



American Music Therapy Association

8455 Colesville Rd., Ste. 1000 • Silver Spring, Maryland 20910
Tel. (301) 589-3300 • Fax (301) 589-5175 • www.musictherapy.org

April 1, 2008

Dear Member of Congress:

The American Music Therapy Association (AMTA) is proud to serve as a **National Co-Sponsor of Arts Advocacy Day 2008**. Representing over 5,000 professionally trained music therapists, AMTA is committed to the mission of advancing public awareness of music therapy benefits and increasing access to quality music therapy services. Music therapists work in many different settings including public and private schools, general and psychiatric hospitals, VA facilities, physical rehabilitation centers, nursing homes, mental health agencies, substance abuse programs, forensic facilities, hospice programs, and day care facilities.

Music therapists assess emotional well-being, physical health, social functioning, communication abilities, and cognitive skills through musical responses. They design music sessions to facilitate movement, increase motivation, promote learning, manage stress, alleviate pain, enhance memory, improve communication, and provide unique opportunities for interaction. Nationally Board Certified Music Therapists participate in interdisciplinary treatment planning, facilitating numerous clinical outcomes in areas such as: rehabilitation; habilitation; social, emotional and cognitive functioning; and learning. Research regarding the effectiveness of music therapy is extensive and includes evidence-based systematic reviews on numerous important topics.

Arts experiences reach across barriers to fulfill essential quality of life needs for children and adults, with or without disabilities, throughout the U.S. To make the arts more accessible to all individuals, regardless of economic status, education, or physical and cognitive ability, we request your support of the following issues:

- Support \$53 million in funding for the Arts in Education program at the U.S. Department of Education.
- Support maintaining the arts as a core academic subject within NCLB reauthorization.
- Support an increase in funding for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) to \$176 million for FY 2009, which would restore the agency's budget to the high point that it reached in 1992.

Funding for the arts is a solid investment in the future of our country. Thank you for your consideration of these important issues and for your support of all Arts programs in America.

Sincerely,

Andrea Farbman, Ed.D.
Executive Director

Judy Simpson, MHP, MT-BC
Director of Government Relations