



WFMT BUZZ

From the desk of Dr. Melissa Mercadal-Brotons

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World Federation of Music Therapy
Federación Mundial de Musicoterapia

There are so many ground-breaking projects led by music therapists from all over the world, it is important to make them known to the international music therapy community.

In your monthly buzz you will find accounts of some of the exciting, innovative work being undertaken by WFMT members in each of the eight geographical regions. We hope that you will find inspiration to start and get involved in similar projects in your community and to encourage colleagues and friends to become WFMT members too.

I am happy to present the September Monthly Buzz which features the North America region of the World Federation of Music Therapy, represented by its Regional Liaison **Ms. Bronwen Landless**

Melissa Mercadal-Brotons, PhD, MT-BC, SMTAE
President WFMT



Ms. Bronwen Landless

North America

Inherent in the music therapy practice we love are creativity and collaboration. As we serve our clients and advocate for our profession, music therapists all over the world go beyond borders to creatively work with others. This was evident in many presentations at the World Congress of Music Therapy in Japan, July 2017. One such collaboration from the North American Region that stood out to me was one that focused on working with people who are homeless in the city of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.



The Arts and Quality of Life Research Center of Temple University is collaborating with the Philadelphia Symphony Orchestra and Broad Street Ministry to bring music therapy experiences to people who are homeless. Together they provide weekly, two hour, music therapy experiences, including group improvisations. Music therapists, orchestra members, and guests to Broad Street Ministry join together in these experiences to decrease anxiety, improve mood and quality of life, and increase hope, coping, and expression.

Dr. Cheryl Dileo and Jennifer Gravish presented on this partnership in a presentation titled: "Music brings us home: Research and practice regarding music therapy for homeless persons". They shared the joys and challenges of working with professionals from other disciplines and backgrounds, along with lessons they had learned in the process. They also shared preliminary quantitative and qualitative results that showed that the guests experienced significant improvements in mood, anxiety, and coping, and described their experiences as positive.



As music therapists across the globe we can draw inspiration from this creative collaboration on many levels. Firstly, working together with people from other disciplines, although challenging, presents us with unique opportunities to educate about and advocate for music therapy. Secondly, working together with other professionals requires training, perseverance, and flexibility on all parts – worth it for the benefits derived by all.

Thirdly, we can be creative in selecting collaboration partners, further bringing people together by doing what we love. On behalf of the World Federation of Music Therapy, I encourage you to be inspired and keep doing great things together with other professionals, both within and outside of our field.



For further information on this collaboration, see:

<http://www.temple.edu/boyer/community/aql.asp>

<https://www.philorch.org/blog/news/orchestra-announces-hear-new-portfolio-community-focused-collaborative-initiatives%23/>

<http://www.broadstreetministry.org/about-us/>

<https://www.facebook.com/AQLRC/>

To share your North America Region creative collaborations for possible mention in future newsletters or blogs, please email Bronwen at northamerica@wfmt.info