

# MIOSM Daily Prompts

2024



This calendar was created by members of the NAFME Council for General Music Education as a service for music teachers during Music In Our Schools Month® (MIOSM®). These daily prompts can be used for social media posts, on morning announcements, or in whatever way you want to celebrate MIOSM.

The hashtags included are: Music In Our Schools Month (#MIOSM), National Council for General Music Education (#NCGME), and the 2024 theme “I See Me in Music Education” (#MusicIsMe). Using the hashtags on social media helps us track usage and have a stream of MIOSM posts to share. Happy celebrating!

# March 1



## **Brainstorm/Discussion Activity:**

Happy #MIOSM! Today is the first day of MIOSM 2024! This year's theme is I See ME in Music Education. What is your favorite type of music? Who is your favorite musician? Compare your answers with friends and family to see if there are similarities and differences in your musical likes and dislikes. #NCGME  
#MusicIsMe

# March 2



## **Activity:**

Happy #MIOSM! Listen to several different theme songs. If you had to pick a theme songs for your life or your school what song would you chose? #NCGME  
#MusicsMe

# March 3



## **Activity:**

Happy #MIOSM! How many people in your life are musicians? Ask your friends, family, and teachers if they are musicians. How do they make music? Were they in a musical group? Do they still make music? #NCGME #MusicIsMe

# March 4



## **Fun Fact:**

Happy #MIOSM! People have always found ways to make music. Did you know that the oldest flute is nearly 50,000 years old? It is believed to have been made of bone by Neanderthals and was found in a cave in Slovenia. Can you think of ways to create an instrument with materials you have? #NCGME #MusicIsMe

# March 5



## **Fun Fact:**

Happy #MIOSM! Did you know that music has many health benefits? It can lower stress, help you sleep, improve heart health, improve memory, and so many other things. Plus, music is just fun! Start listening to different types of music to decide what type is fun for you! #NCGME #MusicIsMe

# March 6



## **Brainstorming Activity:**

Happy #MIOSM! It's hard to go anywhere and not hear music. Music is played at sporting events to get fans and athletes alike excited about the event. What types of music have you heard at sporting events? #NCGME #MusicsMe



# March 7



## **Brainstorming Activity:**

Happy #MIOISM! Music is used during celebrations all over the world for many different occasions. From celebrating the opening of the Olympics to your best friend's birthday party, music plays an important part. Can you think of a time recently when you heard music used in a celebration? Why was music important to the celebration? #NCGME #MusicsMe

# March 8



## **Discussion Activity:**

Happy #MIOSM! Music brings people together! Find someone in your class who likes the same type of music, artist, or song that you do. Talk about it. What is it about the music that you both like? How does the music make you feel or how do the words speak to you? You may have more in common than you think!

#NCGME #MusicsMe

# March 9



## **Activity:**

Happy #MIOSM! Steady beat and rhythm patterns are for more than just music – you and your body perform them all the time every day! From brushing your teeth to playing games like jump rope and basketball to feeling your heartbeat, steady beat and rhythms are part of life itself. Things in nature are no different. Find a time to sit quietly outside and listen to all the things in our world that make a steady beat or create a rhythmic pattern. #NCGME #MusicIsMe

# March 10



## **Research Activity:**

Happy #MIOSM! Ever thought about having a job or career in music? It could be performing or teaching music, but there are lots of other options! How about writing music for video games or commercials? Careers in music can range from sound engineering, music therapy, ethnomusicology, instrument repair, and so much more! Do a little research to see if there is something in the music industry that interests you. #NCGME #MusicsMe

# March 11



## **Group Activity:**

Happy #MIOSM! The beat in music is often similar to the human heartbeat in that it maintains a steady pulse. You can play a fun game called "Beat Leader" with an upbeat song! To start, select one person to be the guesser and have them cover their eyes. Then choose another person to be the "Beat Leader." When the music starts playing, the beat leader creates nonlocomotor beat motions, and the rest of the group copies the movements. The beat leader must try to switch the movement without being noticed by the guesser. The guesser has three chances to identify the beat leader. Make sure the beat has a steady pulse! #NCGME  
#MusicsMe

# March 12



## **Group Activity:**

Happy #MIOSM! Found object music is a fun and creative way to make music using everyday items as musical instruments. You can use various items such as plastic bottles, kitchen utensils, buckets, tools, and cardboard boxes! To get started, divide into small groups and create a short repeated pattern (ostinato) using the found objects in the room. Once each group has created their ostinato, come together as a whole group and perform it. Discuss how it went and if any changes need to be made. Rehearse, refine, and perform again! #NCGME  
#MusicsMe

# March 13



## **Group Activity:**

Happy #MIOSM! Play the piece "Adoration" by Florence Price, an American classical composer. Get into groups of four and stand in a diamond pattern facing the same direction. The person in front improvises nonlocomotor movements in response to the music while the rest of the group shadows them from behind. The leader will turn to the right and make eye contact with the next leader when they are ready to end their motion and pass it off. The diamond should shift in a new direction, and the cycle repeats until the music ends. After the activity, discuss as a group how the elements in the music affected your movement choices, and take some time to learn about the composer! #NCGME #MusicIsMe

# March 14



## Activity:

Happy #MIOSM! Form is a musical pattern. This pattern can either remain the same or change throughout a musical piece. Musicians represent form using letters, such as AA, AB, ABA, ABC, etc. For example, the song "Frère Jacques" consists of four phrases with an ABCD sectional form. As a group, try singing "Frère Jacques" using different forms, such as AAAA, ABAB, ABCC, and ABAC to create variations of the song. Then experiment by singing in various other orders. You can add bourdons on barred instruments as an option to accompany the singing. As an extension activity, form small groups, and select another short rhyming song. Analyze its sectional form and recreate it by singing it in a different order! #NCGME #MusicsMe



# March 15



## **Group Activity:**

Happy #MIOSM! Choose a country that interests you, and learn about their traditional instruments. Work in small groups or as a whole group to research the instruments, listen to them together, and create a poster. While doing so, share the similarities and differences between these instruments and any other instruments you may already know about. #NCGME #MusicIsMe

# March 16



## **Fun Fact:**

Happy #MIOSM! Did you know that Ella Fitzgerald, an American jazz singer also known as "The First Lady of Song" or "The Queen of Jazz," was particularly famous for her scat singing? Scat singing involves improvising with the voice in a song using nonsense syllables. Listen closely to her scat singing in the song "It Don't Mean a Thing." Try scat singing yourself, and make up any melodies as you go! #NCGME #MusicIsMe

# March 17



## **Fun Fact:**

Happy #MIOSM! Opera is a form of performance art that combines classical music and singing to convey a story. Opera singers usually do not require microphones to amplify their voices. Sumi Jo, a South Korean opera singer and Grammy Award winner, is known for her soprano voice, which has an impressive high range. You can listen to her impressive vocal skills in her rendition of the "Queen of the Night" aria from *Die Zauberflöte* (The Magic Flute). #NCGME #MusicIsMe

# March 18

## Fun Fact:

Happy #MIOSM! Last year, Samara Joy took home two Grammy Awards for Best New Artist and for Best Jazz Vocal Album, *Linger Awhile*. One of the featured songs is called “Nostalgia (The Day I Knew).” *Nostalgia* means positively remembering a certain time or place. Is there a song or music that makes you feel nostalgic? #NCGME #MusicIsMe

# March 19



## Research Activity:

Happy #MIOSM! Rhiannon Giddens and Michael Abels recently won a Pulitzer Prize for their opera *Omar*. Listen to one of Rhiannon Giddens's songs while looking at a list of past Pulitzer Prize-winning musicians. Who is your favorite musician on the list? Is there a musician you would like to see on the list? Compare your choices with those of a friend or family member. #NCGME #MusicsMe

# March 20



## **Fun Fact:**

Happy #MIOSM! Marching bands are an important part of our schools and communities. The University of Notre Dame's band started in 1845. It is the oldest marching band in continuous existence in the United States. They were one of the first to include pageantry, drill, and formations during performances. Thank your marching band director for their hard work! Today, find a video of a local marching band. What is your favorite part of its performance? #NCGME #MusicIsMe

# March 21



## Fun Fact

Happy #MIOSM! The “First Lady of Children’s Song,” Ella Jenkins, turns 100 this year. She was born in St. Louis, Missouri, on August 6, 1924. Growing up in the south side of Chicago, she was immersed in a rich musical culture. She spent more than 50 years performing and teaching children. What is your favorite childhood song? #NCGME #MusicsMe

# March 22



## **Fun Fact:**

Happy #MIOSM! Yo-Yo Ma is a world-famous cellist. He plays often with pianist Emanuel Ax, a close friend from their days at Juilliard. Ma has also collaborated with other famous musicians such as The Goat Rodeo, Bobby McFerrin, Edgar Meyer, Mark O'Connor, Ennio Morricone, and Kathryn Stott. Musicians often collaborate with other musicians. What musicians would you like to see collaborate? Who would you like to collaborate with if given the opportunity?

#NCGME #MusicsMe



# March 23

## **Activity:**

Happy #MIOSM! Let's make a harmonica!

You will need two popsicle sticks, two toothpick pieces the same width as the popsicle stick, a piece of popsicle-stick-sized paper, and two rubber bands.

What to do: Place the strip of paper between the popsicle sticks. Wrap a rubber band around one side. Put a toothpick inside the rubber band. Put the other toothpick on the opposite end. Wrap the sticks with the other rubber band. Enjoy!

#NCGME #MusicsMe

March 24



## Discussion Activity:

Happy #MIOSM! *The Color Purple*, *The Little Mermaid*, *Trolls 3*, *Waitress*, *Wish*, and *Wonka* are some of the movie musicals that have hit theaters this past year. What is your favorite musical? What's your favorite song from that show or movie? Compare your choices with those of a friend or family member. #NCGME  
#MusicsMe

# March 25



## **Fun Fact:**

Happy #MIOSM! One of the highlights of the 2024 Grammy Awards was a duet of “Fast Car” by Tracy Chapman and Luke Combs. “Fast Car” was written and performed by Tracy Chapman in 1988. Luke Combs made a cover of “Fast Car” in 2023. Compare the two versions of “Fast Car.” Get together with friends and family to talk about the differences in each version and the duet. #NCGME  
#MusicIsMe

# March 26



## **Fun Fact:**

Happy #MIOSM! Some artists only perform in one genre of music, and some artists dabble in several different genres. Most people know Beyoncé as a pop, R&B, and hip-hop performer. This year Beyoncé is releasing a country album. What do you think of this? Can people perform in multiple genres? Explore the works of artists who have performed in multiple genres of music. #NCGME  
#MusicIsMe

# March 27



## **Discussion Activity:**

Happy #MIOSM! 2023 marked the 50th anniversary of hip-hop. Hip-hop is more than just music. Who is your favorite hip-hop artist? What is your favorite hip-hop style? Discuss with friends how hip-hop has influenced popular music over the past 50 years. #NCGME #MusicsMe

# March 28



## **Research Activity:**

Happy #MIOSM! Poll friends, family, and your teachers about their favorite music. Create playlists of your friends', family members', and teachers' favorite music. Do you see any similarities? What differences do you see? Did you learn about any new music? #NCGME #MusicsMe

# March 29



## **Activity:**

Happy #MIOSM! Do you ever create music? Have you ever written a song? What's stopping you? Write a song about you! Share your creation with friends and family. You can create music with technology, with instruments, or with just your voice. #NCGME #MusicIsMe

# March 30

## **Advocacy Activity:**

Happy #MIOSM! Did you know there are some schools that don't offer music classes? Make a list of the reasons why schools should offer music classes. Research schools in your area. If you find a school that doesn't offer music, write a letter to an elected official telling them why music is important to you.

It's everyone's responsibility to advocate for music education!

#NCGME #MusicIsMe



# March 31



Happy #MIOSM! Today is the last day of Music In Our Schools Month for 2024. Don't let the celebration end! Make music every day! Listen to your favorite music, find new music, and support music in and out of school. #NCGME #MusicIsMe

# Acknowledgements

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