**Personal statement**

Dr. Lee Cheng

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Like many other members, ISME has been part of my academic journey to become a successful researcher and practitioner in music education. The first time I participated in ISME main conference is 2012 when I was a PhD student at that time. I still remember the younger me sitting at the last row of the room where the Research Commission Pre Conference Seminars were held, understanding almost nothing from the presentations. I gradually became more knowledgeable as times goes by and started to realise the truthful power of music as a language to unify people from different cultures around the world. Music education is therefore vital to make available opportunities for people to connect with each other.

I have worked in different positions at The Education University of Hong Kong for many years before reallocating to the UK this year serving as Associate Professor at Anglia Ruskin University. Specialising in music technology and education, I have been contributing to the field of music education through different means, including but not limited to publishing journal articles, participating in regional and international conferences, developing technologies and teaching resources. I also serve to promote music education with different external appointments, such as the examiner positions at Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM) and Hong Kong Arts Development Council.

I have been working for the Music Technology SIG for many years. Currently, I am serving as the Convenor of Music Technology SIG, and the theme leaders of Music, Media and Technology and Cross Curricular and Integrated Music Practices for the forthcoming main conference. Because of the growing importance of information and communication technology under the threat of COVID-19, I have also been giving suggestions to the management team on how we could improve the quality of participation at the main conference in the hybrid mode. I hope I could continue to serve ISME with my expertise, therefore I decided to run for board member in this term.

I believe the good use of music technology could help closing the inequalities gap to achieve *music making for all*. With a technological mind and diversified cultural background, I hope I can work with the board to build a brighter future for ISME and create great impact to people around the world with the power of music education.