

# NEWSLETTER WINTER 2024

## INSIDE THIS EDITION:

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE “NO AI FRAUD” ACT



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## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members of the National Music Council,  
I am writing to extend my sincerest New Year greetings to you all, as we embark upon another year of progress and innovation in the realm of music. The beginning of a new year is an opportune moment to reaffirm our commitment to the principles that guide us, particularly the NMC's 5 Music Rights, which continue to be the cornerstone of our collective endeavor.

In this age of rapid technological evolution, especially in the realm of artificial intelligence, it is paramount that we emphasize the importance of protecting human creativity. The incursion of AI into creative sectors presents a unique challenge, necessitating a robust response that underscores the irreplaceable value of human artistry in music. Our council's role

is not only to embrace technological advancements but also to ensure they complement rather than supplant the human element that lies at the core of music. It is our collective responsibility to maintain a balance where technology serves as an ally to human creativity, not its replacement.

We must proceed with a vision that acknowledges and integrates the benefits of technological advancements, yet firmly holds to the belief that the essence of music is inherently human. Our unity and diverse perspectives are our greatest assets in advocating for a future where music continues to be a vibrant expression of human experience.

On a separate note, I would like to pay tribute to Gary Ingle, who is retiring from the Music Teachers National Association. Gary's contributions to the world of music and his service to the National Music Council have been invaluable. His dedication, expertise, and visionary leadership have left an indelible mark on the MTNA and the broader musical community. We are immensely thankful for his years of service and wish him a fulfilling and joyful next chapter.

As we step into this New Year, let us recommit ourselves to upholding the values that define us, advocating for the rights of music creators, performers, educators, and consumers, and championing the enduring significance of human creativity in our field. May this year be one of substantial growth, profound inspiration, and harmonious collaboration.

Sincerely,  
James Weaver  
President, National Music Council

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## A JANUARY 2024 MESSAGE FROM THE NMC CHAIR:

**Ongoing Attempts to Ban The Song “Glory to Hong Kong” Illustrate Just How Powerful --And “Dangerous”-- Music Is Perceived to Be**



We’ve all seen the recent headlines from around the world. Musicians, songwriters, and composers attacked as rabble-rousers and enemies of the state. Singers arrested, their performances banned as un-patriotic or

sacrilegious. We’ve even seen lethal attacks committed against music creators for *refusing* to perform. And just a few months ago, we saw legal action instituted by a foreign global power against the performance of domestic protest music *on a global basis*.

No matter our individual political or musical affiliations, the mission of the American music community is clear. We must quickly and effectively formulate ways to help curb this international trend of governments singling out artists and music creators for global punishment, due in large measure to fears over the inherent political power of music.

By way of example, one recent instance illustrating this distressing pattern is currently playing out in Hong Kong. There, amid civil unrest in 2019 over Chinese Government efforts to crack down on what it deems as speech dangerous to national security, a pro-independence leader known only by the

pseudonym “Thomas dgx yhl” penned a song known as “Glory to Hong Kong.”

The composition was immediately embraced by Hong Kong rights protesters, translated into various languages, and eventually widely recorded and electronically distributed. Before long, those recordings were being played not only on the Internet, but in Hong Kong shopping malls and at sporting events and other gatherings, prompting public sing-alongs that have increasingly alarmed Chinese Government officials in both Hong Kong and Beijing.<sup>1</sup>

A little over six months ago, the Beijing-aligned Government of Hong Kong announced it had heard enough. Having previously banned the secessionist anthem “Liberate Hong Kong” after protests began in 2019, the Government went to court last June 2023, seeking an even broader injunction against “Glory to Hong Kong.” That motion, if granted, would have barred performance, broadcast, and distribution of the song throughout China, potentially leading to the punishment of Chinese citizens --*and companies merely operating in China*-- for violating the ban anywhere in the world). According to the Government’s court submissions, the song’s lyrics are meant to provoke secessionist acts in violation of Chinese law, and the court should act to eliminate the dangerous confusion that has been caused by the “mistaken use” of the song in place of the official Chinese National Anthem at over 800 Hong Kong and international events so far.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>An English language version of the song is accessible at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6yjLIYNFKCg>.

<sup>2</sup>Hong Kong, a former British protectorate the rule over which was transferred to Beijing in 1997, has continued to maintain its own political and economic systems for the past quarter-century. Within the past decade, however, the Government of China has concentrated its efforts on bringing Hong Kong more closely in line with Beijing’s governing philosophies—including the stricter control of political speech. In its submission to the court, the Government pre-emptively sought to quash accusations of censorship by asserting that Beijing respects and values the rights

As is often the case when governments attempt to ban musical works, the song instantly skyrocketed in popularity in China and around the world. Within days of the court filing, “Glory to Hong Kong” topped the Apple iTunes charts. That development, however, may have resulted in further action by the embarrassed Governments of Hong Kong and China. The original version of the song recorded by DGX Music (presumably related to Thomas dgx yhl) was suddenly pulled (at least temporarily) from global music streaming platforms such as Spotify, Apple Music, Facebook and Instagram’s Reels system.

Obviously, what we are witnessing in real time is another in a nearly endless series of attempts by governments and powerful interests around the world --representing all political persuasions-- to forcibly remove politically contentious musical works from the public sphere and punish their creators and performers.

This past March 2023, NMC, in conjunction with the Paris-based International Music Council (IMC), explored the historical roots of this phenomenon in the hopes of helping the world-wide music community to fashion strategies for ensuring more effective, speech-related protections for music creators in the future. NMC’s extensive briefing papers for the symposium trace the long litany of repression and coercion against individual creators who used their music to protest social and political injustice, including the 1973 murder in Chile of folksinger Victor Jara by the extreme right-wing Pinochet regime, the genocide carried out against Cambodian musicians and composers by the extreme left-wing Khmer Rouge Regime in the mid-late 1970s, and the attempted erasure of Native American/First Nation/Aboriginal music and culture by Constitutional democracies

and freedoms protected by the Basic Law (including freedom of speech), but freedom of speech is not absolute.... The application pursues the legitimate aim of safeguarding national security and is necessary, reasonable, legitimate, and consistent with the Bill of Rights....”

including the United States, Canada, the UK and Australia—efforts that over the course of centuries often resulted in the brutal deaths of those who resisted.<sup>3</sup>

Music-based repression and coercion, NMC concluded, are clearly global problems unlimited by either their political or geographic origins:

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....Music creators and performers have not only been frequently subject to pressure to conform and participate in governmental propaganda efforts, but also to repressive actions up to and including murder to enforce the silence of those dangerous, high-profile individuals who will not comply. In many cases, this effectively neuters the most persuasive voices of protest, while at the same time setting an example of what happens to those less visible citizens who choose dissent. The repression of music and creators is a government's way of warning *all* of its people, "if this is what we'll do to them, imagine what we'll do to you."

For the American music creator community, initially it's that last point that must be our paramount concern. While we may argue over whether certain musical expressions (other than outright hate speech) constitute patriotism or treason, it is incumbent upon us to champion the position that *violence and imprisonment for peacefully expressing unpopular views should not be imposed on any person by any government, anywhere*. Though speech freedom advocates may argue for broader efforts to protect free musical expression --and in the future that may come-- job one is to protect the lives and liberties

<sup>3</sup>See, <https://www.musiccouncil.org/music-politics-history/>. The author of this statement was also the author of the Briefing Papers on behalf of the NMC.

of music creators who have been singled out *today* for political punishment.

How can we accomplish that duty? At the NMC symposium, international experts and activists such as Ole Reitof of UNESCO, Julie Trébault of the Artists at Risk Coalition, Mark Ludwig of the Terezin Music Foundation, Dr. Ahmad Sarmast of the Afghanistan National Institute of Music, and Arn Chorn Pond of the Cambodian Living Arts organization, all agreed on the opportunities for the US music community to protect fellow, global music creators and performers from official repression by speaking out in appropriate ways. Their advice may be distilled to three basic principles:

First, do no harm. This Hippocratic starting point for every effort to assist requires that all international actions must be carefully calibrated to avoid backlash against the endangered individual or group, and should be undertaken only in consultation with those knowledgeable about the local intricacies related to each incident.

Second, take action by shining a spotlight in the United States on the most egregious cases of music suppression wherever in the world they take place. Write letters to the White House, to Congress, and to the US State Department and the US Trade Representative concerning individual cases, requesting that the US Government take appropriate steps to save the lives and freedoms of those at risk. (Other actions may be contemplated, but only after the "no harm" principle has been fully strategized).

Third, for those not willing or unable to take such actions, lend support to organizations engaged directly in protecting the lives and liberties of members of the music community around the world.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>4</sup>For a list of some non-profit organizations engaged in such activities, see, <https://www.musiccouncil.org/protecting-free-speech-in-the-global-music-landscape/>



Artistic activism and the defense of it will never be an act of courage devoid of risk. The ability in the US to speak out on such issues principally without fear of government reprisal, however, places on us a special responsibility to shine that brighter light on these escalating injustices and attacks. 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.

If history has taught us one thing about the persecution of artists and creators, it is that silence is neither an effective nor an acceptable strategy for putting an end to it.

Charles J. Sanders  
Chair  
The National Music Council of the United States

**Postscript:** Before closing, on behalf of the NMC board and the entire organizational membership, I wish to extend an enormous and heartfelt thanks to our friend and colleague Gary Ingle for his many years of service to our organization. Gary has been a tremendous resource of information and leadership over the years, and it is our hope that even with his so-called “retirement” from NMC, he will continue to share his wisdom and advice with us for many years to come.

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## A MESSAGE FROM GARY L. INGLE, NMC BOARD MEMBER, PAST PRESIDENT

January 26, 2024



Dear National  
Music Council  
Members,

On June 30, 2024,  
I am retiring after  
28 years as  
Executive Director  
& Chief Executive  
Officer of Music  
Teachers National  
Association. This  
date also marks a  
transition in my

long association with the National Music Council of the United States. My successor CEO will begin on July 1, and, thus, my professional role as the MTNA representative to the NMC Board will conclude.

I have served on the Board of the NMC for almost three decades, during which I served multiple terms as chair and president. In fact, I am honored to have been the longest serving president in the history of the NMC. In these roles, I had the great privilege to represent the NMC to the International Music Council, our parent organization. I served on its Executive Board for several years, culminating with my election as Executive Vice President during my final two years.

As I move into the next chapter of my life, I want to express my gratitude to you for the rare opportunity of serving the NMC. It has been an enriching and rewarding experience, and I am grateful for the opportunity to have contributed to the NMC's mission during these years of service.

It has been a privilege to work alongside dedicated individuals who share a passion for advancing the causes of music education, musical rights, and musical creation and performance. I am especially grateful to David Sanders for his dedication and support to keep the NMC moving ahead during an on-going tenure longer than any of us. Through his constant leadership, the NMC has achieved significant milestones and progress, which would not have been possible without his guidance along with the collective effort of each Board member.

I am confident that the National Music Council will continue to thrive under the capable leadership of Charles, James, David, and the other officers. I am optimistic about the future of the NMC and the continued growth of its influence in promoting the importance of music in our world.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to serve, and I wish each of you continued success in your important work.

With warmest regards,

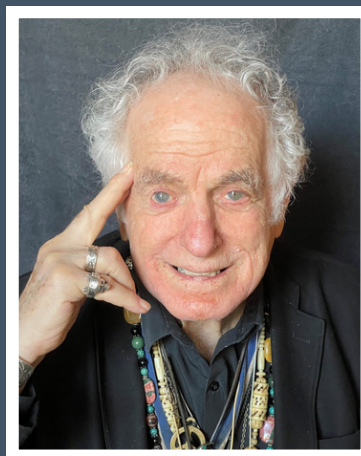
Dr. Gary L. Ingle  
Immediate Past President of NMC  
Retiring NMC Board Member

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## NMC Annual Member Meeting Held at 2024 NAMM Show

The National Music Council's Annual Membership Meeting was held at the 2024 NAMM Show for the first time on Friday, January 26 in Anaheim, California. We extend our sincere gratitude to NAMM for graciously hosting this important gathering. For those who were unable to partake in the meeting, we invite you to view the meeting minutes [here](#).

## Rescheduled 40th Annual American Eagle Awards Honoring David Amram



The 40th Annual American Eagle Awards, honoring David Amram, will take place on June 14, 2024 in New York, New York.

[Click here for more information](#)

## The Reimagining Inclusive Arts Education Act

The Reimagining Inclusive Arts Education Act, introduced by David Scott (GA-13) seeks to increase access to arts education and arts therapies for students with disabilities.

Recognizing the benefits of arts education for children with disabilities, this legislation would provide grants to further train educators and arts therapists working with those students.

Specifically, this legislation would;

- Direct the Secretary of Education to establish the Inclusive Arts Education Grant Program
  - Eligible Entities for Funding: Local Education Agencies (LEAs), State Education Agencies (SEAs), or a partnership between an LEA/SEA and an Institution of Higher Education or Non-Profit Organizations
    - Priority: Schools receiving Title I funds are given priority in the grant application process.

- Eligible uses of grant funding:
  - Promoting curricula, best practices, professional development for arts educators and creative arts therapists in elementary and secondary schools that would;
    - Increase access and improve inclusion of children with disabilities in arts education programs.
    - Adapt classroom materials and lessons to accommodate children with disabilities.
- Provide a definition of “Creative Arts Therapy” that specifically enumerates music as an available medium and highlights the social and emotional benefits of the arts.

Full text of the bill can be accessed [here](#).

Contact Your Congress

Members to Support

the No AI FRAUD Act

On January 10, 2024, Reps. María Elvira Salazar (R-FL) and Madeleine Dean (D-PA) introduced the [No Artificial Intelligence Fake Replicas And Unauthorized Duplications \(No AI FRAUD\) Act](#). The bill establishes a federal framework to protect Americans’ individual right to their likeness and voice against AI-generated fakes and forgeries.

The No AI FRAUD Act establishes a federal solution with baseline protections for all Americans by:

- Reaffirming that everyone’s likeness and voice is protected, giving individuals the right to control the use of their identifying characteristics;
- Empowering individuals to enforce this right

- against those who facilitate, create, and spread AI frauds without their permission; and
- Balancing the rights against First Amendment protections to safeguard speech and innovation.

Nearly 300 artists, songwriters, actors and other creators have voiced their support of the No AI FRAUD Act.

your voice

face

image

identity.

The No AI FRAUD Act would defend your fundamental human right to your voice & likeness, protecting everyone from nonconsensual deepfakes

Protect your individuality

Support HR 6943



human artistry campaign

10 Years

21 Savage

Abby Anderson

Aimee Mann

Alyssa Milano

Anne Wilson

Anthony L. Smith

Anthony Rapp

Ashley McBryde

Austin Williams

Autumn Rowe

Avery Anna

Bailey Spinn

Barbara Rosenblat

Ben Goldsmith

Bette Midler

Billy Porter

Black Thought

Blake Morgan

Blind Boys of Alabama

Bob Butler

Bobby Rush

Bonnie Raitt

Boyz II Men

Bradley Cooper

Breland

Brette James

Brian Hyland

Bronson Pinchot

BT

Buddy Miller

Busta Rhymes

Busy Philipps

Byron Hill

Caitlin Dulany

CAKE

Camper Van Beethoven

Cardi B & Offset

Carrie Preston

Chad Lawson

Chaka Khan

Chris DeStefano

Chris Hillman

Chris Perfetti

Chrissy Metz

Chuck D

Cherry22

Clark Gregg

Colbie Caillat

Colin Linden

Common

Cracker

Crispin Hunt

Crys Matthews

Dasha McBride

Dalton Dover

Dan Navarro

Dan Smalley

Daniel Martin Moore

Darlene Love

Daryl Hall

Dave Koz

David Hodges

David Lowery

deadmau5

Deborah Cox

Debra Messing

Derek Trucks

Devin Dawson

Diana Jones

Dion Graham

Dom Flemons

Don McLean

Drew Parker

Dustbowl Revival

Dwight Yoakam

Dylan Marlowe

estate of Eddie Money

Eliza Gilkyson

Elvis Costello

Emilio Estefan

Emily Shackleton

Erin McKeown

Erin Rae

Esai Morales

Esra Knight

F Murray Abraham

Flavor Flav

Fran Drescher

Frances Fisher

Gary U.S. Bonds

Gavin DeGraw

Ginnifer Goodwin

Gloria Estefan

Gov't Mule

Gretchen Peters

Hannah Dasher

HANSON

Helienne Lindvall

Hunter Hayes

Ian Munsick

Idina Menzel

Ivan Barias

Jack DeJohnette

Jack Mulcahy

Janice Penardvis

Janis Ian

Jason Isbell

Jason W. George

Jean Reno

Jeannie Seely

Jeff "Skunk" Baxter

Jeff Cohen

Jenn Schott

Jennifer Beale

Jenny McCarthy

Jessie Jo Dillon

Jill Scott

Jimmy Jam

Joan Jett

Jodi Long

Joe Arden

Joely Fisher

John Kay

John McCrea

John Paul White

John Rothman

estate of Johnny Cash

Johnny Heller

Jon Huertas

Jon Nite

Jordan "DJ Swivel"

Young

Josh Dallas

Josh Kear

Josh Osborne

Josh Turner

JT Harding

Julianna Margulies

estate of June Carter

Cash

Josh

Kaia Kater

Kassi Ashton

Kat Graham

Kate Tucker	Mariska Hargitay	PJ Morton	Stephen Earl
Keb' Mo'	Mark Erilli	Polyphia	Stephen Sanchez
Kelly Archer	Mark Volman	Pressing Strings	Steve Bogard
Kelly Carlin	Mary Bragg	Priscilla Block	Steven Tyler
Kelsea Ballerini	Mary Gauthier	Q-Tip	Susan Tedeschi
Kenny Wayne Shepherd	Mary J. Blige	Questlove	Suzanne Burkhead
Kevin Bacon	estate of Mary Wells	Reba McEntire	T Bone Burnett
Kiefer Sutherland	estate of Mary Wilson	Rhett Atkins	Tammy Hart
Kimberly Perry	Matt Maher	Rhett Miller	Tasha Cobbs Leonard
King Calaway	Matthew Montfort	Rhiannon Giddens	Tavia Gilbert
Kristen Bell	Matthew West	Richard Masur	Taylor Dayne
Kristin Chenoweth	Meghan Patrick	Rissi Palmer	Tenille Townes
Kyra Sedgwick	Michael Feinstein	Rodney Crowell	Terri Clark
Lainey Wilson	Michael Franti	Rosanne Cash	The Baylor Project
Lamb of God	Michael Ray	Rosario Dawson	The Grassroots
Langhorne Slim	Michael W. Smith	Ruby Amanfu	The Mavericks
Laura Dern	Michele Proute	Russell Dickerson	The Roots
Laura Veirs	Michelle Branch	Ryan Cabrera	The Scarlet Opera
Laura Veltz	Michelle Hurd	Sam Moore	The War & Treaty
Lauren Daigle	Mickey Guyton	Sam Phillips	Tift Merritt
Ledisi	Midland	Sam Williams	Tim Nichols
Lee Greenwood	Mike Pniewski	Samantha Mathis	Tom Kemp
Lee Thomas Miller	Missy Elliott	Sara Evans	estate of Tom Petty
Lera Lynn	Moiré Smiley	Scott Brick	Track45
Leyla McCalla	Morgan Wade	Scotty McCreery	Trisha Yearwood
Linda Powell	Naomi Cooke Johnson	Sean Astin	Troy Verges
Lindsay Ell	Nicholas Guest	Shakey Graves	Tyga
Lisa Ann Walter	Nicki Minaj	Shari Belafonte	Verdine White
Liz Rose	Panela Guest	Sharon Vaughn	Vince Gill
Loudon Wainwright III	Paris Jackson	Shemekia Copeland	Warren Haynes
Maggie Rose	Parker Welling	Sheryl Crow	Wendy Moten
Maggie Vail	Patrick Carney	Siedah Garrett	William Stanford
Mandy Moore	Paul Wall	Simon Vance	Davis
Marc Cohn	Peter Frampton	Sleeping with Sirens	YG
Marc Ribot	Peter Wolf	Smokey Robinson	Yolanda Adams
		Stacey Travis	

To send an email to your officials voicing your support, visit the [Human Artistry Campaign's "Contact Congress Portal."](#)

## The Sphinx Organization and American String Teachers Association join forces for Arts Engine Episode

NMC Members The Sphinx Organization and American String Teachers Association joined forces for a February Arts Engine Episode. Duane Padilla, Classical violinist and Content Chair for the American String Teachers Association joined Sphinx Organization founder Aaron Dworkin to discuss the extraordinary energy that diverse styles of music can bring to artistic experiences. Arts Engines reaches over 100,000 weekly viewers in partnership with Detroit Public Television, Ovation TV, The Violin

Channel and American Public Media including Performance Today and YourClassical. Arts Engines seeks to share the most valuable advice and input from arts administrators who tell their stories of creative problem-solving, policy, economic impact, crisis management and empowering the future of our field.

[View the episode here.](#)

## US Patent and Trademark Office to Hold Public Listening Session on AI and IP

The [US Patent and Trademark Office announcement](#), will be holding a public listening session on AI and IP, including copyright, at Loyola Law School in LA, on March 27 (both in person and remotely). The session will include representation from the Copyright Office and feature panel discussions by experts in the field of patent, trademark, and copyright law that focus on:

- a comparison of copyright and patent law approaches to the type and level of human contribution needed to satisfy authorship and inventorship requirements;
- ongoing copyright litigation involving generative AI; and
- a discussion of laws and policy considerations surrounding name, image, and likeness (NIL) issues, including the intersection of NIL and generative AI.

For more information about PTO's work with stakeholders on AI, see its [AI and Emerging Technology Events](#) page.

The National Music Council weighed in on the International Property Organization (WIPO) Intergovernmental Committee ("IGC") discussions on traditional cultural expressions.

[Read the full comments here.](#)



# MEMBER REPORTS

## American Academy of Teachers of Singing



**Celebrating 100 Years in 2022**

**Serving the Profession-Serving the Art**

[americanacademyofteachersofsinging.org](http://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."
- On October 15, 2023, the Academy was honored to induct artist teacher Harolyn Blackwell to membership. Ms. Blackwell's long and remarkable career began with *West Side Story* on Broadway and continued to include operatic performances in major national and international companies as well as an impressive number of recitals, concerts, recordings, and telecasts. She is a committed educator and currently serves on the faculties of Manhattan School of Music, Barnard College, and NYU Steinhardt.  
[www.harolynblackwell.com](http://www.harolynblackwell.com)
- Member Ian Howell has released a new book entitled "Advice for Young Musicians."
- The Academy is working on a presentation/conversation, "In Support of Pedagogy-Informed Science" to be presented at the NATS 2024 summer Conference in Knoxville.

## American String Teacher Association



Join the American String Teacher Association (ASTA) for our [upcoming annual conference](#), March 20-23, 2024, in Louisville, KY. We are thrilled to be collocating our event this year with the Suzuki Association of the Americas. Join us for two conferences for the price of one! Unable to join us this year? Please put March 19-22, 2025 on your calendar for next year's conference in Atlanta. Know of a wonderful middle or high school orchestra? Encourage them to apply for next year's National Orchestra Festival, held as part of our conference. To learn more about the application process, click [here](#).

Registration will open in mid-March for our [Virtual String Teachers Summit](#), held July 15-16, 2024 online. This two-day event includes keynotes, educational sessions, virtual reading sessions, and roundtable discussions. All content will be recorded and available for the rest of 2024 – so register and join us to learn in real time, or asynchronously following the event.

Finally, we are thrilled to announce the premiere of the first pieces from the [New Canon Project](#) on March 20th at our conference. 5 new works for secondary string ensembles, written by Black and Latinx composers, will be premiered by the ASTA Teachers Orchestra under the baton of [Tamara Dworetz](#). Know of composers who should consider participating in the next cohort? The application process will open this March. To learn more, go [here](#). We are grateful

for the support of the National Endowment for the Arts and the Sphinx Venture Fund for this effort.

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It's been a very busy and exciting time for BMI since our last update. As recently announced, New Mountain Capital, a leading growth-oriented investment firm, completed its acquisition of BMI. This marks an incredible new chapter for our company and our creative community. With New Mountain's support, BMI can accelerate our growth plan to drive increased distributions and enhanced services for our songwriters, composers and publishers. Mike O'Neill, BMI's President & CEO, will continue to lead the company, along with his leadership team, and we're looking forward to all the potential ahead.

In other news, BMI continued to advocate on behalf of our creators regarding the rising use of AI in the music industry. Last summer, BMI filed comments in response to the U.S. Copyright Office's Notice on copyright and artificial intelligence. BMI's comment focused on establishing protection for songwriters and composers and promoting the ethical use of AI in a way that fosters creativity and expands economic opportunities in the creative industries. In the fall, BMI partnered with the Smithsonian to host an event for Members of Congress at the National Museum of American History. The evening featured Kenneth "Babyface" Edmonds who shared the stories behind his hits and treated the audience to an acoustic performance. During the event, Mike

O'Neill highlighted the importance of protecting the rights of music creators as lawmakers make decisions about AI policy.

Our affiliates continued to see remarkable success and we celebrated their achievements at the BMI R&B/Hip-Hop Awards, BMI Troubadour Awards, BMI London Awards, and the BMI Country Awards. We were also excited to bring the BMI Stage back to the ACL Music Festival in October, showcasing new and emerging talent across genres. In January, we returned to the Sundance Film Festival to host an insightful panel highlighting the creative process of composing for film.

On the BMI Foundation side, the Chris Trousdale Dream Awards were given to Myles Williamson of Los Angeles County High School for the Arts, Mario Mallard of Detroit School of Arts, and Armand Xavier Rufen-Blanchette of Repertory Company High School for Theatre Arts. The BMI Foundation also named composers Bryan Garbe and Louis Stevens as recipients of the 2023 Pete Carpenter Fellowship, which recognizes aspiring media composers. As always, BMI was proud to support these emerging music creators.

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## College Band Directors National Association



I have very unfortunate news to share from the College Band Directors National Association. Our current president, Glen Adsit (Director of Bands at the Hartt School in Connecticut), passed away unexpectedly on January 16, 2024.

The band community has lost a great champion of new music, and music education, and a great person to all who knew him.

-Mark Spede, Past President, CBDNA



Glen Adsit served as the Director of Bands at The Hartt School from 2000-2004. In this capacity, he conducted the Wind Ensemble, co-conducted the Foot in the Door Ensemble, and taught graduate conducting. Adsit's commitment to teaching was recognized in 2014 when he received the Larsen Award for outstanding teaching at the University of Hartford. In 2015, he earned recognition as one of the 'Top 40 Educators Making a Difference' by Music For All.

Under his leadership, ensembles at The Hartt School have performed at prestigious venues worldwide, including the Musikverein in Vienna, Benaroya IIsley Hall in Seattle, Carnegie Hall's Stern Hall in New York, the Central Conservatory in Beijing, Harpa in Reykjavík, Kodak Hall at Eastman Theater in Rochester, and Symphony Hall in Boston.

His passion for contemporary music led to the

premieres of over sixty works by Hartt instrumental ensembles and the hosting of numerous guest conductors, composers, and performers. The Hartt Wind Ensemble, under his direction, recorded five acclaimed albums for the NAXOS label: Equinox, Passaggi, Dragon Rhyme, Terra Cruda, and Heavy Weather. Reviews have praised the ensemble's excellence, with Gramophone Magazine calling them 'stellar' and Fanfare Magazine noting Glen Adsit as 'one of the finest conductors leading a wind ensemble today.'

An advocate of new music, Adsit was the founder of the National Wind Ensemble Consortium Group (NWECCG) and the institute for the Advancement of Secondary and Primary Instrumental Repertoire Excellence (ASPIRE). The mission of these groups is to commission the world's finest composers to write music for primary, secondary and professional level ensembles.

In addition to his role at The Hartt School, Adsit served as the President of the College Band Directors National Association until his passing. Prior to his academic career, he was a public school band director at both the junior and senior high levels in the Plymouth-Canton School District in Plymouth-Canton, Michigan.

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## Drum Corps International



**Tickets to DCI Summer Tour On Sale Now**

For more than a half century, Drum Corps International (DCI) has been the music

industry leader in producing events for the world's finest marching ensembles for student musicians and performers. Established in 1972, DCI supports numerous programs around the globe while sanctioning participating drum corps, SoundSport® performance ensembles and DrumLine Battle™ teams performing in more than 100 events which comprise the annual Drum Corps International Tour. Tickets for 2024 tour events are on sale now at <https://www.dci.org/events>.

### **Nate Boudreaux named new CEO of Drum Corps International**

Drum Corps International (DCI), *Marching Music's Major League*, named Nate Boudreaux as its new Chief Executive Officer on November 1, 2023. Boudreaux, who will take over from retiring executive Dan Acheson, will serve as just the fourth full-time CEO for DCI since the nonprofit's founding in 1972. Boudreaux comes to DCI with nearly 25 years of experience in sports marketing and nonprofit association management, mostly recently as the Executive Director of USA Water Ski & Wake Sports. Check out this Q&A with the new CEO of DCI - [www.dci.org/news/qa-new-dci-chief-executive-officer-nate-boudreaux](http://www.dci.org/news/qa-new-dci-chief-executive-officer-nate-boudreaux)

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## **Make Music Alliance**

**MAKE MUSIC**

### **Baby You**

The Make Music Alliance will partner this year with the Przekrój Foundation to bring an ambitious project to life entitled "Baby You", which is a combination of public art and interactive performance.

The Poland-based [Przekrój Foundation](#) has commissioned the creation of a thirty-four-meter-long hot air balloon, in the shape of a sleeping child, symbolizing the power of dreams and the limitless possibilities within each of us. They will bring this balloon to Milwaukee for Make Music Day on June 21, 2024, and fly it (while tethered) around Veterans Park, on the shore of Lake Michigan. The process of inflating the balloon will be set to choral music composed for the occasion by [Michael Schachter](#) -- an emerging composer whose works have been featured by the Lincoln Center Festival and LA Philharmonic - and sung by hundreds of local singers from community choirs, schools, and houses of worship.

### **Marching Band Project with NFHS**

The Make Music Alliance is partnering with the [National Federation of State High School Associations](#) (NFHS) and [Make Music Inc](#) to launch a national program giving thousands of high school marching bands the opportunity to premiere a brand-new composition by [Randall Standridge](#). Standridge's piece is free for all bands to perform on June 21 for Make Music Day, and is uniquely inclusive, with optional parts to accommodate any kind of school musician.

### **New Participation Record**

Make Music Day 2024 is shaping up to be the biggest so far in the US. For the first time, over 130 cities have committed to hold celebrations. Some joining the celebration for the first time include Odessa (TX), Oshkosh (WI), Palm Beach (FL), and Springfield (MO).

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# Music Performance Trust Fund



## **The Recording Industry's Music Performance Trust Fund Announces Grants to Communities to Celebrate Jazz Appreciation Month in April 2024**

*Initiative to be Amplified by AllAboutJazz.com and JazzNearYou.com as Exclusive Media Partner*

The recording industry's **Music Performance Trust Fund (MPTF)**, a leading non-profit organization enriching lives and uniting communities through the power of music, is preparing to launch its annual initiative to sponsor admission-free live performances celebrating Jazz Appreciation Month (JAM) in April. Awareness for the 2024 campaign will benefit from the addition of media partners [Allaboutjazz.com](https://www.allaboutjazz.com) and [Jazznearyou.com](https://www.jazznearyou.com), websites which boast the world's largest jazz events calendar and reach a combined 240,000 viewers per month.

MPTF Trustee Dan Beck commented, "We are thrilled to have these two dynamic websites involved in driving awareness to our admission-free live performances. Not only will jazz fans be informed about our Jazz Appreciation Month initiative, but they will be able to get specific information about the bands, dates, times, and places for these jazz concerts."

Primarily funded by four major record companies, including Sony Music, Universal Music Group, Warner Music Group, and Walt

Disney Records, the MPTF has also played a vital role in support of the music industry's gig economy. The independently run organization has distributed millions of dollars in financial resources and grants, engaging professional musicians who are members of the American Federation of Musicians (AFM) to perform live in admission-free events across North America. Since its founding in 1948, it has distributed approximately \$620 million (USD) in sponsorship money.

The MPTF formalized its jazz appreciation program six years ago, and despite the negative impact of Covid-19, it has grown rapidly. In 2019 the initiative provided 125 fully funded performances throughout the U.S. and Canada; that grew to 270 events in 2022. This past year, MPTF's JAM events more than doubled again to 575 performances.

Over 2,500 musicians participated in events in 77 North American markets in April 2023. In addition, 75 concerts were live-streamed free through the MPTF Facebook page. Combined, the MPTF sponsored well over 1,000 jazz performances throughout 2023.

Michael Ricci, founder and publisher of [AllAboutJazz.com](https://www.allaboutjazz.com) and [JazzNearYou.com](https://www.jazznearyou.com) added, "Our primary goal is to give venues and presenters a platform to freely list their jazz events and reach a wider audience while simultaneously helping jazz enthusiasts locate and attend live jazz events in their communities. We will post dates for these admission-free performances on our website and we are thrilled to work with the Music Performance Trust Fund and support union locals of the American Federation of Musicians throughout the U.S. and Canada."

Events will be organized by American Federation of Musicians locals to ensure fair compensation for all performers.

**About the MPTF:** The recording industry's Music Performance Trust Fund is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit public service organization whose mission is to support admission-free, live events performed by professional musicians throughout the United States and Canada. We seek to enrich the lives of the public, young and old, through music, and to contribute to the public's knowledge and appreciation of music. We also seek to make music and music education an exciting experience, and to expand it to every child's life experience. The MPTF was established 75 years ago by recording companies including Sony Music, Universal Music Group, and Warner Music Group. Interested parties may contact Natty Hepburn-Beaty, Manager of Marketing Services, at [nhepburnbeaty@musicpf.org](mailto:nhepburnbeaty@musicpf.org) or visit [www.musicpf.org](http://www.musicpf.org).

**About the AAJ:** All About Jazz has been a pillar of the jazz community since 1995, championing the music as an art form and, more importantly, supporting the musicians who create it. Their enduring commitment has made "AAJ" one of the most culturally important websites of its kind, read by hundreds of thousands of enthusiasts, musicians and industry figures every month. For more information, contact Michael Ricci at [mricci.aaj@gmail.com](mailto:mricci.aaj@gmail.com).

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## Music Teachers National Association



### **Dr. Gary Ingle to Retire as Executive Director and CEO of MTNA**

Dr. Gary Ingle, MTNA Executive Director and CEO, is set to retire effective June 30, 2024. Ingle, who has served at the helm of MTNA for the past 28 years, has been working with the MTNA Board of Directors and its Search Committee to ensure a smooth transition of leadership for the association.

The MTNA Board has been active in the selection process for Ingle's successor, with plans to announce the new CEO at the National Conference in Atlanta. After the leadership transition is complete, Ingle intends to remain active in the music teaching profession, advocating the importance of the public-private partnership in a well-rounded music education.

### **2024 MTNA National Conference**

The next MTNA National Conference will be held in Atlanta, Georgia, March 16–20, 2024. Highlights include evening concerts, master classes, the finals of the national competitions and more than 100 breakout sessions. For more information or to register, visit [www.mtna.org](http://www.mtna.org).

### **13th Annual Collegiate Symposium**

Twelve years since hosting the inaugural event, MTNA's annual Collegiate Symposium returned to the University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre & Dance January 13–14, 2024, with more than 100 collegians, college faculty

and young professionals from around the country in attendance.

This year's Symposium, sponsored by the RCM Certificate Program, featured dozens of speaker sessions and research presentations on a variety of topics, with keynote presentations from pianist and composer Catherine Rollin; Paola Savvidou, program manager of the Wellness Initiative and adjunct lecturer in piano at the UM-SMTD; and Randall Faber of Piano Adventures.

The weekend culminated in a Gala Dinner, which featured a special tribute to the late Jovanni-Rey V. de Pedro (1982–2019), who organized the inaugural symposium under his presidency of the MTNA Collegiate Chapter at the University of Michigan. At the gala, MTNA Executive Director and CEO Dr. Gary L. Ingle announced the establishment of the Jovanni-Rey V. de Pedro Memorial Fund for Young Professionals, an endowment created to provide financial support for the Symposium that has currently raised more than \$27,500.

### **MTNA Trial Membership Available**

Now through June 30, 2024, anyone joining for the first time as an active member will receive 50% off national dues. The new membership year will begin July 1, 2024. Join online at [www.mtna.org](http://www.mtna.org), where new members will automatically receive the pro-rated amount.

### **2025 MTNA National Conference Proposals**

MTNA will begin accepting proposals for the 2025 National Conference Sessions on February 15. The deadline for submissions is April 18, 2024, 3:00 P.M. Eastern Time. Check [www.mtna.org](http://www.mtna.org) for details.

### **Grants Applications Available**

Applications are now available for the MTNA **Foundation Fund** grants. Program Development, Community Engagement,

Teacher Enrichment and Affiliate Enrichment Grant applications are due May 1, 2024, 3:00 P.M. Eastern Time. For more information, visit [www.mtnafoundation.org](http://www.mtnafoundation.org).

### **MTNA eFestival**

The MTNA eFestival is 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](http://www.mtna.org).

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## **National Association for Music Education**



### **Music In Our Schools Month® 2024:**

This year marks the 39th annual [Music In Our Schools Month®](http://www.mtna.org) (MIOSM®), bringing us one step closer to the monumental milestone of celebrating music education in March for **40 YEARS!** To celebrate MIOSM this year, NAfME President Scott R. Sheehan selected “I See ME in Music Education” as the theme. President Sheehan chose this theme because it highlights the way we can all see ourselves in music and music education and how each person's identity is reflected in the music they experience. NAfME is proud to share this year's

MIOSM logo, and we encourage you to join the celebration in March!



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/student-opportunities/music-in-our-schools-month/>. 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 Elections 2024:

In February, NAFME members elected new 2024–2026 Presidents-Elect for the National leadership and the North Central, Southern, and Western Divisions: Cecil Adderley is the 2024–2026 National President-Elect; Clay H. Blackman is the 2024–2026 North Central Division President-Elect; Annamarie Bollino is the 2024–2026 Southern Division President-Elect; and Anne Fennell is the 2024–2026 Western Division President-Elect. They will assume their new offices in June 2024. Learn more about each new officer:

[bit.ly/2024NAfME Elections](https://bit.ly/2024NAfME Elections)



#### NAfME Collegiate Leadership Advocacy Summit:

The NAFME Collegiate Program is pleased to announce the dates of the [Collegiate Leadership Advocacy Summit](#). This event will take place June 10–12 in Washington, DC, and welcomes NAFME Collegiate members from all over the country to participate in two days of leadership and advocacy learning sessions while networking with the nation's top music education leaders. The Summit will include NAFME's annual Hill Day event, during which the attendees will take to Capitol Hill to meet with federal legislators to share their story and advocate for music education at the federal level. For more information, please visit:

[bit.ly/NAfMECLAS](https://bit.ly/NAfMECLAS)

#### NAfME 2024 Biennial Music Research and Teacher Education Conference:

[This event](#) will take place September 25–28 at the Westin Peachtree Plaza in Atlanta, Georgia. The executive committees of NAFME's Society for Research in Music Education and Society of Music Teacher Education have a call for proposals on music education research and music teacher education open through February 12. Registration for the event will be open soon. Interested sponsors can reach out



to [corporate@nafme.org](mailto:corporate@nafme.org). Learn more [bit.ly/2024MRTE](https://bit.ly/2024MRTE).

### **NAfME Divisive Concepts Laws Town Hall on Results from Fall 2023 Survey:**

In fall 2023, led by Karen Salvador, PhD, and Ryan D. Shaw, Assistant Professors of Music Education at Michigan State University, NAfME conducted a follow-up survey of music educators on how [divisive concepts laws](#) are affecting them and their music programs. In this town hall learn about this second survey's findings and resources to help you navigate these laws. A town hall will take place March 6 at 7:00PM ET. Register here:

[bit.ly/DCLTownHall0306](https://bit.ly/DCLTownHall0306). Learn more here: [bit.ly/DCLMusicEducation](https://bit.ly/DCLMusicEducation).

### **NAfME Corporate Membership:**

Amplify your brand in music education with [NAfME's Corporate Membership](#). Benefit from exclusive access to a network of more than 55,000 engaged K-12 and higher education music educators, enhancing your impact and extending your outreach in the profession. Learn more:

<https://nafme.org/membership/corporate/>.

### **NAfME Public Policy and Advocacy Updates:**

#### **Federal Funds Survey:**

The National Association for Music Education (NAfME), in collaboration with the Educational Theatre Association (EdTA), the National Dance Education Organization (NDEO), and the National Art Education Association (NAEA), conducted its second annual survey to collect data on the use of federal funds to support music and the arts (dance, theatre, and visual arts). View the [survey results here](#) ([bit.ly/FedFundsMusicArtsEd](https://bit.ly/FedFundsMusicArtsEd)).

#### **NAfME Podcast with Christy Todd:**

Tune in to the [latest NAfME Music Education](#)

[Advocate podcast](#) featuring NAfME Member and 2024 Georgia Teacher of the Year, Christy Todd—who is one of four finalists for 2024 National Teacher of the Year, the top national honor for teaching. Christy joins host Jazzmone Sutton, NAfME State Advocacy Engagement Manager, and shares her story and reflections on how to make advocacy actionable for the music education advocate: [bit.ly/MEAPodcastS2E1](https://bit.ly/MEAPodcastS2E1).

#### **AI and Music Education:**

Since generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) models made their way into the education space in 2023, we have seen several states move to provide guidance for educators and administrators on how to integrate AI into the classroom. In addition to states providing guidance on AI in education, Congress and the Tennessee legislature have introduced first of its kind legislation on protecting creators from AI-based misconduct at the federal and state levels. As the use of AI becomes more prevalent in schools, it will become increasingly necessary for state and federal education agencies to offer educators guidance on how to use AI safely, and how to curb its misuse.

- State Departments of Education Guidance
  - [Oregon](#)
  - [West Virginia](#)
  - [Washington](#)
  - [North Carolina](#)
  - [California](#)
- Tennessee ELVIS Act: In January, Tennessee's Governor Bill Lee announced the "[Ensuring Likeness Voice and Image Security \(ELVIS\)](#)" Act. The ELVIS Act would update Tennessee's Protection of Personal Rights law to provide legal protection to music industry professionals from the misuse of AI.
- [No AI Fraud Act \(H.R.6943\)](#): Introduced by Congresswomen Maria Salazar (FL-27) and

Madeleine Dean (PA-04), this bill establishes baseline federal protections for individuals and their intellectual property from AI-fueled misuse. Specifically the legislation seeks to:

- Reaffirm the intellectual property rights an individual has for their own likeness and voice
- Provide remedies of redress for unauthorized simulation of voice or likeness

#### **NAfME Collecting Input from Educators on AI:**

In what ways are you using AI, or thinking about using it? What questions do you have about AI and music education? Share your input here: [bit.ly/AIMusicEdSurvey](https://bit.ly/AIMusicEdSurvey). Access NAfME resources on AI and music education here: [bit.ly/AIMusicEducation](https://bit.ly/AIMusicEducation).

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## **National Association of Music Merchants**



#### **NAMM Show 2024 Creates Global Platform to Accelerate the Future of the Music Industry**

From January 25-28, [NAMM](#) (The National Association of Music Merchants), the largest global not-for-profit music trade organization, gathered the music industry at The 2024 NAMM Show for an exhilarating week that set the music industry narrative for years ahead. With 1,600+ exhibitors representing 3,500+ brands from around the globe, The NAMM Show showcased innovative technologies, products, and trends that shape the future of the music industry while creating a week-long platform for personal connections and meetings that are a necessity for the growth of

the music industry.

“The 2024 NAMM Show was an overwhelming success that energized our organizations’ members and accelerated the positive momentum for the entire global music industry,” says John Mlynczak, NAMM president and CEO. “We stayed laser-focused on bringing together the right mix of companies, buyers, international attendees, influencers, media, and artists from across our global industry to empower the relationships that have built and will continue to grow our industry.”

[Read the entire press release](#)

#### **The 2024 NAMM Show Education Highlights**

Artificial intelligence and its impact on the music and sound industry emerged as a key theme at The 2024 NAMM Show. Educational sessions explored AI as a marketing and business efficiency tool, starting with the NAMM Marketing Summit on Wednesday before the show. Presented by Molly Mahoney, this immersive workshop looked at how music businesses can harness generative AI to streamline content creation to improve the impact of their marketing. Other NAMM U sessions revealed how to use AI to maximize Google and search engine optimization, as well as how AI can unlock buyer preferences and insights.

In The NAMM Show’s pro audio and music technology education programming, AI turned out to be the topic of a keynote: “Human-Driven Content Creation vs. AI-Driven Content Generation.” Organized by A3E and TEC Tracks, this session explored the concept of defining, labeling and protecting artistic originality in the age of AI. Elsewhere, education tracks navigated how AI might shape the recording studios of the future, immersive audio and workflows.

In collaboration with the College Music Society (CMS), The NAMM Foundation offered more than 46 sessions and events for college music students and faculty. Students seeking careers in the industry have multiple opportunities to network with industry professionals eager to share their career path experiences and meet prospective employees. Session highlights:

- **Network With the Pros:** Quick Tips for Having a Career in the Music Industry
- **SheRocksIt:** Women in Music Share Career Insights
- **From College to Career:** LACM Grads Transition to Working in the Music Industry
- **Understanding Copyright:** Four Key Concepts You Should Know

Music Education Days offered music teachers and attendees a unique opportunity to explore educational sessions and hands-on workshops that provide professional development in a global gathering that promotes unity in the music industry, helping create a future filled with more music makers. In collaboration with 12 music education and music service organizations, The NAMM Foundation presented more than 40 sessions, including topics like:

- Instrument Maintenance Solutions to Keep Students Playing
- Basics of Audio for the Music Educator
- Creating Adaptive, Inclusive Music Classrooms
- Teaching Tech and Entrepreneurship Through the Lens of the Music Industry

### **U.S. Department of Labor Issues Final Independent Contractor Rule**

On January 10, 2024, the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) issued the final independent contractor rule, which provides guidance to assess how workers should be classified under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA). The FLSA sets standards for minimum wage, overtime pay, recordkeeping, youth employment

standards and other requirements that apply to employees in the private sector.

[Read More](#)

### **NAMM Foundation News**

#### **The NAMM Foundation Announced \$477,500 in Grants to 24 Music-Making Programs**

The NAMM Foundation continues its vision of creating a more musical world, by providing financial grants to community music-making organizations that are serving as models for outreach and opportunities to make music. In line with the season of celebration and giving, a total of \$477,500 has been awarded to 24 music organizations from around the world. The annual grants from NAMM Foundation reflect the generosity of all NAMM members and private donors and their ongoing support for the industry's annual gathering at The NAMM Show.

[Learn More](#)

#### **Choose to Teach Monthly Video Series to Connect and Inspire Music Educators**

The Music Achievement Council's Choose to Teach monthly video series are designed specifically to help educators remain motivated through the sharing of words of encouragement and support from respected colleagues who have successfully navigated these last few, exceptionally challenging years.

[Watch and Share](#)

#### **A Career in Music is a Viable Career Choice!**

The NAMM Foundation, in partnership with the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS), recently launched the Consider a Career in Music initiative, which supports students, parents, teachers, administrators, school counselors, and education professionals in their efforts to support student exploration and career planning in the many fulfilling and sustainable

careers in music and the creative field. We also created a helpful brochure highlighting many career opportunities and supportive reasons for pursuing a career in the music and creative industry.

[Learn More](#)

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## National Federation of Music Clubs



The mission of the National Federation of Music Clubs is to support and develop American music and musicians.

This is a time for celebration and realization of that mission as thousands of juniors across the nation are performing in festivals, while earning Certificates and Gold Cups for their accomplishments. In addition, hundreds of secondary school students, college/university students, and adults have submitted applications for Awards in instrumental, chamber, and vocal composition, poetry, National Music Essay Competition, accompanying, pedagogy, and for scholarships to summer music centers.

We invite you to visit our NFMC website [www.nfmc-music.org](http://www.nfmc-music.org) and scroll to the Competitions & Awards Chart for award opportunities. Share these available awards with your colleagues and friends – they will thank you!

All National Federation members are invited to

attend the [2024 Conference](#) in Bettendorf, Iowa, June 11-15 at the Isle Hotel. Our emphasis this year will be on life-long learning, whether adult or junior. We'll be hearing from some of our Festival Bulletin composers and pedagogues. Inspiring us to explore ways to use sound, physical gesture and imagination will be Dr. Helen Marlais, Melody Bober, and Dr. Jason Sifford. Our Festival Chorus director, Dan Andersen, has ideas to help our voices age better and continue singing throughout our life!

Membership is open, so join the fun and come to our Conference!



Founded in 1898, NFMC is celebrating our 125th year of promoting American Music.

Deborah T. Freeman, NFMC President

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# National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS)



## Outstanding Educator Awards Announced - Teachers Across the Country Honored

A total of 56 individuals have been selected to receive Outstanding Performing Arts Educator Awards from the NFHS. These educators have been honored with plaques, certificates, articles, graphics and much more.

- [22 with Outstanding Music Educator Awards](#)
- [21 with Outstanding Speech and Debate Educator Awards](#)
- [13 with Outstanding Theatre Awards](#)

[Read more about these amazing educators.](#)

## Education and Industry Leaders Unite as NFHS and NAMM Collaborate for Second Meeting

The NFHS and NAMM jointly hosted the second annual Performing Arts Education and Creative Industry Meeting in Anaheim, California late January. This event brought

together over 60 leaders representing 19 states and 57 state and national organizations.



The meeting was designed for the music education and creative industry to work together to raise awareness, dive into data, and learn about trends industry wide. The 2024 meeting served to showcase the projects that came out of the meeting last year and strengthen the bond between this unique group moving forward.

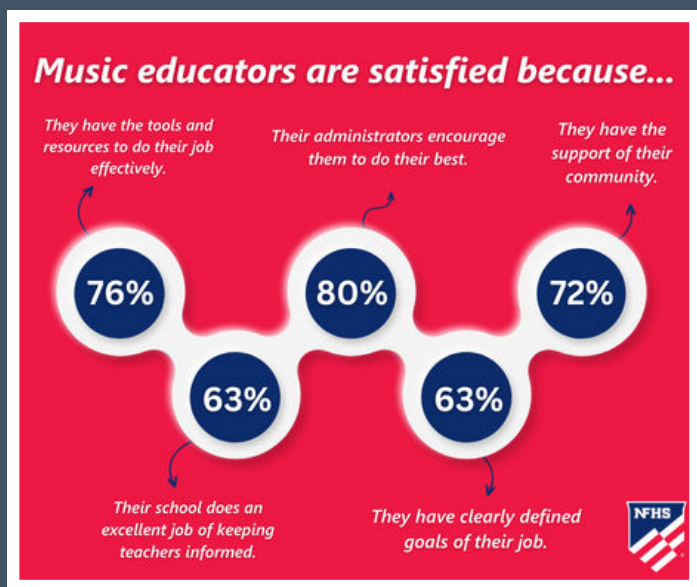
[Read the Press Release](#)

[Check out the PowerPoint Presentations](#)

## Music Educator Satisfaction: Use this Data for Advocacy Purposes in your State

We collected responses from over 3,000 Music Educators from across the country about their current satisfaction, why they became educators, and the future of music. The data lives on visually appealing dashboards and can be viewed either as a National Overview or State by State breakdowns.

The surveys and dashboards are designed to assist states, schools, and other organizations in understanding satisfaction levels of educators and directors in the United States.



[View the Data](#)

[Ask A Question](#)

[Ask about State Branded Graphics](#)



[2024 Performing Arts Conference](#)

## National Opera Association



The National Opera Association held its 69th Annual National Conference, "Our Sounds and Stories," in Tempe, AZ, in January 2024. The event, with a special focus on new works and

and opera creators, drew a record attendance of over 300 opera professionals, educators, composers and librettists, and students. The Keynote Address was given by the illustrious American composer Jake Heggie, whose touching and human-centered words set the tone for the entire conference that followed. Notable sessions included a distinguished panel comprised of composers, librettists, and opera creators discussing how new operas impact current audiences and tell our story to future generations, and a panel "Voice and Opera Curricula: Training for Sustainable Careers" which was the second in a three-part series co-hosted by NOA and OPERA America this year. NOA's Lifetime Achievement Award was given to Mark Campbell, foremost American librettist, and Legacy Awards were given to composer Adolphus Hailstork and soprano and educator Hilda Harris. The conference was also rich with sessions exploring the tools and topics relevant to the professional opera educator, and many opportunities for building collaborations, including a New Works Expo. A pre-conference workshop intensive on Staged Intimacy Direction was also enthusiastically received.

NOA's next conference will be held in Savannah, GA, in January 2025, and will be held in partnership with the NATS Winter Workshop.

## Quadrant Research



**Introducing TeachMusic.org: A Dynamic and Inspiring Platform To Address Teacher Shortage in the U.S.**

**Warren, NJ** (January 16, 2024) — Today marks

the launch of a groundbreaking online resource for music enthusiasts and educators: [TeachMusic.org](https://www.teachmusic.org). This innovative platform is poised to transform the landscape of music education by providing an accessible hub for students, parents, counselors, teachers, and anyone passionate about the world of music education.

The new website was developed by the TeachMusic Coalition, formed in 2022 to address the widely publicized teacher shortage in the United States. The Coalition helps find resources and solutions to the immediate, short-term, and longer-term challenges facing the music educator workforce, working to recruit, shepherd, and retain the next generation of music educators.

As a result, TeachMusic.org was created to help anyone in the career decision-making process have access to information and resources to support a student's successful journey to becoming a music educator. The website addresses and reaffirms the many questions that may be on the minds of those exploring a career in music education, such as, "Do I love music? Do I enjoy helping others and making a difference in my school and community? Do I see myself as a leader? Do I like learning about different styles of music and different cultures? Do I want to connect with other musicians and build a network? Do I want a career where I can inspire others and improve the world?"

The new website features a "choose your own adventure" interface and offers a range of valuable tools and resources to help students and their support networks determine a pathway toward teaching music.

- **For Students:** Information includes the Three Steps to a Life-Changing Career, including preparation, application/audition process, and what to expect as a music education major.

- **For Parents:** Information includes college preparation, cost of college, federal student aid, local aid, and additional resources, including loan forgiveness and tax credits.
- **For Guidance Counselors:** Information on why music education is a valuable and sustainable career pathway for students and information on other careers in the music profession.

Ultimately, TeachMusic.org inspires and empowers teachers and students, fostering a community that celebrates the joy of music education. The TeachMusic Coalition aims to make music accessible, engaging and enjoyable to everyone and create a space where creativity and collaboration thrive.

TeachMusic.org is live and invites everyone to explore its offerings by visiting <https://www.teachmusic.org>.



### About the TeachMusic Coalition

The TeachMusic Coalition comprises partners passionate about providing resources and solutions to the music education workforce's immediate, short-term, and long-term challenges. These partners have and will continue to work tirelessly to build the resources and support necessary to ensure the next generation of students can be taught by outstanding music educators.

Those organizations participating include the American Choral Directors Association, American String Teachers Association, College Band Directors National Association, CMA Foundation, El Sistema USA, Florida Music Education Association, Giles Communications, Montclair State University, Music Educator Consultants, Music for All, NAMM, NAMM Foundation, National Association for Music Education, NFHS, Oklahoma City University, Oklahoma Youth Orchestra, Quadrant Research, Save The Music Foundation and Yamaha Corporation of America.

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## Sigma Alpha Iota



Sigma Alpha Iota International Music Fraternity announces that the next triennial National Convention will be held in Minneapolis, MN, at the Hyatt Regency Minneapolis July 17-21, 2025. The theme will be "United in Music." World premieres for the InterAmerican Music Awards will be given, featuring the winning work and commissions from the Composer/Judges.

The annual SAI 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](http://www.sai-national.org). SAI is pleased to introduce the new Composers Bureau Director, Dr. Krista Vázquez-Connelly.

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## 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  
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

**THE BEST PLACE TO STAY  
CONNECTED WITH THE  
NATIONAL MUSIC COUNCIL  
IS THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA!**

Staying in touch with the National Music Council is easiest through social media!

The content on our social channels allows you to stay updated on National Music Council events, remain informed about the latest developments in music rights, and support causes surrounding music education.

With that being said, we warmly welcome you to give our Facebook page a thumbs-up and join us on Instagram!

**Instagram - @NMCouncil**

**Facebook - National Music Council**



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**CLICK TO LIKE US ON  
FACEBOOK**