



National Association  
for Music Education

# Music Notes

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# Choral Festival and Conference 2018!

Join us for our 2nd Annual Choral Festival and 4th Annual Conference! The Choral Festival will select the top 10 choirs from around India to perform on Saturday, August 4th. This is followed by our Annual Conference on August 5th.

Two Professors from the US, Dean Luethi and Susan Cogdill will judge the Choir Festival and will be the speaker at the Conference. They will give workshops during the week at local Delhi schools on choral music education. Dean Luethi is developing a choir credentialing program specifically for WMEA. Please see our website for details! <http://wmea.in/>

## About the NAFME-WMEA Connect

**by Sebanti Chatterjee, Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Sociology, Delhi School of Economics**

For the Western Music Education Association annual conference in July 2017, with the theme 'A New Era in Music Education in India' there were experts in the field of music from the USA and India. There were presentations about NAFME and its India connect, evaluations, organizing music education in Indian classrooms, artist management, appreciation of Opera and finally the day long engagement ended with a fun choral conducting and singing session. It involved all the participants. Owing to my personal research interests, I decided to talk to Denese Odegaard in order to get a sense of how the NAFME connect would contribute further to the WMEA.

Denese Odegaard, the president of NAFME, recalls that Natalie Sarrazin spoke to her about two years ago. This was at the office of the National Association for Music Education. The executive director was there too. Natalie had connections both in the USA as well as in India and was looking forward to this alliance. The collaboration has been forged so as to encourage



exchange and involvement, bring forth professional development and introduce pedagogy ordered around principles that enable teaching children of all age groups. It focuses on bringing together different musical cultures and encourages the practice of learning orally.

She told me that the leadership meeting identified certain common agendas including what was already a part of the programme, avenues for further research, what needed to be incorporated, prioritization, and display of a model of practice, showcasing the ongoing progress and finally coming up with a curriculum credential programme. The idea was to customize it for Indian educators. The question of value became important. The emphasis was upon the teachers getting a degree.

In the USA, music has proper legal frameworks. They have a person in each State, from the Federal to the District level. There, the goal of the president is to bring it to the teacher's level. The teachers need to be pro-active. For instance, there is a music newsletter for the schools and performances are held every year. In the USA, apart from the aspect of entertainment, a lot of focus is on how to study the music.

She said that the social-emotional learning is high in USA. Denesse also mentioned why NAFME's expansion into different kinds of music is eventually a way forward. Amplification of networks is a good way to strategize new thematics for music education. As Russ Sperling, President of the Western Division of NAFME, spelled it out later, during his talk, that collaboration between the different Arts is one of the key approaches towards expansion. Having India as one of the partners of NAFME, it is a great way to infuse a new set of cultural disposition.

[Read more on our website](#)

## WMEA NEWS!



**Choral Credentialing** is coming to WMEA! The first in our 4-part choral credentialing series will be up and ready on our website. Available to members, this series will help prepare choral conductors in basic techniques, repertoire, and so much more! This program, created specifically for WMEA by experts at NAFME, features videos by Dean Luethi, Professor at the University of Washington, who will be one of the guest speakers at the conference.

## WMEA receives access to FIRST NOTE MUSIC PROGRAM



Music for our Youngest Students!

### Dear WMEA members!

We'd like to announce our access to a database of video lessons called First Note Music Program, which contains over 100 video lessons created for teaching music to young children, and include an instructor's manual which outlines the basic music concepts, student learning outcomes, songs and instruments used, and the cultural guest.

The video lessons are a few minutes each, so they're easy to learn or play for your classes to have them learn.

As members, please make use of this FREE database of material for your young elementary music classroom!!

Natalie Sarrazin, PhD

Anjali Mata

Ritesh Khokhar

Executive Director, WMEA

President, WMEA

Vice President/Treasurer, WMEA

Best wishes

### Executive Committee

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