

History of the Mid-Atlantic Region, 1927-2009

- 1927 Willem van de Wall began the oldest music therapy program in the United States at Allentown State Hospital.
- 1936 *Music in Institutions* was written by Willem van de Wall.
- 1946 *Music in Hospitals* was written by Willem van de Wall.
- 1948 Myrtle Fish Thompson established the Music Therapy Department at Essex County Overbrook Hospital. The department was eventually renamed the Department of Music and Creative Arts after art and dance therapy were added to the program.
- 1950 In June, the National Association for Music Therapy was founded in New York City, and the first annual meeting was held in Washington, D.C.
- 1953 In March, the Mid-Atlantic Region was founded at a one-day meeting held at Teacher's College, Columbia University in New York City, becoming the first region of NAMT. 177 people attended the meeting. The original member states were Delaware; Maryland; New Jersey; New York; Pennsylvania; and Washington, D.C.

On March 21, Myrtle Fish Thompson, President of the MAR, and Dr. E. Thayer Gaston, President of NAMT, signed the official letter of establishment of the MAR.

Virginia and West Virginia were added to the MAR.

- 1954 Dr. Abe Pepinsky became President of the MAR.

On January 23, the first regional Constitution was signed.

The MAR hosted the Fifth Annual NAMT Conference in New York City.

A survey of music in hospitals compiled by Myrtle Fish Thompson "contributed significantly toward the development of clinical training guidelines."

- 1955 Hermina E. Browne became President of the MAR.

At this time, there were 55 paid members.

- 1956 At this time, there were 68 members.

- 1957 Arnold S. Bowman became President of the MAR.

- 1959 Marion Chace became President of the MAR.

Hermina Browne supervised the publication of the regional newsletter.

- 1961 Eleanor Wallace became President of the MAR.

- 1962 The MAR adopted a revised Constitution and By-laws.

1963 Myrtle Fish Thompson became an Honorary Life Member of NAMT

Dr. Clyde Keutzer became President of the MAR.

Paul Nordoff and Clive Robbins presented their work, including *Pif Paf Poultry*, at MAR's spring meeting.

The Music Therapy Community Center, later renamed the Creative Arts Rehabilitation Center, was founded by Florence Tyson in New York City while she was Director of the Rehabilitation Center of the Musician's Emergency Fund.

1965 New York City was the site of the Sixteenth Annual NAMT Conference.

Dorothy Hall became President of the MAR.

1967 Florence Tyson became President of the MAR.

1969 Dr. Helen B. Braun became President of the MAR.

Wanda Lathom began a music therapy degree program at Montclair State College in New Jersey.

1970 Florence Tyson was appointed NAMT Public Relations Chairperson.

1971 The Urban Federation for Music Therapists was formed by a group of music therapists led by Dr. Jerrold Ross in the New York area.

Helen Bonny combined music and experimental psychedelic drug therapy for use with addicts, alcoholics, and cancer patients at Maryland Psychiatric Institute. From this work she developed Guided Imagery and Music.

1972 Dr. Kenneth Bruscia, CMT, became President of UFMT.

Robert Egan and Richard Gray established a music therapy degree program at Duquesne University.

1973 *Music and Your Mind* was published by Helen Bonny and Lou Savary.

1974 The MAR hosted the NAMT Conference in Philadelphia.

Barbara Hesser, CMT, became the Vice President of AAMT

On May 2, a music therapy consortium was held between Dr. Robert Egan of Duquesne University and Dr. Calvin Holden, chairman of Slippery Rock University's music department, to begin a music therapy degree program at Slippery Rock.

1975 UFMT changed its name to the American Association for Music Therapists to reflect the broadening of its scope beyond the urban Northeast. It also held its first conference at the Loeb Student Center at New York University.

Helen L. Bonny became President of the MAR.

For the first time, members prepared a slate of officers for nomination so an alternate could be presented along with the Nominating Committee's list.

The position of State Representative was formally established.

The regional conference was the first one to have simultaneous sessions.

"Therapy in the Community," an article of Richard Gray, appeared in the Music Journal.

1976 Changes in the NAMT Constitution allowed members to have more input in NAMT through regional representatives.

The first Music Therapy Journal was published by AAMT and edited by Barbara Hesser and Alice Schiller.

A new regional Constitution was adopted.

The MAR held its first two-day conference, presented its first projected budget, and held the first meetings of the State Representatives and the first election for the Assembly of Delegates.

The MAR was home to ten music therapy degree programs, and music therapy directors and supervisors from southeastern Pennsylvania worked for two years to create standards for these programs.

Edith Boxhill's *Long Playing Album* with her own original musical compositions and improvisations becomes a Folkways publication issued by the Smithsonian Institute and later becomes a cassette tape series.

Myrtle Fish Thompson died.

1977 Richard Gray became President of the MAR.

The MAR voted to have a representative involved in all communication with AAMT.

In September, the Mid-Atlantic Regional Association of Music Therapy Students was established and held its first meeting at Elizabethtown College. Its first president was Scott Sanders, who later became the first president of the National Association for Music Therapy Students.

Paul Nordoff died in Germany.

1978 At the national conference, an MAR representative made a motion to the Assembly of Delegates for a one-year study on the possibility of moving NAMT's National Office to Washington, D.C., from Lawrence, Kansas.

Barbara Wheeler was elected as the MAR representative to the Executive Board from the Assembly of Delegates, and Sandra Golden was appointed as a member-at-large to the Budget Committee.

Plans were begun on a public relations film, and a public relations professional was hired to help.

Juliette Alvin, the founder of the British Society for Music Therapists, spoke at Norristown State Hospital in Pennsylvania.

- 1979 A task force chaired by Michael G. McGuire was created to determine the possibility of having a second NAMT publication. This publication eventually became *Music Therapy Perspectives*, with McGuire as editor and JoEllyn Berky as business manager.

Madelaine Ventre was appointed Council Coordinator of the Council on Ethics and Standards, and Carolyn Sonnen and Ruthlee Adler were appointed NAMT representatives to the Legislative Alliance for Creative Arts Therapies.

Gerri Davis became President of the MAR.

The MAR started the tradition of inviting the NAMT president to regional conference.

An affiliation for music therapy interns between London's Guildhall School for Music and Drama and Niles Martin at Norristown State Hospital began.

Sr. Mariam Pfeifer and Sr. Donna Marie Beck began the music therapy degree program at Marywood College.

- 1980 Lawrence Haight was the Judicial Review Committee Chair while Carolyn Sonnen was made head of the Government Relations Committee.

Carol and Clive Robbins expanded their work to include the hearing impaired.

Essex County Hospital Center dedicated the music and creative arts wing of the new activity therapy building to Myrtle Fish Thompson.

Diagnostic Assessment of Music Relate Expression and Behavior, founded by the MAR, was published by Phyllis Boone.

- 1981 Barbara Wheeler was appointed to head the task force studying the National Office's move to Washington, D.C., and Michael Rohrbacher became head of the Government Relations Committee.

Constance E. Willeford became President of the MAR.

Psychiatric Music Therapy was written by Florence Tyson.

- 1982 The Assembly of Delegates decided to move NAMT's National Office to Washington, D.C.

Lawrence Haight became the chair of the newly-formed Judicial Review Board while Joseph Scartelli was appointed head of the Education Committee and JoDelle Waller was named NAMT Treasurer.

Michael Rohrbacher chaired the national conference in Baltimore. It was the first conference under the guidance of a management firm.

The public relations film was accepted by the Executive Board.

In October, Virginia became the first official state chapter of the MAR.

The MAR had the largest student organization in the country, and the Gaston Award went to Montclair State College student Janet Fall for her paper on music therapy with alcoholics.

Karen Morgenstern received funding for and published *Action Songs for Severely and Profoundly Impaired*.

1983 Constance E. Willeford and Sr. Mariam Pfeifer were elected to the Certification Board.

Madelaine Ventre became President of the MAR.

1984 Cheryl Dileo Maranto was elected NAMT Vice President while Leslie L. Hunter was name Council Coordinator of the Council on Professional Training.

MAR President Madelaine Ventre started the tradition of having a meeting of the regional presidents and the NAMT president.

Dr. Mary Boyle initiated the concept of offering continuing education credits at regional conference in order to offer opportunities to encourage further study in music therapy

The New Jersey Association for Music Therapy, an independent state organization, was formed.

1985 The National Coalition of Creative Arts Therapies sponsored the first joint conference of creative arts therapists in New York City.

Sandra C. Golden became President of the MAR.

The Gaston Award was presented to Carol Wilson from Montclair State College for her paper on the effects of music on blood pressure.

Music Therapy for the Developmentally Disabled, 1st ed., was written by Edith Boxhill and published by the Aspen Publishing Company.

1986 Music Therapists for Peace, Inc., was founded by Edith Boxhill at a music therapy conference in Boston.

The MAR was home to fifteen music therapy degree programs, fourteen undergraduate and three graduate programs.

The Gaston Award was given to Eileen Cain of Nazareth College for her paper on the use of music to decrease bedwetting.

