

NEWSLETTER FALL 2025

INSIDE THIS EDITION:

NMC LAUNCHES NEW VIDEO SERIES — “VOICES ON GENERATIVE AI”

VOICES ON GENERATIVE AI

NMC SPEAKS WITH MUSIC CREATORS, ADMINISTRATORS, AND CHAMPIONS OF
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY PROTECTION

*It is Our Hope That This Project Will Help Inform Public Discourse
on the Crucial Need to Protect the Rights of Human Creators
in the US and Around the World*

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As autumn settles in, the sounds of music once again fill our schools, concert halls, and communities. Across the country, thousands of marching band performances, fall choir concerts, orchestra programs, theatre productions, and professional ensembles remind us of the extraordinary vitality of our music ecosystem. Each note reflects not only artistic excellence but also the resilience of a field that continues to innovate, inspire, and unite people across generations.

This fall is a particularly important moment for our Council and its member organizations. The national conversation on education, intellectual property, workforce readiness, and policy is shifting rapidly and music must remain at the center of that dialogue. Music is not a luxury or an extracurricular add-on; it is an essential driver of creativity, community, and economic impact. As our schools expand offerings in technology, career and technical

education, and new ensemble models, it is vital that traditional music education and emerging opportunities exist side by side. Our responsibility is to ensure access to both, so that every student can experience the lifelong benefits of music.

Looking ahead, the National Music Council is intensifying its efforts in three key areas:

- Advocacy and Policy Leadership – Ensuring music remains a core part of education and cultural policy nationwide, while preparing for the national elections and the legislative shifts they may bring.
- Intellectual Property and Artist Rights – Protecting creators in the face of rapid technological change, particularly as AI continues to transform the landscape of music production and distribution.
- Coalition Building – Expanding partnerships across education, industry, and arts policy to strengthen the collective voice of music at the national level.

Our member organizations continue to lead with innovation, passion, and integrity. Together, we are building a future where music is recognized not just as an art form, but as a force for democracy, economic strength, and human connection.

As we move into the heart of the school year and performance season, let us remember that every rehearsal, every performance, and every act of advocacy contributes to a larger story, one where music shapes not only the cultural fabric of our nation but the very character of our communities.

Thank you for your leadership, your advocacy, and your unwavering commitment to music.

Dr. James Weaver
President, National Music Council

NATIONAL MUSIC COUNCIL LAUNCHES NEW VIDEO SERIES, “VOICES ON GENERATIVE AI”



The National Music Council is excited to announce the launch of our new video series, “Voices on Generative AI.” As part of NMC’s ongoing commitment to keeping our members informed about the rapidly evolving world of Generative Artificial Intelligence and its impact on the music community, this series features diverse perspectives from members of the music community who are at the center of the global GenAI conversation.

Additional interviews will be added periodically. It is our hope that this project will help inform public discourse on the crucial need to protect the rights of human creators in the US and around the world in the age of Generative AI.

You can find the interviews on the [NMC website](#).

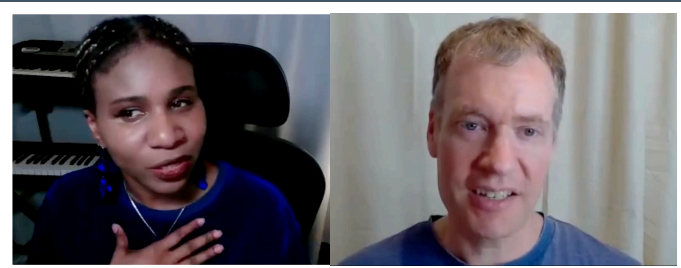
The National Music Council Board of Directors is currently reviewing the organization’s statement on Generative AI and we will be posting an addendum to it shortly. You can find our [current statement](#) on the NMC website.

MEMBER NOTICE: NEW NMC BOARD ELECTED

We are pleased to announce that voting members of the National Music Council approved the new board slate and proposed bylaw revisions.

To view the current board of directors, visit the [NMC Website](#).

NEW! NATIONAL MUSIC COUNCIL MEMBER SPOTLIGHT VIDEO SERIES



*Lachi, CEO & Founder
RAMPD*

*Aaron Friedman, Executive Director
Make Music Day*

The **NMC Member Spotlight Video Series** is a new initiative that highlights the inspiring work of our member organizations. Our goal is to celebrate the creativity, dedication, and leadership of those driving meaningful change across the music community.

The teaser video for the series is now live on the [NMC website](#), with full interviews to be added regularly. Our first two features will be RAMPD and Make Music Day.

If you would like your organization featured, please reach out to us via email at admin@musiccouncil.org.

NEW MEMBER WELCOME!

Please join us in welcoming the newest members of the National Music Council! We're proud to have these outstanding organizations and individuals join our growing network of music advocates, educators, and creators.

RAMPD

RAMPD.org (Recording Artists and Music Professionals with Disabilities) is the U.N.-recognized, award-winning platform equipping the music industry with disability-inclusive tools and resources while cultivating a global network of peer-vetted music creators and professionals with neurodivergence, disability, and other conditions. Only three years young, RAMPD is launching its first regional chapter, headquartered in LA and covering the West Coast, focussed on regional gatherings, events, and programming.

Having worked with the likes of the Recording Academy, TIDAL, the Country Music Association, and Live Nation, RAMPD is best known for bringing ASL to the GRAMMYS red carpet. As a new member of the National Music Council, RAMPD has been able to lend its voice in support of the TRAIN Act alongside other entertainment giants looking to protect the rights of human creators. [Learn more about RAMPD here](#).

FAN ALLIANCE

Fan Alliance is a new grassroots organization to educate and build a movement of fans to join the fight for artist rights and thriving independent venues. Their goal is to educate fans on the issues working artists, both emerging and established, are facing today and to mobilize fans about campaigns and actions to support a healthy music ecosystem.

Currently, Fan Alliance is supporting the Human Artistry Campaign's effort to create A.I. protections and NIVA's Fix the Tix Campaign for ticket transparency and to end predatory ticket reselling. [Learn more about Fan Alliance here.](#)

NATIVE AMERICAN MUSIC AWARDS & ASSOCIATION (N.A.M.A.)

Founded in 1998, the Native American Music Awards & Association supports and celebrates Indigenous musicians. As the first organization of its kind, the Native American Music Awards honors Native American-authored music across diverse genres—from traditional songs to rock, pop, blues, hip hop, country, new age, and unique indigenous styles like Waila (Chicken Scratch) and Native American church music.

Through music and dance, N.A.M.A. celebrates cultural survival while promoting community renewal and enrichment. [Learn more about N.A.M.A. here.](#)

MUSIC FOR ALL

Music for All's mission is to create, provide and expand positively life-changing experiences through music. The organization offers hands-on experiences for students, professional development for teachers, and resources to empower communities to support the arts. Music For All believe that music and arts education is a core to students' education and must be available to all students.

Its programs include the Bands of America Grand National Championships and Regional Championships for marching bands, the Music for All Summer Symposium, the Music for All National Festival and Affiliate Regional Music Festivals for concert ensembles, and national honor ensembles for students, including the Bands of America Honor Band marched for the fifth time in the Rose Parade® on New Year's Day 2022. [Learn more about Music for All here.](#)

SING DEMOCRACY 250 UPDATE



What is Sing Democracy?

Sing Democracy 250 aims to ignite a nationwide movement. From every state in this nation, the power of song will ring out in 2026, a symphony of unity and hope, echoing the words of the Declaration of Independence.

We invite high school, college and community choirs from every state to join us in 2026, to lend their voices to the cause and carry the torch of democracy forward through a specially-designed music program.

Why We Are Doing It?

Today, the viability of democracy faces unprecedented threats. Global freedom is under attack, both by rising autocracies and major democracies faltering from within. In this pivotal moment, we, as Americans, must show that our democracy can and will endure, inspire, and progress.

Together, we will Sing Democracy 250 - a movement of resilience, a chorus of hope, and a celebration of the values that define us as Americans.

Why Music?

Music is a universal language, one that transcends cultural boundaries and can unite people of different backgrounds. Throughout history, music has played a crucial role in social movements.

From protest songs to anthems of solidarity, music has been used to express dissent, promote unity, and inspire change. Music has the power to connect people and create a stronger community.

It is our hope that Sing Democracy 250 will inspire Americans to do their part to strengthen this democracy. Democracy depends on all of us. We, the people, are the key. This is our time to fulfill democracy's promise.



CALLING ALL CHORAL LEADERS

The Time is Now

With only one month left for choirs to apply, we're asking you to:

- **Organize a performance** in your community.
- **Partner with other choirs** for greater community involvement.
- **Reach out** to local sponsors, arts councils, and organizations to support your event.

How You Can Help

As of today, Sing Democracy 250 has 163 choirs involved in 83 performances in 37 states and the District of Columbia.

The goal is to have at least one participant in every state. Participants are still needed in Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, South Dakota, Texas, and Utah.

Applications for participation in Sing Democracy 250—All America Program are open through the end of October. [Apply here.](#)

MEMBER REPORTS

American Academy of Teachers of Singing



Celebrating 100 Years in 2022

Serving the Profession—Serving the Art

www.americanacademyofteachersofsinging.org

The American Academy of Teachers of Singing (AATS) is a select group of internationally recognized voice teachers and singing voice experts founded in 1922 with the express purpose of contributing to the singing profession in an advisory capacity.

- **Executive committee:**

- Chair: Don Simonson Morrill, Professor Emeritus of Music and Theatre at Iowa State University
- Vice Chair: Mary Saunders Barton, Professor Emeritus, Musical Theatre Voice and Voice Pedagogy at Penn State University
- Secretary: John Nix, Associate Professor of Voice, Voice Pedagogy, and Research at the University of Texas, San Antonio
- Treasurer: Margaret Cusack, Professor and Chair of the Department of Performance Studies at Westminster Choir College of Rider University

- The Academy presented a position paper entitled “Pedagogy-Informed Science: An Essential Partner to Science-Informed Pedagogy” at the 2025 International Congress of Voice Teachers, *Voices Uplifted*, in Toronto (July 31-August 3). The paper builds upon AATS’ ongoing commitment to augmenting voice pedagogy by advocating for the integration of pedagogical traditions with voice science. It responds to the 2014 AATS statement, underscoring the need for a collaborative approach that respects both historical and scientific contributions to vocal training. Presenters: Lynn Holding, Ken Bozeman, John Nix, Trineice Robinson Martin, Don Simonson. The session was very well-attended and inspired a robust conversation.

- **Books by members:**

- Ian Howell- *Hearing Singing: A Guide to Functional Listening and Voice Perception*, Rowman and Littlefield, 2025
- Jeanne Goffi-Fynn (ed with Matthew Hoch) **Student-Centered Voice Pedagogy**, Rowman and Littlefield, March 18, 2025
- Ken Bozeman (2nd edition) *Practical Vocal Acoustics: Pedagogic Applications for Teachers and Singers*, Bloomsbury Academic, 2025

Learn more about the American Academy of Teachers of Singing [here](#).

American Guild of Organists



The AGO Launches New Online Community for Members

The American Guild of Organists recently introduced THE LOFT, a new, members-only online community powered by Higher Logic's Thrive platform. THE LOFT offers the AGO's 10,000 members an exclusive destination for connection and collaboration, a searchable member database, and a new channel for publishing content from The American Organist and posting blogs from educators and researchers, performers, and industry experts.

THE LOFT launched with four communities: an Open Forum for general discussion, and special interest groups for Composers & Arrangers, Young Organists, and Chapter Leaders. Thrive allows members to conduct online conversations, as well as share and archive documents. Future communities may include Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility (IDEA), as well as forums for part-time and substitute organists, and topics such as the music of Bach and Baroque Composers, Organ Design & Building, and Pedagogy.

THE LOFT is also prepared to host chapter communities, allowing individual chapters the option to move away from traditional newsletters and email for communications and shared drives or filing cabinets for document retention. Chapter leaders can easily post meeting notices, promote concerts and recitals, and share meeting minutes with all current members, with rosters updated automatically from the Guild's database.

“Like many organizations, the AGO struggled during and after the pandemic years,” explained J.W. Arnold, membership, marketing & communications specialist. “We moved to Zoom for virtual events and are now seeing attendance slowly bounce back at our in-person conventions. THE LOFT will be a game-changer, however, enhancing the sense of community among our members and leveraging technology to make our chapter operations more efficient.”

“As more members opt out of our printed monthly magazine, The American Organist, in favor of the digital edition, THE LOFT will allow us to repurpose content in more creative ways and deliver member value across several digital channels, while still keeping its members-only availability,” Arnold added. “And, as we enhance our website to include cynics national directories of substitute and freelance musicians, recital listings and concert calendars, we are focused on not only retaining members, but attracting a broader range of keyboard and other artists.”

ASCAP



ASCAP Experience Returns to Los Angeles on February 12, 2026

The ASCAP Experience is a one-of-a-kind conference that brings together the vibrant ASCAP community for a day of education, inspiration and networking, designed to help songwriters and composers thrive. Attendees get candid advice from today's most successful music makers, a deeper understanding of where the music industry is headed, and opportunities for honest, real-time feedback on their music.



Plus, intimate performances of hit songs from the brilliant creators who wrote them. It's the only event that puts music creators at the center of every session. All curated by ASCAP, the world's leading performing rights organization.

Learn more [here](#).

ASCAP and RMLC Settle Rate Court Proceeding

The American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) has announced a new settlement agreement with the Radio Music License Committee (RMLC) that secures higher rates payable by almost 10,000 of America's commercial terrestrial radio stations to publicly perform more than 20 million musical works in the ASCAP repertory. The ASCAP repertory includes the vast array of music that keeps radio's listeners tuning in, from today's Top Ten hits to classic songs across all genres of music.

ASCAP CEO Elizabeth Matthews commented: “This deal locks in an important royalty stream for our members at higher rates. It will deliver enhanced benefits, payments and financial certainty to ASCAP songwriters, composers and publishers, which is important to ensuring their creative and economic health and security now and in the future.”

The settlement agreement includes year-over-year increases in the percentage of revenue rate paid by radio stations to publicly perform music by ASCAP members and better reflects the

ways in which AM/FM radio stations in the US currently broadcast and transmit music to their listeners, while recognizing the distinctions between the terrestrial radio industry and internet music services.

ASCAP represents more than one million songwriters, composers and music publisher members. Founded and governed by songwriter, composer and publisher members, ASCAP is the only performing rights organization in the U.S. that operates on a not-for-profit making basis and does not have outside investors or private equity ownership. ASCAP delivers 90 cents of every dollar collected back to its members as royalties, ensuring that ASCAP songwriters and publishers are the sole beneficiaries of revenues collected by ASCAP.

ASCAP Board Members Stand Up for Music Creators' Rights

A joint statement from all 12 songwriters and composers on ASCAP's Board of Directors on the importance of protecting the rights of music creators in the age of AI.

A Message from the ASCAP Board of Directors Writer Members:

We join together as songwriters, composers, lyricists and rightsholders to promote and strengthen the right of music creators to control the use of our work and to share fairly in its exploitation. We stand united in seeking ways to protect our creativity in a new era in which our music is increasingly being ingested, analyzed, shared, extracted and used as the basis for derivative, machine-generated works.

We recognize that changes in the music business are inevitable, and we support and embrace those that allow us to reach new

audiences and those that can be used to enhance our creativity. However, we vigorously oppose those changes and policies that transgress our rights, weaken our legal protections, divert or conceal our rightful earnings, or provide other opportunities for those who seek to unfairly benefit from the works we have created.

We urge policymakers and the general public to understand and respect the creative process, recognize the fundamental right of music creators to fully consent to and participate in the exploitation of their music, and support a strong copyright office and the laws which have served and supported music creators for more than 200 years. By upholding these principles, we can ensure a future of human creativity in music, protect the livelihood of creators, and continue to cultivate the vibrant and thriving musical culture that is known and loved throughout the world.

Jon Batiste, Claudia Brant, Desmond Child, Sharon Farber, Dan Foliart, Michelle Lewis, Terry Lewis, Marcus Miller, Alex Shapiro, Jimmy Webb, Paul Williams, Doug Wood

Read more about how ASCAP is helping music creators navigate AI [here](#).

ASCAP, BMI, GMR and SESAC Collaborate to Provide a Single Source of Detailed Public Performance Copyright Information for Over 38 Million Songs Offering Even More Transparency for the Industry

The four major performing rights organizations in the United States today announced a landmark expansion of **Songview**, the industry's comprehensive US public performance copyright data resource launched by ASCAP and BMI in December 2020. For the first time, the expanded Songview platform will feature information for over 38 million musical works

licensed by the four major performing rights organizations in the United States, offering the industry the most authoritative view of public performance copyright ownership and administration shares from a single source. This effort builds on each of the PRO's long-standing efforts to provide comprehensive data for their respective repertoires.

Over the coming months, Songview will begin incorporating data from GMR and SESAC, starting with the addition of all 100%-owned works represented by GMR and SESAC. In addition, Songview will enhance the limited data that currently appears for GMR and SESAC works by including the publisher names for GMR and SESAC works that have split ownership percentages with ASCAP and/or BMI, one of the most popular information requests from Songview users. The ownership percentages for the GMR and SESAC split works are part of a future plan.

"As a Member of Congress, I have long called for greater transparency into music licensing to ensure businesses have the information they need to make informed licensing decisions. This is because music ownership data has for years been fragmented and opaque, compounded by continued growth in the performing rights industry," said Congressman Scott Fitzgerald (WI-05). "With today's announcement, we take a giant step towards transparency, and towards my goal of a complete and authoritative database. I congratulate ASCAP, BMI, SESAC, and GMR on their partnership, and I look forward to continuing to work with them to ensure the database meets the needs of Wisconsin businesses."

House IP Subcommittee Chairman Darrell Issa (CA-48) said, "Our copyright system is the backbone of our creative economy, with clarity and transparency essential to ensuring creators

have the compensation they deserve while licensees have the predictability they need. I congratulate ASCAP, BMI, SESAC, and GMR on the launch of a new and improved Songview to enhance clarity and transparency in music licensing."

ASCAP CEO Elizabeth Matthews commented, "We are thrilled to collaborate with BMI, GMR and SESAC as we innovate to provide more transparency to licensees into musical ownership data for the combined repertoires of the most performed music in the world."

BMI President & CEO Mike O'Neill added, "It was always our intention to ensure Songview would be the single most comprehensive source of copyright information for the industry, which is why the addition of GMR and SESAC data is so important. Having the four major US PROs come together to enhance data transparency highlights how we as an industry can successfully collaborate and deliver solutions that benefit the entire music community."

Randy Grimmitt, Co-Founder and CEO of Global Music Rights commented, "With the addition of the GMR and SESAC repertoire to Songview, the most comprehensive view of US songwriter and publishing information will represent over 38 million works. This is a major step in addressing the needs of licensees for a comprehensive view of PRO licensing obligations."

John Josephson, Chairman & CEO of SESAC said, "The addition of SESAC and GMR to Songview will provide a comprehensive view of ownership data and licensing representation for the largest music market in the world. This collaborative solution addresses requests from licensees and Congress that extends the visibility of repertoire data already available from SESAC."

The Songview engine was built from the ground up by a cross functional team of copyright,

technical, distribution and product experts from ASCAP and BMI. The system ingests song ownership information, processes and reconciles that information based on agreed-upon rules, then sends the reconciled data back out to the ASCAP and BMI searchable databases. Information displayed for those works includes songwriters and their affiliations, publisher data, performers, alternate song titles and ISWC and IPI codes. Reconciled songs appear with a green checkmark to indicate that each of the PROs agree on the information.

The information is free to the public and currently accessible on the [ASCAP](#) and [BMI](#) websites.

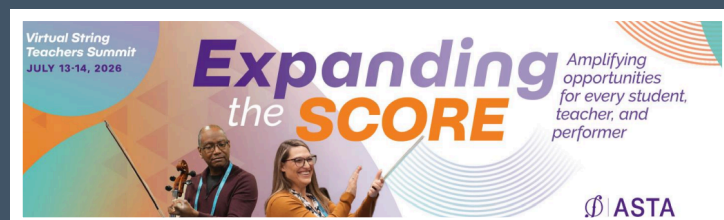
American String Teachers Association



ASTA and SAA 2026 Conferences

ASTA and the Suzuki Association of the Americas will hold collocated conferences in San Francisco, Feb. 25–28, 2026. The ASTA National Orchestra Festival, featuring nearly 40 orchestras, will run at the same time.

Programming includes masterclasses, reading sessions, performances, and professional development for teachers and students. Keynote Speakers include Alex Laing, Tina Tallon, and Alice Hammel. Performances by Quartet San Francisco and Gateways Music Festival. Learn more [here](#).



2026 Virtual String Teachers Summit July 13-14, online

This year, ASTA is joined by partners in the string teaching and music association space to jointly produce the 2026 Virtual String Teachers Summit. Keynote speakers include Dr. Allyssa Jones, founder, Rising Tide Music and Arts, and the production company behind The Last Repair Shop. Applications for Session Proposals DUE December 3, 2025.



2027 ASTA National Orchestra Festival February 24-27, Chicago, IL

Applications to participate in 2027 NOF open February 1, 2026! More information [here](#).

The New Canon Project

The New Canon Project (NCP) is a joint venture of the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA), the American String Teachers Association (ASTA), and Rising Tide Music & Arts (RTMA).



Through workshops, mentoring and school-based collaboration, composers create works for publication by The Press and worldwide distribution through ArrangeMe, a Hal Leonard Company. Purchases from this collection support Rising Tide Music & Arts composer pathway and publication initiatives. Learn more [here](#).

Chopin Foundation of the United States



Strengthening Piano Education from Coast to Coast: 30 Chopin Scholarships Awarded for 2025–26

The Chopin Foundation of the United States is thrilled to announce the [thirty scholarship recipients for 2025–26](#)—our largest slate of awards since the program began in 1998. This significant milestone, following a record fifty-two applications from dedicated student pianists nationwide, is a testament to the program's momentum and the enduring appeal of Chopin's music. It's a moment of pride for all of us and a promising sign for the future of piano education.

Our [Scholarship Program for Young Pianists](#) invests directly in learning. Awards of \$1,000 (full) and \$500 (half) are paid directly to teachers, schools, and festivals so that support lands where it matters most—in lessons, coaching, summer study, juried programs, and sustained work at the keyboard. Spanning up to four years, the program encourages steady growth in Chopin's core repertoire, helping students chart a path toward the National Chopin Piano Competition and fostering a lifelong relationship with Chopin's music.

By the numbers, this cohort also tells a story of continuity and progress. Of the thirty awardees, nineteen are first-year recipients, joined by five second-year, three third-year, and three fourth-year scholars whose ongoing development we are honored to support. Our thirty recipients reflect a truly coast-to-coast national picture: California contributes twelve scholars, several states—Massachusetts, Texas, and Kansas—each contribute two, and the remainder stretch from Maryland and Pennsylvania to New York, Michigan, Utah, and Oklahoma.

Behind every award is a circle of guidance and care. We extend warm congratulations to the recipients and heartfelt thanks to the teachers, families, and schools who make this progress possible; to the distinguished members of the Scholarship Committee—Peter Miyamoto, Catherine P. Middlebush Chair of Piano, University of Missouri; Mack McCray, faculty of the San Francisco Conservatory of Music; and Tian Ying, Associate Professor of Keyboard Performance, Frost School of Music, University of Miami—for their thoughtful evaluation and careful adjudication of applications; and to every applicant who took the courageous step to apply. The future of Chopin's music in the United States is bright, and these students are already adding their voices to that light.

Make Music Day

MAKE MUSIC

JUNE 21

Make Music Day 2025

This year's Make Music Day on June 21, 2025 was the largest to date, with 5,471 free concerts, jam sessions, and group lessons across the US. This international celebration of music was first launched in 1982 in France, where it is known as the Fête de la Musique, and has spread to more than 2,000 cities in dozens of countries around the world. In the US, 147 communities took part in 2025, all coordinated by the nonprofit Make Music Alliance.

National Music Council members played a key role in Make Music Day initiatives this year.

2025 marked the tenth year of the **NAMM Foundation's** presenting sponsorship of Make Music Day. This year, 147 music products companies and retailers in the US joined in hosting, sponsoring, and organizing Make Music Day events. Notable participants included Sweetwater and Guitar Center, Alfred and Hal Leonard, Martin Guitar and PRS Guitar, Flight Ukulele and Kala Ukulele, Kawai Piano and Yamaha Piano, Harman and Sennheiser, Vic Firth and Pearl Drums, and D'Addario and Elixir Strings. NAMM members were featured in special national initiatives including "String Together" (guitar restringing events), "Let the Music Move You" (carpool karaoke), and "Mass Appeals" for ukulele groups, drum circles, and bucket drumming sessions open to all.

The **Music Teachers National Association** led a project called "Roomful of Pianos", which grew out of a NAMM Show initiative that brought spectacular multi-piano arrangements to the show's piano exhibition spaces.

The concept came to Make Music Day for the first time in 2023, with local piano showrooms hosting similar events around the country, inviting the local piano community to come in and sight-read multi-piano works together. In 2025, the MTNA took the lead and invited their local music teacher associations to take part. This year, there were 15 Roomfuls of Pianos on Make Music Day, including one in Las Vegas featuring 102 pianists playing on 50 instruments!

In the second year of Make Music Alliance's partnership with the **National Federation of High School Associations** and Alfred Music, school bands across the country were offered free, early access to a new Brian Balmages piece called "Critical Impact" for them to play for Make Music Day. (Schools also had the option to record a video of their performance in advance and send it to the Make Music Alliance.) The piece was flexibly written for Concert Band, Full Orchestra, or a mix of band and strings. Teachers and students were also asked to submit a short video about how music education has made a "critical impact" in their lives, with Alfred Music offering gift certificates to those who submitted.

Finally, for the eleventh year running, the **Music Performance Trust Fund** supported professional musicians celebrating Make Music Day on June 21, in a host of special events around the country that brought amateur music-makers together with professional mentors and bandleaders. In total, 107 musicians received MPTF funding for 41 Make Music Day events across 13 union locals.

Please mark your calendar for the next Make Music Day on Sunday, June 21, 2026!

The Midwest Clinic



Registration for the 79th Annual [Midwest Clinic International Band and Orchestra Conference](https://midwestclinic.org) is now available online at midwestclinic.org. The conference will take place December 17-19, 2025 in Chicago, Illinois, and feature 400+ exhibits, 110+ clinics by master educators and industry pros, and 50+ performances by the best middle school, high school, college, professional, adult community, and military ensembles from around the world. Online registration closes December 15: register now to save time and money when you arrive in Chicago this December.

Numerous special events will be part of the 79th Conference, including:

[The 8th Annual High School Leadership Institute](#)

The Annual High School Leadership Institute, a spectacular one day event especially for high school student leaders and those who wish to major in music in college, will be held again this year on Thursday, December 18 from 9AM to 5PM. The all-day event features valuable leadership training led by Dr. Tim Lautzenheiser; dedicated time in the Midwest Clinic's expansive exhibit hall, showcasing the latest tools, techniques, materials and trends in music education; informative lectures from music industry leaders covering topics like "So You Want to Be a Music Major?" and "How to Have a Successful College Audition;" inspiring live performances by world-renowned groups; and invaluable mentoring from college students to learn about the college application process and what classes are really like for music majors in a degree seeking program.

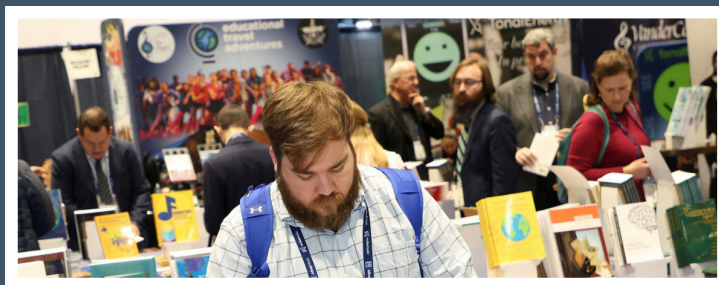


Registration is open now and limited to 50 students. Click [here](#) to learn how to nominate your stand-out high school students today.

[Dedicated Programming for Early-Career Music Educators](#)

The Emerging Music Educators Program (EME) returns for its third year at the Midwest Clinic. Designed for those in college and the first 5 years of their professional career, the EME program offers opportunities to help bridge the gap between graduation and a career in music education with a dedicated programming track at the annual December Conference. While EME programming is specifically designed for those ages 18-25, those over age 25 who are beginning a second/new career in music education are also encouraged to participate in EME events.

This year's programming brings double the sessions, including the popular EME Keynote with Dr. Tim Lautzenheiser, alongside sessions on topics like building musicianship, practical pedagogy, creating a career blueprint, working with limited instrumentation or staff, recruitment, mentorship, and more. Click [here](#) to view the full Emerging Music Educator session schedule.



Expanded Pre-Conference Intensives: Strings, Audio Tech, Jazz, and Percussion Sessions

The Midwest Clinic is pleased to announce the expansion of its pre-conference intensive programs, hands-on sessions that provide music educators dedicated training in speciality areas. This year, four pre-conference intensives will be offered on December 16, 2025, from 12 or 1pm to 5pm at the annual conference in Chicago.

- **Audio Technology for Music Educators**

1:00-5:00PM - This workshop is for music educators at all levels, from small classroom instruction to music production programs or touring music ensembles. The benefits of knowing what comprises quality audio, how to maximize the quality of the sound systems you use, and how to utilize music production in your music program are universal for all music educators. The hands-on opportunity provides the experience to learn about audio and how to use music/audio technology in your classrooms. This session will be led by Mike Lawson, Mark Lochstampfor, and Will Kuhn.

- **Percussion Basics Simplified for Those New to Percussion**

1:00-5:00PM Whether you're just starting out or looking to refine your pedagogical skills, this session will cover the foundational principles of percussion playing and teaching, including instrument position, grip, stroke variations, and music reading. Participants will rotate between snare drum and mallets, culminating in a combined percussion session within a typical band setting. The Percussion pre-conference intensive will be led by Clinicians Peggy Jo Bonner, Brandon Estes, Adam D. Hill, Justin Koszarek, and Dr. James Yakas.

- **From the Top! Building a Dynamic Jazz Program**

1:00-5:00PM This session is designed to support beginning jazz educators as they

build, develop, and refine their jazz programs. Led by renowned educators Bethany Robinson, Roosevelt Griffin, & Mary Jo Papich, this three-session workshop will provide practical strategies, foundational knowledge, and proven rehearsal techniques to help educators navigate the unique challenges of teaching jazz.

- **String Teaching Simplified: Jumpstarting Your String Teaching Journey for Those New to Strings**

12:00-5:00PM From the basics of teaching strings to refining your pedagogical string knowledge, this 5-hour immersive session, in partnership with the American String Teachers Association, will provide those new to teaching strings with the information, tools, and resources needed to effectively teach orchestra. This informational and practical session will focus on the foundational principles of string playing and teaching including instrument position, tone production, shifting, and vibrato. Participants will select a primary string instrument to learn during this hands-on workshop and can elect to join either beginning or intermediate level breakout sessions based on experience and interest.



Any pre-conference intensive can be added onto your registration for the 79th Midwest Clinic: simply proceed through the conference registration portal, and you'll have the option to add your chosen intensive at the end. Due to limited capacity, these sessions are open to College Student and Professional attendees only.

Music Publishers Association



The Music Publishers Association held their Annual Awards Luncheon on September 19 in New York City. The Awards honored Joel Sachs with the MPA Composer Advocacy Award, Dr. James Wever with the Arnold Broido Award for Copyright Advocacy, and Carol Cuellar with the MPA Lifetime Achievement Award. Mr. Sachs, whose award was presented by celebrated composer Roberto Sierra, premiered a new piano piece by Mr. Sierra to close the awards ceremony.

The MPA Awards were established to honor those who have devoted their careers to different facets of the Music Publishing industry, through education and advocacy, championing composers, and empowering educators and students.

The Paul Revere Awards for Graphic Excellence were also presented, with 29 awards given across music engraving categories.

Photos from the event can be found on MPA's Facebook page, [here](#).



Arnold Broido for Copyright Advocacy recipient Dr. James Weaver with MPA President Steven Lankenau.



MPA Composer Advocacy Award recipient Joel Sachs with MPA Executive Director Brittain Ashford and composer Roberto Sierra.



MPA Lifetime Award recipient Carol Cuellar with Alfred colleagues James Grupenhoff and Ron Manus.

Music Performance Trust Fund



The recording industry's Music Performance Trust Fund (MPTF) distributed \$193,000 in grants supporting 66 admission-free live concerts taking place throughout the United States on June 19, 2025 in recognition of Juneteenth National Independence Day.

Juneteenth is a national holiday that commemorates the emancipation of enslaved people in Texas, specifically in Galveston, on June 19, 1865. Events were organized by American Federation of Musicians locals to ensure fair compensation for all performers. Juneteenth is the longest-running African American holiday and is celebrated to honor the freedom and perseverance of Black Americans. Among the many MPTF-sponsored events:

- “Broadway Celebrates Juneteenth” took place in the heart of New York, NY, featuring performers from 15 different Broadway shows.
- A concert in Houston, TX exclusively featured African American composers, with local Houstonian and GRAMMY and Emmy Award-winning baritone, Reginald Smith, Jr. and the Juneteenth Chamber Orchestra, Mary Cox, conductor.
- A Jimi Hendrix concert was free and open to the public in Los Angeles, CA.
- "Music Makes Me Free" highlighted songwriters and performers of the American blues movement as part of the Juneteenth celebration in Plymouth, WA.
- The Boston Public Quartet in Boston, MA presented a program celebrating the music of Black American composers including Florence Price, William Grant Still, and Julius Eastman.
- “King! Jackson!” in Cleveland, OH honored Martin Luther King, Jr. and Mahalia Jackson, who were close friends and collaborators during the Civil Rights movement.

Members of the Orchestre Métropolitain offer free concerts in neighborhood parks, offering communities the opportunity to experience symphonic music in a location that is free and accessible to all. This recent concert at the foot of downtown Montreal's famous Mont-Royal park attracted 50,000 spectators for an

unforgettable night of music at the heart of the city. The program featured works from Stravinsky, Mendelssohn, Beethoven, and more. Support for participating musicians of Local 406, Montreal was provided by the Music Performance Trust Fund.



Photo Credits: Drone Photo by Kenan Alboshi

Students from the Nat King Cole Generation Hope (NKCGH) Summer Jazz Camp recently showcased their skills in a performance alongside guest artists Ernie Adams, Bethany Pickens, and Ted Brews from Chicago local 10-208. The one-week camp provides high-quality jazz instruction to middle and high school students with the greatest need. The program is a collaboration between NKCGH, VanderCook College of Music, and VanderCook students, who act as mentors. Support from the Music Performance Trust Fund ensured that these and other local members worked and performed with students throughout the week. Nat King Cole Generation Hope, Inc. provides access to music education for children with the greatest need by cultivating opportunities and funding programs for instruction, mentoring and resources. Founded in 2008, the nonprofit strives to uphold and build on the Cole family legacy, who envision music education as an entitlement, not a privilege, for all children.



A scholarship program utilizing assets of the MPTF has granted financial support to 103 post-secondary students in the United States and Canada for the coming academic year. The MPTF's Music's Future scholarship is providing support this year to 30 individuals pursuing degrees in Music Performance, Music Therapy, Music Education, and Music Conducting. Recipients range from students entering their first year of college to those pursuing graduate degrees, all who intend to continue actively making and sharing music in their professional lives. The organization established its Music Family scholarship to encourage American Federation of Musicians (AFM) member families to pursue higher education and become leaders in their chosen fields. Recipients of this scholarship are majoring in a wide range of academic fields including music performance, psychology, film, nursing, history, and journalism, among others. Total disbursement of \$148,000 this year represents less than 3% of the MPTF's total annual grant distribution.

The oversight committee of the Music Performance Trust Fund is pleased to announce the appointment of music recording industry veteran Greg Linn as Trustee of the fund, effective September 1, 2025, following Trustee Daniel J. Beck's retirement and new title of Trustee Emeritus. Linn was selected for his financial acumen, creativity and integrity in the music business, traits that are key to the success of the MPTF's mission, which for more

than 75 years has been to provide admission-free, live performances by professional musicians throughout North America. He is an accomplished music industry executive and marketing strategist with over 30 years of experience, renowned for his expertise in breaking new talent and revitalizing catalog releases. Beginning his career at BMG Distribution and RCA Records, he joined Columbia Records in 1995, where he contributed to milestone releases such as Bruce Springsteen's *The Rising* (2002), Bob Dylan's *Modern Times* (2006), David Bowie's *The Next Day* (2013) and AC/DC's *Black Ice* (2008).

He played a pivotal role in launching the careers of artists like Hozier, John Mayer, Dave Matthews Band, Brandi Carlile, Leon Bridges, and Train while delivering innovative campaigns for global superstars. In 2015, as Senior Vice President of Marketing & Content at Legacy Recordings, he led high-profile projects including Leonard Cohen's posthumous album *Thanks for the Dance* and milestone reissues for Pink Floyd's *The Dark Side of the Moon*, AC/DC's *Back in Black*, and *Highway to Hell*. His leadership in the music industry has earned recognition in *Billboard*, *HITS Daily Double*, and *Variety*, reflecting his reputation as a visionary strategist with a legacy of impactful campaigns.

The MPTF plays a vital role in support of music's gig economy. The organization has distributed millions of dollars in financial resources and grants, engaging professional musicians that are members of the American Federation of Musicians (AFM) to perform live in admission-free events across North America. Since its founding in 1948, the organization has distributed more than \$630 million (USD) in sponsorship money. To review our most recent Annual Report, visit: [MPTF Annual Report](#).

Music Teachers National Association



2025–2026 MTNA Membership Year

MTNA kicked off its new membership year on July 1, welcoming thousands of music educators and professionals for a landmark year as the organization celebrates its 150th anniversary. The MTNA Collegiate membership year begins October 1. Music makers are encouraged to join or renew at any time at mtna.org.

2026 MTNA National Conference

[Registration is now open](#) for the next MTNA National Conference in Chicago, March 21–25, 2026—a landmark occasion as we celebrate 150 years of excellence in music teaching! The MTNA National Conference is a place where inspiration, innovation, and tradition converge. Immerse yourself in transformative sessions, a vibrant exhibit hall, and world-class performances from renowned pianist **Angela Hewitt** and dazzling vocalist **Jane Monheit**. Take in wisdom from keynote speaker **Scott Yoo** and master class clinicians **Alan Chow** and **Nancy O'Neill Breth**. Experience the thrill of MTNA National Competitions finals and the joy of connecting with a community that shares your passion.

Call for Session Proposals

MTNA is accepting proposals for [Collegiate Chapter Sessions](#) and [Poster Sessions](#) for the 2026 National Conference in Chicago. Proposals will be accepted through October 10, 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

Studio Teacher Grants

Four \$5,000 grants, funded by the [MarySue Harris Endowment Fund](#), are presented annually to recently graduated independent music teachers who demonstrate commitment to the music teaching profession and outstanding studio development. The deadline to apply is November 5 at 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

Stecher & Horowitz Foundation Awards

This year, thanks to a new partnership with the Stecher and Horowitz Foundation, MTNA is proud to award more than \$250,000 in grants and awards, with \$100,000 available exclusively to students and early-career professionals. Explore each opportunity below. All applications and supporting materials must be submitted online by 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time on November 5.

- ***NEW* \$25,000 Gateway Prize** - For pianists 36 years or younger ready to further their dreams of success in this ever-changing world of the performing artist.
- ***NEW* \$10,000 Career Grants** - Two grants for pianists 28 years or under eager to take their next professional steps and push boundaries.
- **\$10,000 Power of Innovation Award** - For a young artist/teacher 36 years or younger who embodies an entrepreneurial spirit and innovative approach in their life and work.

MTNA Foundation Fund Grants Available for Collegiates

Applications are now available for MTNA Foundation Fund grants. Collegiate Travel and Enrichment Grant applications are due November 3, 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time. For more information, [click here](#).

MTNA Student Competitions

Registration for the MTNA Chamber Music and Brass & Voice Performance (Senior and Young Artist only) competitions will open November 1, with a deadline of December 3 at 3:00 p.m. (EST).

The MTNA—Stecher & Horowitz Two Piano Competition is now open, with a deadline of January 5, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. (EST). For more information, click [here](#).

Summit for MTNA Leadership

The 2025 Summit for MTNA Leadership was held September 5–7 in Cincinnati, Ohio. State affiliate presidents, MTNA Board of Directors, Division Directors-elect and national staff assembled for a weekend of networking, leadership development, inclusivity training, organizational strategy, skill-building, and knowledge sharing in order to strengthen the MTNA connection among local, state, and national levels; deal with crucial issues confronting the association; and determine MTNA's role in the future of the music teaching profession.

Announcing New National Officers

Effective March 2025, the following individuals have been elected to serve as MTNA national officers for the 2025–2025 biennium: Kevin Chance, NCTM, President; Beth Klingenstein, NCTM, President-elect; Peter Mack, NCTM, Immediate Past President; Artina McCain, Vice President for Representation & Advocacy; Noreen Wenjen, NCTM, Vice President for Membership; Jeff Kleinsorge, NCTM, Secretary-Treasurer.

MTNA eFestival

The MTNA eFestival is an online-only performance opportunity where entrants receive 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 do not need to be studying with an MTNA member to participate.

The MTNA eFestival runs year-round with no deadlines. For more information, click [here](#).

Follow MTNA on Instagram

MTNA is on Instagram. Follow us at [@mtnaorg](#) to stay up to date on the latest deadlines, membership news and more.

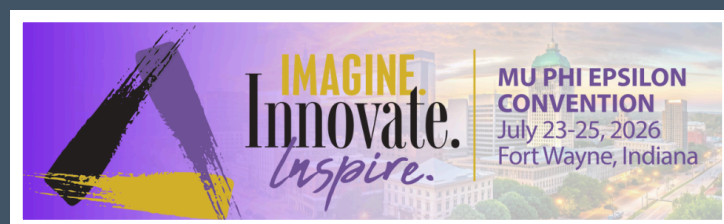
Mu Phi Epsilon



Mu Phi Epsilon International Professional Music Fraternity will hold its triennial conference, entitled "Imagine--Innovate--Inspire," 23-25 July 2026 at the Pearl Street Arts Center and The Bradley Hotel in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Click [here](#) for more information.

Highlights of the program include performances for the public by Fort Wayne-based Heartland Sings, directed by Mu Phi Epsilon member Maestro Robert Nance (Zeta chapter) and the first live presentation of the finals round of the Mu Phi Epsilon International Artist Competition since the Covid-19 pandemic. The winner of the International Artist Competition will embark upon a two-year concert tour of the United States, sponsored by the fraternity.

The call for program participation is now available to members through the fraternity website [here](#).



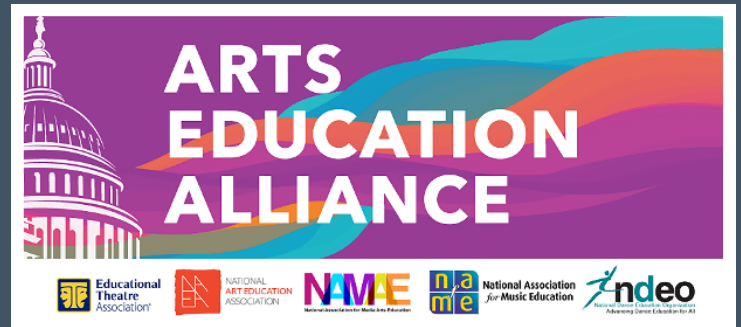
National Association for Music Education



NAFME PUBLIC POLICY AND ADVOCACY UPDATES

Arts Education Alliance Advocacy Campaigns

This past summer, NAFME joined a coalition of nonpartisan organizations representing millions of communities, school districts, educators, families, and learners in a letter urging U.S. Department of Education (ED) Secretary Linda E. McMahon and Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Richard Vought to immediately disburse legally obligated education funds to states, including Titles II and Title IV-A and the 21st Century Community Learning Centers—all programs that can support a well-rounded education that includes music and arts—intended for the 2025–2026 school year. NAFME launched a grassroots advocacy campaign (now archived) on behalf of the [Arts Education Alliance](#) and other national organizations that did not have access to their own virtual advocacy tool. More than 1,400 individuals participated in the campaign sending 4,700+ email messages and making more than 230 phone calls to Capitol Hill. The OMB announced on July 21 that it would be releasing the 21st Century Community Learning Centers funds and a second announcement on July 28 that states would receive the remaining funds the following week. In response, the Arts Education Alliance issued a [statement](#) calling on arts educators to continue their advocacy efforts in support of the funding for fiscal year (FY) 2026.



Critical education federal funding is on the chopping block right now as members of Congress address federal appropriations for FY 2026. NAFME and other members of the Arts Education Alliance urge advocates in every state to ensure their elected officials in Washington, DC. They have provided a ready-to-send email that can be customized with personal stories about the impact of arts education on themselves, their students, and their communities. Send a letter [here](#).

K12ArtChat—The Podcast: Meet the Arts Education Alliance

Amanda Karhuse, NAFME Assistant Executive Director for Advocacy and Public Policy, and Ray Yang, National Art Education Association (NAEA) Director of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, and Special Initiatives, discuss the core mission, collaborative efforts, and overall important actions of this collaboration between NAEA, NAFME, National Association for Media Arts Education, National Dance Education Organization, and the Educational Theatre Association. Tune in [here](#).

“Music Industry and Music Education Working Together to Meet New Challenges”

NAfME and NAMM presented this webinar and shared key education policy and legislative updates advocates need to know and ways to make an impact on the local, state, and federal levels. [Watch now](#).

“Arts Education: Supporting Student Success in School and the Workforce”

As a member of the informal Arts Education Policy Working Group, NAFME has endorsed a unified statement on arts education and supporting student success in school and the workforce. The document highlights research on how the arts keep students succeeding in school, build workplace success skills, are a successful career pathway, and why they must be provided to all students. These talking points can be used by music educators and other arts advocates when communicating with decision makers at the federal, state, and local levels. Read the statement [here](#).

National coordinated call to action to support federal investments in the arts and humanities

With the recent developments at the National Endowment for the Humanities, National Endowment for the Arts, and the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the Cultural Advocacy Group formed a collective advocacy strategy and the following call to action, which NAFME has signed. Read the call to action [here](#) and join in advocating for support for the arts and humanities.

NAfME endorses the Pay Teachers Act

NAfME is proud to be one of more than 30 organizations to endorse the Pay Teachers Act, introduced by Sen. Bernie Sanders (VT) with eight original cosponsors. “This legislation begins to address the teacher pay crisis in America,” states the press release from the U.S. Senate HELP Committee, “and ensure that all public school teachers earn a livable and competitive wage that is at least \$60,000 a year and increases over the course of their career.” Read more [here](#).

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR MUSIC EDUCATION (NAFME) NEWS

NAfME Corporate membership—support music education, grow your impact

NAfME launched a new corporate membership structure that provides businesses, institutions, and other music education supporters a way to customize their membership to reach music educators with their support and services. As a NAFME Corporate Member, you’ll join a community of organizations dedicated to advancing music education and inspiring the next generation of musicians. By partnering with us, your organization will gain exclusive opportunities to connect with over 60,000 music educators and millions of students across the country. Learn more [here](#) or contact corporate@nafme.org.



2026 Biennial NAFME Music Research and Teacher Education Conference

The NAFME biennial conference takes place September 30–October 3 in Long Beach, California. NAFME welcomes the participation of future, current, and retired music educators, music teacher educators, administrators, and community and corporate partners who are passionate about the critical role of music education for all. This event includes sponsorship opportunities. The call for proposals has been shared, and submissions open in January. Learn more [here](#).

November 15: NAFME Virtual Symposium on Music Education and Students with Disabilities and/or Living in Poverty

This free virtual event for music educators takes place on Saturday, November 15. Where is the field of music in special education and the care of students who live in poverty heading in the next 10 years? How can we prepare to be the best teachers possible for our students? What enduring questions remain, and how will we fulfill the promises of an education based in equity and care for all students? This event will provide opportunity for groups to share their questions and responses to provide closure for the day. Space is limited, and early registration is encouraged. Registered [here](#).



Student call for compositions for the 2026 Music In Our Schools Month® (MIOSM®)

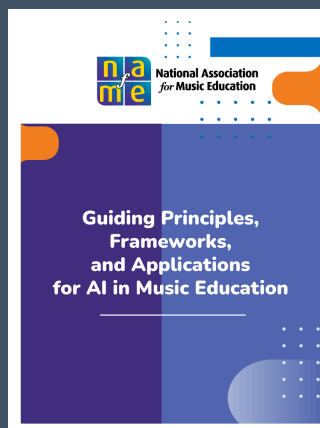
We remain: United Through Music! This school year, we are excited to continue the

energy of the “United Through Music” theme as we approach March. Details about an open call for students to submit compositions, as well as lesson plans, classroom tips, advocacy resources and more are now available at

nafme.org/MIOSM. Trademark notice: *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>. Any related phrasing or logos may not be used for fundraising or materials produced for profit. The logo may not be altered. To request use of the MIOSM logo, such as using it on a website or school t-shirt, email: lisam@nafme.org. Please include details regarding where the logo will be placed and any mock-up designs as applicable for review and approval.*

New mentorship resource page for music educators

The [NAfME Music Teacher Profession Advisory Committee](#) invited state music education associations to share mentoring information as part of the ongoing work to implement the strategies in A Blueprint for Strengthening the Music Teacher Profession. Links to state-by-state programs are available, and information will be regularly updated. Learn more [here](#).



“Guiding Principles, Frameworks, and Applications for AI in Music Education”

Grounded in the National Music Standards, Guiding Principles explores how AI tools can enhance creativity, support performance, and deepen student reflection.

It also addresses assessment strategies, productivity tools, and the broader ethical responsibilities music educators must consider when integrating AI into their teaching. Whether you’re curious, cautious, or already experimenting with AI, this resource offers timely and practical information, ideas, and insights to help you make valuable, informed decisions about the use of AI. [This resource](#) includes a survey at the end for readers to share their feedback.

Tri-M® Music Honor Society kicks off a new school year

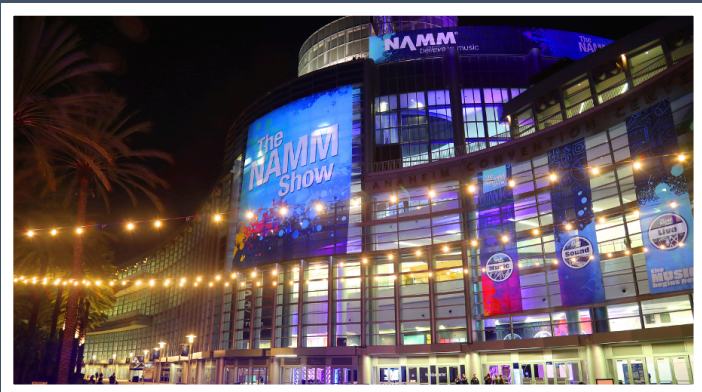
Tri-M® is excited to kick off a new school year with brand new chapters providing students opportunities to give back in their communities and share the power of music. Tri-M provides students learning in leadership, collaboration, service, and more. To learn how you can share in supporting this work, email tri-m@nafmer.org or click [here](#).

National Association of Music Merchants



Registration for The 2026 NAMM Show is Now Open - NAMM Celebrates 125 years serving its Global Membership at The 2026 NAMM Show

The music industry will gather January 20-24, 2026, at the Anaheim Convention Center, as the NAMM Show, which celebrates 125 years in January, will feature five days of incredible education, live concerts and special events, alongside new offerings in artificial intelligence, ground-breaking product announcements and a wide range of new consumer and professional exhibits and brand activations.



New this year, NAMM is launching an online dashboard to serve as the central hub for NAMM members and NAMM Show attendees to update their profiles and streamline the registration process. Get started at: dashboard.namm.org.

"We're putting together an unforgettable 125th anniversary event with exciting new experiences, starting with our new in-depth education summits, and continuing with a new NAMM Show App launching later this fall" said John Mlynczak, NAMM president and CEO.

"The 2026 NAMM Show will once again bring relevant and exciting education programming that directly addresses the needs of our music industry, will also being the perfect place for attendees to explore the latest products from leading brands across all musical instrument categories." Learn more and register [here](#).

NAMM POLICY PRIORITIES

Executive Orders Calling for Tariffs Explained

NAMM is tracking updates as they unfold
September 3, 2025 - President Trump will ask the Supreme Court for an expedited ruling to overturn an August 29 U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit decision that determined that the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) does not grant unlimited presidential authority to impose tariffs. The tariffs remain in place through October 14 during the appeal process, with a final Supreme Court decision expected in early 2026. [Register for NAMM's October 17 tariff webinar.](#)

NAMM Launches SupportMusic Coalition to Strengthen Grassroots Music Advocacy Nationwide

NAMM's SupportMusic Coalition is an initiative to empower NAMM members to advocate for music education at the national, state and local levels. Music education programs currently face challenges ranging from budget cuts and policy changes to resource constraints. The coalition provides advocacy resources to assist in efforts to help protect funding and advance music education programs across the country, leveraging the collective influence and expertise of diverse stakeholders. [Learn more and register](#) for our webinar on October 20!

Music Education Funding

NAMM and NAFME have launched a campaign on federal funding to support music education, and we hope that you will share it widely with your networks during this critical time as Congress considers budget appropriations for education. [Contact Congress Today!](#)

Women of NAMM (WoN) Welcomes 18 Leaders to the 2025 WoN Leadership Summit

Women of NAMM (WoN) has announced that 18 leaders from the music products industry will participate in the WoN Summit, October 13–15, 2025, at the NAMM Headquarters in Carlsbad, California.

Now in its sixth year, the WoN Summit is an intensive, three-day leadership and professional development experience designed to support women working across the industry and their goals to connect, support and grow their leadership and professional abilities. Led by Dr. Jennifer Hall, a renowned leadership development expert and psychologist, the summit empowers women in the music products industry with opportunities to enhance their leadership skills, elevate their careers and network with industry colleagues.

[Read more about the participants and the Leadership Summit](#)

NAMM RESOURCES

Consider a Career In Music Resources Available

NAMM's Consider a Career in Music initiative aims to inspire and inform the next generation about the vast and diverse career opportunities beyond the traditional roles of educator and performer. Careers in the music industry span a wide array of fields including audio engineering, stage and lighting design, artist management, product design, performance, manufacturing, sales, performance, and education. The industry is dynamic and ever-expanding, offering a wealth of opportunities for creative and business-minded individuals.



Enhance your efforts in promoting many careers with our comprehensive toolkit. This downloadable resource provides valuable information for students, parents, educators, counselors, and business owners, complete with promotional assets and scripted tools for school career days and education conferences, designed to help guide young people towards fulfilling careers in the music industry. View resources [here](#).

National Federation of Music Clubs



The National Federation of Music Clubs is celebrating our 127th year.

Dedicated to finding and fostering young musical talent, the NFMC conducts annual Junior Festivals with approximately 100,000 participants. NFMC offers near one million dollars annually in state and national competitions (see [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.

NFMC provides specialized opportunities for musicians with disabilities and visual impairments.

Through local clubs, the federation makes music education accessible to surrounding communities.

NFMC advocates for music education in schools and other legislative matters affecting music.

Join us in celebrating American Music month in November, as we celebrate American composers, artists, and performers!

Deborah T. Freeman, NFMC President

Sigma Alpha Iota International Music Fraternity



Sigma Alpha Iota (SAI) hosted its 51st National Convention in Minneapolis, MN on July 17-21, 2025. Over 600 members and guests attended our general sessions, workshops, and concerts.

The Inter-American Music Awards (IAMA) competition concert featured the premieres of new works by SAI Member Laureate Libby Larsen (“Embraces” for saxophone quartet) and winner Dmitri Volkov (“Chorale for Percussion” for percussion ensemble). The SAI Philanthropies, Inc. Benefit Concert featured world-renowned violinist Rachel Barton Pine and pianist Matthew Hagle. The new executive officers were elected, and new directorship appointments have been made.

SAI Philanthropies, Inc., the charitable arm of Sigma Alpha Iota, continues to increase its giving opportunities with additional scholarships and grants for the 2025-2028 triennium, including the following new

offerings: Music Therapy Grants for First Year Professionals; Contemporary Performance Awards (triennial); Internship Stipends for music related programs; Music Career Enhancement Grants; Music Project Development Grants; and Community Arts Grants for 501c3 organizations.

We also continue the support of practice and residence facilities at both MacDowell and Brevard. The 77th Annual SAI Composers Bureau Update will be released in February as a digital publication, and performers and teachers are encouraged to use this resource when looking for new and interesting repertoire.

Please visit our [website](#) more information on the all the above.



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