

PERSONAL STATEMENT

I grew up in a typical Ghanaian village where traditional music and dance has always been part of people's lives. Indeed, I was born into the royal family and, in Ghana, drumming and dancing has always been associated with royalty. I grew up demonstrating a high level of interest in Ewe (ethnic group in Ghana) folk music because it has been the family's routine to pass on indigenous musical experiences to the younger generation.

During Junior and Senior Secondary levels of my education, I was part of the school's choir and cultural troupe where I had the opportunity to take part in many choral and dance performances. This early contact with music kindled my interest in musicology. My life time experiences as a trumpeter, master drummer, singer and dancer encouraged me to pursue first degree in music. Despite the fact that I pursued music career in the university against the wishes of my parents, I have not regretted and I am even more motivated to continue.

As a talented and dedicated young musician, the Department of Music and Dance, University of Cape Coast recruited me as a National Service Personnel after completing my first degree. My duties then were the teaching of drumming and dancing and also assisting students playing trumpet and saxophone. During this same period, I was hired by the Centre for Continuous Education, University of Cape Coast, as a part-time Music and Dance tutor. My duty was to teach distance students music and dance. I have been with the centre as a music tutor for the past 10 years until I was promoted to chief examiner three years ago.

After my National Service, the Department of Music and Dance, University of Cape Coast employed me as a Senior Research Assistant, a position I held from 2009 to 2014 when I was promoted to Principal Research Assistant after my master's degree. My principal duties are the teaching of wind instruments, assisting exchange students from abroad, and also working with the Department of African Studies where I have been teaching undergraduate students, a course titled, "Music in African Cultures".

In 2014, I was selected to represent the University at the GLOMUS (Global Musicians) conference held in Malaysia where I rediscovered myself as an academic and a performer. Following the completion of my Ph.D. in music education in 2018, I was appointed a lecturer at the University in 2018. Over the past five years, I have taught undergraduate and graduate courses in music education at the University of Coast, Ghana. In recognition of my hard work, publications, and dedication to duty, I was recently appointed Chair of the Department of Music and Dance.

I am writing to express my sincere acceptance and gratitude for the nomination to serve as a board member for the International Society for Music Education (ISME). This nomination holds great value for me, and I am humbled to be considered for such a prestigious position. I understand the importance of serving on the board, and I am committed to diligently fulfilling the responsibilities of a board member. First and foremost, I would like to highlight the reasons for accepting this nomination. I have a profound passion for Pasmae and now ISME and its mission. I believe that music education is the key to empowering individuals and shaping a better future. By serving on the board, I have the opportunity to contribute to the development of the music academic community and ensure that the goals and initiatives of ISME are promoted and realized in Africa.

Furthermore, I have a clear understanding of the responsibilities of a board member. I understand that board members are entrusted with the governance of the music academic community and are responsible for providing strategic guidance, sometimes overseeing

finances, and ensuring accountability. I am committed to diligently fulfilling these responsibilities and making informed decisions that contribute to the growth and success of ISME. My decision to serving ISME offers numerous benefits not only for me as a young scholar, but also for the academic and the wider musical arts community. Firstly, it provides an opportunity for me to network with other like-minded individuals and experts in the field. This collective knowledge-sharing and collaboration can lead to innovative ideas and strategies that will enhance ISME's standing and impact. Additionally, being on the board will expand my knowledge and provide me with valuable insights into the music education sector.

Furthermore, I understand that effective board membership is essential in ensuring the success and growth of ISME. To lead effectively, I will focus on building strong relationships and fostering a collaborative environment. I will prioritize open communication, transparency, and inclusivity, ensuring that all voices are heard and considered in the decision-making process. I will also emphasize the importance of continuous learning and professional development, ensuring that ISME is always at the forefront of innovation and progress. Lastly, my commitment to the goals of ISME is unwavering. I am dedicated to supporting the organization in achieving its mission of promoting music education, building and maintain a worldwide community of music educators characterized by mutual respect and support. I believe in the power of music education and its ability to transform lives, and I wholeheartedly support ISME's vision of creating an inclusive, fostering global intercultural understanding and supportive learning environment.

In conclusion, I am honored to accept the nomination to serve as a board member for ISME. I am passionate about music education, and I believe that my skills and experience make me well-suited to take on the responsibilities of this position. I am excited about the opportunity to contribute to the growth and success of ISME and make a positive impact in helping build and maintaining a worldwide community of music educators. Thank you for considering my nomination, and I look forward to the opportunity to serve ISME to the best of my abilities.

Best regards,

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