

TITLE

Global Development of Music Therapy & Current Trends

ABSTRACT

Globally, music therapy is developing as a profession at various speeds. This presentation will shed light on how the growth of music therapy has unfolded in the 8 global regions of the World Federation of Music Therapy (WFMT); while overviewing music therapy approaches clinical population, publication, and research trends. Music therapy education, certification and licensure will also be highlighted alongside the challenges and opportunities to advance the profession including advocacy, knowledge translation, ethical practice, and collaboration.

A snapshot of the profession at present will be provided contextualizing it with respect to the historical therapeutic uses of music. Delineations regarding the various music and health experiences will be shared, together with acknowledging the task of music therapy clinicians, educators, and researchers to navigate the tension between Westernized and traditional concepts of health, healing, and music. It is hoped that reflecting on these experiences will further dialogue to continue to advance different, non-Western perspectives of music therapy, and to further learn how to honor multiple ways of supporting therapeutic music and healing experiences without centering Western approaches or perspectives.

Keywords: music therapy, global growth, research