Foreword and Front Matter

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*The University of Western Ontario*

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Foreword

On behalf of the University of Western Ontario, I am very pleased to introduce this special edition of Nota Bene: *Political Notes I: Conference Proceedings*. *Political Notes* is an international undergraduate conference devoted to music and politics, organized for the first time in March 2011 by the newly created Undergraduate Society of Music and Politics (UMPS) at the University of Western Ontario. Three undergraduate students are behind this exciting development in student-lead research: Hilary Johnston, Alicia Loveland, and Alayna Jay.

Some participants chose to read a formal paper and others to give a PowerPoint or other media-based presentation. This made for a very varied and interesting day somewhat difficult to faithfully represent in a conference publication. The editors have chosen to print a balance of abstracts and formal papers submitted for publication.

*Political Notes I* brought together students working on a wide variety of topics within the field of music and politics, from the influence of eighteenth-century politics on Italian composer Giovanni Battista Pergolesi to song writer Simon Bikindi’s role in the Rwandan genocide. The diverse content presented here reflects the high standard of discourse on the relationships between music and politics at universities in Canada and the United States.
Political Notes I and this Special Edition of Nota Bene have benefited immensely from the generous support of the Don Wright Faculty of Music’s faculty and staff. Our thanks are due to our Dean Dr. Robert Wood for his strong commitment to this project. We are deeply grateful to Dr. Emily Abrams Ansari for the incredible Music and Politics seminar that inspired Hilary and Alicia to pursue the organization of a conference, and for the mentorship and professional experience she has provided Alayna with over the years. This project would not have been possible without her enthusiastic support, and her diligence and passion for research and teaching. We thank the Student Gift Fund for their support, the professors who encouraged their students to submit abstracts and papers to us, and the students and faculty who attended the conference and participated in our conversation with questions and comments of their own. Finally, we thank the contributors for their contributions, their professionalism, their dynamic presentations and the incredible open-minded dialogue they stimulated.

Alayna Jay
Editor-in-Chief