



**National Association  
for Music Education**

## ISME NATIONAL AFFILIATE ORGANIZATION PROFILE

**NAME:** National Association for Music Education

**NATION:** United States of America

### **MEMBERSHIP:**

The National Association for Music Education (NAfME), among the world's largest arts education organizations with a base membership of over 60,000 music educators, is the only U.S. association that addresses all aspects of music education. Its members include music educators who teach at all levels (prekindergarten, collegiate, & adult groups) and in both public and nonpublic settings, engaged in teaching in a variety of music-making contexts.

### **BRIEF HISTORY AND OPERATIONAL/ORGANIZATIONAL CONTEXT:**

Since 1907, NAfME has worked to ensure that every student has access to a well-balanced, comprehensive, and high-quality program of music instruction taught by qualified teachers. NAfME was originally called Music Supervisors' National Conference; then, in 1934, it became Music Educators National Conference (MENC). In 1998, the name changed to MENC: The National Association for Music Education. On September 1, 2011, the organization became simply National Association for Music Education. NAfME's activities and resources have been largely responsible for the establishment of music education as a profession, for the promotion and guidance of music study as an integral part of the school curriculum, and for the development of the National Standards for Arts Education in the United States. The current focus of NAfME can perhaps best be defined through its Strategic Plan for 2016-2021, which is available at [nafme.org/about/mission-and-goals/](http://nafme.org/about/mission-and-goals/). NAfME advocates at the local, state, and national levels; provides resources for teachers, parents, and administrators; hosts professional development events; and offers a variety of opportunities for students and teachers.

### **ONGOING CHALLENGES:**

The mission of NAfME is to "advance music education by promoting the understanding and making of music by all." This idea of promoting the understanding and making of music by all has been a staple tenet of the organization almost from its beginning in 1907. Unfortunately, there is still much work to be done in our country with respect to bringing music education to all students. Equity of opportunity to access music education across the country is not equal, particularly in our inner cities and our smaller rural schools. The curricula in music education in our schools are not attracting large segments of our secondary school population; all students are not included in music education in the schools. Further, there is a lack of diversity among our music educators who teach in these schools.

### **AFFILIATION/RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER PARTNERS, E.G. REGIONAL PARTNERS:**

NAfME and its "family of state associations" (each state has a state music education association that is affiliated with NAfME) are proud to offer support to music educators delivering high quality music education experiences to millions of students all throughout the country.