

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- Micro to Macro and Back Again	David Frego	Crist Room
7:50-8:40	Session II- When do I Breathe? Singing and Moving through Phrases	Crystal Henricks	Crist Room
8:45-9:00	Session III: Folk Dance	David Frego	Crist Room
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- Canon	Dooseon Woo	Mees Hall
9:45-10:35	Session V- Fundamentals of Piano Improvisation: Walk and Run! Playing for Movement	Skye McManus	Mees Hall
	Session VI- Piano Improvisation for Dalcroze Eurhythmics Classes	Kathy Thomsen	Crist Room
10:35-10:50	BREAK		
10:50-11:40	AAlliance for Active Music-Making (AAMM) Syncopation	Crystal Henricks Jayne Wenner	Crist Room

Schedule

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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
1:10-2:00	Session VII- Rhythmic Solfège – It's in the Details!	Marla Butke	Crist Room
2:10-3:00	Session VIII- Purposeful Movement: Stories in the Eurhythmics Classroom	Jake Elam Oren Logan	Crist Room
3:10-4:00	Session IX- Plastique Animée	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 – Columbus Brewing Company Beer Hall		
6:00-7:00	AES Board Meeting		



2026 NATIONAL CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Friday 6:50 – 7:40 pm

Crist Room



Session I – “Micro to Macro and Back Again”

The purpose of this session is to react and move musically to both micro- and macro-beats.

David Frego, Ph.D. is retired as the Director of the Pennsylvania State University School of Music and professor of music education. He was the inaugural president of the American Eurhythmics Society. Frego regularly presents workshops on Dalcroze Eurhythmics around the globe and has published books, book chapters, DVDs and articles in music education journals and journals for arts medicine. With co-author, Dr. Marla Butke, Dalcroze Eurhythmics in the Choral Classroom was released in 2021. Meaningful Movement: A Music Teacher’s Guide to Dalcroze Eurhythmics, was published in 2016.

Discover All Presenters



2026 NATIONAL CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Friday 7:50 – 8:40 pm

Crist Room



Session II - “When do I Breathe? Singing and Moving through Phrases”

Description: How do we help students be musically sensitive to what they hear and sing? This session will use eurhythmics to connect students meter and phrasing, even when the music takes an unexpected turn. Come ready to move, sing, and take home engaging strategies to illuminate meter and phrasing in your own classroom.

Crystal Henricks currently teaches lower school music at the University of Chicago Laboratory Schools. Her experience includes Nursery School-12th grade general and choral music, both in Chicago and China. She holds a BS in Music Education from Asbury University, Kodály Certification and MMed from Capital University, and is a Master Teaching Artist with the American Eurhythmics Society. She completed levels I-III Orff Schulwerk Certification from the University of Kentucky and Anderson University. She is a recipient of the Organization of American Kodály Educators 2026 Outstanding Educator Award. She is an active clinician for workshops and elementary music pedagogy courses throughout the United States.

Friday 8:45 – 9:00 pm

Mees Hall



Folk Dance

Join us for group Folk Dance to finish off our AES evening!

David Frego, Ph.D. is retired as the Director of the Pennsylvania State University School of Music and professor of music education. He was the inaugural president of the American Eurhythmics Society. Frego regularly presents workshops on Dalcroze Eurhythmics around the globe and has published books, book chapters, DVDs and articles in music education journals and journals for arts medicine. With co-author, Dr. Marla Butke, *Dalcroze Eurhythmics in the Choral Classroom* was released in 2021. *Meaningful Movement: A Music Teacher's Guide to Dalcroze Eurhythmics*, was published in 2016.

2026 NATIONAL CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Saturday 8:45 – 9:35 am

Crist Room



Session III – Dalcroze Eurhythmics 101

Description: Designed for those new to the philosophy, this session serves as an introduction to Dalcroze Eurhythmics through the musical concepts of beat, pulse, meter, rhythm patterns, phrasing, character, and expression. Participants will get to experience first-hand how the body is the first instrument on which everything else is built. Since these are foundational Dalcroze subjects, those already familiar with the philosophy can attend this session as an inspiring refresher!

Clinton Pratt has BM and MM degrees in Piano Performance and owns a multi-teacher piano studio in Cincinnati Ohio, where he has been teaching for over 23 years. He is currently a Master Teaching Artist with the American Eurhythmics Society and is the President of the Greater Cincinnati Eurhythmics Society. He has given over 50 presentations at local, state, and national music teacher conferences on various topics including Dalcroze Eurhythmics, piano improvisation, composition, performance anxiety, piano pedagogy, and entrepreneurship. Clinton has served on several boards and committees for various music teacher organizations, and was awarded “Teacher of the Year” by the Ohio Music Teachers Association in 2023.

Saturday 8:45 – 9:35 am

Mees Hall



Session IV – Canon

Description: This session will connect your ear, mind, and body to elevate your musicality. Participants will enhance their active listening skills, sharpen their focus, and build a stronger physical awareness of rhythm and movement. The session begins by establishing a steady beat through walking and clapping. Next, the instructor will play short musical patterns for participants to echo on a delay or continuously follow one measure behind. Finally, participants will be introduced to a short canon, working together as a group to experience it through a *plastique animée*.

Dooseon Woo is a pianist and Eurhythmics instructor who has collaborated extensively with prestigious institutions, such as Seoul Arts High School and the Boston Ballet. As a music educator, she has delivered Dalcroze Eurhythmics classes, workshops, and lectures across South Korea and the Greater Boston area. She earned her Master of Music Education from Sungshin Women’s University in Seoul, South Korea. Her research, *The Study of Teaching Choir Based on the Dalcroze Approach*, was published by the Korean Association of Arts Education in 2010. She recently relocated to Granville, OH.

2026 NATIONAL CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Saturday 9:45 – 10:35 am

Mees Hall



Session V – Fundamentals of Piano Improvisation: Walk and Run! Playing for Movement

Description: Participants are invited to start their journey for playing improvisation for movement. The freedom of improvisation allows the teacher to tailor activities to the specific needs of the students, not to the tempi of recorded music. Everyone will have opportunities to try out basic patterns and formulas for playing for movement in your classrooms including walking, marching, tiptoe, jogging, and more.

Skye C. McManus is a Master Teaching Artist of the American Eurhythmics Society, and serves as the AES secretary, and recent past president. She strives to build musicality and promote community and joy through Dalcroze-inspired workshops to teachers and students. She has over twenty years experience teaching children and adults in both private and group settings. Skye is the director of musicianship and voice at Orpheus Academy of Music in Austin, TX. She teaches voice, piano, musicianship, and summer camps at Orpheus, as well as being a co-author of their method book series: Adventures Through Sound. She has certifications in Eurhythmics, Kodály, and Piano Pedagogy, as well as degrees from Loyola University New Orleans and Indiana State University, and a Texas Music Teaching License. When not teaching, Skye enjoys learning French with her daughter and husband in Austin, and caring for their seven chickens.

Saturday 9:45 – 10:35 am

Crist Room



Session VI – Piano Improvisation for Dalcroze Eurhythmics Classes

Description: WHO: No prior experience improvising for Dalcroze classes is necessary, although experienced improvisers are most welcome. The session is designed for those with intermediate piano skills who are relatively comfortable playing with two hands, and can navigate scale patterns and primary chords in C Major. Comfort with other keys is welcome but not necessary. WHAT: We will explore and experiment with various ways to play for eurhythmics exercises. Depending on the interests and needs of those in attendance, these may include start/stop, follow the mover, locomotor activities, canon, ball games, major-minor follow, and tempo and dynamics follow.

Kathy Thomsen, DMA, is an enthusiastic Dalcroze practitioner who incorporates the Dalcroze philosophy into her own music-making and teaching. Having earned the Dalcroze License from the Longy School of Music in Cambridge, MA (2003), Dr. Thomsen served as President of the Dalcroze Society of America and editor of the American Dalcroze Journal (2008-2012). Recognizing a need to expand the reach of the Dalcroze philosophy in the American music education community, she joined Dr. David Frego and Dr. Marla Butke in co-founding the American Eurhythmics Society (2014). Now retired from full time teaching at Hamline University in St. Paul, MN (2020), Dr. Thomsen continues to teach summer courses in Dalcroze and general musicianship in the Graduate Programs in Music Education at the University of St. Thomas in Minnesota. She maintains a private piano studio and accompanies classes for BalletMet in Columbus, OH.

2026 NATIONAL CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Saturday 10:50 - 11:40 am

Crist Room



Alliance for Active Music-Making AAMM – Syncopation

Description: The purpose of this session is to show how syncopation might be taught via the Kodály approach and the Orff approach. Part A: Kodály Approach - Participants will sing and play Alabama Gal. They will go through the physical, visual, and aural preparation of learning about syncopation. They will go through the process of how to present the written notation for students. Orff Approach - Participants will create an Orffestration for Alabama Gal using speech patterns, body percussion, and melodic ostinati.

Jayne Wenner retired in 2026 as an Assistant Teaching Professor in Music Education at The Ohio State University. Prior to her thirteen years at Ohio State, she taught elementary general music and strings in the Hilliard City School District. She has Kodály certification from KMTI and the Kodály Institute in Hungary, DSA from Carnegie Mellon, and Level 1 Orff at OSU. She conducted three of the Columbus Children's Choirs. Jayne has been a clinician at OAKE, OMEA, MKMEA, TRIKE, and COAOSA, and an international Workshop in Biarritz. She served as the OAKE National Choirs Chair and is the General Music Co-Chair for OMEA PDC.

Crystal Henricks currently teaches lower school music at the University of Chicago Laboratory Schools. Her experience includes Nursery School-12th grade general and choral music, both in Chicago and China. She holds a BS in Music Education from Asbury University, Kodály Certification and MMed from Capital University, and is a Master Teaching Artist with the American Eurhythmics Society. She completed levels I-III Orff Schulwerk Certification from the University of Kentucky and Anderson University. She is a recipient of the Organization of American Kodály Educators 2026 Outstanding Educator Award. She is an active clinician for workshops and elementary music pedagogy courses throughout the United States.

Saturday 1:10 – 2:00 pm

Crist Room



Session VII – Rhythmic Solfège – It's in the Details!

Description - This session will provide meaningful movement activities which focus on scales, half/whole steps, aural training, and melodic dictation.

Marla Butke, Ph.D., retired Professor of Music, is a Master Teaching Artist and Vice-President of the American Eurhythmics Society. She frequently presents Dalcroze Eurhythmics workshops throughout the USA and internationally, including at AMIS, ACDA, OAKE, AOSA, NafME conferences. Former academic positions include Professor of Music at Ashland University, and adjunct professor at Otterbein, Capital, and Xavier Universities where she has taught choral methods, conducting, general music methods, and directed various choral ensembles. Dr. Butke has co-authored two books with Dr. David Frego, *Meaningful Movement: A Music Teacher's Guide to Dalcroze Eurhythmics* published by Music is Elementary (2016) and *Dalcroze Eurhythmics in the Choral Classroom* published by Hal Leonard (2021).

2026 NATIONAL CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Saturday 2:10 – 3:00 pm

Crist Room



Session VIII – Purposeful Movement: Stories in the Eurhythmics Classroom

Description: Stories are a fun and engaging way to introduce purposeful and creative movement in the eurhythmics classroom. Join us as we travel into music imagination that brings characters to life, and leaves your elementary students inspired to create their own music using interactive stories.

Jake Elam is a K-8 band, orchestra, and general elementary music teacher at Riverview PK-8 in Johnstown, Colorado. Jake holds a bachelor's in music education and composition from Colorado State University, and is currently working towards PGCert in music for children with special abilities and needs: sounds of intent with the University of Roehampton, London. Jake is currently a candidate for Master Teaching Artist with AES, and serves as vice president of the Colorado Eurhythmics Society, and is the current social media chair for the AES national board.

Oren Logan is a K-5 Elementary Music Teacher at Olander School for Project-Based Learning and Bauder Elementary in Fort Collins, CO. Oren holds a bachelor's degree in music education from Colorado State University and a Masters degree in Teaching Physical Education and Physical Activity Leadership from the University of Northern Colorado. He is a certified Eurhythmics instructor and currently serves as webmaster for the American Eurhythmics Society and as past-president of the Colorado Eurhythmics Society.

Saturday 3:10 – 4:00 pm

Mees Hall



Session IX – Plastique Animée

Join us for a group Plastique Session at the end of our conference!

Skye C. McManus is a Master Teaching Artist of the American Eurhythmics Society, and serves as the AES secretary, and recent past president. She strives to build musicality and promote community and joy through Dalcroze-inspired workshops to teachers and students. She has over twenty years experience teaching children and adults in both private and group settings. Skye is the director of musicianship and voice at Orpheus Academy of Music in Austin, TX. She teaches voice, piano, musicianship, and summer camps at Orpheus, as well as being a co-author of their method book series: Adventures Through Sound. She has certifications in Eurhythmics, Kodály, and Piano Pedagogy, as well as degrees from Loyola University New Orleans and Indiana State University, and a Texas Music Teaching License. When not teaching, Skye enjoys learning French with her daughter and husband in Austin, and caring for their seven chickens.