



Academy of Country Music
American Academy of Teachers of Singing
American Composers Forum
American Federation of Musicians
American Guild of Musical Artists
American Guild of Organists
American Harp Society
American Music Center
American Orff-Schulwerk Association
Artists Against Hunger & Poverty
ASCAP
BMI
Chamber Music America
Chopin Foundation of the United States
Conductors' Guild
Country Music Association
Delta Omicron International Music Fraternity
Early Music America
Interlochen Center for the Arts
International Alliance for Women in Music
International Association of Jazz Educators
International Federation of Festival Organizations
International Music Products Association (NAMM)
Mu Phi Epsilon International Music Fraternity
Music & Entertainment Industry Educators Association
Music Critics Association of North America
MENC: The National Association for Music Education
Music Performance Fund
Music Publishers Association of the United States
Music Teachers National Association
National Academy of Popular Music
National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences
National Association of Negro Musicians
National Association of Recording Merchandisers
National Association of Teachers of Singing
National Federation of Music Clubs
National Flute Association
National Guild of Community Schools of the Arts
National Guild of Piano Teachers/
American College of Musicians
National Music Publishers' Association
National Opera Association
Recording Industry Association of America
SESAC
Sigma Alpha Iota
The Songwriters Guild of America

Board of Directors

Chairman: John Mahlmann
President: Gary Ingle
First Vice President: Elizabeth Paris
Second Vice President: Del R. Bryant
Third Vice President: Marilyn Bergman
Treasurer: Linda Lorence
Secretary: James E. Thomashower
Arnold Broido
Rick Carnes
Jonathan Herman
Jim Halsey
David M. Israelite
Joe Lamond
Thomas F. Lee
Bill McFarlin
Neil Portnow
Charles J. Sanders
Cary Sherman

Council of Past Presidents

Leonard Feist
Victor Fuentealba
Eza Laderman
Gunter Schuller
Catherine French
Dean Stein

Accountants: Prager & Fenton
Director: David Sanders

To: The Members of Congress
From: The Board of Directors of the National Music Council
Date: March 13, 2007

The members of the National Music Council, who together represent some one million individuals, are unified in a commitment to support music education because we know how much a balanced, sequential education that includes music can bring to the development of our young people. We have all, individually and collectively, seen the impact that music education has on the social, physical, and intellectual growth of students. We have all watched with growing interest the explosion of research that backs up our long-held belief in the essential importance of music education. And we have all shared in the pleasure of seeing more and more recognition by the public and key decision-makers of the role that music education must play in our schools and in our society.

Sadly, we have also seen the growth of forces that stand in the way of the simple fact that every child must receive the benefits delivered by music education. Sometimes these forces are political; sometimes they are budgetary; and sometimes they are simply administrative. In all cases, however, they can be easily overcome with a simple commitment (reflected in legislation and in funding) to providing our children with the benefits of music education.

And we will all benefit: the music industry, which contributes significantly to our national economy; professional performers, who add immeasurably to our communities; composers, arrangers, and publishers, who bring the riches of creation to our national life; and most of all, our children.

We ask for your commitment toward these goals by supporting the following:

- Funding for the National Endowment for the Arts should be increased in the FY08 Interior Appropriations Bill, including the continuation and expansion of programs aligned with the National Standards for Arts Education.
- During the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, we ask that the arts, as a core academic subject, be included on state and local report cards.
- The Department of Education should be sure to include the arts and other core academic subjects in federally funded education research. Funding should be allocated to maintain the schedule for a National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) of the arts and a Fast Response Statistical Survey (FRSS) of the arts.
- Arts education funding in the FY08 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Bill should be increased. Without an increase in funding, there will be no new innovative programs. Funded programs should be subject to accountability and reporting requirements.

We offer our collective expertise in providing you with any documentation or information that might serve you, and our gratitude for your support.