



Personal Statement: Donna Weston

Thank you for considering me for nomination as a Member-at-Large of the ISME Board of Directors. I am a Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy and currently employed at the Queensland Conservatorium, Griffith University in the roles of Program Director of the Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Music Honours, Head of Popular Music, and currently acting as the Deputy Director Learning and Teaching. I am chair of the Conservatorium's Equity and Diversity Advisory, for which I am currently leading a program level grant investigating the development of equality of opportunity to study music at university, and opportunities for Conservatorium students to engage with diverse communities in meaningful ways.

I also convene the Music and Livelihoods focus area of the Queensland Conservatorium Research Centre - the primary goal of the Livelihoods stream is leadership in cultural change: changing and shaping the music industry, through promoting the valuing of music as a career, and changing and shaping public perceptions of music as a livelihood. In my role in the research centre, I am currently editing a special edition journal submission (in progress), and commencing a project investigating the role of higher education institutions in driving and supporting local music industries, in the first instance through a mapping of local music industry stakeholders (stage 1).

Music Education, especially Popular Music Education, is the focus of my research: I am on the Board of Directors of the Association for Popular Music Education (APME), and a member of the editorial board of the Journal of Popular Music Education. In my role as chair of the ISME Popular Music Education Special Interest Group, I have been active over the past year in preparation for ISME 2020, for which I am working with SIG members to raise awareness of PME through blogs, and the organisation of collegiate activities for PME presenters at the conference itself. My past research in PME has focussed on popular music pedagogy - my publications in this field have focused on the challenges of integrating theoretical and critical thinking into a practice-focused program. I have also published on community music (indigenous; regional; refugee), popular music and cultural identity (religious; ethnic), and eco-musicology.

Over the past 14 years as program director, I have instigated significant changes to the popular music curriculum in line with the constantly evolving music industry, including the design of a new degree and the development and integration of the first popular music major into the Conservatorium's Bachelor of Music. While Popular Music Education has been the focus of my research, music education more generally informs my roles in the research centre and diversity and equity advisory. Because of the diversity of my music research, curriculum development, and leadership roles, and my dedication throughout my career to the development and promotion of music education, I believe I can bring breadth of experience to the Board and would welcome the opportunity to contribute to the ISME culture and community.