

World Federation of Music Therapy  
Federación Mundial de Musicoterapia

## **WORLD MUSIC THERAPY WEEK PHOTO COMPETITION 2026**

World Music Therapy Week takes place from 10th to 15th April each year. During World Music Therapy Week, music therapists and supporters are encouraged to engage in activities that increase awareness and advocacy for music therapy. World Music Therapy Week also serves to highlight the global connectedness of music therapy, which can be especially important for developing countries.

We invite you to submit photos for the World Music Therapy Week Photo Competition 2026 sponsored by World Federation of Music Therapy capturing the work of music therapy.

See guidelines below:

### **Competition Rules and Guidelines**

No purchase or payment is necessary to enter this competition. This is an open competition and membership in the World Federation of Music Therapy is not required to submit an entry, although members are welcome to enter. By entering the competition, the entrant agrees to abide by the competition rules and guidelines, and to accept the judges' decisions, which will be final.

This competition is sponsored by the World Federation of Music Therapy with the purpose of generating and disseminating photos that promote music therapy by increasing global awareness and understanding of the profession.

### **Eligibility**

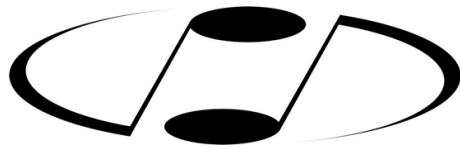
All photographs that represent music therapy, in alignment with the theme and with advocacy and awareness in mind, will be accepted. (No company logos or advertising, please).

### **THEME: "*Connecting Borders*"**

*Connecting Borders: creating networks and enhancing identities through Music Therapy* is the official title and theme for the upcoming 18<sup>th</sup> World Congress of Music Therapy, happening in July, Bologna (Italy). We want to tie the photography competition to our Congress theme, encouraging participants to explore music therapy through a focused lens that highlights its most meaningful and impactful aspects.

This theme invites participants to interpret "borders" from different viewpoints:

- Borders of Music Therapy: Innovation and Tradition in Clinical Practice
- Cultural Borders: Music Therapy in a Global and Cultural Context
- Interdisciplinary Borders: Networks, Relationships, and Multidisciplinary Work
- Personal and Interpersonal Borders: Music Therapy, Identity, and Relationships



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A very short title or caption is required to help us understand your significant moment in music therapy.

Each participant may submit a maximum of three photos.

Only singular, original photographs in line with the above theme will be accepted.

**Collages or collections of pictures are not allowed** and will be excluded from the competition.

Please, choose the photos with the best quality possible.

Written consent must be provided for all individuals in the photos as determined by signature of the [WFMT Multimedia License](#) (click here).

### **Competition Entry Process**

Please submit a photograph (up to three per person) representing the above theme related to music therapy filling the following form [Submit your photos: CLICK HERE](#).

The panel of judges will determine the appropriateness of the photos.

All accepted photos will be posted to the World Federation of Music Therapy Facebook Business Page in an album entitled “World Music Therapy Week 2026 Photo Contest” and on the WFMT Instagram account.

The panel of judges will determine the winning photo from the three photos that receive the most votes on the google form called “*WORLD MUSIC THERAPY PHOTO CONTEST 2026 - voting form*” between the opening and closing of the competition. (See the timeline below)

Participants will be registered for the contest once they have filled out the google form called “*JOIN THE WORLD MUSIC THERAPY WEEK PHOTO COMPETITION 2026*” in full and submitted it. They will only receive an email if their photos are rejected or something is missing from their entry.

For photographs to be approved, they must be original and meet the criteria outlined in this Document. Offensive/lewd/misrepresentative photos will not be approved for entry into the competition.

### **World Music Therapy Week Photograph Criteria**

#### ***Originality***

How unique the photo is, including use of original images or original editing of images. Remember to ensure that existing images used are available for reuse without any copyright infringement.

#### ***Level of Insight***

The extent to which a photo conveys accurate music therapy facts to the public.

#### ***Importance***

The relevance of the issue addressed by the photo to music therapy awareness and advocacy around the world.

#### ***Aesthetic Impact***



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The extent to which a photograph not only commands the attention of the viewer, but also impacts their thoughts, emotions, and curiosity.

### Deadlines

<i>February 13, 2026</i>	The Contest opens: Participants begin submitting their photographs for approval.
<i>March 15, 2026</i>	Submission deadline at 11:59pm EST.
<i>March 20, 2026</i>	General voting begins via a new Google Form <b>WORLD MUSIC THERAPY PHOTO CONTEST 2026 - voting form</b> that will be shared on the World Federation of Music Therapy Website and Social Media
<i>April 3, 2026</i>	Voting closes at 11:59pm EST
<i>April 10, 2026</i>	Announcement of the winners
<i>From April 11, 2026</i>	Winning photographs will be promoted on social media.

### Voting Process

Voters can vote for photographs via the google form called **WORLD MUSIC THERAPY PHOTO CONTEST 2026 - voting form**. Although the photos will be posted by the World Federation of Music Therapy on **social media**, in this 2026 edition **likes, reactions and comments under the photos will not be counted as votes**. The only valid votes will be those submitted via the Google Form above.

Each person may vote for as many photos as they wish. Each voter has one vote per photo.

### Sharing on Social Media

Photographs that are accepted in the competition and posted to the WFMT Social Media may be shared on individual social media channels.

All individuals are encouraged to use [#WorldMusicTherapyWeek](https://www.facebook.com/WorldMusicTherapyWeek) when sharing.

Using the hashtag allows others to search for corresponding posts.

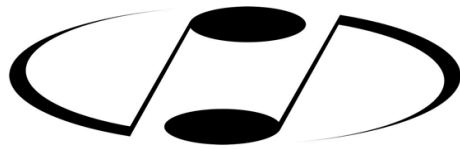
*To invite your contacts to vote for your photos, please share the link to the voting form called **WORLD MUSIC THERAPY PHOTO CONTEST 2026 - voting form**, which will be sent by email to participants in the competition. You will also find the link to the form on the website and on our social media.*

### Judging

A panel of judges will determine the winning photo from the top three photos (based on votes collected with the Google Form).

Their decision will be based on the following criteria:

1. *Creativity of the Photo* – 50%



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2. *Quality of the Photo in creating awareness or advocacy for music therapy* – 45%
3. *Amount of votes the photo received* – 5%

The winner will be announced on April 10, 2026 on the World Music Therapy Week social media accounts. The winner will also be notified through email. The winning photo will be used for WFMT and World Music Therapy Week promotional materials, with credit given to the winner.

The top three photos will be blasted on various social media from April 10, 2026 – the start of World Music Therapy Week.

All accepted photos will be archived on the Facebook page for use in advocacy and awareness by other music therapists.

### **Panel of Judges**

*Mitsi Akoyunoglou*, WFMT Europe Regional Liaison

*Aksana Kavaliova-Moussi*, WFMT Secretary

*Hannah Estrella*, WFMT Assembly of Student Delegates (Canada & the USA)

### **Terms and Conditions**

By entering the World Music Therapy Week 2026 Photo Contest, you agree that:

- Your photo may be shared online and in other formats by the World Federation of Music Therapy and other social media users.
- You are responsible for obtaining permission from all people in the photo to post on social media and distribute. The WFMT Multimedia License must be submitted with each entry.
- The judges' decision is final.
- The competition deadlines must be followed and that late submissions are not accepted.

24 January 2026

Public Relation Commission

World Federation of Music Therapy