

# World Federation of Music Therapy



Supporting Music Therapy Worldwide

## Annual Report July 2024 - June 2025

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2026 World Congress Organizer

Regional Liaisons: Africa | Australia/New Zealand | Eastern Mediterranean | Europe

Latin America and the Caribbean | Canada and the USA | Southeast Asia

Western Pacific

# *Annual Report*

## *July 2024 – June 2025*

### Greetings from the WFMT President, Ms. Vivian Chan

Dear WFMT Members,

It is with immense pleasure and gratitude that I present the World Federation of Music Therapy's Annual Report for 2024-2025. This report serves not only as a record of our activities but also as a testament to the collective dedication and unwavering support that propels our mission forward.

The past year has been a period focused on restoring, repairing, and rebuilding. Internally, the Council has diligently worked on re-establishing a sense of safety and trust after an intermediate period of internal dysfunction and corrosion. As the Council focused on mending and healing relationships, and refocused our energies on the WFMT's vision and mission, we continued to build upon the organization's work while consolidating its values and foundations.

Reviewing and revising the WFMT's Vision, Mission, and Values with our members' input has been a major undertaking in consolidating our foundations and the values which the organisation embodies and operates from. I would like to express my deepest appreciation for your contributions to this vital work. As a global umbrella organization that aims to move forward in the direction its people, its members, and those it represents wish to go, your voice is of utmost importance to us. It is what informs and guides our way forward.

The Council's commitment to your organisation's vision and mission is evident in the work of each Commission and the Regional Liaisons. They continue to listen, reflect, and act upon your feedback and the evolving needs of our global society and the profession. Your Regional Liaisons have worked diligently to remain abreast of developments in music therapy in their respective regions, offer support to local communities, and act as a bridge to facilitate information and knowledge exchange between regions, the WFMT, and the global community. Our Commissioners have also been working quietly behind the scenes to support the global development, accessibility, and recognition of music therapy in practice, education, and research. Furthermore, our World Congress Organizer, Ms. Mariagrazia Baroni, and her committee continue their tireless work in preparation for what promises to be a vibrant and enriching experience for all at the World Congress in July 2026 in Italy!

In the following report, I bring to you the work of our Council over the past year as we continue to strive to live out our mission and carry forward the work of developing and promoting music therapy throughout the world as both an art and a science. None of these achievements would have been possible without the persevering efforts of the Council, the indispensable commitment of our volunteers, and your trust, support, and collaboration. Your belief in our mission is our greatest inspiration.

## *Annual Report* *July 2024 – June 2025*

As we move forward together in growth and unity, I would also like to acknowledge, sympathize, and empathize with the continuing trauma, pain, and suffering many within our community have endured over the past year due to persisting warfare and various crises around the world. I extend my gratitude to our Global Crisis Commission, who have continued to offer support to music therapists during these challenging times. In the current state of the world, may we continue to extend our support to and hold space for those in need as we join hands to cultivate an environment of safety, compassion, and kindness for all within our community.

Looking ahead to the upcoming year, I am energized by the opportunities before us. Our focus continues to be on supporting the global development, accessibility and recognition of music therapy with a culture of collaboration, inclusivity, and innovation in practice, research and education. We are confident that with your continued partnership, we will achieve even greater impact.

Thank you for being an integral part of the WFMT. I invite you to explore the following pages to discover the full scope of our work and impact.

In peace and harmony,

Vivian Chan

President | World Federation of Music Therapy





## **President**

Vivian Chan, MMT, MT-BC, MTA, FAMI

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### **Description of the Position**

As President of the WFMT, my role is to preserve the organization's mission and values, and to provide leadership, vision, and direction to the WFMT Council. I conduct and facilitate Council meetings as well as work with council members to determine the needs of the organization, profession, and membership, and to set term goals and ensure the continuity of Council work. I also lead the Council into informed decision-making on behalf of the WFMT membership and maintain regular communication with the membership regarding the business of the WFMT.

### **Accomplishments/Activities since July 2024**

- Scheduled, created agenda and facilitated four Council online meetings during the year (August and October 2024, January 2025, April 2025).
- Supported new Council members in their new role to facilitate a smooth transition.
- Assisted new Commissioners in recruiting commission members and volunteers.
- Assisted and supported new Council members in determining goals and projects for the term.
- Initiated and facilitated Council Safety Meetings to rebuild and restore a sense of safety within the WFMT Council and the WFMT Community, and to enhance workplace safety and governance integrity.
- Supported the Canada/USA Regional Liaison and Treasurer in the search for a new legal representative for the WFMT.
- Collaborated closely with the Executive Assistant to refocus the work of the Assembly of Delegates and strengthen their presence within the WFMT Council and the wider community.
- Prepared and contributed to Monthly Buzzes to update membership on WFMT Businesses.
- Collaborated with the European Music Therapy Confederation to host a webinar in celebration of the European Music Therapy Day 2024.
- Collaborated with the Public Relations Commission to organise and promote World Music Therapy Week.
- Supported and collaborated the Public Relations Commissioner with the ongoing improvement work on WFMT website.
- Supported and assisted Regional Liaisons in their ongoing efforts to network and build community within their respective regions.
- Supported the Public Relations Commissioner in the management of WFMT social media platforms.
- Initiated, executed, and followed through with processes of filling vacant positions on the Council with input and approval from the Council.
- Coordinated and collaborated with the Public Relations Commissioner to prepare the WFMT Annual Report for circulation to the membership.
- Responded to email enquiries and requests about music therapy and WFMT as an organization.



- Scheduled and attended periodic meetings with Council members to discuss ongoing projects/tasks.
- Supported the World Congress Organiser in the planning of the World Congress 2026.
- Attended to grievances submitted to WFMT regarding the organisation and its Council members.
- Introduced, coordinated and attended Thematic meetings, a new platform that offer opportunities for exchanges of ideas and meaningful discussions among Council members and the wider circle of WFMT volunteers. These meetings were established to build and nurture a closer knitted community.
- Initiated, facilitated, and contributed to the revision of the WFMT Vision, Mission, and Values.
- Initiated, facilitated, and supported the revision of the WFMT Bylaws, Constitution, and Responsible Conduct Guidelines.

### **Ongoing Activities**

- Preserve the organisation's mission and values.
- Support the revision of the WFMT Bylaws, Constitution, and Responsible Conduct Guidelines.
- Provide leadership, vision, and direction to the WFMT Council.
- Maintain communication with Council members and support them in their roles.
- Assist in recruiting new members.
- Collaborate with the WCMT 2026 organisers.
- Schedule and conduct online and in-person Council meetings.
- Coordinate and attend thematic meetings.
- Support WFMT individual and organizational members.

### **Future Projects during the Term**

- Present on WFMT at conferences and invited academic presentations.
- Support new projects and initiates within the Council in accordance to needs identified throughout the term.
- Maintain existing relationships and collaborations with music therapy organisations and identify opportunities for new collaborations.
- Identify potential related professional groups to collaborate with.

#### ***In closing...***

Thank you for the honour and privilege of serving on the WFMT Council as President over the past year. I look forward to continuing my work as President to support and promote the global development of our profession with my colleagues on the Council, and to create and nurture an environment that promotes unity, mutual support, and growth within our global community.



## Past President

Melissa Mercadal-Brotons, PhD, MT-BC, SMTAE

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### Description of the Position

- A) Provide continuity and give support to the President and Council;
- B) Advise the Council on matters of procedure and protocol;
- C) Attend and participate in Council meetings (online and onsite) or send a brief report in the event of absence;
- D) Take on a special project(s);
- E) Work with the WCMT organizers in planning the next WCMT; and
- F) Submit an annual written report to the Federation.

### Accomplishments/Activities since July 2024

- Attended WFMT online meetings
- Provided support and feedback to President Ms. Vivian Chan on communications, WFMT projects and general council work
- Corresponded and met on a continuous basis with World Congress of Music Therapy (WCMT) 2026 organizers. Ms. Mariagrazia Baroni, in helping her plan and revise their steps towards the preparation of the 2026 WCMT
- Met with chair and co-chairs of 2026 WCMT
- Met with SWANA group
- Worked on WFMT bids working group in the revision of submitted bids
- Maintained correspondence with presidents of bid proposals
- Provided support to all WFMT Council members as needed
- Responded to e-mail inquiries and requests about music therapy and WFMT as an organization

### Ongoing Activities

- Assist with recruitment of WFMT individual members
- Work in working group on the 2029 WCMT bids
- Continue work with the Planning Committee of the 2026 World Congress
- Provide assistance to Ms. Vivian Chain, Executive and Council
- Respond to all inquiries regarding the WFMT
- Attend WFMT executive and online person meetings

### Future Projects during the Term

- Complete the work to maximize the success of the 2026 WCMT

#### *In closing...*

It has been a pleasure and honor to serve the WFMT as Past-President and to work with such committed group of people. I have enjoyed taking on my assignments & projects.



## Secretary

Aksana Kavaliova-Moussi, RP, MTA, NMT, MACP, MM

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### Description of the Position

The secretary manages membership, records meeting minutes, and safeguards organizational records, as well as communicates with all internal and external stakeholders. The secretary creates/updates the World Congress scholarship application forms and leads the scholarship review committee.

### Accomplishments/Activities since July 2024

- Answered and delegated emails from the Contact Us web-form
- Assisted with bids enquiries for 2029 and 2032
- Participated in membership benefits committee meetings
- Responded to all external and internal correspondence
- Assisted council when needed
- Attended council quarterly and thematic meetings
- Completed meeting minutes
- Received membership enquiries, communicated with the applicants, prepared and sent membership certificates
- Updated membership database and President monthly buzz database regularly
- Updated professional and student scholarship application forms for the World Congress 2026
- Responded to external communications about the World Congress abstract submissions and registration processes
- Supported and assisted Regional Liaisons for Europe and Eastern Mediterranean (to be renamed SWANA-South East Asia and North Africa) in their efforts to continue building professional communities within their regions
- Attended to and directed a few ethical/professional misrepresentation issues to the responsible associations and council members
- Contributed to the revision of the WFMT Vision, Mission, and Values

### Ongoing and Future Activities

- Continue usual secretary tasks (e.g., membership, meeting minutes, communications)
- Continue being a part of the membership benefits committee
- Collect scholarship applications, establish a voting and recruit the council scholarship committee
- Continue assisting council members and external stakeholders

#### ***In closing...***

It has been a privilege to serve on the council this year. I am grateful for all communications and connections that come with the Secretary role and am looking forward to actively working with the council as we head towards the World Congress 2026 in Italy!



Treasurer

Amanda Montera

Email: treasurer@wfmt.info



Description of the Position

The treasurer is responsible for managing the funds and financial health of the organization. The treasurer creates a budget to be approved by the council, manages payments for services, and participates in related council business as it relates to finances or other matters.

Accomplishments/Activities since July 2024

- Maintained nonprofit business registration
- Filed federal taxes 990 e-postcard
- Budget for 2023-2026 term was approved
- Participated as a judge in the photo contest for World Music Therapy Week
- Collaborated with council members on updating WFMT’s Vision, Mission, and Values documents
- Signed contract for Webmaster to make updates to the WFMT website

Account summary as of June 9, 2025

Bank balance	\$21,154.45
PayPal balance	\$7,885.83
Total:	\$29,040.28

Ongoing Activities

- Maintain budget tracker showing annual and total spending for budget categories
- Coordinate with Secretary to track memberships and membership income
- Participate in council meetings as able over Zoom and engage in discussions and decisions about council business
- Manage payments to vendors for services to the organization

Future Projects during the Term

- Explore new ideas for fundraising and revenue
- Collaborate with council members to examine WFMT involvement in World Congress
- Collaborate with council members to further develop by-laws, policies, and procedures of the organization

In closing...

It has been a pleasure to serve another year on this council. The organization remains financially stable and we are still exploring ideas for fundraising and other ways to increase revenue. I am looking forward to the next year of the term and especially to attending the World Congress in 2026!



## **Executive Assistant / ASD**

Susanne Gruss

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### **Description of the Position**

Executive Assistant - represents the Assembly of Student Delegates (ASD) in the council.

The Assembly of Student Delegates regularly meets online to discuss student relevant topics of the WFMT.

Furthermore the ASD distributes information on the WFMT and Music Therapy in general. We also help students from all over the world who contact us via the contact form and connect them to “fitting” WFMTS representatives and other contact persons.

### **Current Members on Assembly of Student Delegates**

- Vuyo Tshwele (Africa)
- Shrutika Parvennen (Australia / New Zealand)
- OPEN POSITION (Eastern Mediterranean)
- Marina Elizabeth Caputo (Europe)
- Oriosvaldo Travassos (Latin America & the Caribbean)
- Hannah Estrella (Canada & the USA)
- Napapas Horrunguang (Jeen) (Southeast Asia)
- Hershey Permano (Western Pacific)

### **Accomplishments since July 2024**

- Nomination of a new EA after the resignation of Kaitlyn: Susanne Gruss
- New student representatives for Africa, Europe and NZ/Australia -> now all positions are filled (see above)
- Creation of a WFMT student Instagram account
- Facilitating our contact via a WhatsApp group with all ASD members which enhanced productivity!
- Translation of the WFMT infocards + helping with the creation of the WFMT tool kit
- Active participation in the World Music Therapy Week 2025
- Update of the introduction text on the WFMT student page (<https://www.wfmt.info/students>)

### **Ongoing Activities**

- Sharing information on Instagram and on the blog
- Regular Zoom meetings, “quick” exchange via WhatsApp
- Answering “Window to the World” requests

### **Future Projects during the term**

- Restructuring of social media activities (Blog, WhatsApp,...) to put out more structured and regular content for followers and to gather more reach
- Planning of the WMTC 2026 “Young Community” activities
- Live Meetings on Instagram
- Continuing update on the Student page (new ASD collage...)
- Planning the end of the period in 2026 and the search for new ASD representatives



**In closing...**

Although there have been a lot of changes in the ASD recently, I believe that we are working together even closer and more productive than last year. All members of the ASD participate and contribute equally to our output and participate in the exchange of ideas in the WhatsApp and in the Zoom Meetings. We are working closely together with the PR commission and expand our reach on the social media platforms regularly.



WFMT Student Instagram

**Window to the World**

### Cultural Harmony: Bridging Generations through Music Therapy

**Window to the World** July 20, 2024

As a 22-year-old woman of Puerto Rican and Italian descent, my journey in music therapy has been a unique blend of cultural richness and intergenerational connection. I have always believed in the power of music to transcend barriers, and this belief has guided me in my practice, whether I'm working with children, adults, or senior citizens.



One of my most recent cherished sessions that I crafted alongside colleagues was called "Music Around the World." In this session, I incorporated songs from various cultures- Ireland, Germany, Cuba, Mexico, Austria, South Korea, and as well as my own culture, and shared this music with my residents. This not only allowed me to introduce the beautiful melodies and rhythms of music from my culture, but also created a space for my residents of different cultural backgrounds to reminisce and connect with the music they grew up with. It's a magical experience to see eyes light up and memories resurface as familiar tunes fill the room.

I have had various clinical placements during my undergraduate coursework at Rowan University in Glassboro, NJ. I have had the joyous opportunity to do music therapy with children, adults, and senior citizens. Working with



Clinical Practice

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Officers

Commissioners

Regional Liaisons

Description of the Position/Commission

Clinical Practice Commission plays a vital role in a broad range of initiatives related to music therapy clinical practice. This includes understanding various models of music therapy practices across different regions, advocating for and driving the development of high-quality services that align with different social and cultural contexts, fostering exchanges and connections among clinicians, and tracking emerging trends in clinical service provision.

Current Members on Commission

- Cara Smith (Africa)
- Natalie Jack (Australia / New Zealand)
- Mia Bteich (Eastern Mediterranean)
- Rachel Sweet (Europe)
- Camila Siqueira Gouvêa Acosta Gonçalves (Latin America & the Caribbean)
- Naomi Davis (Canada & the USA)
- Keiko Shiokawa (Western Pacific)

Accomplishments/Activities since July 2024

The committee convened to discuss and finalize the details of the project. It was concluded that a Short Video Clip Project will be developed. The purposes are to advocate for and recognize the diverse work of music therapists, to highlight the differences in context and culture, and to raise awareness among interested audiences while fostering connections within the professional community.

The video content will feature clinical practices of music therapists from various regions, covering aspects such as techniques used, approaches to patients, and music interventions.

Ongoing and Future Activities

- A short video clip showcasing Music Therapy Clinical Practice in various regions across the globe.
- AI Practice Flyer

In closing...

It is undeniable that our world has faced numerous crises. The committee recognizes the importance of fostering connections among music therapy professionals and hopes that, through collective collaboration, we can contribute positively to society by using music as a unifying medium.



## Education and Certification

Kana Okazaki-Sakaue

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### Current Members on Commission

- Penny Warren (New Zealand)
- Francesca Rubbettino (Italy)
- Dr. Claudia Zanini (Brazil)
- Dr. Juan Pedro Zambonini (Argentina)
- Dr. Teresa L. Lesiuk (North America)
- Dr. Baishali Mukherjee (India)

### Accomplishments/Activities since July 2024

- Scheduled and conducted meetings to discuss various topics.
- Replied to various emails about the inquiry.
- We have worked on the following topics;
  - ✎ Working group to revise, update, and maintain the digital registry of music therapy
  - ✎ Working group to collect information and investigate current status about the regulation of music therapy around the globe. We have assigned members to the specific areas.
  - ✎ Discussion about the definition about different terms, such as licensure, regulation, qualification etc.
  - ✎ Listing up the topics to collect and made Google document where members accumulate information about each area.
- Interview by the Mexican Music Therapy Association: Kana, the Chair of the Commission was interviewed by the representative of Mexican Music Therapy Association about the revised version of the Guidelines, the video of which will be uploaded in their YouTube.

### Ongoing Activities

- Members are working and developing for the following projects aligned with the goals and vision statement.
- The working group is creating the survey for the digital registry.

### Future Projects during the Term

- Revise, update, and maintain the digital registry of music therapy education and training
- Collect more information and investigate current status about the regulation of music therapy around the globe
- Create a list and description about music therapy learning opportunities around the world
- Explore the potentials of offering a support system to established and developing music therapy programs
- Getting prepared for the final presentation as our commission report for the 2026 congress in Bologna.



## Global Crises Intervention

Indra Selvarajah

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### Current Members on Commission

- Samuel Gracida (Mexico)
- Gene-Ann Behrens (USA)
- Ai Nakatsuka (Japan)

### Accomplishments since July 2024

- Presented a spotlight session under the DEI strand at the WCMT 2023 titled “Behind Every Crisis is an Opportunity: Bridging Cultural Connections & Building Psychological Safety through Music Therapy & Cultural Diplomacy: Key Learnings from the WFMT Crises Intervention Work.”
- Presented and facilitated two sessions on the WFMT Global Crises Intervention work from 2020-2023, alongside commission committee members at the WCMT 2023.
- Vetted and assembled the WFMT Global Crises Intervention Commission (GCIC) committee and created the vision, goals, and overview for the 2023-2026 term.
- Participated in a panel on ‘Ethics in Music Therapy’ for the World Federation of Music Therapy and European Music Therapy Confederation during European Music Therapy Day, October 2023 (Co-presenters: Cheryl Dileo, Gro Trondalen, Indra Selvarajah, Eugenia Hernandez-Ruiz, Giorgos Tsiris, Vivian Chan & Mitsi Akoyunoglou).
- Delivered a keynote speech on Perspectives from the WFMT Global Crises Intervention Commission: Music Therapy & Cultural Diplomacy for the Online Conference of Music Therapy (OCMT) in February 2024.
- Presented for the WFMT during Mexican Music Therapy Day organized by The Association of Mexican Music Therapists (AMME) on music therapy advocacy and development in under-resourced countries experiencing political oppression of minorities, following up on my spotlight session at WCMT 2023.
- Attended and actively participated in all online WFMT Council Meetings since the commencement of the new term.
- Initiated contact with music therapists affected by the emerging Israel-Gaza crisis to assess their situation and extend support in line with GCIC's vision and WFMT's mission to promote global music therapy through information exchange, collaboration, and action.
- Held meetings and discussions with a Middle East advisor and anti-terrorism expert on initial strategies for addressing the delicate situation in the Israel-Gaza crisis in preparation for WFMT's GCIC work.
- Explored the feasibility of supporting fundraising efforts for humanitarian assistance (medical supplies, food, and water) to civilians caught in the Israel-Palestine crisis, following United Nations recommendations.
- Collaborated with the WFMT President to create an October Buzz notice and other social media posts to contact music therapists affected by the Israel-Palestine crisis.



- Initiated contact with the European Confederation of Music Therapy and worked with the Eastern Mediterranean regional liaison to document and relay the lived experiences of music therapists affected by the Israel-Gaza crisis to the WFMT Council.
- Facilitated initial discussions with Jewish music therapists from North America and Israeli music therapists under the ECMT to convey their needs to the WFMT Council.
- Chaired 12 meetings with the WFMT GCIC to prepare educational resources (informational handouts, videos, etc.) focusing on reducing trauma symptoms and promoting coping and resilience for WFMT members and their communities worldwide.
- Communicated with contacts in the Ukraine war crisis and extended GCIC educational and trauma coping resources in response to the ongoing war.
- Coordinated with Ciele Knox of the NICU Institute at Florida State University to explore providing specialized NICU support to premature infants affected by the Ukraine War Crisis.
- Revisited and refined GCIC's scope of practice to ensure alignment with WFMT's mission and recent project developments during the first year of the new term.
- Assisted WFMT Officers in evaluating and addressing public concerns submitted to WFMT and participated in discussions with other music therapy professional organizations as a follow-up to council meeting requests.
- Updated WFMT's social media platforms (Facebook and Twitter) to seek music therapists affected by crises worldwide on behalf of the GCIC.
- Responded to various email and social media inquiries related to music therapy, crisis intervention, and the WFMT.
- Assisted WFMT Officers in evaluating and addressing public concerns submitted to WFMT and participated in discussions with other music therapy professional organizations as a follow-up to council meeting requests.
- Updated WFMT's social media platforms (Facebook and Twitter) to seek music therapists affected by crises worldwide on behalf of the GCIC.
- Responded to various email and social media inquiries related to music therapy, crisis intervention, and the WFMT.

### **Ongoing Activities**

- Answered calls to assess the needs of music therapists affected by Israel-Palestine crisis on an ongoing basis and supported the needs of the SWANA region.
- Recorded videos and translated informational handouts and other materials on trauma reduction and coping resilience into several languages to cater to global music therapists' needs.
- Updated details for the WFMT Care Teams project in line with recent WFMT work developments.

### **Future Projects during the Term**

- Implement the WFMT Care Teams project upon completing the current phase of refinement with input from the GCIC committee.
- Implement an Impact Measurement Assessment to determine the real-world impact of WFMT GCIC initiatives.
- Implement Cultural Diplomacy initiatives as previously initiated under the 2020-2023 term to foster better cultural understanding and facilitate smoother communication and cooperation in conflict situations.



***In closing...***

It has been my privilege and pleasure to serve the WFMT in various roles over the years. In my second term as Chair of the Global Crises Intervention Commission, I am honoured to lead a powerhouse committee, including two past chairs and outstanding new colleagues. I sincerely thank all committee members for their crucial contributions to our ongoing and future projects and look forward to pivoting the work of the WFMT GCIC so we can better serve the global music therapy, moving forward.





## **Publications**

Liz Coombes

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### **Description of the Position/Commission**

To promote the dissemination of information related to music therapy worldwide. We stimulate and support information exchange between our worldwide members and colleagues who are interested in the field. The commission promotes the dissemination of information about music therapy practice, education, research and WFMT related topics.

### **Current Members on Commission**

- Dr. Lina Haddad (Lebanon)
- Dr. Aseel Massoud (Syria)
- Nuria Marsiman (Argentina)
- Jenita Caren (Rajakumari County, India)
- Dr. Eun Sil Suh (Korea/USA)

### **Ongoing Activities**

During this term, the Commission experienced a change in its leadership. The current commission leader, Dr Liz Coombes, wishes to thank Gustavo Gattino for his work on the commission from July 2023 until January 2025. We are continuing to work on Music Therapy Today, the journal of the WFMT. We hope to relaunch this at the WCMT in Bologna next year.

### **Future Projects during the Term**

The commission will be preparing an edition of the journal containing abstracts and summaries of the presentations at the WCMT; we are excited to work on this project and provide our members with this overview of the amazing work that is being undertaken in our profession globally.

#### ***In closing...***

We hope to develop some newer aspects of the journal, and again will be talking about these during the WCMT next year – watch this space!



## Public Relations

Martina Scognamiglio

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### Description of the Position/Commission

The Public Relations Commission of the World Federation of Music Therapy (WFMT) plays a vital role in fostering strong connections with current and prospective members, ensuring clear communication among stakeholders, and promoting the global growth of music therapy. Through sharing accessible information on the website, supporting World Music Therapy Week, and maintaining a strong social media presence, the commission helps amplify the voices and diversity of the international music therapy community.

### Current Members on Commission

- Lulu Negota (South Africa)
- Maria Latysheva (Russia)
- Kumi Sato (Japan)

### Accomplishments/Activities since July 2024

#### • Monthly Newsletter – *The Buzz*

Developed and delivered monthly issues of the member newsletter in collaboration with the President and Council.

#### • Membership Benefits Update

Revised and updated the membership benefits table on the WFMT website for clarity and visibility.

#### • Website Design Improvements

Implemented a new layout with enhanced user experience and navigation.

Highlighted the *Music Therapy Today* journal and added a dedicated “Opportunities” section.

#### • Content Updates

Published new articles, videos, and news on the website and social platforms.

Launched awareness campaigns highlighting Council members, the World Congress, and WMTWeek.

#### • Social Media Growth

Achieved notable increases in follower engagement through targeted campaigns and consistent content.

#### • YouTube Channel Updates

Regularly added new video content thanks to Council Members' work.

#### • WCMT Bologna 2026 – Communication Launch

Initiated strategic communication efforts in collaboration with Italian associations:

✎ Developed dedicated social media platforms.

✎ Created visuals, content, and messaging for the Congress campaign.

#### • WFMT Annual Report 2024–2025

Contributed to the preparation and editorial work of the Federation's official annual report.



## Ongoing Activities

- **WFMT Council Participation**

Regularly attend WFMT Council meetings and contribute to discussions and strategy alignment.

- **Chairing PR Commission Meetings**

Organize and lead regular PR Commission meetings to coordinate ongoing projects and volunteer tasks.

- **Communications and Member Support**

Respond to inquiries from Council members, regional liaisons, and member organizations, offering support.

- **Website Management**

Continuously update the WFMT website with new materials, including Commission documents and info, ASD blog content, educational guidelines, and announcements.

- **Social Media Management**

Ensure timely and relevant updates across all WFMT social media channels.

Plan and execute campaigns and regular content releases.

- **Support to Regional Liaisons and Member Organizations**

Assist in disseminating their news and events across WFMT's official platforms.

- **Regional Fact Pages**

Work with Regional Liaisons to maintain accurate and current regional information pages.

- **Collaboration with the Assembly of Student Delegates (ASD)**

✂ Partner on shared communication projects and student engagement strategies.

✂ Support the selection and onboarding of new student representatives (e.g., ASD Europe).

- **WCMT Bologna 2026 Communication Development**

✂ Maintain close coordination with the Congress Organizer and Italian partners.

✂ Continue content development and promotional work leading up to the Congress.

- **Strategic and Thematic Meetings**

✂ Participate in discussions on WFMT mission, vision, and safety.

✂ Hold regular meetings with the webmaster for technical and design updates.

✂ Conduct planning sessions with PR Commission volunteers.

✂ Maintain ongoing alignment with the President to coordinate overall PR and communications strategy.

## Future Projects during the Term

- **Continued Participation in WFMT Council Meetings**

Maintain active involvement in Council meetings to support strategic planning and decision-making.

- **Strengthen WFMT's Online Presence**

Expand the quantity and diversity of content across WFMT's digital platforms to increase global engagement and visibility.

- **Update the WFMT Wikipedia Page**

Revise and enrich the content on the WFMT Wikipedia page to reflect current activities, structure, and achievements.



- **Create a Global Calendar of Music Therapy Days**  
Develop a comprehensive international calendar highlighting national and regional Music Therapy Days to promote global awareness.
- **Expand the World Music Therapy Week Media Kit**  
Design and distribute a multilingual media kit with official graphics, templates, and communication guidelines for the next World Music Therapy Week, enabling wide sharing and use.
- **Complete Regional Information and Fact Page Updates**  
Finalize the review and update of all regional information and fact pages on the WFMT website in collaboration with Regional Liaisons.
- **Finalize Key Website Updates**  
Complete the planned updates for the WFMT website, focusing on Homepage redesign, “Documents” section restructuring, Updated and engaging “About Us” section
- **Promote WCMT Bologna 2026**  
Continue and expand communication efforts related to the 18th World Congress of Music Therapy, in close collaboration with Italian associations and the Congress organizer.
- **Establish a Congress Communication Team**  
Form a dedicated communications team for WCMT Bologna 2026 to manage strategic messaging and content creation before, during, and after the event. Develop a cohesive communication strategy to ensure effective online documentation and promotion of the Congress across platforms.
- **Complete PR Commission Composition**  
Aim to finalize the recruitment of PR Commission volunteers, ensuring representation from all regional areas not yet covered to strengthen global diversity and inclusion.

***In closing...***

This past year has been an important period of recovery following the challenges we encountered during the first year of this term. Approaching these difficulties together, with mutual understanding and compassion, has been both valuable and necessary. I would like to sincerely thank the members of the Council for their consistent dedication and meaningful contributions to the continued growth of WFMT.

Reflecting on our work over the past year, I am grateful for the steady commitment and efforts of the volunteer members of the Public Relations Committee. Their ongoing support has been essential in strengthening WFMT’s communication, fostering connections, and promoting our shared mission.

As we look forward to the year ahead, there are significant opportunities to build on this foundation. From enhancing our digital presence and completing important projects, to supporting the promotion of the 18th World Congress of Music Therapy in Bologna, our focus remains on clear, inclusive, and effective communication.

I am confident that, working together, we will continue to advance WFMT’s reach and impact worldwide. Thank you to all members of the Commission for your ongoing engagement and collaboration. I look forward to what we will accomplish together in the coming year.



## Research and Ethics

Amy Clements-Cortes, PhD, RP, MTBC, MTA

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### Description of the Position/Commission

As research and ethics chair of the WFMT my role is to promote and advance equivalencies in the standards and policies of the ethical code of music therapists, as well as to support the integration of research and ethics into the practice of music therapy thorough the world. I provide guidance on ethical matters to the Council and maintain the WFMT research forum.

### Current Members on Commission

- Karyn Stuart-Röhm (South Africa)
- Megan Goodwin (Australia)
- Monica Overå (Norway)
- Eugenia Hernandez-Ruiz (USA/Latin America)
- Wiputh Kehasuwan (Malaysia)

### Accomplishments/Activities since July 2024

- Presented on 'Navigating ethical dilemmas in music therapy contexts' with committee members at the Online Conference for Music Therapy in February 2025, as well as 'Tools for navigating ethical dilemmas in music therapy' at the Canadian Association for Music Therapists in May 2025.
- Interviewed music therapy researchers to create 3 research videos to add to the [WFMT Research Video Forum](#)
- Developed and published the Responding to Ethical Issues Guidance document with the WFMT research and ethics committee for the WFMT available on the [WFMT Documents](#) page
- Supported WFMT in assessing and navigating concerns brought forward to WFMT
- Attended WFMT Meetings online as well as thematic and other ad hoc meetings regarding WFMT arising WFMT business
- Submitted feedback to the WFMT Mission and Values on suggested revisions
- Chaired several meetings with the WFMT Research & Ethics Committee
- Provided WFMT updates on our social media sites (Facebook & Twitter)
- Responded to e-mail inquiries and requests about music therapy, ethics, research and the WFMT
- Consulted on ethics and professional practice matters as prompted by written requests
- Reviewed WFMT World Congress bids working group
- Created short video to celebrate World Music Therapy Week
- Wrote a WFMT Monthly Buzz in March 2025
- Submitted an abstract for the WCMT 2026 for the WFMT Research and Ethics commission to host a World Café on ethics



## Ongoing Activities

- Attend WFMT Meetings
- Chair WFMT Research & Ethics Commission Committee meetings
- Respond to Email Inquiries
- Provide consultation with individuals regarding research and ethical conduct questions
- Seek and promote nominations of music therapy researchers to interview for the [WFMT Research Video Forum](#)
- Interview researchers and add to the [WFMT Research Video Forum](#)
- Promote & grow awareness of the [WFMT Research Video Forum](#) & Code of Ethics documents to support music therapists in the 8 global regions
- Continue to develop existing and new resources to support ethical clinical practice and research in music therapy.

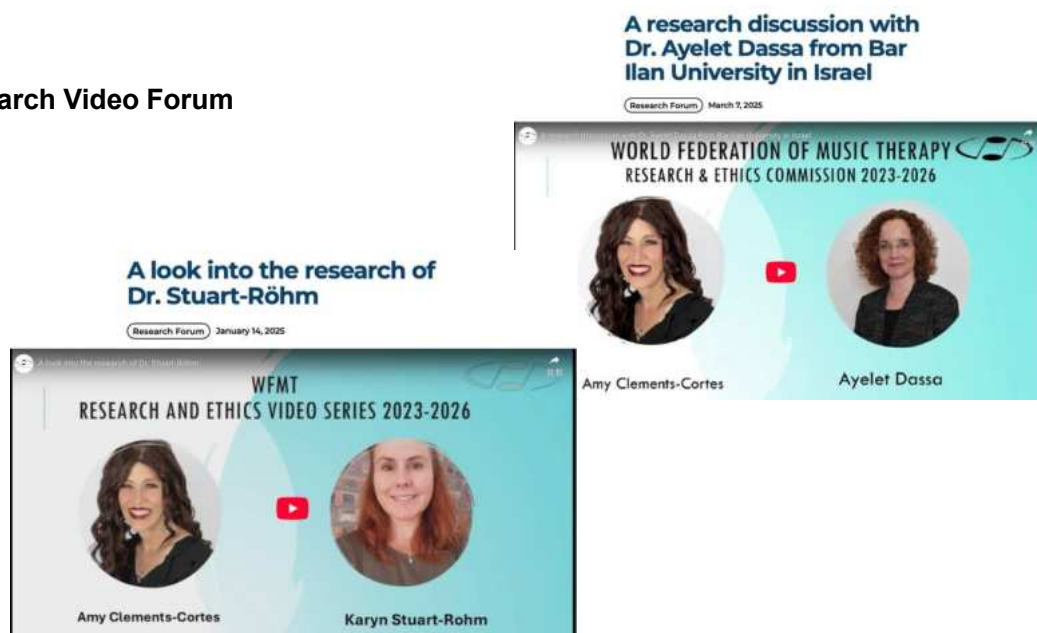
## Future Projects during the Term

- Assess potential changes to the WFMT Bylaws to reflect the Responsible Conduct Guidelines & Responding to Ethical Issues Guidance Document.
- Serve on the WCMT Scientific Committee
- Support the WCMT preparation and promotion

### *In closing...*

I am privileged to serve the WFMT in my second term as the Chair of Research and Ethics. The discipline of music therapy is continually changing and promoting ethical practice and research are vital to advance our discipline. It continues to be a pleasure to work with the entire WFMT Council in advancing the discipline of music therapy on the global scale.

## WFMT Research Video Forum





## **Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access**

Ming Hung Hsu, PhD

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### **Description of the Position/Commission**

Appointed as Chair of the WFMT Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access (IDEA) Commission in November 2024, I undertook the responsibility of re-establishing the Commission from the ground up. The Commission's core mission is to promote inclusive, equitable, and culturally responsive practices across global music therapy communities. This involves advocating for representation, accessibility, and systemic equity in WFMT's operations, and addressing how social and structural inequalities impact music therapy training, access, and outcomes.

A central focus of the IDEA Commission is to contribute meaningfully to reducing health inequalities, a core priority of the World Health Organization (WHO), through music therapy. We align our goals with key WHO frameworks, particularly the World Report on Social Determinants of Health Equity (2025) and the Commission on Social Determinants of Health Final Report (2008). These documents highlight the urgency of dismantling structural discrimination and investing in people-centred health systems, both of which resonate with IDEA's priorities.

### **Current Members on Commission**

- Nsamu Moonga (South Africa)
- Baishali Mukherjee (India)

### **Accomplishments/Activities since July 2024**

- Appointed Chair of IDEA Commission and initiated the re-establishment of the Commission
- Participated in WFMT Council and thematic meetings to contribute an equity and inclusion perspective
- Initiated the development of a WFMT IDEA Resource Guide to support music therapists globally in embedding inclusive and equity-informed practices
- Initiated consultations with potential Commission members and stakeholders across regions
- Advised on diversity-related considerations in preparation for the 2026 World Congress of Music Therapy

### **Ongoing Activities**

- Continue recruitment of IDEA Commission members across WFMT regions
- Attend WFMT Council and working group meetings and contribute to strategic direction
- Respond to member inquiries related to IDEA concerns in practice, education, and policy
- Continue development of the IDEA Resource Guide for phased release
- Collaborate with other WFMT Commissions to embed IDEA principles in Federation activities
- Align the Commission's work with WHO guidance on health equity and social determinants of health



## Future Projects during the Term

- Publish and promote the WFMT IDEA Resource Guide
- Host regional listening sessions and global focus groups to capture underrepresented voices in the profession
- Propose enhancements to WFMT policies, guidelines, and communications to support accessibility, cultural safety, and equity
- Map and create a registry of research projects and service models in music therapy that explicitly address health inequalities, to foster global knowledge exchange and highlight good practice
- Advocate for the sustained integration of WHO health equity frameworks into WFMT's strategic and professional development priorities

### ***In closing...***

It has been both a challenge and an honor to step into this role and begin re-establishing the IDEA Commission. The global music therapy community has a vital role to play in addressing health inequities through inclusive and culturally responsive care. I look forward to expanding our Commission, building new collaborations, and furthering our collective commitment to equity, justice, and access in music therapy worldwide.





## 2026 World Congress Organizer

Mariagrazia Baroni

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### Accomplishments/Activities since July 2024

Over the past months, our dedicated organizational and scientific committees have been working hard to move forward with the planning of the Bologna conference.

We have significantly expanded and updated the congress website, where you can now find detailed information about the main theme of the congress, the specific subthemes we aim to explore in the various sessions, and the full timeline—including key dates for abstract submission, review, and registration.

Together with Ms. Martina Scognamiglio, Chair of Public Relations, I've been actively working to keep you informed through our official channels and to encourage music therapists to spread information about WCMT2026 and to submit their abstracts. Our goal is to ensure that the congress reflects the full diversity of our field—from clinical practice to education, from theory to research—and that all professionals feel represented and inspired to contribute.

With the support of the Regional Liaisons, we have finalized the selection of the scientific committee members, ensuring representation from all eight WFMT regions. The full list of committee members—defined in close collaboration with the Chair and Co-Chairs of the scientific committee—will be published very soon.

We have also invested considerable effort in reviewing and organizing the venue spaces, which will allow us to host 10–11 concurrent presentation sessions. In addition, the organizational committee is now complete and includes representatives from the three main Italian Professional Music Therapy Associations: AIM, FIM and PdS.

### Ongoing Activities

Together with the scientific committee we are beginning our work to effectively organize the evaluation of abstracts, the spotlight sessions, and the pre-conference and social events.





### Future Projects during the Term

We aim to continue organizing the various aspects of the congress, with particular attention to inclusion and representation of music therapists from different parts of the world. By September, acceptance letters will be sent to those who submitted an abstract. At the same time, registration will open and the registration fees will be published. The registration fees will vary, with reduced rates available especially for students, professionals from developing countries, members of the WFMT, and members of Italian professional associations organizing the congress.

#### *In closing...*

There is still over a year to prepare for a congress that aims to bring together professionals, trainers, and researchers from all over the world. We are excited about the opportunity to share knowledge, experiences, and new perspectives. We can't wait to welcome you to Bologna and to create together a vibrant, inclusive, and forward-looking congress experience!





## Regional Liaison for Africa

Danielle McKinnon

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### Description of the Position

- A) Collect and provide information about the region in accordance with the job description;
- B) Review documents and respond to calls for action by a specific deadline;
- C) Attend and participate in Council meetings (online and onsite) or send a brief report in the event of absence;
- D) Submit an annual written report to the Federation;
- E) Comply with the Code of Ethics; and
- F) Abide by the Responsible Conduct Guidelines.

### Accomplishments since July 2024

Since July 2024, I have been actively involved in several international music therapy initiatives. I met with students studying music therapy at Queens University of Charlotte as part of a cross-cultural study examining how music therapists operate globally. I also participated in a focus group led by Dr. Kern and Dr. Tague to support the update of the international Music Therapy Questionnaire. Additionally, I contributed to the document of the regional liaisons meeting of the World Federation of Music Therapy (WFMT), where we worked on revising the definition. I have also attended online meetings of the WFMT and provided feedback and support where needed to the President of WFMT.

### Future Projects during the Term

I remain committed to fostering collaboration between music therapists and training programs both within Africa and internationally. I will continue to fulfill my responsibilities as Regional Liaison for the remainder of my term, supporting the mission and values of the WFMT through meaningful engagement and advocacy.

### Ongoing Activities

A I have maintained ongoing communication with the Executive Director of the Music Therapy Association of Ghana (MTAG) to promote awareness of music therapy training opportunities and to foster a connection between the South African and Ghanaian music therapy communities.

In addition, I continue to participate in World Federation of Music Therapy (WFMT) meetings and respond to matters requiring feedback or input as part of my commitment to the global development of the profession.

On a personal note, I am currently expecting a baby and have taken time off to focus on my family.

### *In closing...*

It has been a privilege to serve as the Regional Liaison for Africa. Over the past months, I have learned a great deal and had the opportunity to connect with colleagues from across the continent. These interactions have significantly broadened my perspective on music therapy and deepened my appreciation for the diversity and potential within the field. I look forward to witnessing — and hopefully contributing to — the continued growth and exciting possibilities ahead for the WFMT.



## **Regional Liaison for Australia/New Zealand**

Alison Short, PhD

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### **Description of the Position**

In my role as Regional Liaison for Australia and New Zealand, and with considerable existing knowledge and experience in leadership and organisational behaviour and development, I have contributed my knowledge and expertise to the WFMT Council through a range of collaborations, including formal, informal and theme-based meetings and interactions. Despite computer-based challenges, I have consistently supported the efforts of the WFMT to affirm and expand music therapy in my region (Australia & New Zealand), in adjoining regions (such as Asia), and around the world.

### **Accomplishments/Activities since July 2024**

- Engaged with music therapists and music therapy governance representatives on a regular basis, from the Australian Music Therapy Association and Music Therapy New Zealand.
- Integrally supported the World Federation of Music Therapy in multiple ways during challenging times, including reminders about the purpose of the organisation and its worldwide representation and attended many WFMT meetings, mostly in the middle of the night!
- Harnessed worldwide support for the Australian Music Therapy Association amidst a significant emergent regional challenge to the practice and growth of music therapy in Australia, which resulted from a high-level government change to disability funding models announced in November 2024 which immediately excluded professional music therapy from proper professional payments within the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).
- Provided an Invited National Keynote Address for the National Conference of the Australian Music Therapy Association, where Dr Indra Selvarajah also provided the International Keynote presentation
- Engaged in regional diplomacy outside of the Australian and New Zealand region to support music therapy developments in training and practice, including an invited conference keynote and university consultations in China



### **Ongoing Activities**

- Continue to support the Australian Music Therapy Association in advocating for music therapy to remain a fully funded profession with the National Disability Insurance Scheme, amidst current ongoing government reviews
- Engage with Music Therapy New Zealand, and overall respond to emails, requests and meeting attendances, in line with the challenges of WFMT email access
- Continue to connect with music therapists both within and beyond the region, to understand needs and the potential role of the WFMT in assisting with the growth and development of music therapy training and practice
- Attend multiple international music therapy and related conferences, to support research, training and practice initiatives

### **Future Projects during the Term**

- Further discuss the needs of music therapy students who are training outside of their home country, to assist with re-interaction and establishment of their own music therapy practices after they return home
- Assist with information sharing across the broad Asia-Pacific region, to support the growth and development of training and practice in music therapy in a culturally appropriate manner

#### ***In closing...***

It is a pleasure to serve the music therapy community in as Regional Representative (Australia and New Zealand) to the Council of the World Federation of Music Therapy. I have enjoyed working with Council members who have held the best interests of the international music therapy community close to their heart, as we seek to improve, extend and consolidate initiatives affecting practice, training and research, thereby making best use of our tool of music to make a difference in the lives of so many needy people in the world. I



## **Regional Liaison for Eastern Mediterranean**

Hisham Alhadrab MA, MT-BC, RN.

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### **Description of the Position**

As Regional Representative for the Eastern Mediterranean within the World Federation of Music Therapy, my role centers on staying connected with music therapy professionals across the region, keeping track of developments in practice and education, and serving as a link between local voices and the WFMT Council. I aim to reflect the diverse realities of our region in global conversations, while helping to circulate relevant information, opportunities, and resources among practitioners, educators, and emerging associations.

### **Accomplishments/Activities since July 2024**

- Maintained active correspondence with several national and local music therapy groups to exchange updates on current activities and explore areas for potential collaboration.
- Conducted a survey on with colleague music therapists in the region to change the region to Southwest Asia & North Africa, where the group stand on latest being more inclusive.
- Opened initial conversations with regional colleagues and stakeholders around the idea of establishing a locally grounded music therapy training program, in response to increased interest in formal education pathways.
- Responded to individual requests from those seeking guidance about music therapy as a profession, including information on available programs, regional networks, and entry points into the field.
- Offered informal consultation to a newly forming association of music therapists, helping them think through structural and organizational steps to strengthen their presence and capacity.
- Provided support to a music therapist working under particularly challenging conditions due to political unrest and environmental crises, offering ideas for sustaining their work and community outreach.



## Ongoing and Future Priorities

- Continue to attend WFMT Council meetings and ensure the Eastern Mediterranean perspective is represented in ongoing planning and decision-making.
- Present the re-naming of the region to the council for approval.
- Remain available to respond to regional inquiries and offer information, guidance, or connections based on the needs of individuals and organizations.
- Monitor developments in music therapy across the region, including emerging programs, new research efforts, or changes in policy and recognition.
- Help circulate key updates to local networks, including news from WFMT, opportunities for involvement, and regional milestones.
- Promote the profession in our region through informal advocacy, networking, and by connecting those interested in music therapy with relevant people and resources.
- Strengthen connections between professionals across countries by encouraging open dialogue and cross-border collaborations.
- Support efforts to bring new members into the WFMT network, especially from underrepresented or emerging communities.
- Share details about regional workshops, training sessions, and continuing education opportunities that can benefit local professionals.
- Contribute stories and highlights from the region to WFMT platforms, helping to raise visibility of our work and celebrate regional innovation.

### ***In closing...***

It has been an honor to serve as the Regional Representative for the Eastern Mediterranean. Over the past year, I have learned immensely through meaningful conversations with colleagues across the region and beyond. These exchanges have expanded my understanding of music therapy's role in diverse contexts and deepened my respect for the commitment and creativity within our global community. I look forward to seeing the continued growth of the field in our region and contributing, in whatever ways I can, to the evolving vision of WFMT.



## **Regional Liaison for Europe**

Mitsi Akoyunoglou

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### **Description of the Position**

Representing the European Professional Member Associations of WFMT, provide a bridge of communication from the WFMT to the Associations and vice versa, and connect EMTC with WFMT. In addition, the Regional Liaison for Europe attends Council meetings and thematic meetings, participates in workgroups, maintains communication with members of the European Region, provides regular reports and an annual report and collaborates with EMTC.

### **Accomplishments/Activities since July 2024**

- Organized, coordinated and co-hosted a webinar titled “rebuilding communities with music therapy that took place on the 17th of November 2024, as part of the European Music Therapy Day celebrations. Invited speakers included Dr. Dorothee von Moreau, Dr. Frauke Schwaiblmair, Dr. Tali Gottfried and Katy Grainger, and I co-hosted the event along with Catherine Clancy, South Region Coordinator of EMTC.
- Attended WFMT council online zoom meetings (August 2024, October 2024, January 2025, and April 2025)
- Attended thematic meetings with council members on Preparation on World Music Therapy Week (November 2024), WFMT’s Vision, Mission and Values (February 2025), Safety (February 2025), Revision of WFMT MT definition (March 2025), WCMT2026 (March 2025)
- Acted as member of the Panel of Judges of the World Music Therapy Photo Contest 2025
- Member of the Workgroup for the revision of WFMT definition of Music Therapy
- Communicated regularly with European WFMT member Associations
- Collected information from WFMT Member Associations for the WFMT Newsletter of February 2025
- Replied to various emails, connected with various music therapists and participated in interviews for the needs of music therapy students around the world

### **Ongoing Activities**

- Collaborating with EMTC and the European Member Associations
- Replying and sending emails
- Attending council meetings and thematic meetings
- Participating in the workgroup for the Revision of WFMT definition of Music Therapy
- Being a member of the Scientific Team of WCMT2026
- Communicating with stakeholders to connect music therapists in Georgia

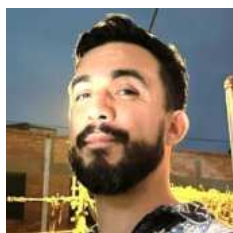
### **Future Projects during the Term**

- Organize a webinar in collaboration with the representatives from Europe
- Continue on-going activities, meetings and workgroups



***In closing...***

The European region, with its rich heritage and dynamic music therapy networks, is uniquely positioned to contribute to the global dialogue in our field. As we look ahead, ongoing engagement, shared learning, and mutual support are essential in addressing emerging challenges and expanding the reach and impact of our profession. In this ongoing process, it is a real pleasure and honor being the Regional Liaison for Europe, and to represent many wonderful European Music Therapy Associations to the WFMT.



## Regional Liaison for Latin America & the Caribbean

Nicolás Espinoza

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### Description of the Position

Connection between the WFMT and the region of Latin America and the Caribbean.

### Accomplishments/Activities since July 2024

- Participated in several WFMT meetings.
- Represented the WFMT in regional events such as the 10th Anniversary of the Latin American Music Therapy Network for the Early Childhood.
- Organized meetings with Caribbean music therapists.
- Participated and reignited the Membership Benefits Task Force.
- Participated and solved ethical concerns regarding uploaded material into social media by a member of the region.
- Suggested candidates for revising the bylaws and for the Scientific Committee for the World Congress.
- Answered emails from requests regarding information about music therapy in the region.
- I participated in interviews with music therapy students from the US.
- I shared with the region a Voices call for abstracts for a number about decolonialist perspectives.
- I participated piloting and then sharing the Dr. Kern's Global Music Therapy Survey.
- I shared with the region Music Therapy Toolkit for the World Music Therapy Week.
- I recorded a greeting hello for the video shared during the World Music Therapy Week.
- Connected the Mexican Music Therapists Association with Kana Okazaki-Sakaue, Chair of Education, for an interview.

### Ongoing Activities

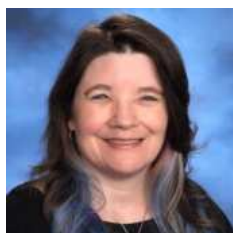
- Membership Benefits Task Force.
- Meetings with Caribbean music therapists to increase awareness of their practice.
- Representation of the WFMT in regional relevant activities.

### Future Projects during the Term

- Record Define new benefits for WFMT members.
- Upload a new reel about current models, approaches, and techniques by regional music therapists.
- Increase awareness of Latin American and Caribbean Music Therapists and their activities.

### *In closing...*

It has been a great opportunity to move ahead despite difficulties and solve them together. At the same time, it feels great to be participating in such important matters, such as revising WFMT's vision, mission and values which will ground future decisions, and increasing members benefits. This current year I plan to increase awareness of music therapy in the LAC (Latin America and the Caribbean) region.



## Regional Liaison for Canada and the USA

Andrea McGraw Hunt

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### Description of the Position

As regional liaison for the United States and Canada, my role is to collect and provide information about the region, review documents and respond to calls for action, attend and participate in Council meetings, and to communicate my activities to the membership through our annual written report.

### Accomplishments/Activities since July 2024

- Maintained contact with the professional associations in Canada and the U.S. to apprise their leadership of WFMT activities, and vice-versa
- Contributed to the June 2025 Monthly Buzz
- Collaborated with Regional Liaisons to review the WFMT definition of music therapy for possible revision
- Collaborated with council members on updating WFMT's Vision, Mission, and Values documents
- After resignation of attorney Jim White as our legal representative, led search for new attorney to represent the organization for corporate registration in North Carolina and for any other legal matters
- Suggested candidates for our bylaws revision committee and for the scientific committee for the World Congress
- Suggested candidates for revising the bylaws and for the Scientific Committee for the World Congress.
- Answered emails from requests regarding information about music therapy in the region.
- Attended WFMT general business meetings and additional thematic and other ad hoc meetings regarding additional needs

### Ongoing Activities

- Finalize selection of new attorney
- Continued outreach to the AMTA and CAMT to promote mutual interests and provide support to each other
- Continue to respond to clinical referral and resource queries

### Future Projects during the Term

- Collaborate with council members to further develop by-laws, policies, and procedures of the organization.

### *In closing...*

This has been a full year for the region, with AMTA emerging from leadership and organizational transitions, while governmental changes in the U.S. have threatened funding for music therapy services and higher education on the whole. At the same time, this year the CAMT has celebrated 50 years of its work in Canada, showing that music therapists are resilient and creatively persistent. I will continue to stay connected with the leadership at both organizations will also work with the ASD representative to showcase exciting developments and practices across the region.



## **Regional Liaison for Southeast Asia**

Bhuvaneswari Ramesh

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### **Description of the Position**

- A) Connect and network with Music therapists in the region
- B) Provide support and connections
- C) Provide insights into the growth and requirements of music therapy in the region

### **Accomplishments/Activities since July 2024**

- Responded to emails
- Invited to be part of the World Music Therapy Photo Contest, 2025 as a Judge
- Disseminated the World MT Photo Contest information
- Attended as invited resource person for a Singapore- India collaborative palliative care training program that was approached through the WFMT
- Attended most of the meetings of the council of WFMT
- Submitted two blog on a). regional information and b). on the palliative care event that was organized in India between Singapore and India

### **Ongoing Activities**

- A part of the working subgroup for reviewing and revising of the definition of music therapy
- Attended as invited resource person for a Singapore- India collaborative palliative care training program that was approached through the WFMT. Continuing to be part of the program until 2028 as a Music therapy consultant and resource persons- in Online and face to face session in the Indian subcontinent
- Working on registering National music therapy association for India
- Connecting with other countries in Southeast Asia
- Updating the SEA regional information of MT as a small booklet

### **Future Projects during the Term**

- To continue with the Creation of Association in India
- Encouraging students and colleagues to the WCMT
- Connecting and supporting Mts from the region- in connection with a student who completed from India and is from Sri Lanka ( first to be trained in masters in Medical music therapy), apart from other areas within the regions



***In closing...***

This year has been quite productive in terms of creating awareness about music therapy, in the south east asian regions. I have been able to connect with all the countries that fall under SEA and in the process of creating the booklet and the booklet, I have had an opportunity to understand the Stage of MT and the gaps in the support or needs of the Music therapists, the education levels, the clinical practice and research areas. Giving credit to those who are aspiring to be music therapy in spite of their shortcomings and gaps in availability of resources has been the one part of satisfaction during this period of time. The connections that has been created due to this position has strengthened my work within creating awareness in certain specific areas of clinical work and research. It has provided me with insights of where and how we must move forward.



## **Regional Liaison for Western Pacific**

Jin Hyung Lee, PhD, KCMT, MT-BC

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### **Description of the Position**

The Regional Liaisons, representing one of eight global regions, collect and disseminate regional updates on practice, education, research, and regulation; facilitate communication between WFMT and local associations; and contribute region-specific insights to council policy and strategy development.

### **Accomplishments/Activities since July 2024**

- Exchanged emails with member organizations to share updates on professional development and to discuss ongoing and future collaborations.
- Initiated discussions with key stakeholders regarding the development of a regional music therapy program—an area of high interest among member organizations.
- Responded to inquiries from individuals seeking information on music therapy and educational programs in the region, and connected them with appropriate program directors. Provided information on existing music therapy programs and organizations to interested parties and potential stakeholders.
- Met with a group of music therapists to support the further development of a newly formed association. Consulted with a music therapist in areas affected by political instability and earthquakes on ways to support local music therapists.
- Assisted the National Association of Korean Music Therapists in identifying an expert to provide continuing education on Music Therapy Ethics in the Era of AI.
- Participated in online meetings related to the development of an accreditation system with the Association for Music Therapy Singapore.
- Consolidated and classified a list of videos from WCMT 2023 to be made available online.
- Recommended potential reviewers for the WCMT 2026 Scientific Committee. in the 17th World Congress of Music Therapy, Vancouver, Canada



## Ongoing and Future Activities

- Attend WFMT Council meetings (online and onsite) as an active Council member, including presenting region-specific reports.
- Serve as the regional contact for inquiries and engage in email communication about music therapy activities within the region.
- Collect and update information on regional developments, such as clinical practice, education, research, and regulation.
- Disseminate information about regional developments to local music therapy associations, music therapy-related policy stakeholders, and WFMT.
- Advocate for music therapy by promoting the development and recognition of the profession within the region.
- Facilitate member communication by promoting ongoing collaboration and exchange among regional member organizations and practitioners.
- Expand regional membership by supporting outreach activities to recruit individual members and broaden the network.
- Promote professional development by sharing information about workshops, webinars, masterclasses, and other training opportunities hosted in the region.
- Celebrate regional achievements by showcasing success stories and innovative practices on international WFMT platforms.
- Encourage Congress engagement by promoting region-wide participation and networking for the 2026 World Congress of Music Therapy. to attend council meetings

### ***In closing...***

Thank you to all member organizations and individual members from the region for your continued support. I look forward to further strengthening our collaboration and fostering the growth of music therapy throughout our region. I am also deeply grateful to Vivian, Melissa and all council members for their dedication for WFMT and mutual support for ongoing work. While we encountered some challenges along the way, these experiences have reshaped how we work together—helping us embrace differences and move forward with a shared commitment to advancing music therapy globally. Your collegial spirit will continue to build a strong, connected community and drive our shared mission in the year ahead.