Natassa Economidou Stavrou

Personal statement

As an active member of ISME since 2002, I realize that my regular participation in ISME in regional and world conferences, my long involvement in the *IJME* editorial board and, the last two years, serving ISME as a board member, have been inspiring, empowering and transformative for me as a music educator from so many perspectives. My experience, both as a music educator and researcher has confirmed that collaboration and opportunities to exchange ideas and opinions, share good practices and discuss challenges may significantly contribute to important knowledge production. I cherish the ongoing networking and the opportunities to discuss, learn from, and interact with ISME members from all around the world, during the last 20 years.

Being a University faculty member in music education and an active early years music educator, taking a coordinating role in the design of my country’s National Music Curriculum, researching practice through collaborations with music teachers and students and serving as board member of national, European and international music education associations and societies, have made my passion and commitment for music education to grow towards a more global perspective.

Music education faces today more challenges than ever, among them being access to high quality musical learning for all, inside and outside schools. ISME, as the global organization for music education, has a key role to play in addressing this challenge. Synergies and collaborative inquiries between academics, practitioners and music education associations and institutions could significantly improve the quality and relevance of musical experiences we offer to our learners, as well as facilitate and expand access to and opportunities for music-making for all people, satisfying their diverse musical needs, interests, and capacities. I firmly believe and advocate ISME’s mission of supporting and promoting music education and music making for all, and give voice to all stakeholders involved in music education.

I am honoured to have served ISME as a board member during 2020-2022, even if this only happened through screens, emails, online meetings and online events. I would be very much interested to serve a second term in this distinguished network of music educators and contribute, with my work and experience, to the ongoing intercultural dialogue and actions on important issues in the field of music education.