

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Music for All Appoints National Music Education Leader Anne Fennell as Senior Director of Education

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. – July 8, 2026 — Music for All is pleased to announce the appointment of Anne Fennell as Senior Director of Education, bringing one of the nation’s most accomplished and respected music education leaders to the organization’s senior leadership team.

A nationally recognized educator, administrator, author, and advocate for music education, Fennell joins Music for All following a distinguished career spanning nearly four decades in public education and educational leadership. Most recently, she served as Music Program Manager and Supervisor for San Diego Unified School District, one of the nation’s largest school districts, overseeing comprehensive music education programs serving thousands of students.

In her role as Senior Director of Education, Fennell will provide strategic leadership for Music for All’s educational vision and programming, guiding the continued growth and excellence of the organization’s national educational initiatives, honor ensembles, camps, educator professional learning, advocacy efforts, and student experiences.

“Anne is one of the most respected voices in music education today,” said Dr. James Weaver, President and CEO of Music for All. “Her extraordinary combination of classroom excellence, administrative leadership, national service, and unwavering commitment to expanding opportunities for students and educators embodies everything Music for All stands for. As we continue to grow our impact nationwide, Anne’s vision and expertise will help shape the future of our educational programs and strengthen our service to music educators across the country.”

Fennell recently concluded her tenure as Music Program Manager and Supervisor for San Diego Unified School District after 32 years as a music educator and six years in district administration. In addition to her K-12 leadership, she has served as an adjunct university professor, preparing future educators. Throughout her career, she has taught students from kindergarten through high school in diverse musical settings, including music composition, steel drum ensembles, Orff-Schulwerk, integrated arts, vocal and instrumental performance, and nationally recognized ensemble programs.

A nationally influential leader in the profession, Fennell serves as Western Division President for the National Association for Music Education (NAfME), is the Past President of the California Music Educators Association (CMEA), and continues to serve CMEA as its Advocacy Representative. She is also an internationally sought-after keynote speaker and clinician, presenting for organizations including the National Association for Music Education, the American Orff-Schulwerk Association, the International Society for Music Education, the

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), and music education conferences throughout China in partnership with NAMM.

In addition to her educational leadership, Fennell is a published author whose work has appeared through Savvas Learning Company (Pearson Education), the GRAMMY Foundation, the Percussion Marketing Council, and Disney's Little/Baby Einstein educational resources.

Her leadership and contributions to music education have been recognized with numerous national honors, including the 2024 NAMM Believe in Music Award, 2020 Technology in Music Education National Teacher of the Year, 2017 Magnet Schools of America National Teacher of the Year, selection as a Top 10 GRAMMY Music Educator Award Finalist in 2016, and recognition as a Top 3 National Music Educator by Music & Arts in 2015.

"I have long admired Music for All's commitment to creating transformative experiences through music," said Fennell. "The organization's impact on students, educators, and communities is extraordinary. I am honored to join this exceptional team and look forward to working with our staff, educators, students, and partners to continue expanding opportunities that inspire excellence, foster belonging, and help every young person discover the life-changing power of music."

Fennell holds a bachelor's degree in music education, a master's degree in educational leadership studies, Orff-Schulwerk Certification Levels I, II, and III, and more than 90 additional graduate hours in music and education.

Her appointment reflects Music for All's continued investment in educational excellence and national leadership as the organization expands opportunities for students and educators while advancing its mission to create, provide, and expand positively life-changing experiences through music.

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About Music for All

Music for All's mission is to create, provide, and expand positively life-changing experiences through music. Our vision is to be a catalyst to ensure that every child in America has access and opportunity for active music-making in their scholastic environment. A 501(c)(3) nonprofit educational organization, Music for All's events and programs serve more than 600,000 attendees annually — and more than 1.7 million program participants since 1975. Programs include the Bands of America Regional and the Grand National Championships for marching bands; the Bands of America Summer Camp for students and teachers; the Music for All National Festival for concert bands, orchestras, and percussion ensembles; national honor ensembles including the Honor Band of America, Jazz Band of America, and the Honor Band in the Rose Parade®, Advocacy in Action Awards, the Music for All Podcast Network, and affiliate concert and marching events across America. Visit musicforall.org

Music for All's efforts are supported by our national presenting sponsors, the Yamaha Corporation of America and Sweetwater, and our family of sponsors, strategic partners, and grantmaking foundations.

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