

2026

WFMT AWARDS

JULY 7 – 12, 2026

18TH WORLD CONGRESS OF MUSIC THERAPY
BOLOGNA, ITALY



World Federation of Music Therapy
Federación Mundial de Musicoterapia

In April 2011, the WFMT Council expanded its recognition program beyond the WFMT Lifetime Achievement Award (formerly the Lifetime Membership Award) to honour individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the advancement of music therapy through education, clinical practice, research, and advocacy worldwide. In 2026, the Council further broadened the program by introducing additional awards, reflecting the many ways in which individuals contribute to the growth and development of the profession. We are pleased to recognise the following individuals through the WFMT Recognition Program.



DR. JAAKKO ERKKILA

Research/Special Projects Award

for leading two groundbreaking RCTs (2011, 2021) on individual music therapy for depression, research that earned NHS Choices recognition as one of 2011's best health studies and continues to reach global audiences through Clearvue Health's visualized presentation.



KING MAN CHUNG (KINGMAN)

Advocate of Music Therapy Award

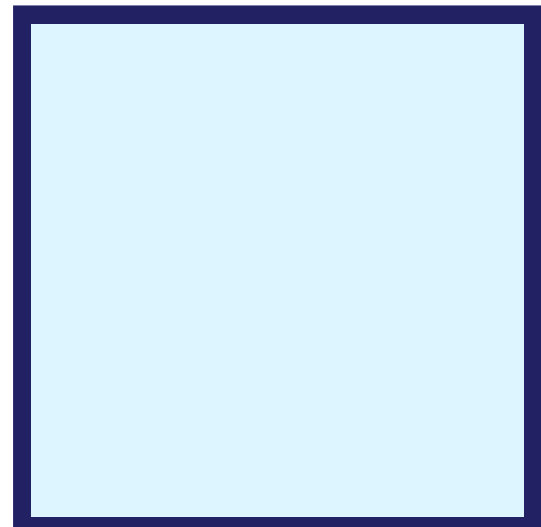
for pioneering music therapy's integration into Hong Kong's public healthcare system, community programs, and mainstream visibility, founding IMTC and co-founding Music Flow to make music therapy accessible across Asia's healthcare, education, and research landscape.



DR. CHERYL DILEO

Service Award

or her lifelong dedication to advancing music therapy through compassionate clinical practice, groundbreaking research, transformative education, and inspiring international leadership within the global music therapy community.



NOT ASSIGNED

Clinical Impact Award

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DR. EMMA O'BRIEN OAM

Crisis Response Award

for her extraordinary, innovative leadership in music therapy during the COVID-19 pandemic, sustaining bedside care at Royal Melbourne Hospital, founding the Scrub Choir and Global Scrub Choir, and advocating globally with the WHO and UN to advance mental health support and music therapy access for healthcare workers worldwide.



ANUK ENKHNASAN

Outstanding Student Award

for her dedication to pioneering music therapy in Mongolia, bridging her medical background with music therapy training at Western Sydney University, advocating for vulnerable communities, and working to become her country's first qualified professional music therapist.



DR. KATRINA MCFERRAN

&



PROF. DENISE GROCKE

Outstanding Publication Award

for their first (2006) and second (2022) editions of "Receptive Music Therapy," an accessible, globally-adopted textbook that clarifies and elevates the significance of receptive methods as a distinct, foundational approach within the music therapy profession.

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DR. JAMES BURNS

Young Professional Award

for his exceptional early-career contributions to pediatric music therapy in Ireland, advancing clinical innovation across neurorehabilitation and cardiology at Children's Health Ireland, completing groundbreaking PhD research, and mentoring the next generation of music therapists through teaching and international collaboration.



PROF. GIORGOS TSIRIS

Collaborative Award

for his leadership in building open, interdisciplinary knowledge-sharing platforms, founding and editing "Approaches" journal and co-editing the bilingual English-Greek music therapy dictionary that unite an international network of clinicians and researchers in collective dialogue and terminology development.