

2024 ISME Impact Report: Advancing Music Education Worldwide



ISME

**INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY
FOR MUSIC EDUCATION**

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Executive Summary

In 2024, the International Society for Music Education (ISME) strengthened its global community, uniting educators, researchers, and advocates to advance music education. The 36th World Conference in Helsinki welcomed 1,400 delegates from over 80 countries and regions, exploring sustainability in music education. We awarded \$97,000 to support innovative projects, including Parsons Music Advocacy Awards and travel assistance. Our journals, *IJME* and *RIEM*, saw over 200,000 downloads and received submissions from 20+ countries and regions, affirming ISME's scholarly impact. Digitally, we grew to 11,144 social media followers—a 19.7% increase—while www.isme.org reached 178 nations. With expanding membership, including a vibrant student cohort, ISME is poised for the 2026 Montréal conference. Together, we are transforming lives through music.

“ISME’s support gave my students in Uganda a chance to sing—and a voice to be heard.”

—Dr. Lawrence Sekalegga, Parsons Award Recipient



About ISME and Our Mission

Founded in 1953 under UNESCO, International Society for Music Education (ISME) connects music educators across 90+ countries and regions, fostering collaboration and innovation. Our mission is to enhance music education worldwide through advocacy, research, and equitable access.

Mission

The International Society for Music Education (ISME) believes that lived experiences of music, in all their many aspects, are a vital part of the life of all people. ISME's mission is to enhance those experiences by:

- Building and maintaining a worldwide community of music educators characterized by mutual respect and support
- Fostering global intercultural understanding and cooperation among the world's music educators
- Promoting music education for people of all ages in all relevant contexts throughout the world

ISME Core Values

To build and maintain a worldwide community of music educators, ISME affirms that:

- There is a need for music education in all cultures
- Effective music education depends on suitably qualified teachers who are respected and compensated properly for their work
- All teacher education curricula should provide skills in and understandings of a selection of both local and international musics
- Formal and informal music education programs should serve the individual needs of all learners, including those with special needs and exceptional competencies
- Music education programs should take as a point of departure the existence of a wide variety of musics, all of which are worthy of understanding and study

With respect to international and intercultural understandings and cooperation, ISME believes that:

- The richness and diversity of the world's music provides opportunities for intercultural learning and international understanding, cooperation and peace
- In music education everywhere, respect for all kinds of music should be acknowledged and valued

In its promotion of music education worldwide, ISME maintains that:

- Access for all people to music learning opportunities and to participate actively in various aspects of music is essential for the wellbeing of the individual and Society
- In teaching the musics of the world, the integrity and heritage of each music and its history should be fully respected
- Access to music, information about music, and opportunities to develop musical and related skills can occur in a range of ways, that are essential in satisfying peoples' diverse musical needs, interests, and capacities

Global Impact Through Awards

In 2024, ISME distributed \$97,000 USD to empower music education globally, breaking barriers and fostering opportunity.

70th Anniversary Songwriting Awards (\$2000):

Sponsored by JW Pepper, 4 original compositions were chosen as winners with each receiving \$500.

Travel Awards (\$20,000):

With assistance from SEMPRE, we supported 20 educators to attend the Helsinki conference, enriching global dialogue.

Regional Conference Awards (\$25,000):

Each of ISME's five regions received \$5,000, enhancing local collaboration.

These initiatives reflect ISME's commitment to equity and innovation, amplifying music's reach.

Parsons Music Advocacy Awards (\$50,000):

With Parsons Music Group, ISME provided ten \$5,000 awards to projects in underserved communities.

Highlights:

- **Uganda:** Dr. Lawrence Sekalegga's "Give Me a Chance to Sing" brought voice clinics to schools, inspiring policy change. "This award transformed my students' futures," he shared.
- **Cyprus:** Maria Kramvi's drumming concerts integrated migrant students, combating racism through music.

Parsons Music Advocacy Award Winners



DONNA GALLO
Ast. Prof. of Music Education
Champaign, IL, USA



**JOAQUIM BORGES
A. GOVE**
Maputo, Mozambique



JENNIE HENLEY
Director of Programmes,
RNCM, UK



MARIA KRAMVI
Larnaka, Cyprus
Outreach Manager



GORDON LEE
Hong Kong SAR,
China



BRYAN POWELL
Music teacher
Montclair, NJ USA



**LAWRENCE BRANCO
SEKALEGGA**
Lecturer of Music,
Makarere University, Uganda



SUHARTO
Lecturer, Semarang State University,
Indonesia



RIJJU TULADHAR
Kathmandu Nepal



ASHLEY WRIGHT
Music/Band Teacher
Republic of the Marshall Islands

World and Regional Conferences

ADVOCACY FOR
SUSTAINABILITY IN
MUSIC EDUCATION

ISME
36th WORLD CONFERENCE

HELSINKI
2024
28 JULY - 2 AUGUST

**SIBELIUS
ACADEMY**

UNIARTS
HELSINKI

36th ISME World Conference: A Global Celebration of Music Education

The 36th ISME World Conference took place in the vibrant city of Helsinki, Finland from July 28 to August 2, 2024. This landmark event was graciously hosted in partnership with the prestigious Sibelius Academy, UniArts Helsinki, whose team provided outstanding support and hospitality throughout the planning and delivery of the conference. ISME extends heartfelt gratitude to the Sibelius Academy and its dedicated staff for their invaluable contributions and partnership in making the conference a resounding success. This year's conference welcomed over 1,400 delegates representing more than 80 countries and regions, affirming ISME's role as the leading global platform for music educators, researchers, performers, and advocates. With the theme "Advocacy for Sustainability in Music Education," the program centered on forward-thinking conversations around environmental, cultural, and educational sustainability. Delegates explored how music education can drive social change, foster equity, and embrace innovation in an ever-evolving global landscape.

Regional Conferences:

XIV Latin American and VI Pan American Regional Conference on Music Education

- Location: Santiago, Chile
- Dates: October 3-6, 2023
- Hosted by: Universidad Metropolitana de Ciencias de la Educación

4th ISME South Asia Conference

- Location: Chennai, India
- Dates: November 24-26, 2023
- Hosted by: KM Music Conservatory

Asia-Pacific Symposium for Music Education Research

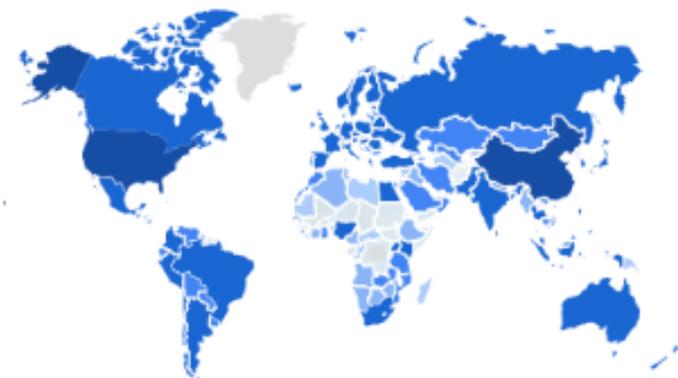
- Location: Seoul National University of Education
- Dates: August 9 to 11, 2023
- Hosted by: The Korean Music Education Society (KMES) in Seoul, South Korea

European Association for Music in Schools Conference

- Location: Lyon, France
- Dates: May 24 to 27, 2023.
- Hosted by: The Université Lumière Lyon 2 at the Campus Berges du Rhône

PASMAE/ISME Regional Conference Africa

- Location: Cape Coast, Ghana
- Dates: July 24-July 28, 2023
- Hosted by: University of Cape Coast



Pre-Conference Seminars

2024 ISME Pre-Conference Seminars

Commission for the Education of the Professional Musician (CEPROM)

Dates: July 23–26, 2024

Location: Tallinn, Estonia

Theme: Advocacy and Sustainability in Higher Music Education.

Community Music Activity Commission (CMA)

Dates: July 23–26, 2024

Location: Tampere, Finland

Theme: Sustainability in Community Music Practice.

Music in Schools and Teacher Education Commission (MISTEC)

Dates: July 22–26, 2024

Location: Tallinn, Estonia

Theme: Sustaining and Building Resilience in Music Education.

Research Commission

Dates: July 22–26, 2024

Location: Jyväskylä, Finland

Theme: Advocacy and Sustainability in Higher Music Education.

Special Music Education and Music Therapy Commission (SME&MT)

Dates: July 24–27, 2024

Location: Helsinki, Finland

Theme: IDEAS—Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Accessibility, Sustainability— in Music Education and Music Therapy.

Instrumental and Vocal Teaching Commission (IVMTC)

Dates: July 26–27, 2024

Location: Espoo, Finland

Theme: Advocacy for sustainability in music education.

Early Childhood Music Education Commission (ECME)

Dates: July 24–26, 2024

Location: Helsinki, Finland

Theme: Enhancing a Sustainable Future Through Music in Early Childhood.

Policy: Culture, Education and Media Commission

Dates: July 23–26, 2024

Location: Helsinki, Finland

Theme: Advocacy for Sustainability in Music Education.



Scholarly Contributions

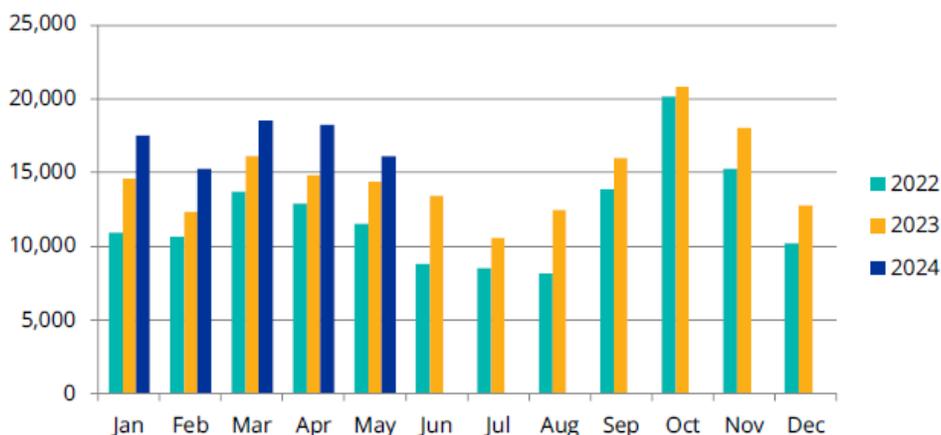
ISME's journals advanced music education research, reaching a global audience.

International Journal of Music Education (IJME):

- 385 submissions in 2023, 220 by May 2024 (12% acceptance rate).
- 176,242 downloads in 2023, 85,000 in 2024 YTD (+18.5%).
- Authors from 20+ countries and regions
- Impact Factor: 1.3 (2023).

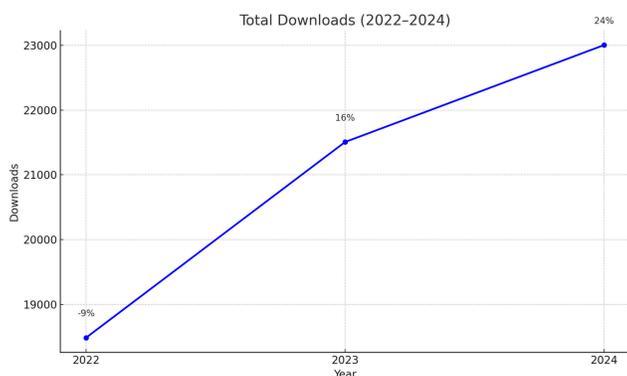


Full-Text Downloads by Year



Revista Internacional de Educación Musical (RIEM):

Revista Internacional de Educación Musical (RIEM) is ISME's peer-reviewed academic journal dedicated to advancing scholarship in music education, particularly with a focus on Latin American and Iberian contexts. Published in both Spanish and Portuguese, RIEM offers a vital platform for educators, researchers, and practitioners to share innovative studies, pedagogical approaches, and cultural perspectives that enrich the global music education landscape. Through its multilingual approach and open-access availability, RIEM contributes to the equitable dissemination of knowledge and fosters cross-cultural dialogue in music education worldwide.



Online Engagement

Expanding Access and Community in 2024

In 2024, ISME deepened its global community-building efforts through a suite of dynamic online programs. The ISME Café series continued to offer informal, topic-driven virtual gatherings, bringing together members from around the world to exchange ideas, spotlight projects, and foster peer-to-peer learning. The ISME Student Forum grew in both visibility and participation, providing a platform for emerging music educators to lead conversations, develop leadership skills, and connect with international mentors. Most notably, ISME launched the "Our Stories, Our Members" podcast—a video series available via YouTube—featuring intimate interviews with members across diverse regions and roles. These digital initiatives reflect ISME's commitment to inclusive engagement, accessible professional development, and the amplification of member voices year-round.

Social Media:

We reached 11,144 followers, up 19.7% from 2023:

- Facebook: 6,060 (+16.5%)
- Instagram: 718 (+79.5%)
- LinkedIn: 541 (+21.5x)
- YouTube: 919 (+15.5%)

Website (www.isme.org):

Visitors from 178 countries and regions, led by:

- USA: 17,193 users
- China: 3,713
- UK: 3,328



Membership, Leadership and Our Work

Membership

ISME's membership spans 80+ countries and regions, uniting educators and students.

Total Members: 2200+, Countries and Regions: 80+, Student Members: 700+

Leadership

The ISME Board consists of 15 members elected by the membership from around the world. Two members also serve on the Executive Committee along the President, President-Elect and Past-President.

ISME organizes its work through two main types of groups: Commissions and Special Interest Groups (SIGs). These groups provide members with opportunities to delve into specialized areas of music education.

ISME Commissions

ISME Commissions are long-standing entities established to explore specific facets of music education. Each commission conducts biennial seminars, often in conjunction with ISME's World Conference. The current commissions include:

- Commission for Education of the Professional Musician (CEPROM)
- Community Music Activity Commission (CMA)
- Early Childhood Music Education Commission (ECME)
- Instrumental and Vocal Music Teaching Commission (IVMTC)
- Music in Schools and Teacher Education Commission (MISTEC)
- Commission on Policy: Culture, Education and Media
- Research Commission
- Special Music Education and Music Therapy Commission (SMEEMTC)

ISME Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

SIGs are flexible, member-driven groups that foster collaboration and knowledge exchange among professionals with shared interests. Some of the active SIGs include:

- Applied Pedagogies SIG
- Assessment, Measurement and Evaluation SIG
- Critical Debates on Music Education for Social Change SIG
- Decolonising and Indigenising Music Education (DIME) SIG
- Disability Studies in Music Education (DSME) SIG
- Music Technology SIG
- Musicians' Health and Wellness (MHW) SIG
- Popular Music Education SIG
- Practice and Research in Integrated Music Education (PRIME) SIG
- Spirituality and Music Education SIG

These groups are led by convenors and supported by committees, facilitating dynamic discussions and initiatives within their focus areas.

ISME 2022-2024 Board

Role	Name
President	Bo-Wah Leung
President Elect	Patricia González-Moreno
Past President	Emily Achieng' Akuno
Executive Board	Sandra Oberoi
Executive Board	Lee Cheng
Board	David Hebert
Board	Hsiao-Shien Chen (Jessie)
Board	Flavia Maria Cruvinel
Board	Julie Ballantyne
Board	Gwen Moore
Board	Otukile Phibion
Board	Brad Merrick
Board	Natassa Economidou-Stavrou
Board	Carlos Poblete Lagos
Board	Marja-Leena Juntunen
Parliamentarian	Gary McPherson

ISME 2022-2024 Chairs and Convenors

Commission Chairs and Co-Chairs

CEPROM Commission

Community Music Commission

Community Music Commission

ECME Commission

IVMTC

IVMTC

MISTEC

Policy Commission

Policy Commission

Research Commission

Research Commission

Special Education Commission

Alejandra Garcia Trabucco

Alicia de Banffy-Hall

Chrissie D'Alexander

Lauren Kooistra

Yiannis Miralis

Sylvain Jaccard

Lily Chen-Hafteck

Anita Prest

Lauren Kapalka Richerme

Julia Brook

Ruth Brittin

Matthew Breaden

Special Interest Group (SIG) Convenors

Applied Pedagogies

Assessment

Musicians' Health and Wellness

Spirituality

Music Technology

Popular Music

DIME-Decolonizing and Indigenizing Music Education

PRIME-Practice and Research in integrated Music Education

Critical Debates on Music Education for Social Change

Disabilities Studies in Music Education

Daniel Johnson

Marshall Haning

Carina Joly

Amira Ehrlich

Matthew Thibeault

Zack Moir

Anita Prest

Kaarina Marjanen

Brian Kaufman

adam patrick bell

Council of Professional Associations Chair

Student Chapter Convenor

Patricia González-Moreno

Hayden Mitt

ISME 2022-2024 Committees

Committee Chairs

Advocacy Committee
Conference Awards Standing Committee
Conference Committee
History Committee
Honorary Life Member Standing Committee
Membership Committee
Nominations Standing Committee
Publications Committee
70th Anniversary Committee

Sandra Oberoi
Flavia Maria Cruvinel
Bo-Wah Leung
David Hebert
Graça Mota
Jody Kerchner
Emily Achieng' Akuno
Gwen Moore
Julie Ballantyne

Publications Committee

IJME Co-Editor
IJME Co-Editor
IJME Co-Editor
Routledge Senior Editor
RIEM Senior Editor
RIEM Co-Editor
RIEM Co-Editor
Member
ISME Board Member

Jane Southcott
Alex Ruthmann
Francisco Zarza-Alzugaray
Gwen Moore
José Luis Aróstegui
Rosa Serrano Pastor
Guadalupe López Íñiguez
Lisa Lehmborg
David Hebert

Conference Organizing Committee

President, ISME
CEO, ISME
Organizing Chair, UniArts
Congress & Events Manager, Confedent International

Bo-Wah Leung
Ryan Zellner
Terhi Luukkonen
Riikka Louhivuori

ISME Partners

Partners

ISME partners with professional associations, institutions, and corporations worldwide to advance music education through collaboration, shared resources, and global visibility. These partnerships support mutual promotion, participation in ISME initiatives, and contribute to a stronger, more connected international music education community.

Professional Associations

- Associação Brasileira de Educação Musical
- Associação Moçambicana para a Ecaducação em Artes Musicais
- Australian Society for Music Education
- Canadian Music Educators' Association
- Coalition for Music Education in Canada
- Creo - the Union for arts and culture
- Enabling Leadership
- Hong Kong Association for Music Educators
- Hong Kong Post-Modern Orchestra Association
- Jeunesses Musicales International
- Kodály Music Education Institute of Australia
- Mou.Sy.Ky (Cypriot Association for Music Education)
- Music Teacher National Association
- Music Education New Zealand Aotearoa (MENZA)
- Music Education Council (UK)
- Music Education Research Group (MERG) - Kenya
- Music Educators Association of Taiwan (MEAT)
- Music Research and Development Forum Nepal
- Musicea Arts and Culture Council
- NAFME
- Opera Theatre of Saint Louis
- Pasmae
- Philippine Society for Music Education
- Portuguese Association of Music Education (APEM)
- Powell River Academy of Music
- Red Latinoamericana de Educación Musical - Rede Latino-Americana de Educação Musical (RELEM)
- Sanskriti Foundation
- Santa Maria Foundation
- SEM-EE (Society for Music Education in Spain)
- Society for Music Education in Ireland
- South African Society of Music Teachers
- The Friends of Music Society, Music Library of Greece "Lilain Voudouri"
- The Hong Kong Children's Choir
- Umlaut - La Tua Musa APS
- Unión de Escuelas de Música y Danza (UEMyD)

Institutional Partners

- Bridge Music Academy
- Centro de Investigação em Psicologia da Música e Educação Musical (CIPEM/INET-md)
- Harmony The Music School
- LUCA School of Arts Campus Lemmens Bibliotheek
- Music of Bhutan Research Center
- NalandaWay
- Rohan School Of Music
- V. Sarajishvili Tbilisi State Conservatoire, Georgia
- West Coast Youth Orchestra and Westcoast Music Academy
- Vidya Subramaniam Academy



PARTNER

Acknowledgements



sempre:

Society for Education, Music
and Psychology Research

柏斯音樂集團 PARSONS MUSIC CORPORATION

