

NEWSLETTER WINTER 2025

INSIDE THIS EDITION:

A GLIMPSE INTO THE 2025 AMERICAN EAGLE AWARDS



READ MORE ON PAGE [3](#)

*Rosanne Cash with Jackson Browne, NMC President James Weaver, and Ray Chew
Photo Credit: Lawrence Gay*



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As we welcome the arrival of spring, we also welcome a season of renewed energy and inspiration within the music community. Across the country, students are preparing for concerts and competitions, educators are shaping the next generation of musicians, and professionals continue to drive the industry forward. Music remains a powerful unifier, a force that transcends barriers and fosters creativity, expression, and connection.

Yet, we recognize that the landscape in which we advocate for music is shifting. Policy debates surrounding arts education, intellectual property, and funding are growing more complex, and the role of music in our schools and communities continues

to be a topic of discussion at every level. In times like these, our commitment to ensuring access to music for all students and supporting the broader ecosystem of artists, educators, and industry professionals becomes even more critical.

At the National Music Council, we remain steadfast in our advocacy, championing efforts that protect and expand music education, working to ensure that artists' rights are upheld in an evolving digital world, and fostering meaningful conversations about the future of our industry. While challenges may arise, history has shown us that music has always found a way to thrive, often serving as a guiding light during moments of uncertainty.

This spring, I encourage you to stay engaged. Whether it's through participating in our advocacy initiatives, supporting local programs, or simply sharing the joy of music in your community, your voice makes a difference. Together, we will continue to ensure that music remains a vibrant and essential part of our cultural and educational landscape.

Thank you for your dedication to this work. I look forward to seeing what we can accomplish together in the months ahead.

Dr. James Weaver

President, National Music Council

NATIONAL MUSIC COUNCIL STATEMENT FROM THE ORGANIZATIONAL CULTURE COMMITTEE

As we look ahead to spring, this season encourages us to reflect on our community's core values and commitments. Music has always served as a beacon of light reflecting our highest aspirations, and now, more than ever, it is essential to provide opportunities for *everyone* to participate in musical creation, enjoyment and commerce. On behalf of the NMC Organizational Culture Committee, I am proud to share our formal statement on this issue expressing our fondest hopes and intentions for the future of music creation, education and advancement.

Tinisha Burgess
NMC OCC Officer

The National Music Council is dedicated to cultivating a thriving and welcoming music community where every voice is valued and every creator has the opportunity to contribute and excel. History has shown that the broadest range of perspectives and experiences fuels the creativity that propels music forward.

Ensuring fair access to resources, education, and opportunities—particularly for young artists and performers—is fundamental to advancing the power of music as a unifying and transformative force. These principles are central to our mission as we continue to champion, preserve, and expand the profound positive influence of America's unique musical heritage both at home and abroad.

NATIONAL MUSIC COUNCIL HONORS ROSANNE CASH WITH 2025 AMERICAN EAGLE AWARD



On January 24th, the National Music Council of the United States honored singer-songwriter and music education advocate Rosanne Cash with the prestigious American Eagle Award “In Recognition of Her Indelible Contributions to American & Global Musical Culture as a Beloved Recording Artist, Performer, Composer, Educator, Activist, Altruist and Ambassador for American Music to the World.” The 41st annual American Eagle Awards were held in Anaheim, California at the 2025 NAMM Show.

One of the country’s pre-eminent singer-songwriters and music education advocates, Rosanne Cash has earned 4 Grammys and is also the author of four books including the best-selling memoir “Composed,” which the Chicago Tribune called “one of the best accounts of an American life you’ll likely ever read.”

Among her many honors, Ms. Cash has been awarded the SAG/AFTRA Lifetime Achievement

Award for Sound Recordings and the Smithsonian Ingenuity Award in the Performing Arts. She has also served as a Carnegie Hall Perspectives artist, was an Artist-In-Residence at the Country Music HOF and Museum, and is currently Artist-in-Residence at New York University.

Rosanne is likewise one of only a handful of women to be elected to the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame, a number she hopes to see increase in the near future.

The ceremony was hosted by NMC President James Weaver, who also conducted an interview with the honoree on her life and work following the special award presentation. The award itself was presented by internationally renowned composer and recording artist Jackson Browne.

View more photos from the event [here](#).



Pictured from left to right: Bob Morrison (Quadrant Research), Dan Beck (MPTF), NMC President James Weaver (NFHS), Jackson Browne, Ray Chew (Power2Inspire), Rosanne Cash, Julie Duty (United Sound), Brian Shepard (MTNA), Lynn Tuttle (ASTA), and Amanda Karhuse (NAfME)

FEDERAL DIRECTIVES AND YOU!



With a wave of federal pronouncements, executive orders, and directives making headlines, music and arts educators may be wondering: What does this mean for my classroom? The influx of policy discussions at the national level can create confusion, but it's important to understand how these federal actions interact with state and local education systems before reacting.

As a longtime music and arts education advocate, school board member, and policymaker spanning five decades, I want to offer clear guidance on how educators should navigate these discussions.

Understanding the Role of Federal Policy

It's essential to remember that the **federal government does not determine curricular content**. That responsibility lies with state education agencies, which set learning standards, and local school districts, which develop the curriculum accordingly. While federal policies may impact education **funding, reporting, and regulatory aspects**, they do not dictate what is taught in music and arts classrooms.

What Should Educators Do?

Given this framework, here are the key takeaways:

- **Stick to your locally approved curriculum.** Federal discussions or proposals do not require immediate action at the classroom level.
- **Do not alter instruction based on news reports or proposed policies that your school administration has not enacted or clarified.**
- **If unsure, seek guidance from your school district or building administration.** Your supervisors are the appropriate sources of information for policy changes.

As long as educators follow their district-approved curriculum, there is **no immediate reason for concern**. Many federal policy proposals take time to move through the legal system, and some may face legal challenges before taking effect. **Preemptively changing instruction in response to headlines is unnecessary and could lead to confusion.**

Focus on What You Can Control

If and when your district provides guidance based on legal or policy changes, that will be the appropriate time to assess and adjust. Until then, focus on what music and arts educators do best —**providing students with meaningful, high-quality arts education experiences.**

By following the established **education chain of command**, educators can avoid unnecessary distractions and keep their focus on what truly matters: fostering creativity, expression, and lifelong appreciation for the music and the arts.

Bob Morrison, Quadrant Research

TWO POWERFUL UK CAMPAIGNS PUSH BACK AGAINST AI COPYRIGHT LAW CHANGES



Musicians, artists, and creators are fighting a UK copyright change that they fear will make it easier for AI companies to use their work to train models without permission, unless they proactively opt out.

Silent Album – Is This What You Want

- The UK government wants to allow AI companies to use an artist's work without permission, threatening the livelihood of artists and music professionals. Support more than 1,000 artists protesting this proposal that will allow AI companies to steal their work by listening to the new silent album, [Is This What We Want](#) on major music streaming services today. [Learn more here.](#)

News Outlets – Make It Fair

- News outlets & creative organizations across the UK are calling on the government to 'Make It Fair' in response to a proposed change to copyright law that favors big tech and AI developers at the expense of artists, their rights, and their work. [Learn more here.](#)

GLOBAL AI UPDATES FROM THE COPYRIGHT ALLIANCE

Copyright Alliance Submits Comments on UK AI Copyright Consultation

- On February 25, the CopyrightAlliance submitted [comments](#) in response to the [Consultation on Copyright and Artificial Intelligence](#) launched by the United Kingdom's Intellectual Property Office (UK IPO). The comments urge the UK Government to reject a proposal for a text-and-data mining exception in UK copyright law, highlight the inadequacies of various "safeguards" in the proposal, and emphasize the need for adequate transparency. The UK Government's proposal for an AI copyright exception and approach to copyright in its Consultation has garnered massive opposition and criticism from the UK creative community across all creative disciplines as most recently evidence by the Make It Fair campaign and a silent album campaign as described below. According to MP Peter Kyle, Secretary of State for Science, Innovation, and Technology, in a [post on X](#), there were about 11,000 responses submitted in response to the Consultation.

USCO Grants Registration for AI-Generated Video Based on Editing

- According to [reports](#), the U.S. Copyright Office (USCO) [granted a registration](#) for an AI-generated motion picture, titled Film clip for song just *Like In A Movie (SNEAK PREVIEW)*, which covers the lyrics and editing of AI-generated footage.

- The decision is in line with the Office’s prior statements, including its [most recent AI report](#) that notes the scope of registration for works containing AI-generated elements could protect creative selection, coordination, and arrangement (SCA) of such elements or creative modifications (including through human editing) to AI-generated output.

Ed Newton-Rex Delivers TED Talk on AI Models Stealing Creative Works

- TED Conferences published a video of a TED Talk given by Ed Newton-Rex, CEO of Fairly Trained, titled [How AI Models Steal Creative Work—and What To Do About It](#). Newton-Rex points out that unlicensed training on creative works has grave implications on human creativity and the future of AI technologies, especially in the context of gen AI producing outputs that compete with human-created works. Noting that “the legal framework of copyright affords creators the exclusive right to authorize copies of their works...” Newton-Rex highlights that through traditional licensing, it is possible for a future in AI technologies without sacrificing human creativity. He additionally points out the fallacies and pitfalls of anthropomorphizing AI training to human learning, noting that unlike traditional human learning, generative AI ingests copyrighted works at an unprecedented scale without supporting the copyright ecosystem.

Thousands of UK Musicians Release ‘Silent Album’ to Protest UK Government AI and Copyright Proposal

- On February 25, thousands of UK musicians [released](#) a silent album titled *Is This What We Want?* in protest of the UK Government’s proposal to introduce an AI copyright exception.

The album features recordings of empty studios and performance spaces to represent the harmful effect the government’s proposal would have on musicians’ livelihoods. Musicians involved with the project include Kate Bush, Annie Lennox, Damon Albarn, Billy Ocean, Ed O’Brien, Dan Smith, The Clash, Mystery Jets, Jamiroquai, Imogen Heap, Yusuf/Cat Stevens, Riz Ahmed, Tori Amos, Hans Zimmer, James MacMillan, Max Richter, John Rutter, and countless others. The initiative was spearheaded by Ed Newton-Rex, CEO of [Fairly Trained](#). More information is available [here](#). Musicians who participated in the silent album protest also sent [a letter to The Times](#), noting that, “[t]he proposal is wholly unnecessary and counterproductive, jeopardising not only the country’s international position as a beacon of creativity but also the resulting jobs, economic contribution and soft power — and especially harming new and young artists who represent our nation’s future.”

UK AI Industry Group Publishes Report Rejecting Opt-Out Regime and Replacing Copyright Law:

- UK AI, a group representing the UK AI industries, published a [report](#) titled *Creative Industries & AI Report*, which provides some views on AI and copyright issues, including opt-out measures and transparency, and recommendations for further engagement on those issues. More importantly, UKAI, “that instead of replacing it, we should build upon existing, well-understood copyright law. The proposed opt-out model would significantly harm the creative sectors to achieve a minimal gain for a small group of global tech companies. The broader AI sector that we represent recognises the importance of building public trust. Adopting an opt-out model will erode public trust in the nascent AI sector and create unnecessary conflict.

In the long term, this will undermine economic growth more than any benefits the opt-out could deliver.”

UK Government Plays Down Proposal for an AI Copyright Exception

- According to [reports](#), UK Prime Minister, Sir Keri Starmer, was recently asked whether the UK Government’s plans were “set in stone” to introduce a AI copyright exception to broadly permit text-and-data mining with other measures including an opt-out function. The Prime Minister stated that the government has thus far only launched a Consultation about the issues and that it would review stakeholder responses. When the Prime Minister was reminded of the fact that the government did state its preferred option of introducing an AI copyright exception, with an opt-out function, he stated, “We will review the responses to the consultation. The creative sector is obviously really important to our economy . . . Artificial intelligence is really important to our economy and we’ll review it in that light. But I’ll be clear, I want creatives to thrive. I think they’re really important for our country — not just the contribution to the economy but our global reputation.” MP Peter Kyle stated in a [post on X](#), that, “As we work through the 11,000 responses I promise no changes will be considered unless we can be sure the solution works for creators- that is a red line and we will honour it.”

China’s SAR to Propose AI Exception in Copyright Law

- According to [reports](#), the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau of China's special administrative regions (SARs) will propose a text and data mining exception for AI into the SAR’s Copyright Ordinance in the next few months.

- The exception would allow “reasonable use of copyrighted works for computational data analysis and processing and will be subject to restrictive conditions to comply with the international standard of the “three-step test” and to balance the interests between copyright owners and users.” One such condition will be an opt-out provision. More information can be found [here](#).

OpenAI Launches Sora AI Video Generator in UK and EU

- On February 28, OpenAI [launched](#) its AI video generator, Sora, in the UK and in Europe. The model was previously released in the U.S. in December 2024.

AI Copyright Alert

With AI technology and its impact on copyright and creativity advancing so rapidly, the Copyright Alliance has created a communication to keep everyone apprised of important copyright-related AI news and events. This communication, which will be emailed to all interested stakeholders, is called the **AI Copyright Alert**. [Click here to sign up for the alert.](#)

Copyright Alliance Policy Alert

If you’re an attorney, policymaker, Hill staff member, or anyone looking to stay apprised on the latest news from the copyright arena, please register for the Copyright Alliance’s e-newsletter, **Copyright Alliance Policy Alert**. [Click here to receive the Copyright Alliance’s e-Newsletter.](#)

MEMBER REPORTS

American Academy of Teachers of Singing



Serving the Profession-Serving the Art
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.

- The Academy announces a new executive committee as of fall 2024.
 - 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
 - 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
- Member Jeannette Lovetri has joined co-investigators Melissa Treinkman and Doug Peck to research the effects of amplification

on singers and singing. Findings will be presented at the next Symposium: Care of the Professional Voice in Philadelphia.

- The Academy will present a position paper entitled "Pedagogy-Informed Science: An Essential Partner to Science-Informed Pedagogy at ICVT 2025, *Voices Uplifted*, in Toronto, July 31-August 3.
- New 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

American Guild of Organists



AGO Names Winners of Woman Composer Sunday Composition Contest

The American Guild of Organists Task Force for Gender Equity has named the winners of the 2025 Woman Composer Sunday composition contest for new and unpublished works for organ:

- 1st Place, Concert Work – **Brenda Portman**, "Diptych for Organ"
- 1st Place, Short Work – **Maureen Howell**, "Reflection on Kingsfold"
- 2nd Place, Short Work – **Evelyn Larter**, "Here's One"

- 3rd Place, Short Work – **Miriam Reveley**, “Adagio in C Minor”
- Young Composer Prize – **Celina Kobetitsch**, “Fantasy on Noel Nouvelet”



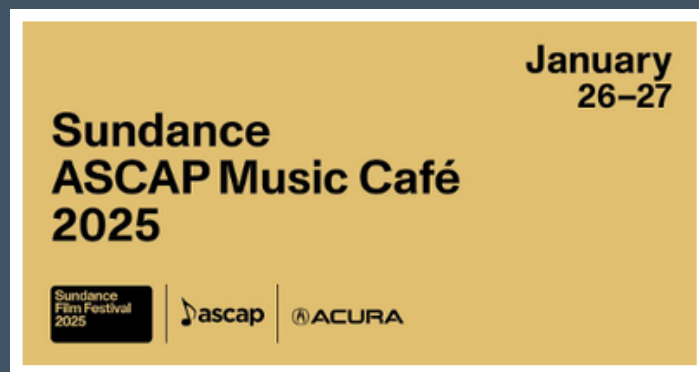
Pictured (left to right): Brenda Portman, Maureen Howell, Evelyn Larter, Miriam Reveley, Cecilia Kobetitsch.

Woman Composer Sunday, observed on March 9, 2025, is a global event originated by the Society of Women Organists and Royal College of Organists in the U.K., and adopted by the AGO, to encourage the use of music by women composers in worship services and concerts on the Sunday nearest International Women’s Day.

More than 20 entries were received in two categories, concert works (5 – 7 minutes) and shorter works (2–4 minutes / 2–3 printed pages) suitable for use as preludes, voluntaries, or postludes in a worship service. The winning compositions were published in January – March issues of *The American Organist* magazine and/or posted on the AGO website. Performances can also be viewed on the [AGO YouTube channel](#) and social media accounts.

Portman received a \$1,000 prize, donated by **Christian Mucha**, for her concert work. Howell received a \$500 prize, donated by former Denver chapter dean **Billie Busby Smith** and **Sid Smith**. Larter received a \$300 second prize from the **Women’s Sacred Music Project**, for her second place short work, while Kobetitsch received the \$500 Young Composer Prize provided by an anonymous donor. Guidelines for the 2026 Woman Composer Sunday composition contest will be posted next summer.

ASCAP



Sundance ASCAP Music Café 2025

PARK CITY, UT, Jan. 28, 2025 – The 27th Sundance ASCAP Music Café returned to Acura's House of Energy on January 26 and January 27 to celebrate the love affair between music and film at the heart of the Sundance Film Festival with a mix of chart-topping and up-and-coming songwriters and composers.

This year’s Sundance ASCAP Music Café featured performances from Eric Bazilian of celebrated rock band The Hooters with James Bourne of pop-punk band Busted; Grammy-winning hitmaker Toby Gad (John Legend’s “All of Me,” Fergie’s “Big Girls Don’t Cry”) alongside acclaimed vocalist and actress Antonique Smith and up-and-coming singer-songwriter Mae Mae; southern rock band The Wild Feathers, whose eclectic mix of Americana and heartland pop has landed them on tours with major acts like Bob Dylan and Willie Nelson; Nashville singer-songwriter HAFFWAY, whose unique sound is a blend of folk and alternative or “folkternative;” and Mexican-Dominican singer-songwriter Ambar Lucid, an artist who transports listeners with her dreamy music.

In addition to the exciting performances, ASCAP Screen Time, the ASCAP Film & Television team’s

ongoing interview series about the craft and business of music for screens, hosted four exclusive conversations with the creators behind some of the festival's most anticipated films. On day one, composer Jeff Morrow spoke with director Cristina Costantini on scoring *SALLY*, a documentary about Sally Ride, the first woman to blast off into space. Later, ASCAP AVP Film & TV Mike Todd talked with composer Jay Wadley about his score for *The Wedding Banquet* starring Bowen Yang and Lily Gladstone. Day two kicked off with an engaging conversation with composer Josh Dibb and director Albert Birney on their film *OBEX*, a black-and-white fantasy film following a man living in seclusion with his dog Sandy. Afterward, composer Katya Mihailova discussed working on the documentary *How to Build a Library*, a story that follows two Kenyan women as they transform a dilapidated, junk-filled town library in downtown Nairobi into a hub for the city's citizens and creatives.

For more information and to hear the music of Café artists, [click here](#).

Check out the [Day One Recap Video](#) here!

Check out the [Day Two Recap Video](#) here!



The audience at the Sundance ASCAP Music Café at the Acura House of Energy; Photo by Fred Hayes



The full ASCAP 2024 Annual Report can be viewed [here](#).

ASCAP Posts Record-Breaking \$1.835 Billion in Revenue for 2024

The ONLY US PRO operating on a not-for-profit basis drives 7% compound annual growth rate and 8% distribution growth rate over last 10 years, returning 90% of royalty value to ASCAP members at a 10% overhead rate

2024 ASCAP Signings & Renewals Include Tate McRae, Katy Perry, Timbaland, Kacey Musgraves, Jack White, Sexy Red, Max Martin, Justin Tranter, Neil Young, Def Leppard, Hans Zimmer, Tom Petty and Jimi Hendrix

NEW YORK, Feb. 27, 2025 – ASCAP, the only US PRO founded and governed by songwriters, composers and music publishers, and the only one that operates on a not-for-profit basis, announced today that it delivered another year of record-breaking revenues and royalty distributions in 2024 to its music creator members. ASCAP delivered \$1.835 billion in revenue in the 2024 calendar year, an increase of \$98 million, or 5.7% over 2023 with \$1.696 billion available for royalty distributions, up by \$104 million, or 6.5%.

This is the highest amount in revenue and royalty distributions to creators and music publishers historically reported by ASCAP, fueled

by revenue growth and the lowest overall cost allocation overhead rate in the US at 10%. ASCAP delivers 90 cents of every dollar collected back to its members as royalties and does not charge a commission or take a profit. Instead, according to its unique governance and operating principles, it must deduct expenses and then distribute remaining dollars as royalties to its members.

ASCAP increased the value and monetization of its members' music with domestic revenue from US-licensed performances totaling \$1.397 billion, an increase of 5.3%, or \$71 million, year over year.

Revenues from streaming audio, audio-visual and general licensing drove the increase. **The strength in domestic revenue led to 5.5% growth in funds available for domestic distributions, which totaled \$1.284 billion.** Of that total, \$53 million was distributed through **Songwize**, ASCAP's royalty administration service provided to ASCAP members who directly license their works.

Collections for foreign revenue also increased to a total of \$438 million, up by \$28 million, or 6.8% with \$411 million available for royalty distribution, a 9.8% increase of \$37 million.

In the 10th year of its strategic growth plan, ASCAP has generated a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) for total revenue of 7%; and for total distributions, a CAGR of 8%.

While every other US PRO is now private equity-owned, ASCAP is the only one that does not owe payouts to private investors or shareholders, making writer and publisher members the sole beneficiaries of ASCAP's growth.

For songwriters, composers and publishers, ASCAP provides the best return on their performance royalties because they get 90 cents of every dollar we collect. It's that simple. We are the only US PRO that does not take a profit and the only one that can credibly say we put creators first in everything we do," said ASCAP CEO Elizabeth Matthews.

"ASCAP is committed to innovating, growing and evolving in ways that benefit our members, because music creators drive every decision we make. Protecting the livelihoods of songwriters and composers and defending the value of music is a mission we take seriously. For us, this is more than just business – it's personal, and that's what sets ASCAP apart from any other PRO," said ASCAP Chairman of the Board and President Paul Williams.

ASCAP represents and aggregates over 20 million copyrights in cost-effective, efficient blanket licenses which include iconic music from **Beyoncé, Billy Joel, Cardi B, Chappell Roan, Charli XCX, Chris Stapleton, Dua Lipa, Garth Brooks, Jay-Z, Jimi Hendrix, Joni Mitchell, Katy Perry, Lil Baby, Lin-Manuel Miranda, Marc Anthony, Mariah Carey, Neil Young, Olivia Rodrigo, Paul McCartney, Stevie Wonder and Usher** among many others.

Top music creators switched to ASCAP in 2024 as membership soared past the one million mark. New members include country music trailblazer **Kacey Musgraves**, hard rock legends **Def Leppard**, global pop star **Tate McRae**, acclaimed film/TV composer **Cliff Martinez**, rising rap phenom **Sexyy Redd**, superstar songwriter **Justin Tranter**, rock icon **Jack White** of The White Stripes, *Dear Evan Hansen* star **Ben Platt** and folk-rock royalty **Graham Nash**.

2024: A Record-Breaking Year in Review

As the US Copyright Office developed recommendations on legal and policy issues related to copyright and AI, ASCAP's submitted comments were at the forefront of sources consulted for a report issued in early 2025. The final USCO report affirmed ASCAP's core AI principle of "human creators first," and cites several ASCAP comments within the text.

ASCAP represents a community of music creator members, from those just starting out to those at the peak of their careers. In 2024 it hosted events throughout the year to bring its community together, including celebrations of top members in each genre, its annual Membership Meeting, song camps, showcases and workshops.

Recently, ASCAP moved quickly to launch a one-million-dollar emergency relief fund to assist Los Angeles-based ASCAP songwriters and composers who were affected by the LA wildfires.

With a fully cloud-based infrastructure since 2022, ASCAP continues to be a leader in innovation and data technology. In a new strategic alliance announced with SACEM (Société des Auteurs, Compositeurs et Editeurs de Musique), the two societies are leveraging their investments in state-of-the-art data infrastructure and human expertise to benefit their music creator and publisher members.

Also in 2024, the ASCAP Lab, the organization's innovation initiative, hosted its fifth ASCAP Lab Challenge. The AI and the Business of Music Challenge saw the team working directly with some of the most promising music tech entrepreneurs and early-stage startups in an effort to shape how AI tools can benefit music creators.



Our global ASCAP family had an enormous night at the 67th annual Grammys, with wins in 48 categories. We celebrated major wins from **Chappell Roan** (Best New Artist), **Amy Allen** (Songwriter of the Year), **Daniel Nigro** (Producer of the Year) and **Mustard** (Record of the Year for "Not Like Us"). **Beyoncé**, **Charli XCX** and **St. Vincent** each racked up three honors, while **Gustavo Dudamel**, **Samara Joy** and ASCAP Board member **Jon Batiste** earned two apiece. **Alicia Keys** accepted the Dr. Dre Global Impact Award, in addition to a Grammy for the musical about her life and music, *Hell's Kitchen*

Queen Bey had another night for the ages. Already the winningest person in Grammy history, Beyoncé earned her first Album of the Year for *Cowboy Carter*, which also won for Best Country Album.

Rockers **The Clash** and hip-hop pioneer **Roxanne Shante** received Lifetime Achievement Awards, while jazz pianist **Erroll Garner** and composer **Tania León** received Trustees Awards. The Harry Belafonte Best Song for Social Change Award went to "Deliver," co-written and performed by ASCAP member **Iman Jordan**.

A stunning collection of ASCAP stars took the stage to perform during the telecast, including **Chappell Roan**, **Charli XCX**, **Shaboozey**, **St. Vincent**, **Chris Martin** and **Brad Paisley**. **Stevie Wonder**, **Cynthia Erivo**, **Jacob Collier** and **Janelle Monáe** took to the stage to pay tribute to the late great ASCAP writer-producer-composer, **Quincy Jones**. Check out the full list of [2025 ASCAP Grammy Award winners here!](#)

American String Teachers Association



Join [ASTA](#) online for our 3rd [Virtual String Teachers Summit](#) titled **Sounds of Change: Navigating a Shifting Educational Landscape.**

Teaching isn't what it was five years ago... what is it for you and your students now? This year, we are excited to have two amazing keynote speakers join us: Stanford Thompson and Jim Palmer. Stanford Thompson is Executive Director of Equity Arc and a principal of Goldsmith Strategies where he is a leading national voice in arts education and leadership, specializing in promoting cultural equity and driving transformative change within underrepresented cultural communities. As the founder and former leader of Play On Philly, Stanford guided the organization for thirteen years, gaining international recognition for its use of music as a tool for social change. He also served as the Founding Board Chairman of El Sistema USA and Equity Arc, where he led complex strategic planning and organizational design initiatives that impact the lives of over 35,000 students across the country. Jim Palmer is recipient of the ASTA Elizabeth A. H. Green Award for a distinguished career in string teaching, James Palmer is an editor, arranger, and featured clinician for Alfred Music.

He is also the Orchestra Director and Fine Arts Department Chairman at Allatoona High School in Acworth, Georgia. To learn more and register, go [here](#).



Works from the [New Canon Project](#) are now available for purchase on the Rising Tide Music and Arts website. A partnership between the Rising Tide, ASTA, and ACDA, the [New Canon Project](#) commissions new works for the secondary orchestra and choral classrooms by Black and Latine composers with distribution via Hal Leonard and ArrangeMe.com. This work is funded in part by the Sphinx Venture Fund. Both ASTA and ACDA will premiere new works from the project at our conferences this month (March, 2025).



ASTA is pleased to announce our 2026 conference will once again be collocated with the Suzuki Association of the Americas. Our theme will be *Embracing the Future: Practicing creativity, curiosity, and compassion*. The conference is February 25-28, 2026 in San Francisco, CA. For more information, including ways to participate, please go [here](#).

BMI



It's been a very active period for BMI since our last update, as we continued to support our affiliates and protect the value of their music. Our engagement with the U.S. Copyright Office (USCO) is ongoing, and last month we asked our creative community to make their voices heard in a critical conversation taking place on Capitol Hill. It started when music licensees approached Congress with concerns about PROs. The USCO had to respond and chose to do so by issuing a request for comments about how the performing rights marketplace is working. We believe the ultimate goal of these licensees is to pay creators and copyright owners less for their music, and we will advocate tirelessly to stop that from happening.

To that end, we prepared a letter to the USCO stating the full perspective of the issues raised and what performance royalties mean to the livelihood of our affiliates, and we were pleased that thousands of our affiliates added their signatures. Together, our collective voice is amplified in this important matter.

On the Licensing front, BMI continued to advocate on behalf of our songwriters, composers and publishers in our negotiations with SiriusXM. After two years of good faith attempts, they remained insistent on underpaying the creators of the very music that drives their business. As a result, last September BMI filed a rate court action to determine fair and appropriate licensing fees, and we will continue to fight for as long it takes to ensure that our affiliates' creative work receives the value it deserves.

Once again, BMI affiliates reached great creative heights and received incredible music industry recognition. We were very proud to congratulate our affiliates recognized with prestigious accolades at the GRAMMY Awards, The Golden Globes, The HMMAs, The Latin GRAMMYS and Premios Lo Nuestro. We also saluted our legendary songwriters nominated for 2025 induction into the Songwriters Hall of Fame and The Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. Additionally, we wish the best of luck of to our affiliates who received coveted nominations for Academy Awards and BRIT Awards.

BMI also continued our annual awards celebrations, notably our 2024 R&B/Hip-Hop Awards honoring Babyface, Country Awards saluting Randy Owen, London Awards recognizing Graham Lyle, and the 2025 BMI Latin Awards, where both Peso Pluma and Tito Double P were celebrated. We're looking forward to paying tribute to our Gospel community with the BMI Trailblazers of Gospel Music Awards, during which we will honor Pastor John P. Kee. As for music festivals, we are excited to once again be taking part in SXSW, showcasing 42 BMI acts across six great events.

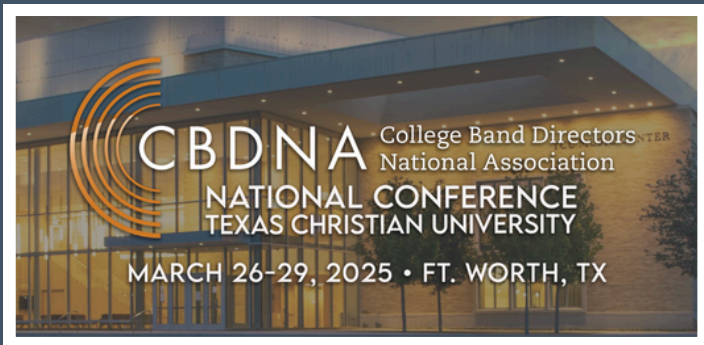
On the BMI Foundation side, we were pleased to establish a new, four-year partnership with both American Composers Orchestra and International Contemporary Ensemble to present BMI composer award-winning works. Additionally, Atlanta-based artist Cam the Artisan was awarded the 2024 Charlie Feldman Award, Pianist and Composer Tomás Jonsson received the 2024 peermusic Latin Music Award, and media composers Nathan Beverage and Leigha Logan were awarded the Los Angeles and New York Pete Carpenter Fellowships, respectively. Lastly, The American Composers Orchestra (ACO) named BMI Foundation, Inc. a 2024 Creative Catalyst honoree at their third annual Gala and Creative Catalyst Awards.

College Band Directors National Association

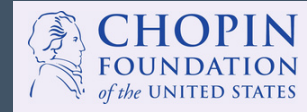


The College Band Directors National Association will hold its biennial conference at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, Texas March 26-29, 2025. During the 3 and a half days there will be 8 concerts by premiere college wind ensembles plus an intercollegiate band concert made up of 100+ students from small college programs.

In addition, there will be 42 presentations on topics ranging from diversity in the profession and classroom to a discussion with Mexican composer Arturo Márquez to the influence of Hip Hop on modern “classical” compositions. The conference web site can be found [here](#).



Chopin Foundation of the United States



The **11th National Chopin Piano Competition** was held from January 4–12, 2025, on the campus of the University of Miami’s Frost School of Music. This quinquennial competition is the Chopin Foundation’s flagship event and marked the 50th Anniversary of its inception in 1975. With fifty-nine unique recitals over the course of four rounds, an extraordinary showcase of artistry was on display at the Newman Recital Hall and the Maurice Gusman Concert Hall. Twenty-three exceptional young American pianists participated in this prestigious event, competing for top prizes and the opportunity to represent the United States at the **XIX International Chopin Piano Competition in Warsaw, Poland**. The distinguished jury was chaired by Kevin Kenner who along with jurors Ning An, Rachel Naomi Kudo, Robert McDonald, Jon Nakamatsu, Ewa Poblocka, Katarzyna Popowa-Zydron and Dina Yoffe selected the winners.

William Yang was awarded the First Prize, which includes \$100,000 cash, a recording project on the Steinway label, a concert tour, and automatic acceptance to the Warsaw competition in October 2025. He also received prizes for the Best Mazurka and Best Sonata. William Yang’s concert tour will include his debut at **Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall on June 17, 2025**.

Mr. Yang and the five other finalists performed the Chopin concertos during the final round with a full orchestra under the baton of Ramon Tebar.

- **Anthony Ratinov** won the Second Prize and \$30,000, along with automatic acceptance to Warsaw.
- **Nathaniel Zhang** received the Third Prize and \$20,000, earning a spot in the Preliminary Round of the Warsaw competition in April 2025. He also was awarded the Best Concerto Prize.
- **Angeline Ma** earned the Fourth Prize of \$5,000 and travel expenses paid if accepted to Warsaw.
- **William Ge** was awarded the Fifth Prize of \$5,000 and travel expenses paid if accepted to Warsaw.
- **Angie Zhang**, Sixth Prize of \$5,000 and travel expenses paid if accepted to Warsaw.

The early rounds were admission-free and open to everyone. Both days of the Final Round were sold out, and for those who could not attend in person, the entire competition was live-streamed. The videos have received over 300,000 views, and are available on the [Chopin Foundation's YouTube channel](#).

Online Programs

The [competition livestream](#) was hosted by Ben Laude and features full performances plus interviews with competitors, experts, and VIP guests, offering valuable insight into the competition and its participants. Ben Laude is also the creator of the [Chopin Podcast](#) – a new collaboration with the Chopin Foundation. Tune in for a deep dive into Chopin's music with Ben and Garrick Ohlsson – the Foundation's Honorary Chair and only American pianist to win First Prize at the International Chopin Piano Competition.

Season of Winners

Building on the excitement of this Competition year, the Chopin Foundation has invited the top laureates to the monthly CHOPIN for ALL free concert series presented in South Florida. The "Season of Winners" concerts are happening

through May 2025 at the African American Research Library and Cultural Center in Fort Lauderdale and the Granada Church in Coral Gables. Dates and performance schedules can be found on www.chopin.org.



William Yang – First Prize Winner, 2025 National Chopin Piano Competition; Photo Credit: @AlexMarkow



Awards Ceremony – January 12, 2025. Winners, Jury, Foundation Board, Sponsors, VIPs; Photo Credit: @AlexMarkow



Ramon Tebar conducts the National Chopin Piano Competition Orchestra with finalist, Angeline Ma; Photo Credit: @AlexMarkow

Delta Omicron International Music Fraternity



Delta Omicron International Professional Music Fraternity is pleased to announce its forty-sixth national and twenty-second international conference, to be held in Baton Rouge, Louisiana July 17-19, 2025. Highlights of the conference include the premiere performance of "Bagatelles (2024) for Bb clarinet and piano" by Dr. Timothy Hoekman, the winning composition in our Triennial Composition Competition. Current and alumni members will also be performing, as well as an additional premiere performance of the Delta Omicron Foundation commissioned composition.

Members of Delta Omicron are encouraged to check the [Delta Omicron website](#) for conference registration and information.

The Midwest Clinic



79th Annual Conference Applications

The [Midwest Clinic International Band and Orchestra Conference](#) recently completed its application cycle for the upcoming 79th annual conference, taking place December 17-19, 2025 in Chicago, IL. We look forward to announcing featured performing groups and clinicians in mid-April 2025.

The world's largest conference focused on instrumental music education, The Midwest Clinic offers engaging learning opportunities for high school students, college music majors, new teachers, veteran teachers, and music administrators. Attendees may choose from 100+ clinics presented by leaders in the profession, aimed at teaching specific instruments or sections, conducting and rehearsal techniques, administering a music program, developing strategies for recruitment and retention, strengthening strategies for music advocacy, teaching improvisation and composition, and implementing technology. Two cornerstones of the conference are the Reading Sessions, that highlight new music publications, and the Rehearsal Labs, that demonstrate best teaching practices.



Throughout the conference, performances are presented by premier musical groups from around the world, including: string orchestras, concert bands, wind ensembles, jazz ensembles or combos, and a variety of chamber groups. Musicians in these ensembles range from elementary, middle, and high school students, college and university students, adult community organizations, professional musicians, and the premiere performers of The United States Military.

Registration opens annually on August 1. For more details on the conference, [click here](#).

Reynolds Conducting Institute Returns to the 79th Clinic: Applications open in April

The Midwest Clinic is pleased to once again present the [H. Robert Reynolds Institute](#), a two-day symposium on the art of conducting held during the annual December conference. Through his commitment to the advancement of conducting, H. Robert Reynolds has inspired countless students around the globe to discover their own passion for the art form. The Midwest Clinic is committed to supporting the art of conducting by presenting an in-depth conducting symposium for outstanding selected participants, December 18-19, 2025.

Applications for the 2025 Reynolds Conducting Institute will open in April 2025. Applicants should submit a video of their conducting and a resume, as well as complete a short application to be considered. Up to twelve Fellows are selected for each Institute and will receive one-on-one instruction from world-renowned conductors, utilizing a professional chamber group and repertoire appropriate for the highest levels of personal growth and professional learning.

To extend the Institute's reach as wide as possible, sessions are open to all Midwest Clinic attendees to observe, culminating in a finale concert on Friday, December 19.

For more information and to apply beginning in April, [click here](#).

Music Publishers Association



The Music Publishers Association is pleased to announce our first course in a series of seminars that will help individuals learn more about the industry: ***The Music Publishing Blueprint: A Crash Course for Industry Professionals & Creatives.***

Whether you're a seasoned professional or just stepping into the industry, this one-day seminar is your essential guide to understanding the fundamentals of Music Publishing.

Monday, May 05, 2025

9:30 AM - 5:00PM + complementary happy hour

Midtown Manhattan

This is an in-person event

[More info can be found here.](#)

Through expert-led sessions, you'll gain practical insights into key topics such as Performance & Grand Rights, Synch, PROs, and the pivotal roles of composers, editors, and publishers in shaping the industry. Designed to build your confidence, we'll walk you through the fundamentals while demystifying some of the complexities of the business. Between sessions, take advantage of networking opportunities to share experiences and connect with colleagues from across the industry.



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The MPA is opening up the nomination process for the Arnold Broido Award for Copyright Advocacy, The MPA Lifetime Achievement Award, and the MPA Award for Composer Advocacy.

Perhaps an educator you know has been particularly passionate about teaching the value of copyright in their classroom? Or a legislator working behind the scenes to make sure that composers and publishers get their fair share? Or a retired colleague who you feel is due their praise? **Let us know!**

PLEASE NOTE:

Nominations are due MAY 02, 2025

Awards will be presented in the fall of 2025 in New York City

[More info & nomination form here](#)

Questions regarding The Blueprint or Award nominations may be directed to MPA Director, Brittain Ashford, at b.ashford@mpa.org.

Music Performance Trust Fund



The recording industry's Music Performance Trust Fund Announces 2025 Scholarships Opportunity

(New York, New York, February 25, 2025) The recording industry's Music Performance Trust Fund (MPTF), a leading non-profit organization enriching lives and uniting communities through the power of music, will begin accepting applications for its two college scholarship tracks on March 1, 2025. Applications will be accepted through May 31, 2025.

Since the scholarship initiative was launched in 2020, over 550 students attending colleges and universities throughout North America have received in excess of \$700,000 in support.

“At a time when the cost of education continues to rise and resources are fewer, we are grateful to be able to continue the MPTF scholarship initiative begun during the pandemic” said Dan Beck, MPTF Trustee.

“Students working hard to create a positive future for themselves need all the help we can give them.”

There are two scholarship tracks, both of which require personal essays in response to particular writing prompts that change annually. Applicants’ essays are scored on the originality of their answers, not on a broad analysis of the topic being explored.

Music Family Scholarships of \$1,000 will be awarded to 75 individual recipients. This category is open to the members in good standing of the American Federation of Musicians (AFM) and their children who will attend a college or trade school in the fall of 2025, pursuing any field of study.

Music’s Future Scholarships are open to all music students, with no union affiliations required. A total of 30 recipients will receive \$2,500 toward their music degrees as they pursue careers in education, performance, therapy and conducting.

For more information and application forms, [click here](#).

The Recording Industry’s Music Performance Trust Fund Projects Grants of More than \$1 Million to Communities Celebrating Jazz Appreciation Month in April 2025

(New York, New York, March 4, 2025) 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 on track to distribute over \$1,000,000 in grants for admission-free live concerts this April for Jazz Appreciation Month (JAM).

This is the second consecutive year that the dollar value of the grants, which pay professional jazz musicians to perform, will achieve that level. Last year, the funds supported 750 performances throughout the U.S. and Canada in April alone, including 75 that were live streamed through the MPTF’s Facebook page.

MPTF Trustee Dan Beck stated, “Regional pockets of live jazz are alive and well across North America, and it is fundamental to the genre. The local offices of the American Federation of Musicians do a tremendous job of organizing these performances for their communities and for their musicians.”

The MPTF plays a vital role in support of the music industry’s gig economy. Primarily funded by four major record companies, including Sony Music, Universal Music Group, Warner Music Group, and Walt Disney Records, 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, the MPTF has distributed more than \$630 million (USD) in sponsorship money.

The annual campaign, themed by the MPTF as “Jazz Across America,” features the support of website partners www.allaboutjazz.com and www.jazznearyou.com, where performer and event location information for most of the performances are being listed. These websites boast the world’s largest jazz events calendars and reach a combined 240,000 viewers per month.

All live stream events will be featured on the [MPTF Facebook page](#). Beck added, “Tuning in to live stream performance events as they happen is a unique way the public can experience jazz musicians from various locales throughout the U.S. and Canada.”

Jazz performances have been supported by the MPTF since it began more than 75 years ago, and over 1,600 regional jazz concerts have been funded since the end of the pandemic. With this year’s projections, the fund will have distributed more than \$3.1 million in Jazz Across America grants to compensate these fine musicians.

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 Samantha Ramos, Director of Grant Management, at sramos@musicpf.org or visit www.musicpf.org.

About All About Jazz: All About Jazz (AAJ) 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 mr Ricci.aaj@gmail.com.

Music Teachers National Association



MTNA Hires New COO

Music Teachers National Association announces the appointment of Tom Crawford to the position of Chief Operating Officer, effective February 17. Following the promotion of former COO Brian Shepard to Chief Executive Officer in July 2024, Crawford was selected from a nationwide pool of more than 50 candidates.

In this role, Crawford will be responsible for overseeing MTNA’s day-to-day operations. He will work closely with the CEO and other leaders to ensure operational efficiency, strategic alignment and effective implementation of MTNA’s mission, strategy and goals. View the full press release [here](#).

Call for Abstracts

The MTNA e-Journal publishes abstracts from doctoral-level dissertations, theses and papers. Abstracts will be accepted May 1 through May 31, 3:00 P.M. Eastern Time. Visit the [“Stay Informed”](#) section of the MTNA website for details.

2025 MTNA Collegiate Symposium

The 14th Collegiate Symposium was held January 18–19, 2025, at the University of Oklahoma in Norman, Oklahoma. More than 100 collegiate students, members and faculty from around the country attended this educational and enriching weekend filled with sessions, keynote speakers, panels, recitals and networking.

The 2026 MTNA Collegiate Symposium will be held January 17–18 at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, South Carolina. Stay updated [here](#).

2025 MTNA National Conference

The 2025 MTNA National Conference will be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, March 15–19. Headlining artists include Libby Larsen, Michelle Cann, Jennifer Linn, John Bloomfield and Lynda Lybeck-Robinson, NCTM. For more information, [click here](#).

TEMPO, a virtual conference

Music Teachers National Association is excited to announce a new, completely virtual event for music educators, students and industry professionals! Named “TEMPO,” the virtual event will encompass Teaching, Education, Music & Pedagogy—Online.

Registration for TEMPO is included in 2025 MTNA National Conference registration. TEMPO-only registration is now open. Find more [here](#).

Celebrating 150 Years of MTNA

In honor of the organization’s 150th anniversary next year, \$15,000 of grant funding has been allocated to support celebration activities by state affiliates and local associations. These additional grants will offer up to \$1,000 to affiliates for celebration activities through the Affiliate Grant application process. These funds will be offered in addition to the \$5,000 already available through general [Affiliate Enrichment Grants](#), which are due May 1, 2025, 3:00 P.M. Eastern Time.

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.

National Association for Music Education



40th Anniversary of Music In Our Schools Month® (MIOSM®).

This March NAfME is celebrating the 40th annual NAfME Music In Our Schools Month. The theme is United Through Music, as designated by NAfME President Deb Confredo. NAfME Advocacy and public policy staff will host an online event March 12, and registration information will be available soon at nafme.org/MIOSM. NAfME encourages all music education advocates to share how this theme resonates with you and your community. Follow #MIOSM and #UnitedThroughMusic on social media and visit nafme.org/MIOSM for updates.

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: zacharyk@nafme.org. Please include details regarding where the logo will be placed and any mock-up designs as applicable for review and approval.



2025 NAfME Division Elections.

On February 14, 2025, the National Association for Music Education announced the 2025–2027 Presidents-Elect for the Eastern, Northwest, and Southwestern Divisions, **elected** by NAfME members. The Eastern Division President-Elect is Wayne Mallette. The Northwest Division President-Elect is Chad Rose. And the Southwestern Division President-Elect is Joseph N. Flores. **Get to know** each of the newly elected individuals.

10 Schools Presented Grants to Start Tri-M® Music Honor Society Chapters:

This January, Tri-M® and the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) announced the 10 middle and high schools presented grants to start new Tri-M chapters in their schools. “Tri-M is a truly significant gem in the beautiful mosaic that is the National Association for Music Education,” stated NAfME President Deborah A. Confredo. “The tenets of this student-run music honor society—musical

musical achievement, leadership, and service—provide a window into the passion and dedication of every student who is chosen to participate. Schools with middle and high school Tri-M chapters overtly demonstrate a recognition of music’s value and importance by shining a light on the outstanding students who are called to Tri-M service.” [Read more](#) about how these ten new chapters plan to serve in their schools and communities.

2025 NAFME Music Program Leaders Forum.

This Forum will take place April 23-24, 2025, in Hartford, Connecticut, at the 2025 NAFME Eastern Division Conference.

Administrator/ leadership-oriented sessions will address: supporting and advancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and access (DEIA) at all levels in the field of music education; sharing innovative ideas for the support of pre-service and early career music teachers, and for helping teachers feel a sense of belonging in their school and community; supporting the ideas presented in the NAFME [Blueprint for Strengthening the Music Teacher Profession](#); and fostering interaction and interdisciplinary connections across NAFME’s vibrant network of communities, affiliates, councils, and societies. [Learn more here.](#)

NAFME Eastern Division Conference: Advocate, Elevate, Celebrate!

This event will take place April 24–27 at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford, Connecticut. It will include honor ensembles, as well as a Tri-M® Music Honor Society Day for middle and high school music students. Exhibitor opportunities are available. [Learn more here.](#)

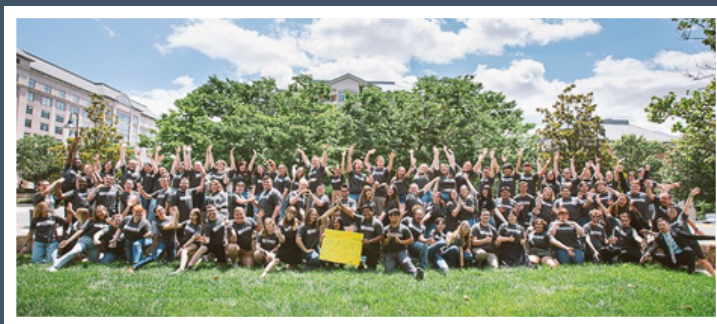


Photo Credit: Ashlee Wilcox Photography LLC

This June—NAFME Collegiate Leadership Advocacy Summit:

This year’s [NAFME Collegiate Leadership Advocacy Summit](#) (CLAS) will be held from June 9–11 in Reston, Virginia. Over a decade since the first Summit, the event continues to bring together music education students from all over the country for leadership-centric learning sessions, advocacy training, and professional networking. Attendees are afforded the opportunity to engage with their state and national leaders, share their stories, and create lasting bonds with fellow attendees. The event concludes with NAFME Hill Day, during which all attendees head to Capitol Hill to meet with congressional representatives and staffers to advocate on behalf of music education at the federal level. Visit the [CLAS webpage](#) for the latest information and check out last year’s [CLAS recap blog and video](#) to learn more.

June 29–30—Sierra Summit Leadership Conference, Las Vegas:

The NAFME Western Division will hold this event at the College of Southern Nevada this June. Building on past Western Division leadership events, the Summit will connect the NAFME Music Teacher Profession Initiative to music educators at all points in their career pathway. The event will be a fresh and forward-thinking presentation on what successful leadership is for music educators throughout their careers. [Learn more and review the preliminary agenda.](#)

Corporate Sponsorship Opportunities for the NAFME Collegiate Leadership Advocacy Summit:

Amplify your brand with pre-service music educators. This in-person event taking place June 9–11 has been very popular with future music educators for more than 10 years. For updates, visit the [event page](#). Also consider [NAfME's Corporate Membership](#) for amplifying your brand with music educators. Benefit from exclusive access to a network of more than 57,000 engaged K–12 and higher education music educators, enhancing your impact and extending your outreach in the profession. [Learn more here.](#)

NAfME Public Policy and Advocacy Updates:

Arts Education Alliance News:

NAfME and the Arts Education Alliance are excited to announce the rollout of our social media campaign, informing educators how ESSA programs can support the arts. This campaign features a suite of graphics on Titles I, II, and IV, providing an overview of the programs and how arts educators can benefit from them. In addition, we will introduce revised toolkits for Titles I, II, and IV, providing members with detailed explanations of federal programs and how they can support the arts.

Take action today to support music and arts education funding!

Federal funds can support visual arts, media arts, dance, theatre, and music education—but we need you to contact elected officials today.

Email your elected officials here: bit.ly/Advocate4ArtsEd
Learn more at bit.ly/HowToSupportArtsEd

Logos for Educational Theatre Foundation, National Association of Music Merchants, NAFME, National Association of Music Merchants, NAMM Foundation, and nde.

We encourage you to reshare these resources with educators, advocates, and others within your network. Learn more about the [ESSA Arts Education Campaign](#).

In addition to the ESSA campaign, we have put together a new action alert in support of federal funding during the 119th Congress using our new advocacy platform Quorum. The campaign will run through March 14 (or once an appropriations package is passed). [Join in this advocacy campaign](#) and share this campaign with your members as well! Stay tuned to NAfME's social media pages on Facebook and Instagram (@nafme) for more information on our latest advocacy projects.

March 12: Celebrate the 40th Music In Our Schools Month® with us!

To celebrate Music In Our Schools Month NAfME will be hosting a virtual gathering to highlight 40 years of Music In Our Schools Month and the importance of continued advocacy for music education. The virtual event will be held on March 12 from 7:00–8:30 PM ET. Please join us to celebrate MIOSM® and hear from educators, advocates, and the broader community on how music education has changed their lives! Registration will be available soon at nafme.org/MIOSM.

National Association of Music Merchants



The 2025 NAMM Show Unites the Global Music Industry with World's Largest Global Gathering

From January 21–25, NAMM (The National Association of Music Merchants), the largest global not-for-profit music trade organization, gathered the music industry at The 2025 NAMM Show for a powerful week that set the music industry's narrative for years ahead. With 1,850

exhibitors representing over 4,400 brands and more than 250 educational sessions for NAMM member communities, The NAMM Show highlighted innovative music technologies, product introductions, and impending trends that shape the future of the music industry while creating a five-day long platform for network connections and meetings that are critical for uniting and growing music makers globally.



“The 2025 NAMM Show united and energized our NAMM members from the entire ecosystem of the music industry,” says John Mlynczak, NAMM president and CEO. “NAMM is the global stage for our industry to announce groundbreaking products, establish transformative partnerships, and gain valuable education that will lead to a successful year ahead.”

NAMM SHOW 2025 BY THE NUMBERS

- 63,000+ show attendees, including 10,700+ international attendees from 125 countries, regions and territories
- 1,850+ exhibitors representing 4,400+ brands
- Nearly 8,700 artists demonstrating and endorsing products
- 250+ education sessions with 650+ speakers
- 1,600+ media, influencers and content creators reaching over 200 million followers

“The 2025 NAMM Show delivered in every possible capacity, from headline artist performances on multiple stages every single day and night to emerging music industry leaders delivering powerful messages inside the convention center, as well as hundreds of new products and partnerships,” said Tom Sumner, NAMM Chairman and President of Yamaha Corporation of America. “We’re thrilled to unite our global industry every January, and the 2025 Show brought that energy and excitement that will be remembered for a long time.” Read the entire press release [here](#).



NAMM to Once Again Unite Music Products Industry with NAMM NeXT 2025 in Nashville

NAMM has announced the second year of NAMM NeXT, a two-day education and networking summit that strengthens the music industry by providing expert insights and analysis for the future of business.

“We are excited to announce NAMM NeXT 2025, which will once again unite the leaders of our NAMM member companies around the common goal of strengthening the music products industry,” said John Mlynczak, president and CEO of NAMM. “After witnessing the overwhelming positive energy and abundance of ideas gained at our inaugural event, it was abundantly clear that we need to keep this event going in Music City USA for NAMM NeXT 2025.” Read the entire press release [here](#).

NAMM Policy Priorities

NAMM serves its members by tracking, engaging and educating on matters of public policy, based on three priorities: Business Compliance, Music Education Advocacy and Workforce Development. We represent the interests of the music products industry through virtual and in-person advocacy campaigns, such as the NAMM Music Education D.C. Fly-In. Members are invited to participate in trade, sustainability and music education advocacy working groups, as well as in educational webinars and advocacy efforts. Learn more [here](#).

NAMM Members Represented at CITES Standing Committee: NAMM sponsors Musical Instruments and CITES-Protected Species side event

NAMM was represented at the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) Standing Committee meeting on February 4, in Geneva, Switzerland. In preparation for the 29th Conference of the Parties (CoP) in November, NAMM sponsored a side event during the Standing Committee gathering that offered an important opportunity for NAMM members and partners in music to connect with delegates and officials. The event was well-attended, and the performances left a significant impact on delegates — facilitating connections to ongoing negotiations at the conference.

Read more [here](#).

NAMM CEO Statement on the Impact of Global Tariffs

A statement from NAMM President and CEO John Mlynczak on the Impact of Global Tariffs. Read entire statement [here](#).

NAMM's policy team is closely monitoring and updating their members on the impact of Tariffs.

Read the update [here](#).



NAMM Advocacy Fly-In

On May 5-8, 2025, NAMM members will gather in the U.S. Capitol to meet with Members of Congress to advocate for music education funding and other issues that impact the industry. [Learn more](#).

NAMM FOUNDATION NEWS



The NAMM Foundation Recognizes First Donation to Support Music Education Lost to the Palisades Fire.

The NAMM Foundation is pleased to announce that during The 2025 NAMM Show, we made our initial donation of \$10,000 from the LA Wildfire Relief Fund to Lana Negrete and Outreach Through the Arts.

Lana, the Mayor of Santa Monica, and owner of Santa Monica Music Center has been a champion for music education in her community. This donation will support music students by providing lessons, replacing instruments and the ability for her community to support music programs lost to the Palisades fire. The foundation will continue to share the impact of the donations in the coming weeks.



Consider a Career in Music Resources Available

The NAMM Foundation'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



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](#) and scroll to the Competitions & Awards Chart for award opportunities. Share these available awards with your colleagues and friends – they will thank you!



2025 Biennial Convention

All National Federation members are invited to attend the [2025 Convention](#) in Austin, Texas, June 10-14 at the Austin Hilton Airport Hotel. Membership is open, so join the fun and come to our Convention!

Founded in 1898, NFMC is celebrating our 127th year of promoting American Music. The mission of the National Federation of Music Clubs is to support and develop American music and musicians.

Deborah T. Freeman, NFMC President

Sigma Alpha Iota International Music Fraternity



Sigma Alpha Iota (SAI) will be hosting its 51st National Convention in Minneapolis, MN on July 17-21, 2025. Held triennially, the convention is a time for members and guests to connect, learn, celebrate achievements, and share new music. The Inter-American Music Awards (IAMA) competition concert held on the 18th will feature three premieres of new works - one by the winner and two by our composer-judges, SAI Member Laureate Libby Larsen and SAI Composers Bureau member Jerod Impichchaachaaha' Tate. Saturday evening's performance is the SAI Philanthropies, Inc. Benefit Concert featuring world-renowned violinist Rachel Barton Pine.

SAI Philanthropies, Inc. established the People-to-People music project in 1964 to provide material assistance and encouragement to schools, music organizations, and musicians in many parts of the world.

Efforts have been carried out in more than 60 countries. The newest addition to our outreach efforts includes the Natural Disaster Relief project, designed to assist SAI members, area schools, and local community programs that have lost musical instruments and equipment due to a natural disaster. Work is underway in Asheville, NC, where our national headquarters resides, to fund requests from Hurricane Helene damage. We encourage those in need from recent events, such as hurricanes and wildfires, to apply.

The 76th 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](#) for more information on the all the above.

SESAC Music Group



SESAC Music Group is a global, multi-line music company that provides a wide range of data, technology and services to publishers, songwriters, composers, and creators across every corner of the music industry. With its four divisions including Performing Rights, Music Services, Audiovisual Music, and Church Resources, SESAC Music Group drives efficiency in licensing for music users and is home to a wide array of world-class music companies.

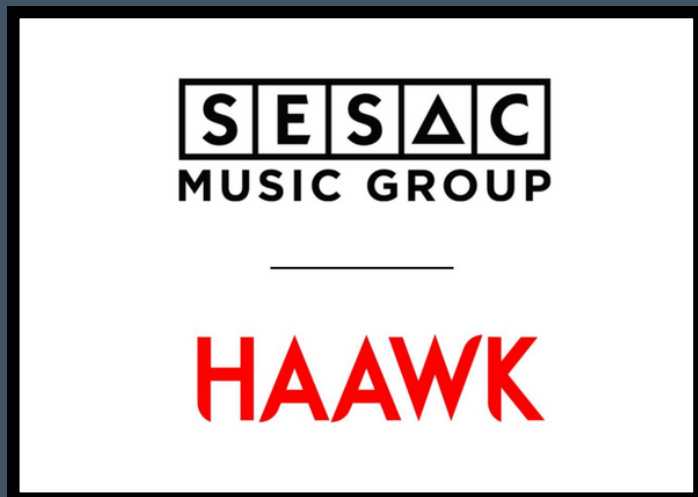
Chairman and CEO John Josephson sat down with Stuart Dredge of Music Ally for an interview to talk about the future of SESAC Music Group: [Sesac Music Group talks acquisitions, expansion and the fight against fraud - Music Ally](#)

HAAWK

In October, SESAC Music Group announced its acquisition of [HAAWK](#), a media software and services company specializing in copyright management and monetization for independent music, film, television, and video catalogs.

HAAWK (Helping All Assets With Knowledge) provides full-service administration of YouTube's Content ID system and Facebook's Rights Manager platforms (including Instagram), serving a broad range of record labels, publishers, and music rightsholder clients. HAAWK will operate alongside Audio Salad as part of the artist and label distribution services segment of SESAC Music Group's Music Services division.

Learn more: [HAAWK Lands at SESAC Music Group | SESAC Music Group](#)



BMAC's Willie "Prophet" Stiggers Honored with Visionary Award at 2024 SESAC Music Awards

SESAC celebrated its songwriters and music publishers behind the most-performed songs of 2023 across a variety of genres at The Highlight Room in Hollywood on September 17, marking the third year the awards took place in Los Angeles.

Black Music Action Coalition (BMAC) co-founder, president and CEO, Willie "Prophet" Stiggers, was presented with SESAC's Visionary Award in recognition of the organization's ongoing work championing artists and creating equity within the music industry. "Prophet's dedication to equality and racial justice has inspired us all to do more and build a stronger, more equitable creative community. I'm proud to call him a friend," said Mario Prins, VP, Creative Services.

For a full list of winners, visit: [SESAC | 2024 SESAC Music Awards](#)



Strengthening Connections: SESAC Music Group's Community Engagement

At SESAC Music Group, we're committed to fostering meaningful connections within our community through mentorship, career development, and support for our local communities. Here's a look at our latest efforts:

JamsGiving (November 2024)

SMG partnered with local businesses, food banks, and community organizations to give donations (clean food and wellness resources) to members of the Crenshaw District community in LA. Employees volunteered/provided event support by packing hundreds of giveaway bags.

Supporting Veterans with Operation Stand Down (December 2024)

SMG participated in Operation Stand Down's annual networking and toy drive event, supporting veteran families while engaging with service members transitioning into civilian careers. Our team provided valuable insights on hiring opportunities and career development, reinforcing our commitment to those who have served.

Tennessee State University Partnership (February 2025)

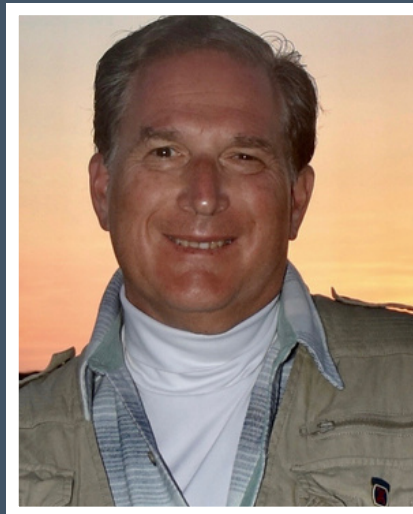
SMG welcomed students from the Tennessee State University Music Department to our Nashville office. Department leaders shared insights into SESAC PRO, the company's impact on the music industry, and their personal career journeys. This initiative provides students with a deeper understanding of the industry while fostering professional growth.

Adopt-a-School Initiative (February – April 2025)

SESAC Music Group is launching an exciting new Music Business Mentorship Program in partnership with Pearl-Cohn High School, designed to give students real-world experience in the business of music. Team leaders will meet with students, share their career journeys, and introduce the mentorship program. The six-week program includes eighteen students, divided into four groups, who will develop high-level music business plans focused on releasing, distributing, and marketing a record, as well as understanding the administrative process of pitching a written song.

Students will present their projects "Shark Tank-style" to SESAC executive department leaders, gaining hands-on experience in the music industry. By investing in future industry leaders and strengthening community ties, we continue to drive meaningful impact both inside and outside the music business.

A STATEMENT OF HOPE, OPTIMISM AND COMMITMENT FROM THE NMC CHAIR



Those of us whose professional lives revolve around the world of music are *always* in the midst of challenging times. I am guessing that many of you may have noticed that these days are no exception.

Yes, the advance of generative artificial intelligence poses an existential threat to our livelihoods. Yes, we need to be ever vigilant in protecting our rights to create, to teach and to speak without fear. And no, we will not allow those who would take our skills and works without consent, credit and compensation to do so, by fighting back to preserve what is ours in every reasonable way possible. In short, we will do what we have always done: persevere with courage and hard work today as we look toward an even brighter future for the musical arts tomorrow.

The Congressionally-chartered National Music Council of the United States was created and has flourished for eight decades on the premise that American musical culture is among our greatest national assets, resources and exports. Our music promotes American values around the world as no other art form and as few other initiatives are able, providing benefits that go far beyond mere commerce and entertainment. It is the symbolic lifeblood of our cultural commitment –the one we make to ourselves and to others every day—that we have dedicated our life’s work in music to making this world a better place to be.

Preserving, protecting and fulfilling that role is worth our every effort, and so we shall.
Especially now.

So please do not for any reason despair. The power of music to accomplish the extraordinary will prevail. It must. It has. And it will again.

--Charles J. Sanders
NMC Chair

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



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 BEST PLACE TO STAY
CONNECTED WITH THE
NATIONAL MUSIC COUNCIL
IS 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!



**CLICK HERE TO FOLLOW
US ON INSTAGRAM!**



**CLICK HERE TO LIKE US
ON FACEBOOK!**