



**National Association
for Music Education**

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August 24, 2026

Dear Music Educator

The [National Association for Music Education](http://www.nafme.org) (NAfME) [2026 Biennial Music Research and Teacher Education Conference](#) will take place **September 30–October 3, 2026**, at the **Hilton Long Beach**, in Long Beach, California. NAfME welcomes the participation of future, current, and retired music educators, music teacher educators, administrators, and community and corporate partners who are passionate about the critical role of music education for all. Attendees will benefit from current research, policy discourse, and dialogue concerning the human experience in music teaching and learning.

This conference provides a valuable opportunity for professional learning, networking, and engagement with current research in music education. The program includes over 150 spoken paper sessions, over 200 research posters and conversations focused on topics directly relevant to our organization's goals of providing a collaborative community that supports music educators and advocates for equitable access to music education.

Guided by the 2026 Biennial Conference Planning Committee, the conference will feature a keynote session, the 2026 Senior Researcher Address by Colleen Conway, and hundreds of presentation and poster sessions selected by NAfME's Society for Research in Music Education (SRME) and Society for Music Teacher Education (SMTE) program committee. The 2026 Biennial Conference Keynote Speaker will be Pedro Antonio Noguera, PhD. Dean of the Rossier School of Education, and Distinguished Professor of Education at University of Southern California (USC). He is one of the nation's leading scholars on issues related to inequality, public policy, and education.

By attending, you would have the opportunity to:

- Learn about current trends, research, and innovative research practices in the field.
- Develop new knowledge and skills that can be applied directly to your work.
- Connect with colleagues and professionals from other institutions and organizations.
- Explore new ideas, resources, and strategies that could benefit your own teaching, learning, and research
- Learn more about NAfME within the broader professional community.

We believe that participation in the conference would be a worthwhile investment in your professional development and would provide benefits that extend beyond your individual learning. Following the conference, you might want to share key takeaways, resources, and ideas with colleagues and explore what you learned and how it might contribute to your ongoing work and priorities.

We believe the professional development opportunities and potential benefits to NAFME members make this a valuable use of professional development resources.

Sincerely,

Kelly Parkes, SRME Chair-Elect, SRME Biennial Program Co-Chair
Tami Draves, SMTE Chair, SMTE Biennial Program Co-Chair