



Strengthening the importance of music

in a world that has never been the same

NEWSLETTER

Winter 2022

A Message From the President



As we are excited to welcome the new year, we must reflect on the past two years and the impact they had on music. 2020 saw the shutdown of music performance, education,

and a change in how we approach intellectual property in the United States and throughout the world. 2021 saw a return to live events and education, but with a cautious approach and had us looking forward to 2022. As we turn the page onto this year, we are not past the challenges of the pandemic, but we are learning how to make music happen. Music is one of the few universal areas that bring us together as a society, and as such we have much to celebrate.

The NMC has a strong and dedicated board of directors which represents all areas of music. By design the NMC has representatives from the music industry, music education, and music policy experts. Please [click here](#) to review your board members and representatives. The board and its representatives work on a level of consensus making throughout all of music.

This year the NMC is embarking on impactful projects for all of music. Built on the five music rights, the NMC holds these as core beliefs that help guide the board and its membership.

- Supporting Music Education as an important element in global learning, to be conducted in safe and healthy teaching environments
- Supporting strong and fair global Intellectual Property protections for creators and their works
- Supporting strong and fair global free speech protections for creators and their works
- Supporting fair remuneration for creators regarding the use their works, and
- Supporting dialog among allied music community groups and individuals around the country and the world (within the boundaries of law) to ensure the free exchange of information regarding legislative efforts to achieve the first four goals.

The first of these projects will be a launching of a symposia series focusing on celebrating music, the United States' role in the larger International Music Council

and knowing the intersections of music with education, industry and government. The NMC also focuses on the value of intellectual property rights and use. The conversation is always ongoing and the NMC is dedicated to a balanced approach to copyright with strong protections for creators and ensuring ease of use for consumers. The NMC has also invested in the relaunching of the NMC brand and communication. Be on the lookout for a new logo and a new feel to the NMC website in the coming months.

As 2022 begins, the NMC wishes all of you good health, and a prosperous new year!

Dr. James Weaver, President
National Music Council of the United States

A Message From the Chair



Allow me first and foremost to wish everyone a happy, healthy and productive New Year.

It remains no secret that the word

“challenging” has been the one most often used to describe our past two trips around the sun together.

Obviously, there is hope that 2022 will herald a slow but steady return to the normalcy we have craved since the Covid-19 pandemic began late in 2019. Even if that outcome is not immediately realized, however, I have utmost confidence that we will continue to successfully persevere as an organization - and as individuals - regardless of the obstacles that remain to be overcome.

In that important regard, the goals of NMC have not changed in the interim, nor has the level of commitment of the NMC Board and its members to upholding the principles stated above in the message from the president.

Yes, times are indeed challenging, and will likely remain so in some fashion for the foreseeable future. But by continuing without pause to work together in pursuing the goals enumerated above, we CAN and WILL make progress toward ensuring that the rights and interests of creators and administrators are properly respected around the world. Upholding these principles has been the core focus of NMC and of the International Music Council for decades, and will continue to be our shared goal for many more decades to come.

You may be similarly confident in the fact that each and every member of our Board is committed to continuing the great, historic tradition of the music community as an instrument for positive social and cultural progress across the globe. Preserving that legacy is not just our mission. It is our passion.

With best regards,
Charles J. Sanders, Chair
National Music Council of the United States



International Music Council New Leadership to Include NMC Chair Charles Sanders

Members of the International Music Council (IMC) gathered online for the organization's 39th General Assembly on November 25th - December 8th, 2021, electing a new leadership and adopting an ambitious work plan for the next two years.

Alfons Karabuda (Sweden), composer and President of ECSA (European Composer & Songwriter Alliance) and SKAP (Swedish Association of Composers, Songwriters and Lyricists), was re-elected President.

"Recent times has shown when some parts of our musical ecosystem are under serious threat; all parts are affected. May it be one of our five music rights or one geographic part of our world. We need a global overview, global expertise and our global network more than ever to stay resilient.

I could think of no other organization in a better position than the IMC to address the flaws in our music infrastructure and to safeguard and promote true inclusiveness, quality, diversity and artistic freedom for all", Alfons Karabuda says.

Throughout the past two years, Mr. Karabuda has been a driving force within IMC's Executive Board, dedicating himself to promote access to music for all and recognize the value of music in the lives of all people, while exploring new frontiers of collaboration between IMC and other global actors.

The IMC work plan for the next two years foresees activities that will strengthen the IMC in its three pillars: as a value-driven advocacy body, as a network of networks and as a project organization. IMC will upscale its action towards the advancement of its core values embedded in the 5 Music Rights.

National Music Council Honors Take 6 and Music Educators of America with Annual American Eagle Awards



July 19, 2021-The National Music Council honored iconic a cappella group *Take 6*, and in an unprecedented move, presented the prestigious American Eagle Award to all music educators across America for their extraordinary service during the pandemic, at the organization's 37th annual ceremony on Thursday, July 15 at Summer NAMM in Nashville. The honors are presented each year in recognition of those who have made long-term contributions to American musical culture, to showcase the ideal of music education for all children, and to support the protection of creators' rights both locally and internationally. This year's ceremonies also included a special tribute to the health care community for their heroic work during the pandemic.

The most honored a cappella group in history, *Take 6* has been heralded by Quincy Jones as the "Baddest vocal cats on the planet!" With 10 Grammy Awards, 10 Dove Awards, 2 NAACP Image Awards, a Soul Train Award, and more, *Take 6* (Claude McKnight, Mark Kibble, Joel Kibble, Dave Thomas, Alvin Chea and Khristian Dentley) continues year after year

to bring extraordinary vocal performances to their worldwide audiences. Jim Ed Norman, who originally signed the group to Warner Records, presented the award, “in recognition of the group’s unique contribution to the artistry, development, and appreciation of vocal music in America, and for their pioneering work as ambassadors of American music to music students and music fans across the world.” In accepting the honor, members of the group lauded their past music teachers, and the tremendous impact they had on their lives and careers. The group then launched into their acclaimed rendition of Nat “King” Cole’s and Irving Mills “Straighten Up and Fly Right.”



The Council likewise took great pride in collectively extending the coveted American Eagle Award to all the nation’s music educators for their outstanding efforts to “keep the music playing” during the Covid-19 pandemic. Songwriters Rick and Janis Carnes presented the award, saying “In recognition of your courageous and selfless dedication to preserving music

education during the 2020-21 global health pandemic. Your determination to carry on for your students is a lesson in perseverance that will forever benefit the young musicians and creators you served and inspire every future generation of music educators”. The two then performed a musical tribute to the teachers with a new song written for the occasion. Nashville music educator Franklin Willis accepted the award on behalf of the nation’s music teachers, with representative teachers from each state joining via Zoom. Music teachers across the country can download a personalized and printable certificate of the honor at www.musiccouncil.org.

Concluding the program was a special thank you and tribute to front line health workers, who worked tirelessly and with great sacrifice throughout the pandemic. Songwriter Eddie Schwartz gave a video introduction, with Janis and Rick Carnes performing his “Hit Me With Your Best Shot” (with a new “COVID” verse), joined by *Take 6* and Franklin Willis.

The presentation also included video thank you messages to music teachers gathered last year by the NMC from diverse artists from across the country including Garth Brooks, Trisha Yearwood, Paul Shaffer, Rosanne Cash, John Rich (Big & Rich), Jim Lauderdale, Steve Winwood, Nile Rodgers (Chic), Donald Fagen (Steely Dan), *Take 6*, and the late Chick Corea – along with Country Music Television’s “Next Women of Country” Class of 2021 group Chapel Hart and up and coming singer-songwriter Paige King Johnson, all offer inspirational words throughout the video.

This year’s honorees join a “who’s who” of musical giants whose careers and works have been previously awarded the American Eagle, including Stephen Sondheim, Quincy Jones, Herbie Hancock, Clive Davis, Benny Goodman, Lionel

Hampton, Dizzy Gillespie, Morton Gould, Dave Brubeck, Marian Anderson, Max Roach, Lena Horne, Roy Clark, Crystal Gale, George Clinton, Ervin Drake, Theo Bikel, Vince Guaraldi, Roberta Peters, Odetta, Patti Smith, Sesame Street, Hard Rock Café, and VH1's Save the Music Foundation.

The Recording Industry's Music Performance Trust Fund Co-Sponsors West Virginia Symphony's Young People's Concert in Alliance with the Save the Music Foundation



The West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History (WVDACH) hosted West Virginia Symphony Orchestra's (WVSO) Young People's Concert on Wednesday, Nov. 17, 2021, at the Culture Center, State Capitol Complex, in Charleston.

The event was attended by 1,300 students from around the state and featured a side-by-side performance of the Star-Spangled Banner with select students from local Save The Music Foundation grantee schools. The program was sponsored by National Music Council member, the

recording industry's Music Performance Trust Fund (MPTF).

The WVSO presented *Music Without Borders*, a Young People's Concert written especially for children, performing works by classic composers Dvorak, Glinka, Mozart and William Grant Still, as well as pieces by modern composers Joan Tower and Arturo Marquez.

The event opened with a welcome from WVDACH Curator Randall Reid-Smith, along with special guests and speakers Dan Beck, trustee, MPTF, and Henry Donahue, executive director, Save The Music.



"The Music Performance Trust Fund was pleased to support the Save The Music Foundation's leadership in celebration of music education in West Virginia," said Dan Beck, Trustee. "We were excited to bring the musicians from the West Virginia Symphony to this wonderfully collaborative experience."

"Save The Music is proud to collaborate with our partners in West Virginia to bring the joy of making music to the lives of students. Thank you to the Music Performance Trust Fund, WVSO, and the WV Department of Arts, Culture, and History, and all of the music educators that made this opportunity a possibility," stated

Henry Donahue, Executive Director of Save The Music Foundation.

“The WVSO is thankful to our partners with the WV Department of Arts, Culture and History, Save The Music, and the Music Performance Trust Fund for helping to make this collaboration a success,” said WVSO President Joe Tackett. “It was wonderful to see our talented, local students perform alongside professional musicians on stage.”

“We were excited to welcome the West Virginia Symphony Orchestra, Save The Music and the Music Performance Trust Fund,” said WVDACH Curator Randall Reid-Smith. “It was a pleasure to be able to partner with these amazing organizations to invest in and promote the arts, while also showcasing young musicians from across the mountain state.”

Supplemental classroom materials for this special concert that bind classical music with other school subjects were available online. The educational concert was also made available to classrooms through a protected YouTube livestream.

MEMBER REPORTS

American Academy of Teachers of Singing

In advance of our 100th anniversary in March of 2022, The American Academy of Teachers of Singing has researched the lives and legacies of our earliest members. A complete history of the organization will be published in the March/April NATS Journal of Singing.

The range of activities and interests of our AATS members is well-represented in the Journal of Singing:

- Robert Edwin has renamed his monthly column (formerly “Popular Song and Music Theater”) “Singing A Cappella to Zydeco.”
- Allen Henderson co-authored an article “Reentry Following Covid-19: Concerns for Singers.” (Nov/Dec)
- Ken Bozeman co-authored an article “Evidence Based Voice Pedagogy: Voice Teacher Expertise and Experience.” (Jan/Feb)
- Don Simonson reviews recent research on singing.
- George Shirley, the first African American operatic tenor to perform at the Met, shares his extraordinary story with Leslie Holmes.
- Member Trineice Robinson Martin, jazz, gospel, and R&B specialist, and creator of Soul Ingredients, released a solo album “All or Nothing” in August 2021.

American Guild of Organists

Year of the Young Organist: During the Year of the Young Organist, July 1, 2021–June 30, 2022, any individual under the age of 30 can become a member of the Guild or renew her/his/their membership for free as part of this program. Events and new initiatives will be held throughout the year. [Click here for more information.](#)

Pipe Organ Encounters:

The AGO presented its first all-virtual Pipe Organ Encounter, July 18–23, 2021. Eight in-person POEs will be presented from coast to coast in June and July 2022. POEs offer teenagers and adults a rewarding opportunity to learn more about the pipe organ and its construction, instruction with experienced faculty, visits to hear and play outstanding instruments,

and the chance to meet and interact with peers who share an interest in the King of Instruments. [Click here for more information.](#)

AGO National Convention:

The biennial AGO National Convention will be held in Seattle, Wash., July 3-7, 2022. [Click here for more information.](#)

AGO Organ Scholar Program: The AGO Organ Scholar Program will offer emerging organists the opportunity to experience an annual ten-month internship within a significant music ministry program in the United States. The first year of the training program will coincide with the 2022–2023 academic year and will be hosted at Duke University Chapel. [Click here for more information.](#)

BMI

BMI's top priority throughout the pandemic has been mitigating its financial impact on our songwriters, composers and publishers, and we were very pleased to close out our fiscal year ending June 30, 2021, with record-setting revenue and royalty distributions. The company distributed and administered \$1.335 billion to our affiliates, a \$102 million increase over the prior year and our largest distribution ever, while generating historic revenue that grew 7% from last year. Notably, BMI's total domestic licensing revenue exceeded \$1 billion for the first time, driven by phenomenal growth in the digital sector. For the sixth consecutive year, BMI's results represented the highest reported public performance revenues and royalty distributions of any music rights organization in the world, thanks to the worldwide popularity of our affiliates' creative work. In addition, BMI's

membership last year grew to 1.2 million affiliates, while the BMI repertoire increased to 18.7 million musical works across genres.

Last fall, the BMI team began safely transitioning back to the office, and we are excited to continue providing seamless service to our affiliates as we embark on a new year filled with opportunity. For instance, 2022 marks the start of a new royalty distribution schedule that will better serve our creative community. It includes one distribution per calendar quarter, each February, May, August and November, and delivery will be accelerated one to two months faster from performance to payment than with our prior royalty distribution schedule. Leading up to this initiative, for the first time BMI made a one-time fifth quarterly distribution in November 2021 (consisting of royalties that would typically have been paid out in January 2022), to maximize our affiliates' royalties during an unprecedented time.

BMI also continued to proudly celebrate many of our extraordinary affiliates and their outstanding music with our virtual award shows. Moreover, our songwriters and composers received multiple industry accolades during the past several months, from GRAMMY and Golden Globe nominations to Country Music Hall of Fame inductions and Latin GRAMMY wins, and it was our honor and pleasure to highlight their creativity, talent and success. We are also excited to note that applications are now open for scholarships through the [BMI Foundation](#).

Once again, we want to congratulate our exceptional affiliates, *Take 6*, on their American Eagle Award presented to them by the National Music Council, which itself has made invaluable contributions to the music industry.

Delta Omicron International Music Fraternity

Delta Omicron's Triennial Conference is scheduled to occur on July 28-30, 2022, at the Norfolk Waterside Marriott in Norfolk, Virginia.

Guest artist will be Troy McKay, Trumpet from Pershing's Own. Highlights will include performances by members and guests, fraternity business and training on topics such as recruitment, diversity and equity.

National Federation of High Schools

NFHS has released new [Return to Music](#) resources to help teachers, administrators and students return to music classrooms safely.

NFHS also released [new infographics on in school music performance safety](#).



To mark the return of live performances in schools, NFHS released [new copyright guideline resources for school music performance](#), and addition to their online general [copywrite resource page for school music programs](#).

Music Performance Trust Fund

The recording industry's Music Performance Trust Fund (MPTF) began its 2021-22 fiscal year with a bang on May 1. After more than a year of COVID-19 isolation, professional musicians were ready to gather again and eager to perform. As the world yearned for an end to the pandemic, the commercial live entertainment industry began gearing up, even without the full confidence that the crisis was over.

The MPTF announced it would fully fund all engagements (100%) for the first three months of the fiscal year. The MPTF further announced a special 100% grant opportunity for Labor Day weekend events even as community performances returned to a 50/50 local matching grant policy in August.

The results of these efforts have been enormous. The trust fund approved over 1,700 grants and provided in excess of \$1,770,000 in the first six months of the fiscal year and included over \$140,000 over the Labor Day weekend alone. Those performances included:

- Over 350 live stream concerts
- 103 local musician's unions pursued and were awarded MPTF grants
- Activity from Canada was a particular highlight, as CFM local unions implemented 484 performances, including 118 live streams

Moving forward, the MPTF will continue to fund live stream grant projects with a cost of \$5,000 or less at 100% throughout the winter months when live audiences may still be restricted in various regions of the U.S. and Canada. The MPTF implemented these various grant policy adjustments to

ensure the equitable distribution of grant funds, within the overall annual allocation budget of \$2.2 million for the current fiscal year.

The MPTF has also provided a supplemental resource for American Federation of Musicians family members in the form of Music Family Scholarships. The program was initiated amidst the pandemic and provided an additional \$100,000 each of the current and last fiscal years.

The MPTF's documentary film, *MusicianFest: Never Too Old* also received its second film festival laurel via its acceptance by the LifeFest Film Festival, which is dedicated to showcasing films that reinforce the intrinsic worth of innocent human life and the profound significance of each life. We congratulate the many musicians who made the film so special. The film can be viewed on the MPTF website: www.musicpf.org.

With a staff of five and the support of two independent reps, the MPTF continues to pursue the mission of enriching lives through music and bringing admission-free live music to communities throughout North America.

Music Teachers National Association

2022 MTNA National Conference

The MTNA National Conference will be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, March 26–30, 2022. This conference will be like no other ever presented by MTNA. It will not only be the most inclusive conference ever, it will also be MTNA's very first "hybrid" conference. For more information or to register, visit www.mtna.org.

Business Digest

In October, MTNA launched its newest resource for the music teaching profession, the *MTNA Business Digest*. This quarterly resource provides studio music teachers with vital information on the ever-changing business aspects of their professional lives. For more details, visit www.mtna.org.

NAMM

Believe in Music 2022

NAMM presents a reimagined Believe in Music, the global gathering to unify, support and celebrate the people who bring music to the world. Registration is free and open to all.

Believe in Music kicks off Jan. 20, 2022, with a global live stream with music from around the world; offers live and on-demand education sessions and events which are available through Jan 23rd. [Register](#)

Receive National Recognition for Your School or School District

The NAMM Foundation's Best Communities for Music Education (BCME) award program signifies the ongoing commitment of your community to support music and arts as a vital part of a well-rounded education for all children.

As a music education champion, we encourage you to apply on behalf of your school or district or forward this opportunity to a school administrator you know. The deadline to apply is **January 31, 2022**.

[Learn more and apply](#)

New Research Supported by The NAMM Foundation

Arts and Absenteeism: The NAMM Foundation commissioned a four-year study conducted by Metis Associates to examine whether there is a relationship between the amount of music and arts implementation in New York City public schools and chronic absenteeism. [Learn more](#)

The Cost of High-Quality Public School Music Programs: To increase knowledge of the true costs of music education programs The NAMM Foundation supported an exploratory study conducted by APA Consulting of music program spending in a diverse group of 10 school districts across the country. [Learn more](#)

National Association for Music Education



MUSIC IN OUR SCHOOLS MONTH®

Music In Our Schools Month® 2022 (MIOSM®): continuing on the well-received theme from the previous school year, the theme for the March 2022 celebration of Music In Our Schools Month® (MIOSM®) is once again “Music: The Sound of My Heart.” The second virtual NafME All-National Honor Ensembles (ANHE) final concert productions will premiere in March 2022* to kick off Music In Our Schools

Month. Performances of the winning compositions from the 2021 Student Composers Competition will be performed by a saxophone quartet. For dates and details, visit nafme.org/ANHE and bit.ly/NAfMEStudentComposers. *Exact dates of ANHE virtual concerts in March will be announced soon.

The NafME Council for General Music Education announced a new direction for MIOSM, beginning with the 2018–19 school year. This year focuses on lessons for kindergarten and third-grade students, 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 obtain lesson plans, repertoire, classroom items, and other materials, visit nafme.org/MIOSM. Follow #MusicTheSoundOfMyHeart and #MIOSM on Twitter and Instagram.



2022 NafME National Conference: “NafME is ME!” is the theme of the 2022 NafME National Conference taking place November 2–6 at the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center in National Harbor, Maryland, near Washington, DC. **NafME is ME!**—NafME is Music Education, a vibrant diverse community of music educators. **NafME is ME** is the

unique, valuable contributions, perspectives, and participation that all NAFME members embody every day at the local, state, and national level. This conference is the premier national event fostering and facilitating collaboration between music education practitioners, researchers, and program leaders across the spectrum of PreK–12 and higher education. The 2022 conference combines the best of three traditional signature NAFME events: the NAFME Biennial Music Research and Teacher Education Conference, the NAFME National PreK–12 Conference, and the NAFME All-National Honor Ensembles. Registration will open in April: <https://bit.ly/NAfME2022>. Corporate sponsorship opportunities are available: contact corporate@nafme.org.

Collegiate Kickoff Week

2021: NAFME hosted its first Collegiate Chapter Kickoff Week in September 2021. Chapters participated in daily events throughout the week of September 13 in preparation for the upcoming school year. Collegiate members and advisors were engaged throughout the week via social media, an awards ceremony, and a webinar led by 2020 GRAMMY Music Educator Award recipient Mickey Smith Jr. Learn more: <https://bit.ly/NAfMECollegiate21>.

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 Winter Special Offers page (<https://bit.ly/SpecialMusicOffers>) and newer **Platinum** level membership, 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 Advocacy Updates

Congressional Meetings: NAFME policy staff members continue to meet with key members of Congress to increase federal education funding to historic levels found in President Biden's budget. Learn more here: <https://nafme.org/biden-budget-2022/>. See NAFME Music Education Policy Roundtable Fiscal Year 2022 Federal Appropriations Requests: <https://bit.ly/FY22EdRequests>.

Advocacy Resources for Music Making in 2021–2022: As students and educators continue to navigate the return to in-person school, music education advocates are working with administrators to provide updated research and best practices related to music making in the 2021–2022 school year. NAFME is pleased to share the following advocacy resources for music education advocates, administrators, communities, and students. This information is current as of November 2021: <https://bit.ly/NAfMEAdvocacyFall21>.

General Music Town Hall: Suggestions and Answers for Teaching This School Year: Members of NAFME's [Council for General Music Education](#), Dr. Rob Lyda, Jennifer Kauffman, and Dr. Becky Halliday,

invited Dr. James Weaver of the NFHS and co-chair of the International Coalition Performing Arts Aerosol Study, of which NAFME is a member, to a [general music townhall](#) on August 31, 2021, to offer suggestions and answer questions about teaching general music during the 2021–2022 school year:
<https://bit.ly/GenMusicTeaching2122>.

Advocacy Success Stories: Tucson Unified School District (TUSD): Joan Ashcraft, Director of Fine and Performing Arts at Tucson Unified School District (TUSD) and Arizona Music Educators Association (AMEA) member, understands proactive advocacy. TUSD serves approximately 50,000 students across 52 elementary schools, 22 middle and K–8 schools, and nine traditional high schools. Just this past May, TUSD approved \$4.5 million in new funding for music and arts programs in the district. [Read more:](#)

NAfME and NFHS Return to Music Guidance Phase III: As the 2021–2022 school year continues, NAFME and National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) have collaborated on new resources to help music educators, stakeholders, and decision-makers ensure that music education is available to all students and provided safely.
<https://bit.ly/ReturnToMusicPhaseIII>

The Return to Music project is intended to assist music educators rebuild, rejuvenate, and reimagine more inclusive music programs during the 2021–2022 school year. Phase III focuses on “Beginning the School Year,” with resources for advocacy, recruitment, talking to administrators, different types of returns, and more. View Phase I and Phase II for previously-released resources:
<https://bit.ly/ReturntoMusic>.

U.S. Department of Education Safer Schools and Campuses Best Practices Clearinghouse Submissions: NAFME submitted [two resources](#) to help music educators teach during the COVID-19 pandemic:

NAfME Endorses African American Music History Month Resolution: In June National Association for Music Education (NAfME) and 43 members of the Music Education Policy Roundtable joined in endorsing a resolution introduced by Senator Cory Booker of New Jersey that celebrates the musical contributions of African Americans to U.S. culture and history: <https://bit.ly/NAfMEAAHM>.

U.S. Department of Education Recognizes Music Education in Its Newly Released ESSER Guidance: On May 26, 2021, the U.S. Department of Education released the first round of [guidance](#) regarding the use of Elementary and Secondary School Education Relief Funds (ESSER Funds) since President Biden signed the [American Rescue Plan](#) (ARP) into law. Of interest to music education advocates is the inclusion of arts and music in the guidance itself: <https://bit.ly/USDOEESSErguidance>.

Sigma Alpha Iota International Music Fraternity

Sigma Alpha Iota International Music Fraternity will have two world premieres, commissioned by SAI Philanthropies Inc., presented at the National Convention to be held in Greensboro, North Carolina, July 2022. The Composer/Judges for the Inter-American Music Awards competition this cycle are [Amy Riebs Mills](#) and [Andrea Clearfield](#).

Following the Convention, these new pieces (one for string quartet and one for women's chorus) will be published by C.F. Peters. At that time, the submission chosen as the winning work will also be premiered and published.



Music World News

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

Music World News is divided into six sections:

- [Music the artform and artists](#)
 - [Music Industry](#)
 - [Music Education](#)
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