

World Federation of Music Therapy



Supporting Music Therapy Worldwide

Annual Report
July 2025 - June 2026

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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

[Greetings from the WFMT President, Ms. Vivian Chan](#)

Dear WFMT Members,

It is with deep appreciation and a shared sense of purpose that we present the World Federation of Music Therapy's Annual Report for 2025–2026. This report reflects not only the work accomplished over the past year, but also the collective commitment, resilience, and vision that continue to guide our global community.

Over the past year, the WFMT has continued to strengthen its foundations while embracing growth and renewal. Building on the efforts of the previous term, the Council has worked with care and intention to sustain a culture grounded in trust, collaboration, and transparency. A major undertaking this year has been the review and revision of the WFMT Constitution and Bylaws, an important process aimed at strengthening and clarifying our governing framework while ensuring that the governance of the Federation is more fully aligned with its Vision, Mission, and Values. Our shared focus on these guiding principles has remained central, ensuring that our work is both responsive to our members and reflective of the diverse communities we serve.

We extend our sincere gratitude to all who have contributed to this ongoing journey. The dedication of our Commissioners, Regional Liaisons, and volunteers has been instrumental in advancing initiatives that support the development, accessibility, and recognition of music therapy worldwide. Through their efforts, and through your continued engagement, WFMT remains a dynamic and responsive organization, fostering connection, dialogue, and mutual learning across regions.

This year has also been one of transition. As leadership evolves, we recognize both the importance of continuity and the opportunities that new perspectives bring. We would like to acknowledge the commitment and service of the outgoing Council members, whose efforts have helped guide the Federation through a period of meaningful rebuilding and consolidation. At the same time, we warmly welcome the incoming Council, whose energy and vision will carry this work forward.

In a world where many continue to experience uncertainty, conflict, and hardship, we remain mindful of the role our community plays in offering support, compassion, and care. We express our continued solidarity with those affected by global crises and those facing hardship across the world.

Annual Report
July 2025 – June 2026

As we look ahead, we remain committed to nurturing a global community that values inclusivity, collaboration, and innovation across practice, education, and research. Together, we will continue to strengthen the presence and impact of music therapy as both an art and a science, guided by the voices and aspirations of our members.

We thank you for your trust, your contributions, and your continued partnership. We invite you to explore this report and reflect on the work we have accomplished together.

In peace and harmony,

Vivian Chan
President | World Federation of
Music Therapy





President

Vivian Chan, MMT, MT-BC, MTA, BA, BFA(Hons)

Email: president@wfmt.info



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 2025

- Scheduled, created agenda and facilitated three online Council meetings and one in-person Council meeting during the year (July 2025, October 2025, January 2026, April 2026, July 2026).
- Continued to guide and support the work on rebuilding and restoring a sense of safety within the WFMT Council and the WFMT Community, and to enhance workplace safety and governance integrity.
- Continued to guide and support the work on membership benefits revision, definition of music therapy revision, the Code of Conduct and Anti-harassment document, and the Bylaws and Constitution revision.
- Collaborated closely with the Executive Assistant to support 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.
- Completed the revision of the WFMT Vision, Mission, and Values with Dr. Mitsi Akoyunoglou and Ms. Martina Scognamiglio.
- Collaborated with the Public Relations Commission to organise and promote World Music Therapy Week.
- Created welcome messages for Italy and Indonesia in celebration of 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.
- 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.
- Continued to support Council members in their various projects to maintain the momentum of Council work
- Continued to support the work of special workgroups.
- Coordinated and organised the revision of the WFMT job descriptions with Council.
- Coordinated, prepared and executed the launch of the Recognition Program with Ms. Martina Scognamiglio.



- Planned, coordinated, prepared, and executed the call for nominations for Council members for the next term 2026-2029 with Ms. Martina Scognamiglio.
- Coordinated and prepared for the General Business Meeting at the WCMT 2026.
- Oversaw the creation of the 2026- 2029 Slate of Candidates document.
- Collaborated with the Treasurer to maintain the organisation's financial integrity and audit compliance.
- Prepared and sent notifications to WCMT 2026 Scholarship winners and unsuccessful applicants, and to WFMT 2026 Recognition Program Award recipients.
- Supported the World Congress Organiser in the planning of the World Congress 2026.
- Attended to grievances submitted to WFMT regarding the organisation, its Council members, and the WCMT 2026.
- Supported the organisation of and attended Thematic meetings throughout the year, a platform that offered 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 within the Council.
- Delivered speeches and presentations about the WFMT at the World Art Therapy Festival (September 2025) in Czech Republic and at the Music Therapy Symposium in Warsaw (October 2025).

Ongoing Activities

- Preserve the organisation's mission and values.
- Support the revision of the WFMT Bylaws and Constitution and other documents
- 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 the July in-person Council meeting
- 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 initiatives 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.
- Work closely with the new WFMT President and provide support in transition in the new 2026-2029 WFMT Council.
- Take on special projects in the new 2026- 2029 Council term.

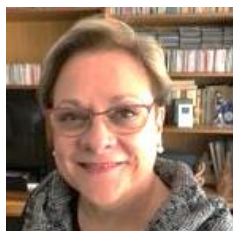


In closing...

As I conclude my term as President, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude for the opportunity to serve on the WFMT Council over the past decade. Leading this dynamic community of music therapists has been both humbling and deeply rewarding. The 2023–2026 Council has shown remarkable commitment, creativity, and teamwork in advancing our global mission and strengthening the field of music therapy. My time with the Federation has deepened my understanding of our worldwide community—its diversity, resilience, and shared passion for healing through music.

I look forward to supporting the new 2026-2029 Council as Past President and continuing to contribute to initiatives that foster growth, collaboration, and international connection within our profession.





Past President

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

Email: pastpresident@wfmt.info



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 2025

- 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 organizing committee.
- Meetings with Ms. Mariagrazia Baroni, to support her in the different steps towards the preparation of the 2026 WCMT
- Met with chair and co-chairs of the Scientific Committee 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
- Revising membership categories—working group on membership

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

Email: secretary@wfmt.info



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 2025

- Answered and delegated emails from the Contact Us webform
- Assisted with congress bid enquiries for 2029, 2032 and 2035
- Participated in membership benefits revision workgroup meetings and led a thematic meeting in 2025
- Responded to all external and internal correspondence
- Assisted the council when needed
- Attended council quarterly and thematic meetings when it was possible, or reviewed the recordings and sent comments
- Completed meeting minutes
- Received membership enquiries, communicated with the applicants, prepared and sent membership certificates
- Updated the membership database and the president's monthly buzz database regularly
- Responded to external communications about the World Congress registration processes
- Collected student and professional scholarship applications (nearly 100 in total), organized and led scholarship committee communication and meetings and contributed to the voting process
- Attended to and directed a few ethical/ professional misrepresentation issues to the responsible associations and council members
- Updated, collected and disseminated the WFMT Recognition Program nomination forms and contributed to the voting process
- Updated and collected 2026-2029 council nomination forms between November 2025 and April 2026 to be prepared for publishing
- Contributed to all council internal decisions
- Translated the World Music Therapy Week Toolbox into Russian
- Participated in the World Music Therapy Week photo contest jury and contributed to the final decision
- Contributed to the revision of the WFMT job description
- Delivered presentations and podcast interviews about the WFMT work in Russia, Canada and the USA



Ongoing and Future Activities

- Collaborate and meet with the WFMT Bylaws and Constitution workgroup as a member of the membership benefits revision workgroup
- Attend thematic meetings
- Assist in recruiting new members, continue issuing membership certificates and updating the database
- Prepare and Contribute to the Monthly Buzz
- Assist the full organizational members with their membership renewal and AGM registration
- Attend the July Council meeting at the WCMT 2026
- Attend the WFMT AGM and assist with the new council elections
- Help and train the upcoming secretary

In closing...

As I complete my second term as a Secretary of the WFMT, I want to express my deep gratitude to all the people I have communicated with and met over the past three (actually six!) years. My passion for the music therapy profession, advocacy, and global reach enabled me to continue my work despite external circumstances and obstacles. I am happy to see our membership growing, with the new full organizational members joining us in the past 2 terms. In fact, our membership numbers are the highest since 2017 (and I don't have the data from prior to the 2017 term). I want to thank everyone who joined WFMT this term!

WFMT Stats

WFMT members (As of April 12, 2026)

Full Organizational	37
Associate Organizational	8
Individual Professional	103
Individual Associate	13
Student Individual	19
Student Individual Associate	6
Affiliate Org	2
Honorary Life Member	13

Total 201



Australia, Argentina, Brazil, Bahrain, Canada, Chile, Czech, Cyprus, China, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Hong Kong, Israel, Italy, India, Japan, Jordan, Luxembourg, Lebanon, Latvia, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Puerto Rico, Pakistan, Qatar, Rwanda, Russia, Switzerland, Singapore, Spain, South Korea, South Africa, Serbia, Taiwan, Turkiye, Thailand, Tunisia, UK, USA, Ukraine,



Treasurer

Amanda Montera

Email: treasurer@wfmt.info



Description of the Position

The Treasurer will serve a three-year term and is eligible for re-election for one further term of three years. The Treasurer shall

- a. Set-up and administer a bank account for the Federation's funds and provide the President full access to the bank account;
- b. Reimburse Council members for necessary expenses;
- c. Develop a three-year term budget in collaboration with the Council;
- d. Provide regular financial statements (head wise categorized income and expenditure statements, cash flow statements, and balance sheet [assets and liabilities]) to the Council and will obtain an annual audited financial statement for the previous fiscal year for each Annual Meeting of the World Federation Council;
- e. File annual taxes;
- f. Attend and participate in Council meetings (online and onsite) or send a brief report in the event of absence; and
- g. Submit an annual written report to the Federation.

5 3.6.5. One person may carry out the position of Secretary and Treasurer.

Accomplishments/Activities since July 2025

- Compiling financial documents and reports for a yearly audit
- Filed 2026 taxes
- Handled payment for all goods and services/federation activities
- Ordering awards for WCMT
- Collaborated with other council members on a Code of Conduct for WCMT

Ongoing and Future Activities

- Attend WCMT in Bologna, Italy

In closing...

It's been a true pleasure and honor to serve on the WFMT Council for this term. The time has gone so quickly. The WFMT remains financially stable and I am very much looking forward to attending the WCMT for the first time this year.



Executive Assistant / ASD

Susanne Gruss

Email: assistant@wfmt.info



Description of the Position

The 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. The ASD works closely with the PR commission, the WFMT president and the regional liaisons.

Current Members on Assembly of Student Delegates

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

Accomplishments/Activities since July 2025

- Update of the WFMT student web page including a new photo collage with the new ASD members and updated info text
- Regular contributions to the Monthly Buzz informing about accomplishments within the MT student world + fostering connection between professionals and students
- Representation on WFMT//ASD at the European Music Therapy Conference in Hamburg in July 2025
- Preparation of 3 in person events for the student community at the WCMT in Bologna
- Contribution to the MT toolkit on “interdisciplinary connections”
- Taking part in the jury of the World Music Therapy Week photo competition
- Establishment of a frequent and regular contact with the PR Commission
- Start of the search for new student representatives for the upcoming term - already received 2 applications (Australia/New Zealand, South America)



Ongoing and Future Activities

- Sharing information on Instagram and on the blog
- Regular Zoom meetings + catch up via email and meeting minutes
- “quick” exchange via WhatsApp
- Answering “Window to the World” requests
- Participation in the WFMT Council Meetings
- Farewell Video to share at the WCMT
- Update of the WFMT student info card design
- Introduction of the new ASD + manage a successful transition period after the WCMT (selection of a new EA has not been done yet)

In closing...

Within the last year, the ASD has grown stronger connections to other WFMT work groups, especially the PR commission. The efficient social media work helped to spread updates on the WFMT more widely. That enhanced the follower number and therefore the reach of the new ASD Instagram account. The ASD faced its internal difficulties with the international and multidimensional coordination so that the group could prepare a successful online (WCMT Bologna) and offline (Farewell video etc) closing of the current ASD term.

I’m thankful for the engaged work of the ASD and the WFMT council and for all the new experiences the time as ASD has offered me.



Susanne Cruss
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT



Lina Quraan
EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN



Shruthika Palvannan
AUSTRALIA &
NEW ZEALAND

2023-2026 Assembly of Student Delegates



Oriosvaldo Travassos
LATIN AMERICA &
THE CARIBBEAN



Hannah Estrella
CANADA & THE USA



Marina Elizabeth Caputo
EUROPE



Napapas Horrungruang (Jeen)
SOUTHEAST ASIA



Hershey Permano
WESTERN PACIFIC



Vuyo Tshwele
AFRICA



Clinical Practice

Puchong Chimpiboon

Email: clinicalpractice@wfmt.info



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 2025

1. The Global Music Therapy Survey

The Clinical Practice Commission supported the follow-up survey study titled "Evaluating Music Therapy Practice Statuses and Trends Worldwide: A Decade Later." Building on the original WFMT global survey conducted in 2016, this IRB-approved study—led by Dr. Petra Kern and Dr. Daniel Tague—aimed to understand global changes and emerging trends in music therapy, inform workforce preparation and professional development, and address knowledge and skill gaps to support future training and education.

The study has since been completed and published in the *Journal of Music Therapy*:

Kern, P., & Tague, D. B. (2026). Global Music Therapy Survey 2025: Developments and trends a decade later. *Journal of Music Therapy*, 63(1), thag001. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jmt/thag001>

2. Music Therapy Practice Around the World

The Commission has been leading the development of a media series showcasing music therapy practice around the world. The purposes of this initiative are to advocate for and recognize the diverse work of music therapists globally, to highlight differences in context and culture, and to raise awareness among interested audiences while fostering connections within the professional community. Each media features clinical practices from various regions, covering techniques used, therapeutic approaches, and music interventions.

To date, two regional editions have been completed: Southeast Asia and North America. Further regional editions are currently in preparation, and all completed videos will be made available through the WFMT website.



Ongoing and Future Activities

- Expanding the Music Therapy Practice Around the World Media Series: Continue developing regional editions to ensure broader global representation across all WFMT regions.
- Supporting Commission Members: Provide ongoing guidance and support to commission members in fulfilling their roles and contributing to the Commission's objectives.
- Leadership Transition: Facilitate a smooth handover of responsibilities to the incoming Chair to ensure continuity of the Commission's work and initiatives.

In closing...

It has been a true honor to serve alongside the dedicated members of the WFMT Commission. The experience gained through this role has been instrumental in my professional growth, particularly in the areas of leadership and international collaboration. Working with fellow music therapy professionals from around the world has been a truly memorable and enriching experience, and I am deeply grateful for the opportunity.



Education, Certification & Regulation



Kana Okazaki-Sakaue

Email: education@wfmt.info

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 since July 2025

- 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.
 - ☞ Listing up the topics to collect and made Google document where members accumulate information about each area.
 - ☞ Distributed the survey for the digital registry.
- We have worked to prepare for the presentation at the WCMT in Bologna, Italy.

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.
- The whole commission is preparing for the presentation at the WCMT Bologna,

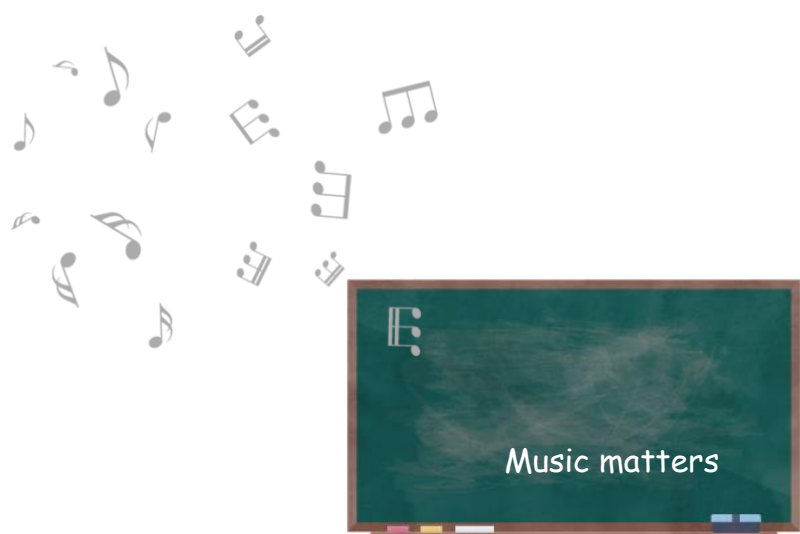
Future Projects during

- 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
- 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.



In closing...

It has been an honor to serve as Chair of the Education, Certification and Regulation Commission this term 2023-2026, and to have been engaged with various WFMT Commissions since 2005. Over the course of more than twenty years, the opportunity to contribute to this organization has brought me great joy and satisfaction. I wish to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all the music therapy colleagues and friends around the world, who have worked together with me during this time. I remain fully dedicated to WFMT's continued progress and development as a member in the future.





Global Crises Intervention

Indra Selvarajah

Email: crises@wfmt.info



Report not received.



Publications

Liz Coombes

Email: publications@wfmt.info



Description of the Position/Commission

The Publications Commission promotes the publication and dissemination of information related to music therapy worldwide. It aims to stimulate and support information exchange between members and colleagues interested in the field of music therapy.

Current Members on Commission

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

Accomplishments/Activities since July 2025

1. Preparation of documents for relaunch of Music Therapy Today, the online WFMT journal.

Considerable work has been done by members of the commission to revise and prepare documents for this journal. It is intended that the Commission will move forward with a call for papers in 2026.

2. Considering new resources

The Commission has been actively exploring new ways of bringing music therapy research to the profession and general public. This has included films on research topics and clinical practice. At present these are not quite ready to launch, but it is intended that in the new term, the Commission will be launching calls for these new resources.

3. WCMT Proceedings

The Commission is working on the preparation of this document which will be released once completed. 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.

Ongoing and Future Activities

- During Supporting Commission Members: Provide ongoing guidance and support to commission members in fulfilling their roles and contributing to the Commission's objectives.
- Leadership Transition: Facilitate a smooth handover of responsibilities to the incoming Chair to ensure continuity of the Commission's work and initiatives.



Public Relations

Martina Scognamiglio

Email: publicrelations@wfmt.info



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 2025

Strategic Leadership & Governance

- Ensured continuous alignment with the President and Council, guiding PR strategy, coordinating Commission activities, and supporting organizational planning and transition processes.
- Participated in discussions on WFMT mission, vision and values; legal issues and safety; new definition of music therapy.
- Contributed to the preparation and editorial work of the Federation's official annual report.

World Congress (WCMT2026) Coordination & Promotion

- Played a key liaison role between WFMT and the WCMT2026 Organizing Committee, actively participating in meetings and supporting overall Congress planning and execution.
- Developed and implemented a comprehensive communication strategy for WCMT2026, including website and social media content, promotional materials.
- Coordinated volunteer recruitment, supported logistics, and facilitated networking opportunities (e.g., student engagement spaces), contributing to the operational success of the Congress.

Digital Presence & Website Development

- Oversaw significant improvements to the WFMT website, including content development, structural updates, and completion of key sections (Home, About, Resources).
- Resolved technical and hosting issues and ensured full compliance with international privacy and cookie regulations through coordination with legal and technical stakeholders.
- Shared the new updated Regional Fact Pages, with regional information from 39 countries and territories around the world.
- Strengthened digital communication by regularly publishing news, campaigns, and institutional updates across website and social media platforms.



Digital Presence & Website Development

- Managed and delivered key communication outputs, including *The Buzz* newsletter and monthly communications, ensuring consistent engagement with the WFMT global community.
- Led the dissemination of WFMT’s Mission, Vision, and Values.
- Promoted major initiatives such as the World Congress, Council activities, and global campaigns through coordinated PR efforts and content production.

Programs, Initiatives & Community Engagement

- Successfully coordinated major initiatives including the World Music Therapy Week, the WFMT Toolkit (content development, translations, design, and launch), and the World Photo Competition (submission management, voting process, and stakeholder coordination).
- Supported governance processes by promoting and managing calls for Council nominations and awards programs.

Operational Management & Stakeholder Support

- Managed ongoing external communications, responding to inquiries related to publications, website content, and PR activities between the WFMT and the global community.
- Maintained and updated communication tools to ensure effective and accurate information dissemination.
- Facilitated cross-functional collaboration across Council members, committees, and external stakeholders, improving workflow efficiency and delivery of PR outputs.

Ongoing and Future Activities

• Governance & Coordination

Contribute to Council activities and lead PR Commission workstreams, ensuring alignment and continuity.

• Communications & Platforms

Oversee website updates, social media channels, and global communications to ensure consistent and timely outreach.

• WFMT Membership and Stakeholder Engagement

Support regional liaisons, member organizations, and student representatives through coordinated communication and joint initiatives.

• Key Developments

Advance strategic projects, including enhancement of WFMT digital presence and content diversification.

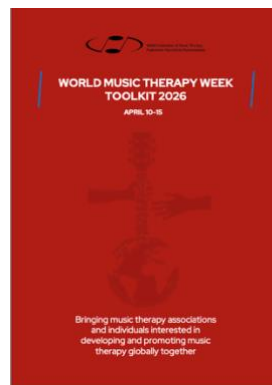
• Global Initiatives

Update the WFMT Wikipedia page and develop an international calendar of Music Therapy Days to strengthen global visibility.



In closing...

As this 2023–2026 term comes to a close, I would like to warmly thank the WFMT Council, the Public Relations Commission, and the entire WFMT community for their trust and collaboration over these past three years. It has been a real privilege to serve as Chair of the PR Commission alongside so many dedicated colleagues. I am sincerely grateful for the opportunity to have contributed to WFMT’s mission and ongoing development. Even through the challenges, our work has been guided by shared values of respect, attentive listening, and genuine cooperation. It has also been an honor to support the 18th World Congress of Music Therapy, especially as it takes place in Italy. I wish the organization continued growth, inspiration, and success in the next term ahead.



World music therapy week toolkit in 6 languages



Research and Ethics

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

Email: research@wfmt.info



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 throughout 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 since July 2025

- Chaired several meetings with the WFMT Research & Ethics Committee
- 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
- Submitted feedback to the WFMT Code of Conduct on suggested revisions
- Reviewed Letter on WFMT's global identity and values
- Supported WFMT in assessing and navigating concerns brought forward to WFMT
- Consulted on ethics and professional practice matters as prompted by written requests
- Responded to e-mail inquiries and requests about music therapy, ethics, research and the WFMT
- Interviewed music therapy researchers to create 3 research videos to add to the WFMT Research Video Forum
- Served on the WCMT Scientific Committee
- Submitted an abstract for the WCMT 2026 for the WFMT Research and Ethics commission to host a World Café on ethics and began preparations for the WCMT
- Responded to queries from interested parties wanting to service as the 2026-2029 Chair of the Research and Ethics commission
- Nominated Dr. Eugenia Hernandez-Ruiz for the WFMT Chair of Research and Ethics Commission
- Provided WFMT updates on our social media sites (Facebook, & Twitter)



Ongoing and Future 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.
- Support the WFMT Council transition for 2026-2029

In closing...

I was privileged to serve the WFMT in my second term as the Chair of Research and Ethics. I have held several positions on the WFMT Council since 2011 including President, and each one has been an honour and opportunity to hold. I wish the next WFMT Council 2026-2029 the very best and will assist with transition and support to officers.



Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access



Ming Hung Hsu, PhD

Email: equity@wfmt.info

Description of the Position/Commission

The IDEA Commission supports inclusive, diverse, equitable and accessible education and practice in music therapy worldwide. We aim to strengthen learning and training resources that reflect the wide range of global music therapy traditions and promote respectful, culturally informed engagement with communities.

Our key goals include:

- Highlighting diverse music therapy practices, particularly those rooted in local and community-based knowledge
- Promoting accessibility in education across physical, communicational, economic and digital domains
- Supporting leadership and educational opportunities for historically excluded groups
- Advising on equitable and transparent WFMT educational policies
- Collaborating with other WFMT Commissions to embed IDEA principles across activities
- Contributing to the review of WFMT educational materials to ensure inclusive representation

Current Members on Commission

- Nsamu Moonga (South Africa)
- Gaia Ambrogio (Belgium)
- Marie Laure Rodriguez-Quiroga (Spain/France)
- Ming Yuan Low (USA)
- Baishali Mukherjee (India)

Accomplishments/Activities since July 2025

- Re-established the IDEA Commission and expanded membership to improve global representation
- Co-developed the Commission's vision, goals, and strategic priorities through collaborative work with members
- Initiated the development of a potential global survey project to map music therapy work addressing health inequalities
- Participated in the WFMT Bylaws and Constitution Workgroup, contributing to the review and strengthening of governance structures
- Participated in the WFMT Membership Workgroup, contributing to the review and development of membership structures and benefits



Ongoing Activities

- Continued recruitment of Commission members to strengthen regional representation
- Ongoing participation in WFMT Council and working group meetings
- Development of the proposed global survey to identify and map music therapy work addressing health inequalities
- Collaboration with other WFMT Commissions to embed IDEA principles across Federation activities
- Responding to member inquiries related to inclusion, diversity, equity and access

Future Projects

- Implementation of the global survey project to map music therapy work addressing health inequalities
- Development of a global repository of projects and practices addressing inequities in music therapy access
- Hosting listening sessions and focus groups to amplify underrepresented voices
- Continued contribution to WFMT policy, governance and membership development with an IDEA perspective
- Strengthening alignment with WHO frameworks on health equity and social determinants of health

In closing...

It has been a privilege to meet and work with colleagues across WFMT and within the IDEA Commission during this term. As I step down from the role of Chair, I remain committed to supporting WFMT's ongoing work and will continue to contribute wherever I can.



2026 World Congress Organizer

Mariagrazia Baroni

Email: worldcongress@wfmt.info



Description of the Position

The WFMT World Congress Organizer plays a central role in connecting and coordinating the many individuals, associations, and committees involved in the organization of the Congress. Alongside maintaining close collaboration with the professional associations of the host country, the Congress Organizer works directly with the WFMT Council—particularly the Past President—to ensure clear communication, shared goals, and continuity throughout all stages of the planning process.

The role also includes overseeing the practical and organizational aspects of the event in order to create a Congress that is not only professionally well-structured, but also a meaningful space for dialogue and exchange among the diverse cultures, traditions, and perspectives that enrich the international music therapy community.

Current Members on Commission

- Melissa Mercadal-Brotans
- Martina Scognamiglio
- Paolo Caneva
- Andrea Pomarolli
- Nicoletta Bettini

Accomplishments/Activities since July 2025

- Participated in discussions on the WFMT mission, vision, and values, as well as legal and safety matters.
- Provided recommendations for revising the Bylaw, particularly regarding the role of the Congress Organizer and the host country and professional association(s), to promote collaboration and ensure financially sustainable congresses.

World Congress - WCMT2026

- Ongoing participation in WFMT Council and working group meetings
- Ensured continuous alignment with the Past-President coordinating the Organizing Committee.
- Organized regular thematic meetings to update the Council on congress planning and progress.
- Coordinated the different commissions and institutions involved in the organization of WCMT2026, including the three Italian Professional Associations, the WFMT Council, the Organizing Committee, the Scientific Committee Board, and the PCO, actively promoting collaboration through regular meetings.
- Developed and implemented a detailed operational plan for all organizational phases, including coordination with the Scientific Committee Board during the abstract review process, communication with authors of accepted abstracts, and development of the overall congress program.
- Supported the Scientific Committee in defining spotlight sessions and pre-conference activities.



- Monitored and reviewed the congress budget continuously, with particular attention to the financial risks undertaken by the host country association in organizing such a complex event.
- Defined content and information for publication on the WCMT2026 website.
- Collaborated with the PCO in sponsor outreach and fundraising activities.
- Coordinated social events and tourist tours associated with the congress.
- Developed criteria and guidelines for congress volunteers together with the Chair of Public Relations.
- Maintained ongoing communication and resolved practical and organizational issues related to participant registrations.
- Successfully coordinated the preparation of the congress program together with Cheryl Dileo, Co-Chair of the Scientific Committee, incorporating more than 750 presentations, including spotlight sessions, round tables, oral presentations, workshops, world cafés, and posters.
- Reassessed and optimized venue spaces in response to the high number of early-bird registrations, ensuring the best possible organization to accommodate approximately 1,350 congress participants.
- Collaborated with WFMT members to address and resolve challenges related to congress organization and management.

Ongoing and Future Activities

- Over the next two months, together with the Organizing Committee, all practical aspects related to the logistical and creative components of the Congress will be finalized in order to provide participants with the best possible experience. This includes, for example, defining appropriate spaces for movement and safety within the congress venue, drink and food distribution, press office coordination, and the organization of musical events and social activities.
- Collaboration with the Public Relations team for the coordination of volunteers and the organization of activities and dedicated moments for students.

In closing...

As the 2023–2026 term comes to a close, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to the WFMT Council, especially the President, Past President, and Chair of Public Relations, as well as to the entire WFMT community, for the trust, collaboration, and continuous support shown over the past three years in organizing the 18th World Congress of Music Therapy, including during challenging moments.

It has been a true privilege to serve as Congress Organizer and to meet so many colleagues from around the world who work every day for the advancement of music therapy and who are guided by shared values such as respect, attentive listening, and genuine cooperation.



Regional Liaison for Africa

Danielle McKinnon

Email: africa@wfmt.info



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/Activities since July 2025

I have been actively engaged in several international music therapy initiatives and leadership contributions. I collaborated with students at Queens University of Charlotte as part of a cross-cultural study examining global music therapy practices. My commitment to professional standards included participating in a focus group led by Dr. Kern and Dr. Tague to support the update of the International Music Therapy Questionnaire. I am pleased to share that the Global Survey Research Project, conducted in collaboration with Dr. Petra Kern and Dr. Daniel Tague, has now been completed.

Additionally, I contributed to the regional liaisons meeting of the World Federation of Music Therapy (WFMT), focusing on the critical task of revising the global definition of music therapy. Beyond these working groups, I have regularly attended WFMT Council and online meetings, providing ongoing feedback and strategic support to the President of WFMT. I also authored a blog post for the WFMT website, sharing insights and updates with the global community.

In an effort to raise awareness about music therapy for adults, children, and parents across Ghana, we launched and established The Institute of Music Therapy Library. This initiative integrates music programs with music therapy and literacy skills development. We believe this space will be instrumental in building public awareness and inspiring hopeful, meaningful experiences for the community.

Please note that following the birth of my child in 2025, I took a period of maternity leave to focus on my family before resuming my professional duties in 2026.

Ongoing Activities

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.

I am in the final stretch of completing my PhD through the University of Pretoria in South Africa.



Future Projects

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.

In closing...

It has been a profound privilege to serve as the Regional Liaison for Africa for the World Federation of Music Therapy. As my term now comes to an end, I reflect on the past months with immense gratitude for the opportunity to have served the WFMT and its global mission. This role has allowed me to connect deeply with colleagues across the continent, significantly broadening my perspective on how music therapy operates within diverse global contexts. I look forward to what is to come for the organisation.



Regional Liaison for Australia/New Zealand

Alison Short, PhD

Email: australiannewzealand@wfmt.info



Description of the Position

During this term, I have contributed my knowledge and expertise to the WFMT Council as Regional Liaison for Australia and New Zealand through a range of collaborations, including formal, informal and theme-based meetings and interactions. This has been informed by my considerable existing knowledge and experience in leadership and organisational behaviour and development. I have consistently supported the efforts of the WFMT to support and develop music therapy in my region and in adjoining regions, such as South East Asia, and around the world.

Accomplishments/Activities since July 2025

- Engaged with music therapists and music therapy governance representatives on a regular basis, from the Australian Music Therapy Association and Music Therapy New Zealand.
- Expressed confidence in the World Federation of Music Therapy and underlined its purpose as a worldwide organisation representing music therapy, with active attendance at many WFMT meetings and participating in decisionmaking, often in the middle of the night!
- Supported and applauded significant milestone celebrations of both the Australian Music Therapy Association (50 years) and Music Therapy New Zealand (50 years).
- Engaged in regional diplomacy outside of the Australian and New Zealand region to support music therapy developments in training and practice, including an invited Artist-in-Residence week with Lasalle/University of the Arts Singapore, assisting their first graduates about to complete their studies under the guidance of Dr Indra Selvarajah.
- Developed a major grant application connecting from Australia to South East Asia, in order to support future development of music therapy in relation to alumni and educators.
- Provided thoughtful information for the WFMT Blog.

Ongoing Activities

- Continue to support the Australian Music Therapy Association as they advocate for parity for music therapy as a fully funded profession with the National Disability Insurance Scheme.
- 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

- Continue a focus on the needs of alumni trained outside their home country, to assist them with contextualising their music therapy knowledge into relevant professional reintegration of both music and therapy into their home culture.
- 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 has been a pleasure to serve the music therapy community 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. Together, 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. As my term comes to an end, I look forward to continuing to informally supporting this work into the future.



Regional Liaison for Eastern Mediterranean

Hisham Alhadrab MA, MT-BC, RN.

Email: easternmediterranean@wfmt.info



Report not received.



Regional Liaison for Europe

Mitsi Akoyunoglou

Email: europe@wfmt.info



Description of the Position

Representing the European Professional Member Associations of WFMT, providing a bridge of communication from WFMT to the Associations and vice versa, and act as liaison between EMTC and WFMT. Responsibilities include:

- attend Council meetings (online or in-person)
- attend thematic meetings and workgroup meetings (online)
- participate in workgroups
- maintain regular communication with members of the European Region
- maintain regular communication with Council members and workgroup members
- provide regular and annual reports
- collaborate and liaise with EMTC

Accomplishments/Activities since July 2025

- Attended WFMT Council online Zoom meetings (July 2025, October 2025, January 2026, April 2026).
- Participated in thematic meetings with Council members on:
 - Membership matters (August 2025)
 - WCMT2026 Scholarship workgroup (September 2025)
 - World Music Therapy Week (November 2025)
 - WCMT2026 (December 2025)
 - Music Therapy Definition Workgroup (January 2026)
 - Rebuilding WFMT's relationship with Member Associations and Individual Professionals (February 2026)
 - Photo competition Judges (April 2026)
- Completed service as member of the Panel of Judges for the World Music Therapy Photo Contest 2026.
- Participated in the WCMT2026 Scholarship evaluation workgroup.
- Continued as an active member of the Workgroup for the Revision of the WFMT Definition of Music Therapy, with final draft submitted for Council review.
- Maintained communication with European WFMT member Associations, supporting them in sharing updates, challenges, and best practices.
- Collected and submitted information from European member Associations for the WFMT Monthly Buzz (April 2026).
- Responded to numerous inquiries from students and professionals regarding music therapy studies, internships, and professional recognition across Europe.
- Assisted in the drafting of various letters for membership and social media.



- Contributed to World Music Therapy Week toolkit by finding research articles.
- Translated the World Music Therapy Week toolkit in Greek.
- Organized with Nicolas the 1st global online meeting with all membership, titled “WFMT Connect”

Ongoing and Future Activities

- Continuing communication with European Member Associations until the end of term.
- Attending Council and thematic meetings.
- Finalizing regional documentation and reports for WFMT archives.
- Completing all pending Council tasks and providing final regional summary.
- Facilitating a virtual handover meeting in July 2026 with the incoming Regional Liaison for Europe, ensuring continuity of regional activities and contacts.
- Supporting the new Regional Liaison for Europe during the initial transition period (July 2026-September 2026).
- Continuing to promote collaboration between WFMT and EMTC in an informal advisory capacity if needed.

In closing...

Serving as the Regional Liaison for Europe to the WFMT Council for the term 2023-2026 has been a deeply meaningful and transformative journey. Over these three years, efforts were made to strengthen communication between WFMT and European professional member associations and build a closer working bridge with EMTC. I am deeply grateful to the WFMT Council and all the European member associations for their trust, collaboration, and shared commitment to advancing music therapy. It has been an honor to represent Europe and to contribute to the global voice of our profession.



Regional Liaison for Latin America & the Caribbean

Nicolás Alfonso Espinoza Curimil

Email: latinamericacaribbean@wfmt.info



Description of the Position

Connection between the WFMT and individual members, association members, and music therapists from Latin America and the Caribbean.

Accomplishments/Activities since July 2025

Leadership & Representation

- Served as Regional Liaison for Latin America and the Caribbean, representing the region in WFMT initiatives and decision-making spaces
- Delivered official video messages to inaugurate events such as the Andean Music Therapy Days (Maza University, Argentina) and contributed to World Music Therapy Week
- Invited to give opening remarks for the 10th anniversary of the Latin American Network of Music Therapy in Early Childhood
- Proposed candidates for the next Regional Liaison (LAC) and for the Assembly of Student Delegates (ASD) representing the region

Regional Development & Networking

- I recorded a greeting hello for the video shared during the World Music Therapy Week.
- Reconnected with music therapists across most Latin American countries to update WFMT fact sheets and strengthen regional engagement
- Established and maintained an English-speaking WhatsApp group for Caribbean music therapists, including participants from Bahamas, Cayman Islands, Trinidad and Tobago, Curaçao, Barbados, Cuba, Suriname, and Puerto Rico
- Facilitated ongoing communication through shared documents and group coordination tools
- Encouraged inclusion of underrepresented countries and I meditated for a Caribbean number in the Voices journal.
- Supported initial discussions and meetings to explore the creation of a Caribbean Music Therapy Association

Advocacy & Mediation

- Mediated between Latin American music therapy associations and World Congress organizers in multiple meetings
- Successfully advocated for reduced registration fees, resulting in 20 discounted spots for Latin American participants
- Raised formal concerns to WFMT leadership regarding the application of World Bank-based pricing, highlighting financial, political, and accessibility implications
- Advocated for more equitable pricing structures to improve participation from Latin America and the Caribbean



Membership & Organizational Development

- Active member of the Membership Benefits Taskforce
- Co-designed and helped distribute a global survey to identify priority benefits for current and potential WFMT members
- Restarted and sustained taskforce operations through coordination and follow-up
- Contributed to the development of a summary document of taskforce outcomes presented to the WFMT President
- Participated in ongoing discussions with the Bylaws group regarding membership categories and associated benefits
- Provided feedback on WFMT Mission, Vision, Values, and the Definition of Music Therapy

Communication & Outreach

- Maintained consistent communication with music therapists, students, and organizations across the region
- Responded to inquiries related to WFMT membership, networking, and World Congress participation (including pricing for Latin American countries)
- Shared WFMT initiatives, opportunities, and official materials with contacts across all countries in the region
- Promoted regional participation by disseminating information via email, direct messaging, and social media collaborations

Academic & Professional Engagement

- Participated in the Latin American Music Therapy Congress (Puebla, Mexico), contributing to visibility through WFMT social media (Instagram stories and content sharing)
- Engaged with international students (e.g., Queens University of Charlotte) through interviews about WFMT and regional work
- Attended thematic WFMT meetings, including those related to World Music Therapy Week and organizational development

Content Development & Translation

- Participated in the Latin American Music Therapy Congress (Puebla, Mexico), contributing to visibility through WFMT social media (Instagram stories and content sharing)
- Translated key WFMT materials into Spanish and Portuguese, including:
 - World Music Therapy Week Toolkit 2026
 - Country fact sheets for multiple regions
 - Music Therapy Week promotional materials and contests (e.g., photo contest)
- Ensured accessibility of WFMT resources for Spanish- and Portuguese-speaking communities
- Actively disseminated translated materials across Latin America and the Caribbean

Strategic Initiatives & Projects

- Participated in WFMT thematic meetings focused on rebuilding relationships with members
- Co-assigned to design and facilitate engagement spaces with individual members and associations (in collaboration with Mitsi)
- Contributed to ongoing discussions on the global definition of music therapy
- Supported data completion and updates for WFMT country fact sheets across the region



Ongoing and Future Activities

To develop a document for the next Regional Liaison and have a smooth transition.

In closing...

Through sustained work in regional representation, advocacy, and community-building, this period has contributed to strengthening the visibility, cohesion, and participation of Latin America and the Caribbean within WFMT. Key advances include expanding connections with underrepresented areas—particularly the Caribbean—facilitating more equitable access to international events, and supporting the development of membership structures and multilingual resources that better reflect the diversity of the region.

Looking ahead, the next Regional Liaison is well positioned to build on these foundations by deepening regional organization, supporting the potential formation of a Caribbean Music Therapy Association, and continuing to advocate for inclusive policies that address economic and linguistic diversity. Strengthening active participation across countries, maintaining updated regional data, and fostering sustainable communication channels will be essential to consolidating long-term growth and representation within WFMT.



Regional Liaison for Canada and the USA

Andrea McGraw Hunt

Email: canadausa@wfmt.info



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 2025

- Maintained contact with the professional associations in Canada and the U.S. to apprise their leadership of WFMT activities, and vice-versa
- Collaborated with Regional Liaisons to revise the WFMT definition of music therapy
- Evaluated professional and student scholarship applications for the 2026 WCMT
- Collaborated with council members on updating WFMT's Vision, Mission, and Values documents
- Worked with the President and Treasurer to attempt to find options for Directors and Operators (D&O) insurance for the WFMT Council
- 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, e.g., D&O insurance, strengthening WFMT's relationship with organizational members.

Ongoing and Future Activities

- 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

In closing...

It has been a privilege to serve as regional liaison over the past three years, and to support the WFMT in strengthening its mission and values, as well as its legal and organizational structures. This work will help support our aim to be resilient and connected across the world, even through political and cultural turmoil. As I leave this role and the WFMT Council, I hope that our work for mutual support and development of the profession will continue to grow and help transform individuals and communities.



Regional Liaison for Southeast Asia

Bhuvaneshwari Ramesh

Email: southeastasia@wfmt.info



Description of the Position

1. Connect and network with Music therapists in the region
2. Provide support and connections
3. Provide insights into the growth and requirements of music therapy in the region

Accomplishments/Activities since July 2025

- Responded to emails
- Attended most of the meetings of the council of WFMT
- Responding to the emails received about membership and support from this region
- Supported and connected members of music therapists in the region in countries Indonesia, India and Sri Lanka, as well as connected members who sought help to find Music Therapists
- Been working on the definition of Music therapy
- Supporting budding music therapists from India and Sri Lanka, as well as those planning for higher education

Ongoing Activities

- A part of the working subgroup for reviewing and revising of the definition of music therapy. Led the RLs and came to an accepted version of The Definition. Sent to the council, awaiting full consensus on the same.
- Working on registering the 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

- 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 was a year of learning that there is more to advocacy and to being vocal about discrepancies in membership among those who request various membership types. This has allowed me to discuss creating a better document for future participants who want to become members and to ensure clarity about who can claim to have been given professional and/or associate memberships.

The point forward is a continuous learning - 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.

The connections that have been created due to this position have strengthened my work in creating awareness in certain specific areas of clinical work and research. It has provided me with insights into where and how we must move forward.



Regional Liaison for Western Pacific

Jin Hyung Lee, PhD, KCMT, MT-BC

Email: westernpacific@wfmt.info



Report not received.