I have worked at different levels of music education, as piano teacher in a low socio-economic area, as college lecturer, curriculum advisor and as an academic working with undergraduate and postgraduate students. In all of these areas, I have also been a mentor, role model, supporter, nurturer and developer of people. Having grown up and worked in disadvantaged communities, I have experienced the difference quality music education can make in the life of an individual and community. I have therefore been instrumental in enhancing classroom practice through workshops, resource development and through my work with my students. I am also developing the next generation of music scholars in my role as academic. In each role I have been privileged to experience different facets of music education and recognise the importance of everyone’s contribution at local, regional, national and international level.

I have been fortunate to serve as a committee member (treasurer) and VP for the South African Society of Music Teachers (SASMT) and am the President-Elect of SASMT. The SASMT is an important platform for music teachers at schools and at universities to connect professionally through the activities of the society. Through my membership of ISME, since 2012, I have connected with a global community of music educators, and served as Commissioner for the Commission on Music Policy: Culture, Education and Mass Media. Since 2020, I have served on the ISME membership committee. I have gathered valuable insights into the functioning of the organisation and its important role in uniting and supporting music educators globally. On a more personal note, I learnt academic writing through my membership of ISME, and have grown as a music educator through the communities of practice that ISME supports.

The strengths I bring to the role of board member are my interpersonal skills, the ability to work with diverse people, good organisation skills, reflective practice and adaptability. I have honed leadership and management skills through management courses and personal experience in the work environment. I am also a scholar of indigenous music and aim to work with other researchers to develop classroom materials in indigenous music. Moreover, I have many years of experience in music education. I keep abreast of policy, and practice by reading, supervising research on teaching and learning, attending conferences, meeting with school teachers and academics as well as publishing on music education and education policy.

If I am privileged to be elected to the ISME board, I will set out to enhance music education in my region, Africa, and elsewhere and develop and support emerging scholars.