

Personal Statement: Elizabeth Achieng' Andang'o

I am grateful to the membership of ISME for electing me to serve on the Board during the 2018-2020 Biennium. It has been a great learning experience. Most importantly, it has provided a platform to share ideas on promoting music education with both African and international colleagues. Through these interactions, I have had opportunities to encourage younger scholars and music practitioners to join ISME and submit proposals for the World Conference in Helsinki. I hope they will succeed, and that greater opportunities will arise for strengthening music education at their various levels. Having learnt some lessons in my on-going term, if re-elected to the Board, my priorities would be to network more in the area of music professional development for early years and primary school educators. Music in early childhood is gaining ground in Kenya and many other African countries, as governmental support for the arts improves. I also hope to continue mentorship of younger music scholars through collaborative research initiatives and academic publication, using the recently launched International Journal of Music in Early Childhood (IJMEC), where I serve as Associate Editor for Africa as a point of contact with colleagues. Additionally, my goal to work with other affiliate music organizations to promote cross-cultural interactions among music educators and practitioners is on-going.