at <https://bit.ly/2021EasternDivision>.

Competitions for students in songwriting, composition, and electronic music: Once again opportunities are available for K–12 and collegiate/graduate school students to be recognized nationally for their creativity in music. The deadline for all three competitions is April 9.

- NAfME Student Composers Competition:** Teachers and students are invited to submit original student compositions for Symphonic Orchestra or Reed Quintet (<http://bit.ly/NAfMEStudentComposers>). Cash prizes will be awarded to winners and honorable mentions. Students in elementary school, secondary school, college, and graduate school are eligible to submit compositions. Up to 13 selected composers will receive cash awards, thanks to the generous support of the European American Musical Alliance (Dr. Philip Lasser, president). All entrants will receive written evaluations of their compositions.
- NAfME Electronic Music Composition Competition:** The NAfME Electronic Music Composition Competition (<http://bit.ly/ElectronicMusicCompetition>) recognizes outstanding compositions and highlights the effectiveness of music technology in the school curriculum. Entries will be judged based on their aesthetic quality, use of electronic media, and the power of the composition. Students in K–12 and collegiate level may enter. Up to nine selected composers will receive cash awards. All entrants will receive written evaluations of their compositions.
- NAfME Student Songwriters Competition:** This competition (<http://bit.ly/NAfMEStudentSongwriters>) returns for its second year. Students in elementary school and secondary school are eligible to submit songs. Songs submitted that fall outside the **competition guidelines** will be

adjudicated but will not be eligible for awards or for performance. Up to six selected composers will receive cash awards. All entrants will receive written evaluations of their compositions.



MUSIC IN OUR SCHOOLS MONTH®

Music In Our Schools Month® 2021

(MIOSM®): The theme for the March 2021 celebration of Music In Our Schools Month® (MIOSM®) is “Music: The Sound of My Heart.” The first-ever virtual NAfME All-National Honor Ensembles (ANHE) final concert productions will premiere the first week in March 2021* to kick off Music In Our Schools Month. And join us for a virtual performance of the winning compositions from the 2020 Student Composers Competition with the award-winning Akropolis Reed Quintet (akropolisquintet.org) on March 29, 2021, at 7:00 PM ET. For dates and details, visit nafme.org/ANHE and bit.ly/NAfMEStudentComposers. *Exact dates of ANHE virtual concerts in March will soon be announced.

The NAfME Council for General Music Education announced a new direction for MIOSM, which began with the 2018–19 school year. This year focuses on lessons for fourth-graders, helping them learn elements of music through some classic children’s songs. 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 this year’s

theme and how to take part in the Biggest School Chorus in the World with American Young Voices, and obtain lesson plans, repertoire, classroom items, and other materials, visit nafme.org/MIOSM. Follow #MusicTheSoundOfMyHeart and #MIOSM on Twitter and Instagram.

NAfME Advocacy Updates

State Advocacy Update: As we begin a new year, state legislatures nationwide will convene new sessions to address the states' business. All 50 state legislatures will meet this year, with most of them convening in January. We expect COVID-19 to be a dominating topic at the state level, and debate on topics such as state and education finance to be heavily influenced by the virus.

As states begin to convene, an interesting trend that we have seen thus far is in governors' budget proposals for the coming fiscal year. These proposals are meant to outline the administrations' priorities for the year's legislative session, and usually function as a starting point for the legislature's budget work. This year, we are seeing governors from both sides of the political spectrum release budget proposals that have been supportive of education and include increased funding. So far, governors' budget proposals in Utah, California, Idaho, New Mexico, and Virginia have increased or included additional funding for education. Additionally, Tennessee has convened a special legislative session to deal solely with education issues. For more information on state policy developments, visit [the Advocacy Bulletin blog](https://nafme.org/category/advocacy-news/) (<https://nafme.org/category/advocacy-news/>) and [State Advocacy](https://nafme.org/advocacy/state-advocacy/) (<https://nafme.org/advocacy/state-advocacy/>) page on the NAfME website.

Federal Advocacy Update: NAfME and the Music Education Policy Roundtable sent a [letter](http://bit.ly/MEPRBidenLetter) (<http://bit.ly/MEPRBidenLetter>)

to the Biden transition team detailing education policy proposals that would advance the goal of music education for all students. NAfME sent an [additional letter](http://bit.ly/NAEPLetter) (<http://bit.ly/NAEPLetter>) with associations representing arts, humanities, and social studies education to the Biden transition team calling for reinstatement of the Arts NAEP and greater support for at the U.S. Department of Education for a Well-Rounded Education as defined in ESSA. NAfME will remain in contact with Biden education officials while also conducting outreach to Congress. In March, state and national leaders within NAfME's family of associations will conduct congressional advocacy through a "Virtual Hill Month," as part of Music In Our Schools Month® 2021. NAfME's [policy agenda](https://nafme.org/advocacy/public-policy/) (<https://nafme.org/advocacy/public-policy/>) will prioritize funding for schools and state/local governments through COVID relief legislation, funding for well-rounded education programs through the annual appropriations process, and the importance of music education in any proposed changes to federal education law.

National Association of Teachers of Singing

National Association of Teachers of Singing offers free replays of timely webinars

National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) held two free webinars on its YouTube channel in January. Click the links below to watch on demand.

Free Webinar: Vaccines, Herd Immunity and How We Get There

We know vaccination is key for voices teachers to get back to teaching and singing face to face and without masks. NATS asked a leading expert to weigh in

on COVID-19 vaccine rollout and answer the burning question — how soon can we get back to it? William John Moss, MD, executive director of the International Vaccine Access Center and professor at John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, shared what he knows about the vaccine and answered questions from the live chat. Watch the [video](#).

Free Webinar: COVID Relief Act 2 and the Singing Community

Singing teachers, studio owners, singers, collaborative pianists, and associated professions are eligible for funding from the second COVID-19 Relief Act. Executive Director Allen Henderson teamed up with Certified Public Accountant Ann Henderson to outline the options and help you prepare to apply and receive funding as a small business, self-employed, or gig worker. Watch the replay of their presentation, and review the accompanying documents on the NATS COVID-19 Resources [page](#). Watch the [video](#).

National Federation of Music Clubs

Founded in 1898, the National Federation of Music Clubs has become the largest nonprofit organization in America to promote and support American Music and Musicians and Music Education. As a grassroots organization working in communities throughout America, we provide musical opportunities for all ages: professional and amateur musicians, benefactors, volunteers, music lovers, music teachers, music students, and supportive parents. Many opportunities and activities in which our over 121,000 members participate are Festival programs, competitive events, community outreach and just meeting music lovers in our communities. This is continually

accomplished, even in the trying times of Covid.

Dedicated to finding and fostering young musical talent, NFMC conducts annual Federation Festivals with approximately 100,00 participants. In spite of Covid, our Festivals are just now beginning for this year. Some Festivals are still conducted in person, but many are now virtual and have been successful. The young people are very familiar and comfortable with technology, and our “mature” members are becoming more at ease with this process! It is truly wonderful that the technology is available to allow these young performers a chance to continue with this fine activity.

NFMC offers more than three quarters of a million dollars in state and national competitions, including four \$20,000 biennial Young Artist awards, and the \$20,000 Ellis Award for Duo Pianists. The Young Artist and Ellis Duo Piano awards also include two years of performance bookings. The Young Artist Competition offers awards in Piano, Man’s Voice, Woman’s Voice and Strings, with prizes of \$20,000- 1st place, and \$5,000- 2nd place in each category.

The Ellis Competition for Duo Pianists has 1st prize: \$20,000 (duo team), and 2nd prize: \$4,000 (team) and \$1,000 (team) to be awarded for the best performance of American Music. Live Finals for Young Artist are usually held at the NFMC Biennial Conventions, but the June, 2021 Convention in Norfolk, Virginia has just been canceled. However, we are thrilled that we are able to continue this prestigious competition and it will be held virtually this year!

The entry deadline has just passed, and we are so pleased to have 35 entrants! The live finals for the Ellis Competition were to be held in Jackson, Mississippi in April 2021, but that has been canceled as well. However, those finals will also be

held virtually. This is the best way to continue our many years of opportunities and support for the artists of tomorrow.

While we are all hoping for a swift return to “the way things were,” we are so pleased to be able to continue with our mission of working to support American Music and Musicians, and Music Education.

Frances Nelson, President

National Opera Association

The National Opera Association recently held its 66th Annual Conference, “Strengthening the Foundation” as a three-day virtual event in early January. The conference was a mix of pre-recorded sessions and live-streamed panel discussions and other events, including the annual Carolyn Bailey and Dominick Argento Vocal Competition (streamed publicly on Facebook and YouTube) and the Robert Hansen Collegiate Opera Scenes Competition. Participants expressed particular appreciation for the Q&A breakout rooms with presenters, as well as social breakout rooms, for fostering a sense of connection among attendees despite the virtual format. All sessions remain available on our virtual conference platform through June, and it’s not too late to register to gain access to the conference materials (details at <https://www.noa.org/conference.html>).

Thanks to a generous bequest from the estate of composer Dominick Argento, NOA will soon be announcing two new fellowships that will provide full tuition plus living expenses for a singer and a composer to each pursue graduate study. The first of these recurring awards will be made through a competitive process during 2021 and awarded at NOA’s next

national conference in St. Augustine, FL, in January 2022.

Throughout the pandemic, we have offered webinars and other sessions to our members as they seek to adapt opera pedagogy and performance, while under restrictions that vary greatly from institution to institution. NOA has also been supportive of efforts to fight systemic racism, diversify the operatic repertoire, and find ways to promote more inclusive participation in the art form. We continue to offer opportunities for our members to engage with one another on these and other important topics, and to foster a sense of community as we look ahead to planning for eventual reopening and resumption of more in-person performance and pedagogy.

Kirk Severtson, Executive Director

Sigma Alpha Iota

Sigma Alpha Iota members have been busy during this past year, expressing art in new ways. An alumna of the Delta Omega Chapter at University of Kentucky, Dr. Christine Jobson, has released a new children’s book, Lily’s First Trip to the Opera. Asked what led her to write this book, she shared, “I decided to write Lily’s First Trip to the Opera because representation matters. I wanted little black girls and boys to know that there is space for them in the world of opera, and that there are no limits to what they can become.” Dr. Jobson was one of seven SAIs who appeared in the chorus of the Metropolitan Opera’s production of Porgy and Bess last year. Denyce Graves, an SAI Honorary Member sang the role of Maria, and Leah Hawkins, an SAI who graduated from Morgan State University performed as the Strawberry Woman.

Distance learning has certainly been a challenge for many of our music teachers this year, but members have reported many creative solutions as their students have adapted to the world of ZOOM. Three members of the SAI Composers Bureau, Julie Giroux, Alex Shapiro, and Frank Ticheli, have joined with nine of their peers to create the Creative Repertoire Initiative (CRI), a “collective of composers and conductors committed to creating adaptable music for ensembles in the coming academic year and beyond, due to the challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic.” You can learn more at www.creativerepertoire.com.

Ruth Sieber Johnson, Executive Director



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.

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