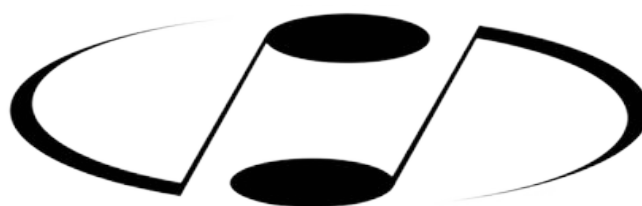

WFMT | August 2026 Buzz

WFMT President Mitsi Akoyunoglou <president@wfmt.info>
Reply to: WFMT President Mitsi Akoyunoglou <president@wfmt.info>
To: Usha Aravinth <info@bamt.org>

Mon 31 Aug at 18:51

[View this email in your browser](#)

World Federation of Music Therapy

Dear WFMT members and friends,

Welcome to the August edition of the WFMT newsletter. As we move forward following a vibrant and inspiring World Congress in Bologna, we are pleased to share updates from across our global music therapy community, including news on the revised WFMT Bylaws and the work ahead in the new 2026–2029 term.

As August draws to a close, we reflect on **World Humanitarian Day**, observed on 19 August, and hold in our thoughts all those affected by the devastating earthquakes, floods, wildfires, conflicts, and other crises experienced by communities around the world. We also recognize the courage and resilience of humanitarian workers, music therapy professionals, local responders and volunteers who offer care, protection, and hope in the most challenging circumstances. At such times, our global music therapy community is reminded of the importance of collective care, solidarity, and connection across borders.

We hope this issue keeps you connected with colleagues, ideas and developments from around the world. Thank you for your continuing commitment to strengthening music therapy internationally.

WFMT Revised Bylaws:

an Updated Framework for 2026-2029

The WFMT is pleased to share that its revised Bylaws were approved at the General Business Meeting during the 18th World Congress of Music Therapy in Bologna on 10 July 2026. Developed through a dedicated review process during the 2023–2026 term, the revised Bylaws provide an updated governance framework to support the Federation’s continuing development and its work as the international umbrella organization for music therapy.

The revised document clarifies and updates the framework for WFMT membership, governance, Council roles and Federation processes, while reflecting the organization’s present needs and future direction. Implementation will take place gradually across the 2026–2029 term, allowing for a careful and smooth transition. Members are warmly encouraged to read the revised Bylaws and become familiar with the updated framework.

The full text of the revised Bylaws is available on the WFMT Documents page here:

WFMT Bylaws revised 2026

Revised WFMT Definition of Music Therapy

WFMT is pleased to share the revised Definition of Music Therapy, officially announced at the General Business Meeting during the 18th World Congress of Music Therapy in Bologna in July 2026. Developed through an international, collaborative and consultative process led by the Working Group for Reviewing and Revising the Definition of Music Therapy, the revised definition reflects the diversity and continuing development of the global music therapy profession.

“Music therapy is a professional discipline that uses music-based experiences, such as listening, singing, playing instruments or improvisation, to promote health, well-being, capacity, and development at a personal and social level.

It is delivered by trained professionals within a therapeutic relationship, and is an adaptable, inclusive, therapeutic modality that serves individuals, groups, and communities across clinical, educational, cultural and virtual settings.

Music therapy practice is research-based, shaped by professional education

and clinical training, guided by ethical responsibility, and informed by social, cultural, and political context."

(WFMT, 2026)

The revised WFMT Definition of Music Therapy is now available in multiple languages, with official document versions and shareable social media cards.

Help us spread the definition across the global music therapy community by sharing and using these resources.

Link below for the download:

Official Translated MT DEFINITION Documents and Cards

There are already translations in **22 different languages** ([Documents](#)) and additional translations of the revised definition are being made available progressively, thanks to volunteer translators and reviewers from across the global music therapy community.

WFMT warmly welcomes proposals to translate the definition into additional languages; interested contributors may contact publicrelations@wfmt.info. Join us and let's translate it in as many languages as possible!

Looking Ahead to WCMT 2029 in Thailand

We are delighted that the **19th World Congress of Music Therapy** will take place in 2029 at Mahidol University, Thailand. The Congress will be hosted by the Thai Association of Music Therapy in partnership with Mahidol University, through a **regional collaboration model** that brings together leadership, expertise, and participation from across Southeast Asia. This approach reflects WFMT's commitment to strengthening regional connections while welcoming the global music therapy community to the next chapter of international exchange, collaboration, and professional development.



Mahidol University has an established music therapy program within its College of Music, with a commitment to education, scholarship, and the use of music to support people's physical, emotional, social, behavioral, and spiritual needs. The 2029 Congress will offer an important opportunity to learn from the region's diverse musical cultures and practices, strengthen global professional connections, and celebrate music therapy's continuing growth across cultures and communities. Further information about dates, themes, calls for abstracts, and registration will be shared by WFMT and the local organizing team in due course.

Commission Updates

In the coming issues of the WFMT newsletter, we look forward to sharing regular updates from the Federation's Commissions. These contributions will highlight current initiatives, forthcoming activities, resources, research, and opportunities for members to become involved in the work of each Commission.

IDEA COMMISSION WELCOME MESSAGE

By Marie Laure Rodriguez Quiroga

Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access Commission Chair

It is a great pleasure to begin this new term as Chair of the WFMT IDEA Commission. I warmly welcome you to this new chapter and I look forward to working collaboratively with the Commission, the WFMT Council and colleagues across the Federation to continue building a more inclusive and equitable global music therapy community.

Over the next three years, the WFMT IDEA Commission will aim to support the development of a more inclusive, diverse, equitable and accessible global music therapy community, with an intersectional and culturally responsive approach.

We will lead our efforts on making visible the diversity of identities, cultures, languages, histories and knowledge systems that shape music therapy around the world, collaborating with other WFMT Commissions to integrate IDEA principles into education, knowledge production, communication and professional activities.

Our work will focus on exploring ways to strengthen the WFMT IDEA Framework for Meaningful Participation and, the Knowledge Equity Initiative, and promote greater visibility of local, community-based and culturally-grounded approaches to music therapy, including approaches that have historically received less visibility within dominant professional and academic spaces.

We will also work to contribute to identifying and addressing the structural, economic, linguistic, digital and physical barriers that can limit meaningful participation, while supporting more equitable opportunities for leadership and contribution.

Our aim is not simply to increase representation, but to contribute to an ongoing conversation about whose knowledge is recognized, whose voices are heard and who have the opportunity to shape the future of music therapy.

I look forward to beginning this journey together.

Marie Laure Rodríguez-Quiroga

Chair, WFMT IDEA Commission

Regional Representatives

WFMT is currently in the process of confirming representatives for each of its eight global regions for the 2026–2029 term. These representatives will play an essential role in

strengthening communication between WFMT and music therapy communities worldwide, sharing regional perspectives, and supporting opportunities for collaboration across borders. Further information about the appointed representatives and their respective regions will be shared with members as the process is completed within the month of September.

Looking Ahead Together

As we begin the 2026–2029 term, we look forward to building on the connections, knowledge, and shared commitment that unite the WFMT community across the world. Thank you to all our members, volunteers, regional partners, and colleagues for your continuing contribution to the advancement of music therapy internationally. We invite you to stay connected and join us in shaping the Federation's work in the months ahead.

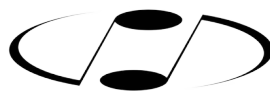
With respect,

Dr. Mitsi Akoyunoglou

President | World Federation of Music Therapy

E: president@wfmt.info

W: <https://www.wfmt.info/>



World Federation of Music Therapy

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