



National Association *for* Music Education

Resolution Celebrating and Honoring the 50th Anniversary of the National Association for the Study and Performance of African American Music

June 22, 2022

Whereas the National Association for the Study and Performance of African American Music (NASPAAM) is an organization whose purpose is to further the development and dissemination of African American music through advocacy, education, and performance.

Whereas more than 200 Black music educators convened an impromptu offsite protest meeting in 1972 in Atlanta during the 23rd Convention of the Music Educators National Conference (MENC), now known as the National Association for Music Education, in response to the dearth of Black music and musicians represented on the program.

Whereas the meeting held on the campus of Morehouse College led to the formation of the Black Music Caucus, which held a formal relationship with MENC through affiliate organization status as the Black Music Caucus of the Music Educators National Conference.

Whereas a decision was made to declare independence from MENC in the late 1970s and rename the organization as the National Black Music Caucus.

Whereas, in 1989, the National Black Music Caucus held its inaugural conference in Atlanta under the theme of “Black Music: Our National Treasure” to showcase Black performers, conductors, presenters, clinicians, composers, choral and instrumental ensembles and soloists from elementary and secondary through collegiate and professional ranks, solo and small chamber groups.

Whereas the organization officially became known as the National Association for the Study and Performance of African American Music as part of its 25th anniversary in 1997.

Whereas the National Association for Music Education recognizes that the National Association for the Study and Performance of African American Music has provided and will continue to provide leadership in the areas of scholarship, advocacy, and professional development for the preservation and advancement of African American music in the United States.

Whereas the 50th Anniversary Celebration of the National Association for the Study and Performance of African American Music occurred virtually March 16, 2022. National Association of Music Education President Mackie Spradley accepted the organization's invitation to be the keynote speaker. She announced that the National Association for the Study and Performance of African American Music would be recognized by the National Association for Music Education. Thus, the National Association of Music Education decided to recognize the National Association for the Study and Performance of African American Music at its National Assembly in June 2022.

Resolved, the National Association for Music Education takes responsibility for the lack of representation of Black performers and speakers at previous national conferences and vows to make future programs more diverse and representative of our K-12 and collegiate student population.

Resolved, the National Association for Music Education recognizes the significant impact the National Association for the Study and Performance of African American Music has had on increasing the awareness of Black Music and its contribution to the arts, culture, and society.

Resolved, National Association for Music Education embarks on a new collaborative relationship with National Association for the Study and Performance of African American Music as it implements a strategic plan with goals to identify root causes of inequity and develop strategies to eliminate barriers to student opportunities, assist members in providing diverse musical experiences for students, and develop pathways to leadership to advance the mission and vision of the Association.

Resolved, the National Association for Music Education recognizes the 50th anniversary of National Association for the Study and Performance of African American Music and honors their stated goals:

- To promote, preserve, and advance the tradition of African American music throughout the world.
- To serve as an advocate for African American music education throughout the United States.
- To ensure the inclusion of African American music from preschool through the university levels.
- To foster the recognition of the contributions and significance of African American music to American culture
- To generate support of the development of quality music education programs and the music potentials of African American youth.
- To continue the development of African American music educators, performers, and audiences of music.
- To voice the concerns of African American music educators throughout the United States.

Resolved, the National Association for Music Education extends an open invitation to rebuild and strengthen a relationship and partnership with the National Association for the Study and Performance of African American Music moving forward, and the National Association for the Study and Performance of African American Music will always be welcome to actively participate and collaborate in the events and activities of the National Association for Music Education.