

## PERSONAL STATEMENT

### **Raymond Torres-Santos (Puerto Rico/USA)**

I see my contribution to ISME from various perspectives: as an educator, composer, conductor, arranger, pianist, author and administrator in public and urban education institutions; but also from a global and inclusive perspective given both my academic training (in USA and Europe) and professional activities (in Asia, Latin America and the Middle East).

I have been an ISME member for more than twenty years and during this time I have presented in all its world conferences including: Bologna, Beijing, Thessaloniki, Porto Alegre and Glasgow. These activities have made me fully aware about the importance to build and maintain a worldwide community of music educators characterized by mutual respect and support. I am particularly interested in making sure we cooperate with all the world's music educators- either in formal and informal music education settings as well as practicing a wide variety of musics- on endeavors as diverse as: preparation, compensation, resources, access to music, information about music and opportunities to develop musical and related skills.

Because my scholarly work focuses on music education, creativity, multiculturalism, music criticism and inter-disciplinary studies (my book, *Music Education in the Caribbean and Latin America: A Comprehensive Guide*, was recently published by the USA National Association of Music Education), I have a particular interest in fostering improvisation and compositional activities at early ages as well as connecting music to other disciplines to help students to learn, achieve and succeed.

As a practicing musician (film composer, pianist and conductor), I find it extremely important to use technology to enhance self-presentation and promote development; to offer a sound education to professional musicians; and to empower educators on the current impact of intellectual property and copyright laws in the classroom.

I have had educational and professional leadership roles in the USA, first in the College Music Society (CMS), and later in the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (NARAS), and currently in the American Society of Music Arrangers and Composers (ASMAC) as its Vice-President. In summary, all my previous experiences relate directly to many of the ISME Commissions (research, community music, education of the professional musician, music in schools and teacher education) and Special Interest Groups (Jazz, Popular Music and Music Technology).

Therefore, I am willing to undertake a leadership role in the governance and activities of the organization as well as continue to work collaboratively with individuals interested in music education. If elected to the ISME Board, I will definitely promote integrity,

respect, empathy and celebrate the diversity and multiculturalism for the world's music educators.