**Otukile Sindiso Phibion**

**Personal statement for envisioned contribution to ISME**

I have been an ISME member uninterruptedly since first learning of the Society in 1998 when I attended a conference in South Africa as a sponsored delegate. Through this involvement, I have gathered a wealth of experience by attending conferences and interacting with international scholars from all over the world. It is my belief that the experience I have gathered could now be shared with colleagues through membership of the ISME Board. The experience I bring includes designing of a Music Degree programme for the University of Botswana, External Examining for four universities of students at Masters and Doctoral levels respectively, Research and Publications. From 2007 I have been involved at my university in the implementation of the Internationalization and Partnerships Policy, establishing reciprocal Exchange programmes with the University of Jyvaskyla in Finland. I also initiated a partnership with Chaoyang University of Technology of Taiwan, which was approved on 26 September 2018. I am a renowned choir director for both school and community choirs who have won trophies and awards nationally and regionally. I am also an experienced national and regional choral music adjudicator. I am in the process of forming a Music Society in Botswana to bring music educators together to affiliate with ISME. This is meant for the growth of marginalized Music Education in Botswana. I am also a specialist in community music research, going into the community, negotiating with knowledgeable elders/cultural custodians for ethnomusicological data collection.