

2009-2010 National Board Election: Nominees (by office, in alphabetical order)

Officers:

PRESIDENT

Cathy Merenda, VP, Music Publishing, Fox Music / Twentieth Century Fox

Cathy Merenda is the current President of the National Board to the Association of Independent Music Publishers (AIMP). She began her career in music as a live sound and recording engineer and worked with artists such as Animotion, Michael Penn, Mother's Finest, Gilbey Clarke and many others. Cathy then changed careers and went to the music publishing and finance areas at Scotti Brothers Records/All American Television (James Brown, Weird Al Yankovic, Baywatch). In 1992, she moved over to Twentieth Century Fox and currently heads up the music publishing division. The company publishes all original compositions and score music for the 20th Century Fox Film, Television, News, Sports and cable divisions. Cathy is a member of California Copyright Conference, NARAS and is long standing mentor with the Fox/Hamilton Music Mentoring Program.

VICE PRESIDENT

Richard Feldman, Songwriter/Producer, Orca Productions

Richard Feldman has worked in the music industry for over 25 years. With backgrounds both in music and business, Richard has worked as a live and studio guitarist, songwriter, producer, studio owner, A&R executive, publisher and entrepreneur in many areas of music including working to exploit software to deter music piracy. His compositions have been recorded by Eric Clapton, The Pointer Sisters, Joe Cocker, Al Jarreau, Kenny Rogers, Taj Mahal, Chaka Khan, and Ringo Starr. He has produced acts such as the Eurythmics, No Doubt, Bonnie Raitt, and Bobby Womack, and has received 4 Grammy nominations and received a Grammy for his work with Toots and the Maytals' "True Love" release. Richard has served on the AIMP board since 2006 and has organized and hosted numerous panels and actively worked to upgrade and improve the AIMP website.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (select one)

Kasaan Steigen, Owner, Trigger Management and Administrative Director, AIMP

Kasaan Steigen has served for three years as Administrative Director of AIMP, overseeing all day-to-day operations, event coordination, member relations, marketing efforts and the redevelopment of AIMP's website. Outside of AIMP, Kasaan owns Trigger Management, a talent management company whose clients include legendary songwriter and independent music publisher Albert Hammond. Prior to this, she was Program Coordinator for the Chaka Khan Foundation, where she handled all administrative operations and new program development in addition to serving as part of Ms. Khan's management team. Kasaan has worked in the music business since 1995 as an independent music publisher, manager, producer, songwriter and recording artist. She is a member of Step Up Women's Network, a national organization for women professionals, where she currently co-chairs the Step Up Sundays health initiative.

Thomas A. White, Consultant, Record and Music Publishing Industries

Thomas A. White is a consultant and expert witness in the record and music publishing industries, specializing in artist rights matters, and is a 29 year music veteran. His clients include creators and celebrity estates. In his Billboard commentary "Industry Growth Requires Better A&R," Mr. White sparked a firestorm of debate, challenged underlying assumptions about music investments, and proposed strategies for the profitable harmonization of art and commerce. He is a member of the planning committee of the USC Institute on Entertainment Law and Business, and testified before the White House Working Group on Intellectual Property Rights regarding the green paper Intellectual Property and the National Information Infrastructure. Mr. White also co-authored the articles "Music Use in New Media" and "Pop Soundtrack Music for Film" for the [The Musician's Business and Legal Guide](#). Mr. White was a music major in college and served as a head of west coast artist development at CBS Records (predecessor of Sony/BMG Music Entertainment), and president of both CBO Records and Harmony Gold Music.

TREASURER

Matthew A. Hurewitz, CPA, Partner, Wolinsky, Becker & Hurewitz, LLP

Matt has been a royalty auditor for about 20 years, auditing to make sure music publishers and others receive the royalties they are due. Matt has conducted royalty audits of record companies all over the US and around the world. Matt currently serves on the AIMP Board of Directors and looks forward to helping AIMP provide valuable programs and services to current AIMP members and independent music publishers around the US.

SECRETARY

Sheryl Northrop, President, NorthStar Entertainment

Sheryl Northrop is a 24-year veteran of the music and media industries, the last 11 as head of her own PR company. She has directed extensive national media campaigns for various entertainment properties including recording artists, books, theatricals, events and corporate initiatives. Northrop holds a degree in journalism from California State University, Northridge and is a member of the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (NARAS), Public Relations Society of America (PRSA), and the Americana Music Association (AMA). She taught "Publicity for the Music Industry" at UCLA Extension and is featured in the book "Getting Signed: An Insider's Guide to the Record Industry."

Board of Directors (select seven)

Maximo Aguirre, Maximo Aguirre Music Publishing, Inc.

Maximo Aguirre started his entertainment business career in Discos CBS Argentina (later Sony Music) and then Microfon de Argentina. Transferred to Mexico in 1979 as Managing Director of Microfon. In 1981, became International Manager for Ariola Mexico. Moving to United States in 1983, he founded and was Managing Director of Ariola America, the first Latin division of Bertelsman. In 1986, he also founded and was Managing Director of WEA Latina, the first Latin Company of today—Warner Music Latina. In 1988, he became Managing Director of BMG, the company created after the merger of RCA and Bertelsman. In 1992, he founded his own Music Publishing companies: first, Maximo Aguirre Music Publishing, Inc and then Pacific Latin Copyright, Inc.

Frances Bast, General Director, Primo Music, Inc. / IM Records, Inc.

Frances began her career 30 years ago in a Latin Records Company called Orfeon Records. Her entry level was as Secretary to the Manager, and soon after she was in charge of the Promotion Dept. In the mid 80's joined Profono Records, this later became Fonovisa (Univison), as head of the Promotion Dept., Inventory control, and Art Dept. Beginning on the 90's, she became independent and now provides her services to several Latin Publishing and Record Companies and in charge of licensing, royalties and legal.

Michelle Belcher, GM West Coast / Head of Film & TV, Primary Wave Music Publishing

Ms. Belcher heads the west coast operations for Primary Wave. She has over 15 years experience in the music business having started in the world of soundtrack production with Morgan Creek, Columbia Records and Arista Records. She has worked on successful albums like The Last of the Mohicans, Bad Boys, and The Preachers Wife, among others. She then moved on to BMG Music Publishing where she pitched, placed and closed deals for the likes of Coldplay, The Who and Christina Aguilera, and many others. Michelle facilitates new business development and marketing strategies for the company's west coast operations.

Michael Crepezzi, Executive Director, Performing Rights, BMI

Michael Crepezzi is based in BMI's Los Angeles office where he works closely with the Operations and Information Technology departments and is part of the team responsible for the ongoing development of royalty payment policies and procedures for music performed on the internet and in other new media outlets. He has been active in the domestic and international television music communities, and is one of the leaders of BMI's RapidCue initiative, which has helped streamline the submission of cue sheet data for processing and distribution systems. Crepezzi joined BMI in 1993 as Associate Director, Performing Rights Research and rose to Director and then Senior Director in 2006. Prior to BMI, he was Royalty and Accounting Manager at both Disney Music Publishing and Capitol Records' publishing divisions, Screen-Gems/Col-Gems Music.

Peter DiCecco, Senior Vice President, Global Business & Legal Affairs, Music, Disney/ABC Television Grp

Peter DiCecco oversees all music business and legal affairs on a worldwide basis for the Disney ABC TV Group, which includes ABC, ABC Family, SOAPnet, Disney Channel, ABC Studios, Buena Vista Television and the ABC-owned broadcast stations. He also administers the music publishing catalogs for ABC, Oprah Winfrey Productions and Lifetime Television Network. He recently created Session Five, an Emmy-nominated music production library for ABC. In addition to structuring all of the music deals and setting music policy for the High School Musical, Grey's Anatomy and Dancing with the Stars television franchises, Peter also brokers the music deals for local versions of Disney television properties throughout the world including Japan, China and India. Previously, Peter was senior counsel for Music in the Corporate Legal department of The Walt Disney Company, and he was an associate with the law firm of Gottlieb Schiff Bergman & Sendroff in New York. Mr. DiCecco is a member of the New York State Bar and is a Registered in House Counsel in California.

Michael Eames, President, PEN Music Group, Inc.

Michael founded PEN Music Group, Inc. in 1994 as an effective alternative to the multinational music publishing companies. With an emphasis on efficiency and personal attention, PEN has enjoyed increasing success since its inception, especially in the area of film & TV song placement (with 200+ placements annually) and with songs covered by Miley Cyrus, kd lang, Christina Aguilera, Corinne Bailey Rae, Santana, Faith Hill, Kenny Rogers, Luther Vandross, Macy Gray, Paulina Rubio and numerous others. Prior to PEN, Michael oversaw the international activities and film & television department of Don Williams Music Group where he was responsible for song catalogues such as Jimi Hendrix, Chicago and Roy Orbison among others.

Arlene Fishbach, President/Owner, Arlene Fishbach Enterprises

Arlene Fishbach is a veteran of the music industry. Prior to opening her own company, Arlene Fishbach Enterprises, in 1992, she was President of The Clearing House Ltd. Currently she is contracted with Twentieth Century Fox Corporation and Fox International for the clearance of music in their feature film promos and trailers. In addition, she is currently working on two features: Fencewalker and Gentlemen Broncos.

David Forman, CEO/Managing Director, Forman Bros. Holdings, Inc.

Since 1995, Forman Bros. Holdings, Inc. (Parc & Laurier Music, Zelig Music and Forman Bros. Recordings: International A&R/Marketing company signing and brokering deals for artists overseas and soundtracks. Artists included Tommy James & The Shondells and Al Jarreau, etc). The Forman Bros/Movie Tunes division is an official corporate partner with the GRAMMY Awards. Along with Premier Muzik International, David signed up several performers & writers and was highly instrumental in signing up the Jimi Hendrix Estate. During the mid-1980's he was a pioneer in Rock en Español in the USA through his Clásica Moderna imprint (dist. by WEA International). A 25 year Record Academy voting member and board member of City Of Hope (Music & Entertainment Committee). David attended Music Conservatory in his home town of Montreal, Canada with emphasis on arrangement. He has been a Promotion, Marketing & International executive since 1972 with MGM, Mercury, RCA and Columbia Records.

Linda Gallico, Vice President Music Administration, Realsongs/Diane Warren Music Publishing

Linda is currently the Vice President of Music Administration for Diane Warren's music publishing company, Realsongs, where she's been for the past 7 years. She handles all of the day-to-day administration (i.e. licensing, copyrights, sub-publishing, royalty review). Her experience in the music industry is quite extensive dating back to 1976 when she first went to work for Al Gallico Music Corp. (yes, they're related). From there she went on to work at BMI for 4 years, then to Mizmo Enterprises, and eventually as an independent publisher until her current position with Diane.

Randy Grimmatt, Senior Vice President, Domestic Membership, ASCAP

Randall Grimmatt heads all of ASCAP's Membership efforts for the genres of Pop/Rock, Latin, Urban and Film/TV. He began his music career in management and business affairs. He is an attorney, who, since joining the ASCAP staff 14 years ago, conducted the Membership Group's business affairs work for the Society's membership operations in the U.S. and abroad. He has been instrumental in the switching over of many prominent BMI and SESAC affiliates to ASCAP, played important roles in the Society's programming of the ASCAP "I Create Music" Expo since its inception and is heavily involved in the annual awards programs of ASCAP. Grimmatt is an adjunct professor at Cal Poly-Pomona and often speaks to college classes and at industry-related events on behalf of ASCAP.

David Hirshland, President, Bug Music, Inc.

David Hirshland is President of Bug Music, overseeing operations of the independent publishing administration company's five worldwide offices. David was previously with the law firm of Rosenfeld, Meyer and Susman, where he represented clients in the film and music industries. At Rosenfeld, David headed the motion picture production department for the firm's clients which included MGM-UA Studios and supervised the legal and clearance work for numerous soundtrack albums. Prior to his legal career, David was an agent at the Rosebud Agency whose artists included Bonnie Raitt, The Neville Brothers and Muddy Waters and later formed his own management company, guiding the careers of artists such as Lucinda Williams.

Samuel A. Kling, Vice President, A&R and Film & TV, peermusic

Currently VP, A&R and Film & Television, Sam oversees all of peermusic's synchronization, talent nurturing and signing activities. In 1994, Kling co-founded Madgroove Entertainment, an independent management company representing several multi-platinum selling recording artists and producer/writers. In 2004, Kling was appointed VP, Film & Television for FirstCom Music, a division of BMG Music Publishing. In 2006, Kling was promoted to BMG Songs' VP, Film & Television where he led the department to its highest grossing year within the independent pubbery's 20-year history. Additionally, Kling is completing his MBA at UCLA's Anderson School of Management. He is married with two children.

James Leach, Senior Director, Writer/Publisher Relations, SESAC

James Leach is an integral part of SESAC's ongoing strategy to build significant market share in the industry and enhance its presence on the West Coast. A Communications graduate from Pepperdine University in Malibu, CA, James held local radio and television positions right out of school. Upon catching the music business bug, he worked his way to Director, Creative Affairs at Michael Jackson's ATV Music Group, and Creative Director at Famous Music (where he signed current megastar, then unknown, Akon). While at SESAC, James has had the opportunity to sign and work with artists and producers including super-producer Nate 'Danja' Hills, singer/songwriter Jimi James, artist/producer Dontae Winslow, and Capitol Records rock band HURT to name a few.

Sean Mulligan, Director, U.S. Film, Television & Media / General Manager, ole Songs Inc.

Sean Mulligan oversees ole's Los Angeles operation while promoting the catalogue to the U.S. film, television, video game, broadcast advertising and media markets. Prior to joining ole, Sean was the Manager of Copyright for Hollywood-based indie publisher, Media Creature Music. Originally from Canada, he is a former Executive Director for the Songwriters Association of Canada, editor for Songwriters Magazine, and creative representative for TMP-The Music Publisher. Sean has served on many prominent boards including the Canadian Songwriters Hall of Fame advisory board, Humber College Bachelor of Applied Contemporary Music degree development committee, and as a JUNO adjudicator for the Canadian Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences. He is a current AIMP member and sits on the AIMP website advisory committee.

Linda A. Newmark, Exec. VP, Acquisitions and Strategic Projects, Universal Music Publishing Group

Linda A. Newmark obtains opportunities for UMPG to acquire rights to musical compositions and music publishing catalogues, evaluates and negotiates acquisition, administration and subpublishing agreements, and promotes the general business development of the company. Before joining UMPG, Linda was Vice President, Business Affairs for PolyGram Music Publishing, and prior to that was a music attorney with the law firm of Cooper, Epstein & Hurewitz. She received her law degree from Stanford Law School. In addition to the AIMP board, Linda serves on the Music and Entertainment Industry Executive Committee for the City of Hope Medical Center, the Board of Visitors of Stanford Law School, the Board of Managers of Associated Production Music LLC (APM), and the Board of Managers of The Leonard Bernstein Music Publishing Company, LLC.

Sara Qazi, Financial Advisor, UBS

Sara spent over 10 years in the music business, partnering in a boutique management company focusing on punk, indie, and hard rock in the US, Canada and the UK. She was also a standing board member of the Music Manager's Forum for over 7 years. Her clients were signed to both major and independent recording and publishing deals. She is a staunch supporter of artist's rights and supports new media initiatives designed to benefit the artist's career and income. After leaving management, she became a financial advisor at Credit Suisse then UBS, focusing on artists, creative entrepreneurs and executives.

Dorothy Richardson, Owner, Law Offices of Dorothy B. Richardson

Dorothy Richardson is an entertainment attorney with offices in Woodland Hills, California. She represents a wide variety of clients including music publishers, songwriters, composers, record labels, recording artists, producers, radio stations and television networks. Dorothy has held previous positions as Vice President of Univision Music Group's record labels and music publishing companies and Director of Business Affairs for EMI Latin, where she worked with artists and songwriters such as Marco Antonio Solis, Olga Tañon, Kumbia Kings and Selena. She has also held positions with Warner Music Group and the Independent Film & Television Alliance (formerly American Film Marketing Association).

Karen Rodriguez, Royalty Consultant

Currently an independent royalty consultant specializing in royalty audits, due diligence, valuations, royalty processing and analysis. Previously, Sr. VP of Administration at Windswept Holdings for 11 years. Also held positions at BMI, Disney and PolyGram Records.