

PERSONAL STATEMENT – ISME President Elect candidacy

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Coming together stronger again

The International Society for Music Education has been a part of my life since 1994, when I attended my first ISME conference as a young PhD student. I was excited, amazed and thrilled to discover a whole world full of kindred spirits. Through my participation in conferences and commission seminars, in the many countries that ISME has taken me, I have formed friendships that already last a lifetime. I am constantly inspired by my interactions with fellow music educators from around the world - professionals, researchers, teachers, musicians- with whom I share the same passion and ideas, and today I can say that I feel part of a big family – the ISME family.

I have regularly attended and participated in MISTEC Commission Seminars and served as a commissioner and chair. I organized the 2012 MISTEC Seminar in my hometown, Komotini, in Greece and had the joy and privilege to welcome almost 80 delegates from around the world.

I have also served the Society in several roles that helped me understand the administrative challenges and intricacies of this global organization. I had the privilege of serving on the Board of Directors for four years, two of which as a member of the executive committee. As chair of the publication committee during a transitional and transformational period, I had the opportunity to witness the diversity of discourse as well as the great potential for growth that the Society possesses.

My 20-year experience in the largest University of my country as a professor and through various roles and positions that I held, helped me develop skills in management and administration as well as team building and leadership.

If elected I will employ my experience in the above environments to:

- Further the Society's outward-looking goals
- Foster funding through networking to promote research and education opportunities for all members
- Continue and enhance the technological advancement of the Society for communication, connection, and information exchange between members
- Enable and empower teamwork to build on the membership's capacity for supporting each other

As we are slowly moving towards the light at the end of the tunnel, supporting each other is the only way to start the healing process at the aftermath of the pandemic; coming together again to re-claim the importance that music and music education have in our lives.

ISME, as a living organism is as strong as its members. We, the members of the ISME family, are the Society and we are Music Education. Together, with our diverse voices, we will overcome and grow stronger so that many more people from around the world can experience the transformative power our global community can offer.

It would be an honor to have your support.