



## **PRESS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION**

### **Music Therapy Association of Ontario Announces Resonance Gala to Support #GetAMPedforMusicTherapy Campaign**

**Kingston, ON** - The Music Therapy Association of Ontario (MTAO) is pleased to announce the Resonance Gala, a public celebration of community, connection, and advocacy in support of the #GetAMPedforMusicTherapy campaign. The event will take place on February 28, 2026 from 7:00-10:00pm at the Holiday Inn Kingston-Waterfront.

Designed to introduce the wider community to the transformative impact of music therapy, the Resonance Gala will feature music therapist-facilitated group music-making, balfolk social folk dancing, short remarks from music therapy leaders, and opportunities for informal networking. The evening will take place in a semi-formal, casual-elegant atmosphere and will include pizza and a cash bar.

The Gala will also act as a fundraiser for Get AMP'ed for Music Therapy, a national advocacy initiative calling on provincial governments to add Certified Music Therapists (MTAs) to the Canada Revenue Agency's Authorized Medical Practitioners (AMP) list, an equity measure that would allow clients to claim music therapy as a medical expense.

"Our goal with the #GetAMPedforMusicTherapy campaign is to advance healthcare equity by making music therapy more accessible for the individuals and families who rely on it," said Steffi Friyia, President of the Music Therapy Association of Ontario. "Adding Certified Music Therapists to the Canada Revenue Agency's Authorized Medical Practitioners list is a practical and long overdue step. It would reduce financial barriers to care, align with provincial health priorities, and strengthen recognition of music therapy as an evidence-based profession."

"The Resonance Gala is our opportunity to celebrate, educate, and invite the public into this work," said Kimberly Dolan, Vice-President of the Music Therapy Association of Ontario. "We're thrilled to bring the community together for an evening of connection, music, and advocacy. Whether you're a supporter, a student, a music therapist, or someone curious about the field, you're warmly invited to join us and make some noise."

The Gala will close out a full day of professional development and networking for music therapists attending the MTAO Annual Conference, held earlier that day in Kingston.

#### **MUSIC THERAPY ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO**

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### **Event Details**

Event: Resonance Gala

Date: Saturday, February 28, 2026

Time: 7:00-10:00pm

Venue: Holiday Inn Kingston-Waterfront

### **Ticket Prices**

- \$45 - Conference attendees
- \$55 - General public

Press are welcome to attend for free. Please reach out to [education@musictherapyontario.com](mailto:education@musictherapyontario.com) for press registration.

### **About the #GetAMPedforMusicTherapy Campaign**

The Get AMP'ed for Music Therapy campaign seeks to secure provincial recognition of Certified Music Therapists under the CRA's Authorized Medical Practitioners list. Recognition would:

- Improve access to therapy for individuals and families
- Reduce financial barriers to care
- Support equity within the healthcare system
- Strengthen recognition of music therapy as an evidence-based clinical profession

The campaign will include advocacy, policy engagement, and public awareness initiatives throughout 2026.

### **About the Music Therapy Association of Ontario**

The Music Therapy Association of Ontario (MTAO) is the professional association for music therapists in Ontario. The MTAO promotes, develops, and supports the profession of music therapy across the province, advancing ethical practice, advocacy, education, and professional standards.

For more information, please contact: [publicrelations@musictherapyontario.com](mailto:publicrelations@musictherapyontario.com), [www.musictherapyontario.com](http://www.musictherapyontario.com)

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