

Society for Ethnomusicology 2017-2022 Strategic Plan

The Society for Ethnomusicology is a U.S.-based organization with an international membership of approximately 1,800 individuals dedicated to the study of all forms of music from diverse humanistic and social scientific perspectives. As a network of scholars, educators, students, musicians, activists, curators, and other professionals that reaches across countries, disciplines, and institutions, SEM serves as an inclusive forum for the exchange of knowledge about the world's music.

At present, the field of ethnomusicology faces multiple challenges both in the academy and the wider public sphere. Many colleges and universities are hiring fewer tenure-track faculty and reducing support overall for the arts, humanities, and social sciences. At the same time, an increase in authoritarianism, disinformation, nativism, and social exclusion within the U.S. and across the world is threatening such core humanistic values as respect for human diversity, inclusivity, academic inquiry, and the open exchange of ideas.

In its strategic plan for the next five years, SEM will mobilize its membership and collaborate with partners to respond to the challenges of the contemporary moment and to pursue new opportunities for strengthening ethnomusicological research, education, applied work, and activism. The Society will expand its capacity as a medium for dialogue, a resource for members and the general public, and an agent for effecting change through music and music studies.

The Society's new strategic plan was initiated by the SEM Board and prepared over the past year by a Strategic Planning Committee, in consultation with the Society's Council, Sections, and Special Interest Groups. In the upcoming years, the Board and Business Office will work with members and partner organizations to develop specific initiatives in support of the goals outlined below. Initiatives will be selected on the basis of their feasibility, their potential impact, and the availability of internal or external financial resources. The Society will track and publicize the progress of these endeavors and will continue to welcome input from its members on the implementation of the plan.

1) Promote Ethnomusicology

- Increase awareness and understanding of the field of ethnomusicology in the academy, the public sphere, and diverse media channels through robust advocacy and communication initiatives. Strengthen relationships with other scholarly societies and with academic, governmental, and non-governmental organizations across disciplinary and geographic boundaries.
- Promote awareness of and access to the journal *Ethnomusicology* and the Society's range of online publications, including newsletters, forums, the SEM podcast, and Ethnomusicology Translations. Increase multimedia content in publications and expand links between them. Include more attention to and coverage of general issues in ethnomusicology and public/applied work.
- Collaborate with educational institutions, promoting ethnomusicological perspectives in primary, secondary, undergraduate, and graduate education. Work with accreditation organizations to address music curricula and standards for undergraduate and graduate students. Publicize resources for improved teaching of ethnomusicology and world music.

2) Expand Public, Applied, and Advocacy Initiatives

- Further the participation of the Society in national and international public policy debates and in projects that advocate and advance social inclusion, conflict resolution, access to education, community development, intellectual property rights, health, and environmental and cultural sustainability. Promote recognition of these activities as integral and valuable components of academic and professional work in ethnomusicology.
- Advocate on behalf of Musicians. Support diversity in musicianship and musical knowledge in communities worldwide, including freedom of musical expression, freedom of movement, performance opportunities, and musical training.
- Support Ethnomusicology Archives. Promote recognition and use of archives as a vital resource in academic and applied work in ethnomusicology and related fields. Support collaborative projects among archives in such areas as documentation, preservation, digitization, access, and repatriation.

3) Increase Diversity and Inclusivity of SEM Membership

- Develop recruitment initiatives to diversify the membership and leadership of the Society in terms of nationality, ethnicity, race, gender, sexual orientation, range of abilities, and other characteristics. Promote inclusion by enhancing members' engagement in the Society through open channels of communication; service on committees, the Council, and the Board; and participation in Sections, Special Interest Groups, and Chapters.

4) Foster International Communication and Collaboration

- Nurture a global network in ethnomusicology through increased sharing of information and resources among scholars, educators, students, activists, institutions, and scholarly societies worldwide. Expand dialogue via ongoing translation of scholarship and news. Develop joint events and programs with organizations outside the U.S. to support exchanges, residencies, and other academic and applied initiatives.

5) Enhance Professional Development

- Expand training in ethnomusicology to prepare students and post-degree ethnomusicologists for multiple career trajectories, including work in colleges and universities, archives, libraries, museums, arts-presenting organizations, government agencies, and design, publishing, and media firms. Generate resources for professional development and entrepreneurship among both institutionally affiliated and independent ethnomusicologists. Collaborate with other organizations to address contingent labor practices in the academy and the public sector.

6) Increase Access to and Participation in the SEM Annual Meeting

- Improve travel funding, digital technologies, and other methods of engagement. Create more flexibility in the meeting structure for workshops, mentoring and professional development, activities for primary/secondary teachers and students, and other innovative programming. Enhance publicity for SEM prizes in recognition of outstanding work in ethnomusicology.