

Letter of Greeting from the International Society for Music Education to the Delegates of the 2005 Pan-Canadian Symposium on Music Education

May 3, 2005

Dear fellow music educators,

It is with great pleasure that I send greetings to our Canadian friends from your colleagues in the International Society for Music Education. We extend our best wishes for a memorable and highly successful symposium.

One of the distinctive features of contemporary music education internationally, is our effort to critically reflect on our discipline in ways that strengthen all aspects of our work. And during the course of ISME's 50 year history, Canadian music education scholars and practitioners have been leaders in developing music education internationally. I will look forward to hearing the results of your deliberations this week and eagerly await publications that will arise as a result of your efforts.

Last year at the World Conference in Tenerife, Spain, ISME celebrated its 50th anniversary. As I look back on that event, and the 26 World Conferences that have been held during those 50 years, I am reminded of the first ISME World Conference to be held in Canada in 1978. I understand that Don McKellar, the Conference Chair for this Conference and former ISME Board member, will be attending your symposium. ISME conveys a very special thank you to Don for his magnificent work over many years developing music education in Canada and internationally. Thank you Don for your efforts to develop the world of music education.

It is my hope that some of you will be able to join us at the 27th ISME World Conference to be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from July 16-21, 2006. The 27th World conference will mark a turning point for ISME, as it enters its next 50 years of development, and makes changes to the conference format that will see a number of innovative developments, such as special interest topics and strands within the conference to cater for the needs of delegates from all areas of music education. There will also be a number of truly exciting concerts from indigenous artists in world-class facilities.

ISME has been enriched by the strong presence of Canadians in the Society, who have participated actively in Commission seminars and the biennial World Conferences, and held senior positions in the society. We extend our thanks to Amanda Montgomery, who led the organizing committee for the 2000 ISME World Conference in Edmonton, and Eric Favaro, a former ISME Board member. And I also note that Pat Shand and Kari Veblen, both current ISME Board members, are members of the organizing committee for this symposium. Canadian music educators have truly come of age and are recognized internationally for the quality of their work and their commitment to music education.

Enjoy your symposium and the opportunity to reflect on the art of music education in Canada.

With best wishes and thanks for your very special contribution to music education,

Gary McPherson

ISME President, 2004-2006