



**President's Message – September 5, 2023**  
**Dr. Julie D. Derges, NAFME-Texas President**

Greetings fellow music teachers:

Another school year has begun! Recently, I was reflecting with several teacher friends, and we all shared that we never get a good night's sleep before the first day of classes because we're filled with anticipation and sometimes a few jitters. As a music educator beginning my 20th year of teaching, I no longer experience the same nerves that I did as a beginning teacher before the start of school. However, I do still feel a sense of excitement for the many possibilities that the year might hold—possibilities for new learning experiences, opportunities for growth, and relationships with colleagues and students.

NAfME-Texas is experiencing a year of possibilities, as well. We have a calendar of exciting events scheduled, beginning with a [Collegiate Fall Tour](#) on September 11-15 featuring NAFME President-Elect, Dr. Deb Confredo. Dr. Confredo will be visiting five different universities and giving presentations to undergraduate and graduate students on "Transitioning from Music Student to Music Teacher," "Equity in Music Education," and the "[Music Teacher Profession Initiative.](#)" NAFME-Texas is hosting Dr. Confredo on this Collegiate Tour as a way to expand the dialogue between music teacher educators and college students and discuss important topics facing music educators today.

Other events happening in [2023-2024](#) include:

- **October 18th Fall Webinar with Dr. Chris Baumgartner** (Univ. of Oklahoma) "Mentorship, Balance, and Self-Advocacy as a Beginning Music Educator"
- **February 10th Annual Meeting at TMEA with Dr. Karen Salvador** (Michigan State Univ.) "Divisive Concept Laws"
- **March Webinar on Certification Preparation** (Details coming soon)

NAfME-Texas recently welcomed several new members to our Committee of Chairs, including:

- Shauna Satrom Pickens – Collegiate Chair
- Erika Knapp – Culturally Responsive Pedagogy Chair
- Laura Bock – Pre-service Teacher Education Chair

These individuals add to our current chairs, Michelle Devall (Advocacy) and De'Evin Johnson (Social Media), as well as our Executive Board. These individuals bring both energy and depth to our organization, and I look forward to working with them as we serve music educators in Texas. For more information about the NAfME-Texas leadership, I encourage you to check out our website, [nafme-texas.org](http://nafme-texas.org).

We hope you will join us in this year of possibilities, and may you have a year filled with discovery, music, and joy.

Julie Derges, Ph.D.  
President, NAfME-Texas