

Personal Statement - ISME President Elect Candidacy

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Presidency Theme: Our Society as a Change Agent in the World

At times of growing social, cultural and educational change, ISME is challenged to provide innovative leadership and foster collaborative, equitable music education opportunities. As the rich diversity of musical and cultural practices in the world become more easily accessible, technologically mediated, and easily manipulated and co-opted, our international society must model and amplify how music educators can engage critically and act ethically. Today, ISME is poised to expand its capacity to positively impacting the lives of individuals and communities. There is no doubt, however, that the challenges are great and mounting, and leadership alone will not suffice. ISME's strength is in its multiple parts—Commissions, SIGs, Regionals—and these voices are essential. Together, we can rise to meet the moment.

If elected, I commit to working with you to:

- Foster and fortify a governance culture that is welcoming, equitable and transparent;
- Amplify mentorship and networking opportunities across the lifespan (from students, to early career, to honorary life members);
- Advance a decolonizing disposition; addressing barriers for participation, fostering allyship, and cultivating a critical stance on the Society's own practices;
- Invest in further modernizing the society, establish mechanisms for the society to partner broadly, and secure funds to further new educational and research initiatives;
- Build on the outstanding research capacity of the membership, linking research to policy and advocacy efforts.

Those of us who have made ISME a constant in our lives, return to the Society because somewhere along the way—in regional or world conferences, commission seminars, through research projects, and even late night gatherings—participating in ISME alongside extraordinary colleagues from around the world changed the way we saw ourselves and our work; reaffirming the promise music and education hold in the lives of many. ISME afforded me the space to better understand my own field and to benefit from the rich insight that emerges from meaningful international collaborations. As someone who grew up and worked in Brazil prior to immigrating to the United States and now to Canada, I recognized my own lifeworld in this international community. Nearly 20 years of such experiences compel me to continue to serve the Society, its needs and mission, while contributing to its inspiring history.

My participation in various leadership roles within ISME afforded me an intricate understanding of the society; fully appreciating its impact while being critically aware of challenges ahead. At a time of substantial changes for the society, I served on ISME's Constitution and by-laws Task Force. This remarkable, near 4-year process, allowed me to work with several ISME presidents and honorary members, providing me with a close knowledge of the society's history and its structures. Having now served two terms on the ISME board and currently on the executive board, I am also deeply aware of both our organizational capacity and shortcomings. I believe, however, that ISME plays an irreplaceable role in the Music Education field and is well positioned to further expand its global influence upon educational, cultural, and organizational environments.

Inspired by the United Nations model, ISME's Constitution clearly acknowledges that *we the members* are the society. I would be honored to work with you and on your behalf to sustain and fulfill the promise to meaningfully *promote the learning and teaching of music for all people*.