



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

Newsletter Winter 2023

A Message From the President



Music has created a defining medium in communicating the human condition in ways that are deep, impactful, and motivating. Living in the United States we are fortunate to have many protections which allow us

the freedom to express ourselves in music with little worry of persecution. Many of us take this right for granted, and it is important that we lift up and protect creators and musicians around the world.

The National Music Council, in conjunction with the International Music Council, has created a symposium in three parts to discuss freedom of speech in music creation. Together the topics of "Historical Repressions, Past Precedents, and Cautionary Tales", "Growing Trends Against Free Musical Expression and Toward the Silencing of Creators"; and "Mobilizing to Protect Speech Freedoms in the 21st Century", are designed to have a broad discussion.

We encourage you to watch the symposium and share broadly with your memberships. This is an important topic, and one where silence only perpetuates the suppression of speech in music. Together we can make a difference and stand up against the oppression of music creators.



National Music Council and IMC to Webcast Joint Symposium on Political Violence Against Music Creators and Performers

The National Music Council of the United States (NMC), in collaboration with its global partner, the Paris-based International Music Council (IMC), is proud to announce the premiere on March 3, 2023 at 9 am EST / 3 pm CET of a landmark Symposium addressing the recent spike in political violence against songwriters, composers and music performers throughout the world. The webcast, which will be available to viewers at <https://www.musiccouncil.org/> represents a key component of the global March 3rd Music Freedom Day observances. Details concerning subsequent access to materials will be available on the site.

The program will feature discussions and interviews with many of the world's leading experts and activists on free speech issues as they pertain to the music and music education communities. Panel topics will include Movements to Protect Free Speech in Music; Trends in Politically-based Censorship of the Musical Arts, and; The History of

Music's Political Influence and of Governmental Attempts to Harness, Control and Silence It. The Symposium's website will also feature a first-of-its-kind article compiled by NMC chair Charles J. Sanders --entitled "Music, Politics and History"-- which traces the global timeline of music suppression and includes dozens of links to musical examples and accounts of incidents.

According to a joint statement issued by Sanders and NMC president James Weaver, "We believe this to be the first international, music community-sponsored forum ever held outside of Europe to address this crucial topic, and NMC is proud to have joined with its IMC colleagues in bringing it to fruition. The ability in the US and Canada to speak out on such issues, principally without fear of government reprisal, places on us a special responsibility to shine a brighter light on these escalating injustices and attacks. Music creators and performers have always been vulnerable targets for coercion and repression. Our community's responsibilities are to ensure that such anti-democratic activities not remain hidden in the shadows, no matter where in the world they occur—including within our own borders."

In summing up his own organization's hopes for what the Symposium will accomplish in terms of future action, IMC president Alfons Karabuda adds that "we have seen in recent months and years the murder, displacement and economic sanctioning of composers, conductors, musicians and other members of our international community in various places across the globe. Our fellow music creators and artists who find themselves in these disastrous political crossfires are urgently in need of our help. We are exquisitely sensitive to the diplomatic nuances required to avoid exacerbating the dangers they face, and will exercise sound judgement in consultation with the victims in each case. History, however, teaches that silence is neither an acceptable nor effective strategy."

Music, Politics & History: NMC Symposium Briefing Paper Uniquely Traces the History of Global Music Repression

As an important feature of the landmark, NMC/IMC joint Symposium on Protecting Free Speech in Music scheduled to premiere on March 3rd in conjunction with international Music Freedom Day, a briefing paper tracing the history of global music repression will be made available to the public for the very first time. The compendium, prepared by NMC Chair Charles J. Sanders and containing dozens of links to musical sources, will serve to provide music community members with the opportunity to incorporate the lessons of the past into their ideas for forging a less dangerous future for songwriters, composers, recording artists and performers.

"We've all seen the current headlines from around the world," the document begins. "Musicians and composers attacked as rabble-rousers and enemies of the state. Singers arrested, their performances banned as dangerous, un-patriotic or sacrilegious. Most recently, we've even seen lethal attacks committed against music creators for *refusing* to perform, or simply for attempting to entertain, not even to proselytize or lampoon. On this subject, the mission of the global music community is clear. We must quickly and effectively formulate ways to help curb this despicable trend."

According to the report's author, however, it's also incumbent on us to recognize that such dangers have plagued humankind's composers and troubadours for centuries. "Finding sustainable solutions to this newest spike in violence and repression will require our community to evaluate approaches to these threats with a careful eye on history." Past events addressed in the paper include the banning of musical works and coercive or physical attacks on creators during the US Civil War, the Native American Genocide, the Great

Depression and World Wars I and II, other murderous actions in fascist Spain, Nazi Germany, and Imperial Japan, brutal suppression in Soviet Russia and during the Chinese Cultural Revolution, outrageous acts of violence under the Pinochet Regime, the Khmer Rouge, and in Apartheid South Africa, and up to and including current, tragic events in Ukraine and Afghanistan.

“The historical pattern of musical repression is actually a simple one to understand. Music’s dual, facile ability to serve as both a powerful tool of propaganda *and* as an existential threat to power structures and political leaders has made it a prime focus of nervous governmental concern over the entire span of history. As a result, when it comes to music, whether we’re dealing with instances of governmental coercion, repression, violence or all three in combination, whatever we are seeing now the world has seen before. That fact itself creates an opportunity for more expeditiously finding the best way forward.”

The paper concludes with the assertion, “that crucial process is our responsibility to undertake” and it begins with the aphorism *past is prologue*. Stated another way, as the great novelist William Faulkner once sagely observed, *the past is not dead. It is not even past.*”

Click Here to Read the Paper
<https://www.musiccouncil.org/protecting-free-speech-in-the-global-music-landscape/>

**THE NATIONAL MUSIC COUNCIL SUPPORTS THE
 5 MUSIC RIGHTS OF THE IMC**



Music Performance Trust Fund Offers Partnering Opportunities for NMC Members

The following programs of the recording industry’s Music Performance Trust Fund may provide partnering opportunities for fellow National Music Council members. Our mission includes contributing to the public knowledge and appreciation of music, as well as making music a part of every child’s life experience throughout the U.S. and Canada. We encourage you to share any relevant information noted here with your members and constituents; more detail can be found at www.musiccpf.org. For partnering inquiries, feel free to contact Dan Beck, Trustee, at dan.beck@musiccpf.org or independent consultant Sandy Jordan: skjordanconsult@gmail.com.

1. Live, Admission-Free Community Events – This year over 3,000 performances, or approx. 50% of our annual grant-making efforts, support professional performances of admission-free community events in parks and public spaces. The MPTF is interested in co-sponsored opportunities with like-minded organizations seeking to enhance quality of life and culture in cities big and small.

All NMC members can contact us directly or contact the local union office in their community about sponsoring an event. Either Sandy Jordan or I are available for inquiries.

2. Music in the Schools – One of the MPTF’s most enduring efforts throughout our 75-year history, this initiative provides grants to provide music performances in schools across the U.S. and Canada. This fiscal year, over 300 events will have been funded. Examples of these programs include demonstrations of instruments in classrooms, student/professional performance collaborations (jazz/classical, etc.), and culturally based performances to provide music history lessons in student assemblies. We

are open to creative ideas to utilize professional musicians in the teaching process who are members in good standing of the American Federation of Musicians.

3. Music's Future Scholarships – A new fund available to students pursuing post-secondary education in music performance, education, therapy, and conducting. In its inaugural year, 2022, we awarded thirty scholarships of \$2,500 each. NMC members may wish to inform students of the opportunity where applicable. A spring 2023 press release will announce the application guidelines and deadlines.
4. Make Music Day – We work with the Make Music Alliance on strategic deployment of professional musicians for Make Music Day events. We provide funding where needed to offer professional mentoring to amateur musicians. There are other circumstances where MMA will request our help to enhance events in various markets across the country. We assist with 12-15 events each year.

The MPTF works directly with each local musicians union to access and support the cost of professional musicians for each co-sponsored event. Other parameters are in place to meet our mission to enrich lives through music. All events must be admission-free. No fundraising, political campaigning, or the like. It is the responsibility of the local co-sponsor to manage payroll and produce the events, either solely or with a group of sponsors. All applications for our grants are prepared and submitted to the MPTF by the local union offices of the American Federation of Musicians. NMC members can contact us directly or contact the local union office in their community about sponsoring an event.



Millions of U.S. Students Denied Access to Music Education, According to First-Ever National Study

Despite significant progress made in recent years to keep music and the other arts in U.S. public schools, millions of U.S. public school students still do not have access to these programs. This is according to recent findings by The Arts Education Data Project (AEDP), which provides the first-ever review of the status and condition of music and arts education in U.S. public schools based on large-scale student participation data.

A joint effort between State Education Agency Directors of Arts Education and its longtime partner, Quadrant Research, the AEDP studied actual student participation data reported by school districts to their state education departments data from the 2019 school year. The result is the National Arts Education Status Report Summary 2019, a comprehensive look at access to and participation in arts education in public schools in the United States.

It's a Matter of Equity in Education

The new AEDP report reveals that, while 92 percent of students in U.S. public schools have access to music education in school, 3,609,698* of students do not have that same opportunity. In addition, 2,095,538* students do not have access to any arts education (defined as dance, music, theatre, or visual arts).

The new data also reveal that a disproportionate number of public-school students without access to music and arts education are concentrated in

schools in major urban communities; have the highest percentage of students eligible for free/reduced price meals; and are either majority Black, Hispanic, or Native American. In addition, many of these students without music and arts education attend public charter schools.

Research shows that learning music results in educational, cognitive, social, emotional and physical benefits. For example, pioneering research conducted by neurobiologist Nina Kraus¹ offers insight into how musical experience affects brain function across the lifespan. Findings to-date indicate that tapping into the brain's potential for music learning supports overall learning and is most critical for disadvantaged and under-served students.

To advance access and equity for all students, federal education law as defined by the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) recognizes music and the arts as part of a well-rounded education.

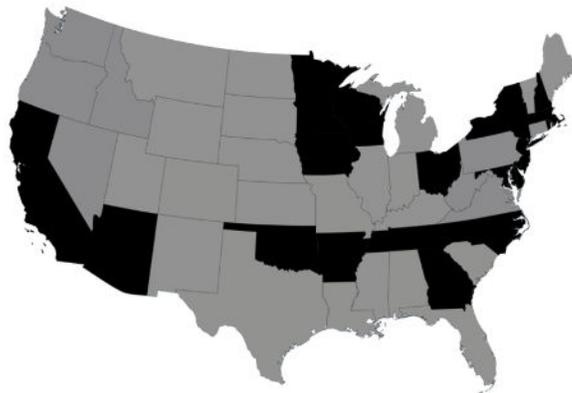
Contrary to reports of a decline in the number of music and arts programs, the AEDP report confirms that music and arts education is widely accessible to students across the various grade spans, with participation at its highest in elementary schools because many states require participation at this level. Music and visual art are the arts disciplines most available to students and therefore have the most significant participation. Most schools (80 percent) offer two or more of the arts disciplines.

Yet, despite this positive trend, there is room for improvement.

"Equity in education determines whether students can learn and grow with music and arts," said Robert Morrison, CEO of Quadrant Research. "Before our new AEDP report, we had no large-scale national-level visibility into the actual status and condition of music and arts education in U.S. public schools. For the first time, we have a clear picture and can provide advocates, administrators, parents, and policymakers with critical data to

improve student access where it's needed."

More than 120 state agencies, arts councils, advocacy organizations, funders, and professional arts education associations are involved in this collective impact work.



The information in the AEDP report is from 30,633 schools in 7,015 districts from 17 states, representing 18 million students or 36 percent of the total public school student population in the United States for the 2018/2019 school year. States included are Arizona, Arkansas, California, Delaware, Georgia, Iowa, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Tennessee, and Wisconsin.

National funding for the Arts Education Data Project has been provided by the CMA Foundation, The Music Man Foundation, The NAMM Foundation, William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, and the Ohio Arts Council. In addition, various state agencies and state-based philanthropic organizations have provided individual state funding.

To learn more about the Arts Education Data Project, including links to individual state dashboards, visit https://artsedata.org/national_report_2019/ or <http://NAMMfoundation.org>.

* Projections are based on a mathematical weight applied to the NCES list of schools from states not

included in the list above to calculate the number of students and schools without access to either arts or music education.

About Quadrant Research

As the pioneer of state-level arts education data reporting, Quadrant Research is a nationally recognized leader in research, analysis, and market intelligence serving the fields of culture, commerce, government, and education. Quadrant Research specializes in arts education and serves the four major arts disciplines: music, dance, theatre, and visual arts. Quadrant Research provides data, analysis, and market intelligence to give clients an accurate picture of current market conditions plus the knowledge needed for future growth.

About SEADAE

State Education Agency Directors of Arts Education (SEADAE) supports the professional effectiveness of its individual members and provides a collective voice for leadership on issues affecting arts education in order to achieve quality, comprehensive, sequential, standards-based education in the arts for all students PreK-20. The membership consists of those persons at state education agencies whose responsibility is education in the arts (Dance, Media Arts, Music, Theatre, and Visual Arts).

About NAMM

The National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) is a not-for-profit association with a mission to strengthen the \$17 billion music products industry. NAMM is comprised of over 15,000 member companies and individual members located in 104 countries and regions. NAMM events and members fund The NAMM Foundation which promotes the pleasures and benefits of music and advance active participation in music-making across the lifespan.

NFHS and NAMM Unite Education Organizations, Creative Industry Through Collaboration of Music Leaders



An historic first meeting hosted by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) and the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) took place last week in Indianapolis. More than 50 leaders from 21 states and a combined 40 state and national organizations convened January 25-26 at the Conrad Hotel during the Performing Arts Education and Creative Industry Meeting.

This first annual meeting was designed for the educational and creative industry sides of music to work together on issues, raise awareness, dive into data, and learn about trends.

“It is an honor to collaborate with national organizations, state associations and companies from across the country and at all levels of music to work together,” said Dr. James Weaver, NFHS director of performing arts and sports. “We brought prominent names from music education and the creative industry to this meeting to help us design the first step of many to create long-lasting solutions for lifetime access of music-making.”

Leaders attending the Performing Arts Education and Creative Industry Meeting – who came from all levels of music – discussed how the education and industry sides are stronger when they are working together. Data was presented from various studies

and connection was fostered that will plant the seeds of collaboration.

Weaver, along with Mary Luehrsen, executive director of the NAMM Foundation, served as the keynote presenters. Luehrsen has led NAMM's public policy and advocacy efforts for two decades and guided the development of efforts such as this meeting to expand music learning opportunities. Weaver and Luehrsen helped to facilitate a collaborative style environment where feedback, questions and open discussion were welcomed.

"This inaugural convening is another step in connecting the dots with influencers and stakeholders who hold the keys to expanding opportunities for more people to engage in music," said Luehrsen. "The content and conversations shared during the meeting are game-changers for both music and arts education and businesses in the creative sector."

Other speakers at the Education and Creative Industry Meeting included representatives from Quadrant Research, *Music Trades*, APA Consulting, Orange County Public Schools, and the San Diego Unified School District. Other various national music associations, state associations, music industry and music retail companies – all of which expressed an interest in coming together by attending the meeting – came away with a deeper understanding of needs and important conversations within K-12 music.

As a follow-up to the Performing Arts Education and Creative Industry Meeting, the NFHS is planning to communicate big picture ideas and approaches across state associations and other national performing arts organizations that were shared during this gathering.

Click below to access the pictures, presentations, and discussion that took place at the meeting:

<https://www.nfhs.org/articles/2023-performing-arts-education-and-creative-industry-meeting-materials/>

NAMM'S Million More Music Makers to Celebrate Guitar, Ukulele, and Bass in Classrooms and Communities



At The 2023 NAMM Show, The NAMM Foundation will launch NAMM's Million More Music Makers, a new initiative that offers hands-on training to expand guitar, ukulele, and bass music learning opportunities in schools and communities for people of all ages. Million More Music Makers will take place across the NAMM Show campus in Anaheim, California, April 13-15, and welcomes professional and amateur musicians, teachers, college students and faculty, school administrators and curriculum specialists, as well as community music organization leaders and participants, to take part in focused programming designed to build and encourage music makers at all stages of life.

"Research continually demonstrates the true joys and benefits of making and learning music for people of all ages and abilities. NAMM's Million More will engage, educate, and inspire participants to expand music learning opportunities," said Mary Luehrsen, executive director of The NAMM Foundation. "Every person we train and support at the NAMM Show will impact hundreds and thousands more in schools and communities. We come together at the NAMM Show to move our collective impact forward to assure music learning opportunities for all."

This 2023 inaugural edition of Million More Music Makers will spotlight the teaching, learning, and playing of guitar, ukulele, and bass. Specialized programming will include teacher trainings for classroom and group instruction in schools and community organizations; a review of school curriculum planning and alignment with education standards; workshops and hands-on learning experiences; performance classes with artists open to players of all levels; and much more.

Joining The NAMM Foundation in this endeavor are the American String Teachers Association (ASTA); California Music Educators Association (CMEA); College Music Society (CMS); Guitars 4 Vets; Guitar and Accessories Marketing Association (GAMA); Guitars in the Classroom (GITC); Langley Ukulele Association; Music Will (formerly Little Kids Rock); National Association for Music Education (NAfME); Save the Music Foundation; Teaching Guitar Workshop; Technology in Music Education (TI:ME) and more.

"Music Will is excited to be a part of NAMM's inaugural Million More Music Makers initiative in April," said Dave Wish, CEO and founder of Music Will (formerly Little Kids Rock). "Creating hands-on learning opportunities for the hundreds of music teachers who attend the NAMM Show is a game changer and one that will allow us to reach more students and turn them into lifelong music makers."

Peter Luongo, president of the Langley Ukulele Association, shared, "I am thrilled that classroom and community music educators are being provided with the opportunity to gain professional development opportunities at The NAMM Show. The fact that the ukulele will be showcased at this year's event means that not only will we see the latest models and connect with players, builders, and vendors, but teachers and enthusiasts will also be able to gain insights into effective practices for teaching and learning to play the uke!"

The Million More Music Makers initiative will join the crossroads of the music products, pro audio, and entertainment technology communities, a vibrant

exhibition of innovative new products and services, networking, events, and additional professional development opportunities. In addition, the Million More Music Makers programming will complement long-established NAMM Foundation signature programming, including GenNext, in collaboration with The College Music Society (CMS) for college music students and faculty; Music Education Days for music teachers and school administrators seeking what's next in music products and classroom technologies; The Nonprofit Management Institute for nonprofit arts organizations; and the annual Grand Rally for Music Education to celebrate the advocacy and impact of music education, educators, and advocates.

Teachers, students, leaders, and staff of community music organizations, and all who believe in music are encouraged to participate and accelerate the vision that all people of every age and ability can make music. Registration for the 2023 NAMM Show is now open at:

<https://www.namm.org/thenammshow/registration>

For additional information, please visit www.namm.org or follow #NAMMShow

A White Paper on Speech Freedoms from Avant-Garde Lawyers

Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 has resulted in severe violations of rights guaranteed under international law, the impact of which cannot be overstated. At Avant-Garde Lawyers (AGL), we are in solidarity with the people of Ukraine and are committed to providing specialized support to vulnerable artists on both sides of the border in this geopolitical conflict.

The intensity of suffering and devastation inflicted in the war has brought together communities across the globe in an effort to publicly condemn the use

of violence by Russia. In this context, in the fields of arts and culture, a pattern has emerged in which national institutions, international festivals, exhibitions, competitions and orchestras have presented Russian artists with peremptory termination statements informing them of the unilateral revocation of their engagements on account of their nationality. Most of these institutions failed to provide the affected artists with any form of compensation or opportunities to discuss or contest their exclusion. While many stated their intention was not to penalize individual artists, this is precisely what the exclusions have factually achieved.

Understandably, cultural institutions feel the need to publicly condemn Russia's actions, but decisions to exclude Russian artists were also taken in an attempt to avoid negative repercussions in the form of economic or reputational loss. Overall, these measures and the way in which they were taken raise concerns about the lack of understanding among cultural institutions of the question of "sanctions" and their negative implications for the affected artists, for the institutions themselves, and more broadly for the freedom of artistic expression.

It is in light of these concerns that we publish this White Paper to provide information and analysis to assist cultural institutions in navigating the complexities of the situation. We do so through the lens of fundamental rights as guaranteed under international law. For us, at AGL, this is an important discussion that must be kickstarted amongst key stakeholders to avoid the further targeting of Russian artists by actions taken to condemn the Russian government. We would also like to sound an alarm to prevent exclusionary measures targeting art and culture from becoming the norm in times of geopolitical conflict. This would serve as a massive blow to artistic freedom at a global level and undermine cultural pluralism and exchange. In a world reverberating with alienation and violence, art must be championed as a universal value to be created, shared, and enjoyed without borders.

As lawyers and cultural rights defenders, we encourage debate and discussion on this crucial subject and encourage civil society organizations and cultural institutions to join us so that this conversation can contribute to strengthening the framework in which the core principles of our democracies, those that allow us to express ourselves freely and be free from fear and discrimination, are protected, defended, and promoted.

Please click here to read the complete paper.

<https://www.musiccouncil.org/2023/01/16/artists-under-boycott-sanctions-against-russian-artists-and-their-work-their-impact-on-artistic-freedom-and-other-fundamental-rights/>

Andra Matei
Executive Director, Avant-Garde Lawyers

SAVE THE DATE!
National Music Council
39th Annual
American Eagle Awards
Sunday, June 25th
Las Vegas, NV

MEMBER REPORTS

American Academy of Teachers of Singing



Celebrating 100 Years in 2022

Serving the Profession—Serving the Art
americanacademyofteachersofsinging.org

In March AATS will announce this year's Academy Awards, created "to recognize, honor, and nurture outstanding accomplishment in the teaching of singing and in allied professions."

The Academy inducted two new members on February 12:

- John Nix, tenor, voice professor at UT San Antonio and leader in cutting edge voice pedagogy.
- Ian Howell, classical countertenor, professor, Cleveland Institute of Music, winner of AATS Academy Award for his work with low-latency platforms in response to the Covid pandemic.

As of May 2023, AATS member Richard Sjoerdsma will be relinquishing his 22-year tenure as editor in chief of the NATS Journal of Singing to our recently inducted member Lynn Holding.

Member Christopher Arneson has co-authored a new book with colleague Kirsten S. Brown "Musical

Theater Voice Pedagogy: The Art and Science"
published by emeritus member Scott McCoy.
(Inside View Press, 2023)

BMI

BMI proudly continues to serve our exceptional songwriters, composers, and publishers across all genres. Since our last report, we held successful in-person events, such as our BMI R&B/Hip-Hop Awards, BMI London Awards and BMI Country Awards, and had a significant presence at festivals like Austin City Limits, Lollapalooza, and the Sundance Film Festival. Last September, BMI reported record-breaking revenue and royalty distributions to our affiliates for our 2022 fiscal year. This has also been an exciting year of transformation at BMI, most notably in that we changed our business model, moving from operating on a not-for-profit making basis to for-profit. This opens up new and important opportunities for us to invest in our business in ways we weren't able to do before, ensuring we are well-positioned for the future and can continue to deliver on our mission to support our songwriters, composers and publishers and grow the value of their music.

In addition, the BMI Foundation announced an exciting update regarding its various programs that removed the requirement for individual music creators to be studying or enrolled in college. This new guideline applies to the Dolly Parton Songwriters Award, the John Lennon Award, the peermusic Latin Music Award, the BMI Composer Awards, and the Future Jazz Master Award. This guideline is part of the effort at the BMI Foundation to lead with inclusion and to pursue the equitable distribution of resources. "A great composer or songwriter can come from anywhere; requiring college attendance puts a further burden on gifted creators who may not have the means or the desire to pursue a degree," said Deirdre Chadwick, BMI

Executive Director, Classical, Creative, and President of the BMI Foundation.

In October, BMI was also proud to announce the recipients of the Peter Carpenter Fellowship, the John Lennon Award, and the peermusic Latin Award. Noah Horowitz and Kat Vokes were named winners of the Peter Carpenter Fellowship. The first prize winner of the John Lennon Award was Alice Bishop, while Daphne Browdy and Jackson Tower of the Tower Brothers were awarded second and third place, respectively. Berklee College of Music student Ángela Fernández was named winner of the peermusic Latin Award. "I am incredibly grateful I have been granted this award," Fernández said. "It is a great help to continue pursuing my studies and dreams."

Chopin Foundation of the United States

The Chopin Foundation is pleased to announce the **2023-24 Scholarship Program for Young Pianists**. Launched 25 years ago, the Scholarship Program has provided over 300 awards to students between the ages of 14 and 17 from just about every state in the U.S. Scholarships of \$1,000 (full) and \$500 (half) are awarded each year to outstanding young American pianists who demonstrate an affinity for performing the music of Frederic Chopin. Students are encouraged to take advantage of the 4-year renewable program which helps them to study with great teachers and to learn the repertoire required to enter the National Chopin Piano Competition. Full Scholarship recipients may choose to participate in the **Frost Chopin Academy** presented each year in collaboration with the University of Miami's Frost School of Music. The first Frost Chopin Academy took place in 2018 and the program provides participants with the opportunity to work with some of the best Chopin specialists, such as Garrick Ohlsson, Kevin Kenner, and Dang Thai Son, and to perform during the Frost Chopin Festival.

The application deadline for Chopin Foundation Scholarships is **May 15, 2023**.

For more information about the Scholarship Program, visit our website.



305-868-0624 / www.chopin.org

Supporting Young Musicians since 1975

Barbara E. Muze, Executive Director

Delta Omicron

Amid Pandemic, Triennial Composition Competition is Tremendous Success

Despite the crippling effects of the pandemic on musicians and arts institutions worldwide, the Triennial Composition Competition offered a beacon of hope this year as entries from eleven states, and four countries poured in during the pandemic. Due to complications that COVID-19 created for some composers trying to ship recordings and scores overseas, we extended the deadline for submission to late April 2020 rather than the originally scheduled March 2020. Nevertheless, we were able to get all scores and recordings compiled quickly and those who submitted entries were sent a receipt of materials on May 1.

This triennial's competition called for pieces that featured male voice and piano, a genre that liberated composers to explore the human voice during a time when public singing was not allowed in much of the world. The submissions represented some of the finest contemporary compositions I have seen for the genre in years, but it wasn't mine to determine the winner, our incredible judges had that mammoth task.

On May 15th our judges, Jo Michael Schiebe (Chair of Choral Music at University of Southern California

& former American Choral Directors Association president, Los Angeles, California), Amanda Quist (Director of Choral Activities at Frost School of Music, Miami, Florida), and Marco Panuccio (Internationally Acclaimed Opera Singer, Cincinnati, Ohio) received the 18 individual entries as well as a score sheet that asked them to score each composition based on the following criteria:

- Technical Skill
- Understanding of Medium
- Ability to Develop Ideas
- Originality
- Artistry/Expressiveness
- Use of Text

Judges were then asked to enter their top five scores & rationale using a private electronic judging form in Google Forms.

Receiving a near-perfect score from all three judges, David Hamilton's piece "*Night Songs III*" was the clear winner. Because the judges were only aware of David's pseudonym, "Alex Backpack," they couldn't have known that he 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).

As a male vocalist, and lifelong choral director, I couldn't be more excited that one of Professor Hamilton's pieces is now among the prestigious legacy of Delta Omicron Triennial Composition Competition Winners and I can't wait to hear the piece premiered in Virginia next summer. It's been

15 years since I pledged as a D.O. but today I am prouder than ever of my dear fraternity.

For continuing to support excellence in music during music's darkest hour, we should feel good, strong, happy, and useful.

Matt Neylon,
Triennial Composition Competition Chair

Music Performance Trust Fund

Music Family Scholarships

This past year we offered 75 \$1,000 scholarships to family members of union musicians. A 500-word essay was required on a topic related to the value of live music to communities. We began this program in 2020, when distributing out grant funds for live music performances was halted due to Covid-19.

Music's Future Scholarship

This past year, we introduced the Music's Future Scholarship, available to music students unaffiliated with the AFM. We awarded 30 scholarships of \$2,500 each. We began an outreach to colleges with music programs alerting them to this program. Entrants were required to submit a 500-word essay on a similar topic as above, plus a recommendation letter, transcripts, and a resume. We will be making small adjustments to these offerings as we continue to grow them. Formalizing and expanding our announcement for applications will be continuing.

Make Music Day

We work with Aaron Friedman and the Make Music Alliance on strategic deployment of professional musicians for MMD events. We provide funding where needed to supplement amateur musicians with professional mentoring. There are other circumstances where MMA will request our help to enhance events in various markets across the

country. We assist with approximately 12-15 events each year.

Music in the Schools

This has been one of the MPTF's most enduring efforts throughout our 75-year history. We provide grants for AFM musicians to provide music performances in schools across the U.S. and Canada. This fiscal year, over 300 events will have been funded. Examples of these programs include demonstration of instruments in classrooms, student/professional performance collaborations (jazz/classical, etc.), and culturally based performances to provide music history lessons in student assemblies.

Community Events

Approximately 50% of our annual events (this year over 3,000 performances) are admission-free community events in parks and public spaces to enhance quality of life and culture in cities big and small.

Music Teachers National Association

2023 MTNA National Conference

The MTNA National Conference will be held in Reno, Nevada, March 25–29, 2023. This conference will be a grand in-person reunion of the music teaching profession. For more information or to register, visit www.mtna.org.

MTNA eFestival

The MTNA eFestival, an online-only performance opportunity where entrants receive a constructive critique from a highly qualified evaluator. Evaluations for solo piano, brass, woodwind, strings, voice, guitar/mandolin, ukulele, organ, percussion, harp and chamber music (maximum six) are available through this program. Musicians may be of any age or performance level and need not be studying with an MTNA member to participate. The

MTNA eFestival runs year-round with no deadlines. For more information, www.mtna.org.

Grants Applications Available

Applications are now available for MTNA FOUNDATION FUND grants. Program Development, Community Engagement, Teacher Enrichment and Affiliate Enrichment Grants are due May 3, 2023. For more information, visit www.mtnafoundation.org.

National Association for Music Education



New NAFME Strategic Plan Implemented:

"After two years of conversation, soul-searching, and deep introspection, NAFME has a new Strategic Plan that is unlike anything

our association has created in its 115-year history," stated NAFME President Scott R. Sheehan. "This new plan not only sets our direction for the future, but it also serves as a conceptual framework that outlines who we (NAfME members) are and why NAFME exists."

The National Association for Music Education (NAfME) is proud to introduce to members and the music education advocates to the new **Strategic Plan**. As noted visually in the graphic, the three Cornerstones are: Advocacy and Public Policy; Professional Learning and Growth; and Research and Music Teacher Education. And crucial to this new Strategic Plan is the Keystone: Equity in Music Education. NAFME is committed to defining, developing, and promoting resources and frameworks that expand equitable access to music

education. This equity work will not only support diverse curricula, repertoire, and musical opportunities, but will also provide a lens through which to examine policies, procedures, and practices.

Read the full [Strategic Plan](#):
<https://bit.ly/StrategicPlanNAfME>.

Read the Conceptual Framework here:
<https://bit.ly/ConceptualFrameworkStratPlan22>

Watch the recent town hall:
<https://vimeo.com/791280047>



Music In Our Schools Month® 2022-23 (MIOSM®):

The theme for the March 2023 celebration of Music In Our Schools Month® (MIOSM®) is “Music Is All of Us.” New lessons and songs that can be shared at many grade levels will be available this school year. 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 social media resources, lesson plans, repertoire, classroom items, and other materials, visit nafme.org/MIOSM. Follow #MusicsAllOfUs and #MIOSM on Twitter and Instagram.

Music In Our Schools Month® is a trademark held by NAFME; any related phrasing (Music In Our Schools Month® and MIOSM®) must include the registered trademark symbol. Any related phrasing should be hyperlinked to: <https://nafme.org/programs/miosm/>. Any related phrasing or logos may not be used for fundraising or materials produced for profit. The logo may not be altered or co-branded.

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 in-service and preservice music educators through NAFME Corporate

Membership. With a variety of options, including sponsorship of Tri-M® Music Honor Society, NAFME Collegiate programs, and newer **Platinum** level membership, your company will have the opportunity to strategically share your brand 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 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; exclusive event and program sponsorship opportunities; and more. To learn more, contact corporate@nafme.org, or visit nafme.org/corporate.



The NAFME Music Education Advocate Podcast: Music educators witness the needs of students firsthand; yet often, we don’t feel fully equipped to

advocate for students effectively. Join music educator turned advocate, Jazzmone Sutton, NAFME State Advocacy Engagement Manager, and other music education advocates to hear their stories and reflections on how to make advocacy actionable for the music education advocate. We can’t promise that we have all the answers, but we can learn from each other and grow together. Episodes will be released biweekly. Follow #MEApodcast on social media for updates and tag @NAfME to share your thoughts and questions (include the hashtag #MEApodcast). Listen now: <https://bit.ly/MEAPodcast>.

NAfME Advocacy Updates

Legislation Update

On December 29, 2022, President Biden signed the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 appropriations bill. The FY23 spending bill includes a \$3.2 billion increase to Department of Education (ED) funding, bringing the total ED funding amount to \$79.6 billion. Read more in the [NAfME Statement on FY 2023 Bipartisan Omnibus](https://nafme.org/nafme-statement-on-fy-2023-bipartisan-omnibus-agreement/) blog. <https://nafme.org/nafme-statement-on-fy-2023-bipartisan-omnibus-agreement/>

NAfME is proud to support the IGNITE HBCU, TCU and MSI Act [H.R.8803](https://www.congress.gov/bills/117/8803) introduced by Representative Alma Adams (NC-12.) The IGNITE Act establishes a grant program to support campus facility improvements at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs), and other Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs). Read more [here](https://nafme.org/nafme-supports-the-ignite-hbcu-tcu-and-msi-act-h-r-8803/) in the NAfME Advocacy blog: <https://nafme.org/nafme-supports-the-ignite-hbcu-tcu-and-msi-act-h-r-8803/>

This June 2023, the NAfME Hill Day for music education will take place again in person. Visit nafme.org to learn more in the coming months.

Music Teacher Profession Initiative

In 2021, NAfME launched the Music Teacher Profession Initiative (MTPI) to identify barriers to equity in music teacher recruitment, education, and retention. NAfME leaders representing institutions of higher education have researched challenges for students entering the profession, preservice students, and beginning music educators in their first five years of teaching. The taskforce is interpreting the data and will provide conclusions and recommendations on the NAfME [Music Teacher Profession Initiative](https://nafme.org/music-teacher-profession-initiative/) webpage. <https://nafme.org/music-teacher-profession-initiative/>

New Roundtable Members

The NAfME Music Education Policy Roundtable welcomes several new members to the public policy coalition. "We are very excited to have new voices

come to the table and join us in ensuring the presence and preservation of school music programs," said NAfME President Scott R. Sheehan. To view a complete list of members and organizations participating in the NAfME Music Education Policy Roundtable please click [here](https://nafme.org/advocacy/music-education-policy-roundtable/). <https://nafme.org/advocacy/music-education-policy-roundtable/>

NAfME Division Conferences

The NAfME [Northwest Division](https://wmea.org/conferences/conference-information-and-registration/) will host its biennial conference in Bellevue, Washington, from February 16–19, 2023: <https://wmea.org/conferences/conference-information-and-registration/>.

The NAfME [Eastern Division](https://www.nyssma.org/eastdiv2023/) will host its biennial conference in Rochester, New York, from April 13–16, 2023: <https://www.nyssma.org/eastdiv2023/>. NAfME President Scott R. Sheehan, along with multiple NAfME staff, will be in attendance and present on various NAfME projects and initiatives as well as advocacy related programs.

MIOSM® Advocacy Resources:

The passage of a proclamation or resolution in recognition of [Music In Our Schools Month](https://www.nafme.org/miosm/) in March is a great way to advocate for the importance of music education in our schools. To view a sample proclamation or resolution and other MIOSM advocacy resources, visit [nafme.org/MIOSM](https://nafme.org/miosm/).

National Federation of Music Clubs



The National Federation of Music Clubs is celebrating our 125th year and still making waves!

Dedicated to finding and fostering young musical talent, the NFMC conducts annual Junior Festivals with approximately 100,000 participants. 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 include two years of performance bookings.

Our NFMC 2023 Convention is scheduled for June 12-17, in Norfolk, Virginia. This is a wonderful time of fellowship, election of officers, exciting and informative workshops, Junior Day, and concerts. We even have a 2-hour dinner cruise planned along the Elizabeth River, so come along and join us!

Deborah Freeman, NFMC President

Sigma Alpha Iota International Music Fraternity

Sigma Alpha Iota International Music Fraternity has an exciting triennium under way, with a new National Executive Board, under the leadership of Dr. Jessica Chichester, National President. SAI Philanthropies also has new leadership with Chairman Tracey Wygal Withrow at the helm.

The annual Composers Bureau update will be released in the near future, and performers and teachers are encouraged to use this resource when looking for new and interesting repertoire. www.sai-national.org



Accountants to the NMC



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. The bulletin is emailed to subscribers every two weeks free of charge. It reaches more than 70 countries on all five continents.

Music World News is divided into six sections:

Music the artform and artists
Music Industry
Music Education
Policy, Research & Politics
Technologies and media
The Pointy End

The International Music Council

[IMC](#) is the world's largest network of music organizations and institutions, founded by UNESCO and dedicated to the advancement of essential music rights for all people.

We stand for a world where everyone can enjoy access to music, where they can learn, experience, create, perform, and express themselves through music, and in which artists of every kind are recognized and fairly remunerated. IMC brings together people, ideas and actions under the umbrella of the Five Music Rights.

We raise awareness and encourage members and others by

- Advocating the Five Music Rights across society and to decision-makers in arts education, policy, and industry
- Bringing together the expertise of music organisations and institutions supporting the Five Music Rights
- Enabling and implementing initiatives advancing the Five Music Rights

