

AES FALL NEWSLETTER 2026



A Note From AES President

Happy Back to School!

If you're headed back to a classroom this fall, I hope you are getting all settled into your space. If you are headed back to (or continuing!) a studio, I hope that as kids get into the swing of the school year your studios are being filled with incredibly meaningful movement!

We had an active summer with workshops held across the United States, including Ohio, Florida, and Minnesota. To all of those who joined us for workshops, I hope you met incredible educators and learned a lot along the way.

As we enter Fall 2026, we are looking forward to joining together at Capital University in Columbus, OH on **October 16th and 17th** for our 2026 National Conference! This conference has a great line-up of presenters. Many of our Master Teaching Artists have been preparing presentations and working to be a part of an awesome weekend! Find registration information on our website [here](#)!

If you are a member that is in the process of finishing your certification (or if you have any questions regarding certification), this conference will host an opportunity to either test for certification OR to inquire with an MTA regarding the certification process.

As always, please feel free to reach out to AES with any questions you may have, we look forward to working with you this school year and always.

Taylor Heinzen
President



Taylor Heinzen is a K-5 music educator at Lakewood Elementary in Mandan, North Dakota. Taylor grew up in the small town of Kindred before moving to Jamestown, ND to pursue her Bachelor's in Music Education at the University of Jamestown, from which she graduated in 2015. She began her teaching career at Shiloh Christian School in Bismarck, ND where she taught elementary music, beginning band, middle school band, and high school band. Taylor received her Orff certification in 2018. In 2019, she transitioned to Mandan Public Schools as an elementary music educator. She finished her Master's of Music in Music Education from North Dakota State University in 2021 and immediately dove into the world of eurhythmics with the American Eurhythmics Society. She served as secretary of the AES board from 2022-2025 before taking on the role of President in 2025. Taylor began Level I Kodály at the University of Mary in 2024 and completed her level III training there in June of 2026. Taylor sees a powerful connection between the musical approaches she has studied and strives to bring a well-rounded musical experience to all of her students. She lives in Mandan, ND with her husband, children, and pups!

Member of the Season: Maria Franzini



Maria Franzini received her Master of Music degree in Piano Pedagogy and Performance from George Mason University. She earned the Dalcroze License from the Dalcroze Society of America (University of Maryland Institute for Jaques-Dalcroze Education,, Jack Stevenson) and the Eurhythmics Certificate from the American Eurhythmics Society (University of Kentucky, Todd Anderson). In addition to 20 years of teaching private piano lessons, Maria has extensive experience teaching group piano lessons employing the Harmony Road method. While living in the Washington DC area, she taught Eurhythmics at the Levine School of Music, where she was able to work closely with her teacher and mentor Monica Dale. Maria has presented Eurhythmics workshops at George Mason University, the Springfield Music Club in Fairfax, VA, Levine School of Music in Washington DC, the Kentucky Eurhythmics Society, the Greater Cincinnati Eurhythmics Society and the School for Creative and Performing Arts in Lexington, KY. She taught Music and Movement at No.1 High School in Anlong, China in Summer, 2016, and her writing has been published twice in the journal, Dalcroze Connections. She currently teaches independent Eurhythmics classes and lower elementary at Providence Montessori School. She lives in Lexington, Kentucky with her family and mini aussiedoodle, Coda.

How did you get involved in AES?

- While I was raising my two sons and teaching music, the University of Kentucky began offering Eurhythmics summer workshops and a graduate certificate. After leaving the Washington DC area, I hadn't been very involved in Eurhythmics, and was excited for a refresher. With UK just down the road, this professional development option suited my location and family commitments. I really enjoyed the energetic community that grew out of UK's offerings.

How has AES impacted your teaching?

- I have appreciated the opportunities that AES has offered to me close to my home. The MTA process has helped me feel scaffolded and supported as I work toward feeling qualified to teach adults. I enjoyed apprenticing with Marla Butke, David Frego and Clinton Pratt. The requirement to present workshops pushed me out into the broader community to spread the joy of eurhythmics. Through these experiences, I find myself constantly looking for opportunities to incorporate movement into my teaching. Since I am a Montessori classroom teacher now, I integrate eurhythmics and movement into the general education curriculum. It has opened a new world to me!

JOIN US!

AES 2026 NATIONAL CONFERENCE Music in Motion

**Keep scrolling for more info and our schedule
for the weekend!**



to register!

***Also, at this year's conference there will be a quick presentation regarding the Dalcroze Collection hosted by Ohio State! Come check out this awesome resource!**

AES 2026 NATIONAL CONFERENCE



MUSIC IN MOTION



These Presenters & More!



David Frego
Marla Butke
Kathy Thomsen



Crystal Henricks
Greater Cincinnati
Eurhythmics Society (GCES)

& Collaborations with the Alliance for Active Music Making (AAMM)

OCTOBER
16-17
Capital
University

Mees Hall

Room 107 & Dance
Studio
East Main St &
College Bexley OH,
43209



<https://www.americanneurhythmics.org/events/2026-aes-national-conference/>

**Registration
Open Now!**

Before September 1st

Non-Member: \$60
Member: \$40
Student: \$5

After September 1st

Non-Member: \$75
Member: \$50
Student: \$10

Schedule

AES NATIONAL CONFERENCE SCHEDULE 2026

(October 16-17, 2026)

Friday, October 16, 2026

5:30-6:00	AES Certification In-person testing (appointment only) Email: David Frego rjdfrego@gmail.com , OR Marla Butke marlabutke1@gmail.com OR skyemcmanus@gmail.com		
6:00-6:30	Registration		
6:30-6:50	President's Address and Introductions	Taylor Heinzen	Crist Room
6:50-7:40	Session I- Eurhythmics	David Frego	Crist Room
7:50-8:40	Session II- Eurhythmics	Crystal Henricks	Crist Room
8:45-9:00	Session III: Folk Dance	David Frego	Mees Hall

Saturday, October 17, 2026

8:00-8:30	Registration (Light Breakfast Provided)		
8:30-8:40	Focus Exercises	Taylor Heinzen	Crist Room
8:45-9:35	Session III- Dalcroze 101	Clinton Pratt	Crist Room
	Session IV- Intermediate/Advanced (Canon)	Dooseon Woo	Mees Hall
9:45-10:35	Session V- Beginning Piano Improv Session VI- Advanced Piano Improv	Skye McManus Kathy Thomsen	Crist Room Mees Hall
10:35-10:50	BREAK		
10:50-11:40	AAMM- Kodály, Orff	Crystal Henricks Jayne Wenner	Crist Room

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(October 16-17, 2026)

Saturday, October 17, 2026

11:40-12:50	Lunch		
12:50-1:10	Dalcroze Collection at Ohio State University presentation		Crist Room
1:50-2:00	Session VII- Eurhythmics	Marla Butke	Crist Room
2:10-3:00	Session VIII- Storytelling	Jake Elam Oren Logan	Crist Room
3:10-4:00	Session IX- Group Plastique	Skye McManus	Mees Hall
4:00-4:10	Raffle and Closing Remarks		Crist Room
4:10-4:45	AES Member Meeting: What's new, what's coming up? Member comments, questions, and suggestions.		Crist Room
4:45-6:00	Social Gathering		TBD
6:00-7:00	AES Board Meeting		



LESSON IDEA

Try something new with your students using this idea from MTA and AES Vice President, Marla Butke

Steady Beat, Meter of 4, Nuance—Grade Level: 3-12

Marla Butke, MTA

“No One Mourns the Wicked” Wicked Stephen Schwartz

Procedure:

1. Conduct a 4-pattern the Dalcroze way
 - Press – push hands down – beat one
 - Hug – cross arms like you are giving yourself a hug – beat two
 - Welcome – brings arms out in an open position – beat three
 - Lift – lift arms from low to high, bending knees – beat four
2. Conduct and walk beat as teacher plays drum
3. Conduct, walk beat, and adjust to nuance in tempo as teacher improvises
4. Conduct a 2-pattern (press & lift)
5. Play recording (2’38”-3’54”) and conduct/walk beat (one 2-pattern after 3-4 patterns, then continual 4-patterns)

DON'T FORGET:

Your membership with AES has benefits!

Member Portal

Don't forget to log into our member portal to access some of the resources available to you as a member of AES. You can find playlists, lesson plans, a bibliography, videos, and content from past workshops all in one neat hub!

New Resource Catalog

Our webmaster, Oren Logan, has spent some time revamping our resources available under our member portal! Take a peek at the new catalog that is organized by concepts under the "resource catalog". You'll find TONS of worthwhile activities there.

Past Conference Footage and Notes

Under our member portal on our website is a hub of former national conference content. You can access notes and videos from past national conferences. Whether you missed the conference or you were there but need a reminder of something that was taught, it's all in our member portal!

Video Catalog

Check out our stash of videos from a plethora of different workshops over the past few years! Get new ideas or some quick refreshers of ways to incorporate eurhythmics into what you're already doing!