

BAMT CONFERENCE 2026 - DRAFT PROGRAMME

SATURDAY						
Time	Auditorium 1	Auditorium 2	Auditorium 3	Auditorium 4	Auditorium 5	World Cafe (Networking Space)
08:50-09:00	REGISTRATION					
09:00–10:00	Keynote 1: Navigating Uncertainty with Optimism: The present and future of Music Therapy (Prof Kat McFerran) (R)					
	Identity, power & belonging in Music Therapy	Early Years, Children & Families		International	Adolescence, SEMH, LD and Autism	
10:00–10:30	“Experts at being who they are”: Exploring a Neurodiversity Paradigm informed approach to Music Therapy practice with Autistic people through lived experience perspectives (Hilary Davies) (R)	Nurturing Notes – exploring the role of group Music Therapy in supporting babies and their families who have recently been discharged from neonatal intensive care (NICU) (Ruth Hunston, Jess Grieve) (R)	Embodied and multimodal interdisciplinary practices to foster shared understanding and collaboration between a Music and Dramatherapist (Tara Roman, Rachel Porter) (R)	Community Music Therapy in a post-industrial city: identity reconstruction among older adults in Foshan, China (Ren Xie) (R)	Music Therapy and participatory music practices with autistic girls and women; how a developing understanding of female autistic experience is shaping the landscape of practice within different cultural and multicultural environments (Juliet Wood, Monica Subiantoro, Ireisha Anindya, Beth Williams, Ruth Herbert) (NR)	
10:30–11:00	Reading the Room: Mapping Power Dynamics in UK Music Therapy Practice (Marianne Rizkallah) (R)	Softly softly; introducing a Music Therapy service to the NICU (Kate Fawcett, Ben Scanlon-Harris, Fiona Fellows) (R)	Meeting the Children Where They're at: Running Flexible Music Therapy Provision in SEMH (Henry Bateman, John Gillard) (R)	My Intercultural Journey: Becoming a Music Therapy Supervisor Based in Japan (Okiko Ishihara) (R)		
11-11.25	Morning Break					
11.25-11.55	They don’t understand: rethinking advocacy, recognition and identity in Music Therapy (Kirsty Jane) (R)	“Can you see me?” - “We see you.” How a young person’s choice to share video extracts from their sessions with their teaching staff influenced the therapeutic relationship and invited a triadic support approach into the Music Therapy process (Jessica Tomey, Kate Lyons, Niri Rakjanna) (NR)	“Part of the village”: from community music to therapeutic practice – a longitudinal journey of belonging, identity and voice (Alphonso Archer) (R)	The woven space: weaving le va, identity, and Music Therapy practice (June Potifara) (R)	The Enduring Self in the Midst of Change: 10 years of Music Therapy Supporting a Young Man Living with Batten Disease (Daisy Williamson, Maria Minns) (R)	
11.55-12.25	Cultural humility; a practice beyond (good) intentions (Natalia Alvarez-Figueroa) (R)	A benign cycle: An exploration of therapists’ and classroom practitioners’ lived experiences of the Safe&Sound Phase 2 Music Therapy consultation research project in five UK SEN schools (Lisa Margetts, Cressida Lindsay, Jenny Read, Rosetta Thrin) (R)	Opening the door: beginning therapeutic relationships with children and young people in hospital (Katya Herman) (R)		TikTok#1 Trending: An Exploration of the Adolescent Algorithm in Music Therapy Within Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services (Jessica Donoghue) (R)	
12.25-12.55					I Want to Sing Again”: A Co-Produced Reflection on Music Therapy, Learning Disability, Trauma, and Identity (Ioanna Zervoudaki, Amelia) (NR)	
12.55-13.35	Lunch					
13.35-14.05	Lifetime Achievement Awards (All delegates)					
	Research, Evidence & Knowing	Early Years, Children & Families		Mental Health	Adolescence, SEMH, LD and Autism	World Cafe - Early Years, Children & Families
14.05-14.35	Journey of bridging practice into research: exploration of Music Therapy in eating disorder treatment (Annie Heiderscheidt) (R)	Listen to me: the infant’s voice in Music Therapy and early relational care (Belinda Lydon) (R)	Music Therapy and DDP (Louise Brown) (NR)	Establishing group Music Therapy within an adult mental health home treatment team (Leon Geis) (R)	The Centrality of Reflective Practice When Systems Are in Flux (Benjamin Bradley, Madeline Duedal, Órla Casey, Barbara Duckworth, Elinor Everitt) 20 MINUTES (R)	Working with sexual violence through Music Therapy: changes, safety and authenticity (Hannah McCarthy, Emma Jones) (NR)
					Mental Health	
14.35-15.05	What can Music Therapists offer to music and health evaluation? (Giorgos Tsiris, Nicky Haire) (R)	Giving Young Children a Voice in Music Therapy: Using Musical Frameworks for Direct Feedback (Alex Bossom, Claire Flower) (R)		Playlist not for play, but to keep away (Max Ryz) (R)	Short-term Music Therapy in acute and crisis: adapting practice in a changing landscape (Sreeraj Kollarukandy) (R)	
				Research, Evidence & Knowing		
15.05-15.35	A proven path – Musicare; building on an evidence driven approach for MT to support older adults (Sophie Williams) (R)	Rethinking Music Therapy provisions in a financially changing landscape within education settings (Gemma Lenton-Smith, Robert Simonis, Rebecca Gleave) (R)			One size does NOT fit all Evolving MT approaches for older adults in residential care (Vicky Turner) (R)	From Silence to Song: Bridging inner conflict and neural repair through the integrated used of psychodynamic and neurologic Music Therapy methods for a patient with Guillain-Barré Syndrome (Amanda Thorpe) (R)
15.35-16.00	Afternoon Break					

		Training, Supervision & Workforce Futures	Music Therapy Structures, Ethics & Creativity		Palliative Care	World Cafe - Re-imagining possibilities, collaboration & technology
16.00-16.30	Navigating ethical complexities in collecting feedback for Music Therapy services (Katya Herman, Hannah Hayes, Claire Fraser-Tytler, Melanie Thomas) (R)	Collaborative online international learning: partnership between SUNY New Paltz and the University of Bergen (Kathleen Murphy, Viggo Krüger) (R)	Long-Term Music Therapy Following Brain Injury: Clinical Value Beyond Measurable Change (Irene Lo Coco) (R)	Robots, regulations and responsible practice: using AI safely in line with HCPC standards (Ellie Ruddock) (R)	From dissociation to memory: MTs’ perspectives on voicework with women coping with sexual trauma (Aviya Riabzev, Susanne Metzner) (R)	Sustainable environmental behaviours within Music Therapy (Tessa Watson, Jim Davey-Hewins) (NR)
16.30-17.00			Reflecting on the public sharing of Music Therapy session content (Stella Hadjineophytou, Marianne Rizkallah) (R)		MT in children’s palliative care: collaborative family and practitioner voices (Victoria Kammin, Julie Russell) (R)	
				Re-imagining possibilities, collaboration and technology		
17.00-17.30	A World of Perspectives: International Collaboration in the Development of the Music Engagement Scale (MES) (Vasiliki Tsakiridou, Alan Turry, Helene Turry, Manolis Basis, Paolo Pizzolo, Hok Tsun Ma) (R)	Educational practice and supervision in Music Therapy dialogue between the USA and the UK (Catherine Warner, Karen Goodman) (R)		Independent but not alone: connecting the dots of self-employment in Music Therapy (Crystal Luk-Worrall, Panos Ntourtoulis, Rachael Forder, Jess Tiso, Larisa Neculai) (R)	Crossing paths in palliative care: a shared journey between the UK and Romania (Lois Vaduva, Bob Heath) (R)	
17.30-18.00					Technology, AI & Digital Futures	
					Guiding musical engagement in a digital age: rethinking the role of the Music Therapist (Bradley Austin-Keiller) (R)	

ROUNDTABLES	ORAL PRESENTATION	PECHA KUCHA	WORLD CAFE	CREATIVE SUBMISSION	WORKSHOP
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Sessions that will be recorded and available on-demand for one month after the conference
Sessions that will not be recorded

SUNDAY						
Time	Auditorium 1	Auditorium 2	Auditorium 3	Auditorium 4	Auditorium 5	World Cafe (Networking Space)
09:00–10:00	Keynote 3: Navigating the Music Therapy Landscape: Considering the challenges and opportunities facing the profession in the UK - Panel: Rebecca Ellis (Jessie's Fund), Sarah Hodgkinson (Shooting Star Children's Hospice), Crystal Luk-Worrall (Clap & Toot), Laura Shuttleworth (Northern Ireland Music Therapy Trust) & Ray Travasso (Suffolk Music Therapy) (R)					
	Research, Evidence & Knowing	Early Years, Children & Families		International	Adolescence, SEMH, LD and Autism	WORLD CAFE - Palliative Care
10:00–10:30	Music Therapy in the NHS: measuring what matters in learning disability care (James Duggan, Alexandra Lowman) (R)	The ‘School starters’ group: successes, challenges and learnings from a pilot project in an NHS child development service (Jack Hudson) (R)	Diverse voices: feasibility and acceptability testing a manualised MT intervention for the treatment of selective mutism in young children (Kate Jones) (R)	Music Therapy in Malta: transforming landscapes through the Arts (Rosetta Debattista, Jess Rymer, Katie Bycroft, Arianne Spiteri Cremona, Cynthia Bonnici, Jack Barker) (R)	Neurologic Music Therapy® with autistic clients: a new lens in a changing landscape of understanding sensory and movement differences in autism (Emma Bailey, Mary-Clare Fearn, Esther Mitchell) (R)	Navigating the safe and effective use of AI in Music Therapy education (Karyn Stuart-Rohm) (NR)
10:30–11:00	What can be learned from family carers, a researcher and a MT clinician co-producing together an online MT programme for family carers of people with Huntington’s disease? (Evelyn Mason, Jasenka Horvat) (R)	Togetherness; Hope; Accomplishment’: An exploration of learnings from establishing a choir in a UK women’s prison (Jane Lings, Livvy Beer, Naomi Hill) (R)	Quantifying the Effect of Music Therapy on Behaviours that Challenge for Children with Dravet Syndrome: Development and Validation of a Clinical Behavioural Observation Tool (Leanne O’Keeffe) (NR)		Insecure Placements: Establishing and maintaining a music therapy service for children and adolescents with SEMH within precarious funding and parameters (Martha Nicholls, Grace Gladston) (R)	
11:00–11:20	Morning Break					
				Training, Supervision & Workforce Futures		
11:20-11.50	The home as a therapeutic space: impacts on boundaries in Music Therapy practice (Anna Jacobs) (R)	The evolving landscape of Music Therapy in neonatal care: where we are and what’s next (Emma Kenrick, Dean Wood) (R)	From Evidence to Invitation: A Practitioner Framework for Supporting Parent–Infant Relationships (Georgina Roberts) (R)	Creating new Music Therapy assistant roles as a way to develop the professional landscape (Juliet Wood, Tracey Leonard, Rebecca Gleave, Gemma Lenton-Smith, Karen Diamond) (R)	ABC-f: Arts for the Blues for Children and Young People (Marcus Bull, Ken Fletcher, Vicky Karkou) (R)	
11.50-12.20	Including children in research: ethical considerations (Kathleen Murphy, Viggo Krüger) (R)				Palliative Care	
12.20-12.50	Where practice meets curiosity; cultivating a sustainable Music Therapy research culture (Claire Flower, Jo Parsons, Tom Huet, Kirsty Jane, Katie McKinnon, Regina Legarte, Luke Annesley) (R)	Equal Opportunities: Reframing Music Therapy as a Primary Intervention for Children with Complex Needs (Jonathan Pool, Claire Wood, Holly Hitchen, Jonathan Fever, Karen Twyford) (R)	Listening together: experiencing a Music Therapy continuum for children’s wellbeing in mainstream schools (Rebecca Atkinson, Heather Walters) (R)	Authentic co-production in Music Therapy principles, practice and possibilities (Francis Myerscough, Peg Digitalis, Claire Grant, Joy Rickwood, Tessa Watson, Kayleigh Reid) (R)	Music, spirituality, death and loss in a changing world (Amira Ehrlich, Professor Giorgos Tsisiris, June Boyce Tillman, Sara Klinck, Amy Clements-Cortes, Nsamu Moonga, Amanda Thorpe) (R)	
12.50-13.20					The holding chain (Tina Warnock and Joy Dando) (R)	
13.20-14.00	Lunch					
14.00-14.40	Keynote 2: Counting the moments – values and legacy in Music Therapy (Prof Giorgos Tsisiris) (40 mins) (R)					
	Technology, AI and Digital Futures				Identity, power & belonging in Music Therapy	
14.40-15.10	LIFT Music: Reimagining Musical Agency, Accessibility and Co-Creation in Music Therapy (Stuart Grimshaw, Anthony Scarfe) (R)	From kitchen disco to therapeutic bonding - how listening to music with children in residential care created a space for friendship, trust and inner strength (Anna Macken) (R)	Preparing for the ending from the beginning: a reflection on short term work within a Mental Health support team (Allyson Ryan) (R)	What kinds of musicians will form the next generation of UK Music Therapists? Exploring the musical diversity of UK Music Therapy trainees 2021-25 (Donald Wetherick) (R)	Making the Case for New Music Therapy Provision in Forensic Mental Health Settings (Richard Murison, Tom O’Reilly) (R)	
		Mental Health				WORLD CAFE - Identity, power & belonging
15.10-15.40	What can EMDR draw from Music Therapy (Crystal Luk-Worrall, Melanie Thomas, Claire Fraser-Tytler) (R)	Sharing the music without losing the therapy – relevance, responsibility and visibility in a changing world (Louise Kelly) (R)	‘You should be here’: Music Therapy and traumatic loss in paediatrics (Maya Charlton) (R)	From training group to clinical practice: learning from qualified Music Therapists about the longer-term impact of experiential learning groups (Elien De Schryver, Claire Molyneux) (R)	Music Therapy with displaced caregiver-infant dyads East and West (Letitia Slabu, Elizabeth Coombes) (NR)	Navigating instability: identity and self-care in Music Therapy employment (Hsini (Kelly) Wang, Hoi Shuen Chan) (NR)
	Re-imagining possibilities, collaboration and technology			“That’s not who I pictured”: Student reflections on Problem-Based Learning about Unconscious Bias (Elizabeth Coombes, Beth Pickard, Joshua Davey-Stewart) (R)		
15.40-16.10	Opening up access and freedom of expression with the Clarion – the first electronic instrument recognised by ABRSM (Jonathan Westrup) (R)	“You will be Found" Music Therapy Led Choir (Emma Hamer) (R)				
16.10-16.30	Afternoon Break					

	Music Therapy Structures, Ethics & Creativity		Music Therapy Structures, Ethics & Creativity	Identity, power & belonging in Music Therapy		
16.30-17.00	Listening in multiple directions: live descriptive captioning in music improvisation (Sonia Allori) (R)	The language of change: relational frame theory as a mechanism in Music Therapy (Ben Richardson) (R)	Listening at the fractures: unsettling the assumptions that shape our care (Suzannah Scott-Moncrieff) (NR)	Stigma or support? The lived experiences of disabled Music Therapists and Music Therapy students in the UK (Hilary Davies, Beth Pickard) (R)	An urgent call to action: the imperative to confront our white privilege (Cressida Lindsay, Lottie McVicker, Bo Keeney, Grace Gladston, Leon Geis, Michaela de Cruz) (R)	
17.00-17.30						
17.30-17.45	Closing reflections and synthesis					

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Sessions that will not be recorded

POSTERS

No	Presenters	Title of the Poster
1	Emine Elif Şahin	Beyond Therapy: Therapeutic Potentials of Community Music Interventions
2	Hyunah Cho, Scott Bannister	Musical Engagement and Wellbeing among International Students in the UK: Implications for Music Therapists
3	Annie Heiderscheit, Alison Short	How does music support physical and emotional therapeutic work inherent in the Hero's Journey in GIM
4	Lisa Margetts	Safe&Sound: Exploring reflexivity in Music Therapy consultation research in UK SEN schools.
5	Giorgos Tsiris, Bruce Armstrong	Environmental Music Therapy: Insights from a qualitative study in a hospice setting
6	Chris R. Millett, Viggo Krüger, Katrina Skewes McFerran	Co-Creating Change: A Scoping Review of Participatory Music-Based Interventions in Upper Secondary Schools
7	Nicky Ahadi	Potential benefits of music-based therapies on rehabilitation outcomes in people with multiple sclerosis: a systematic review
8	Willow Lowry	Broadmoor Porta-Studio: A Novel Music Therapy Approach to Improving Access in a High-Secure Psychiatric Setting
9	Sinead Hegarty	A Tapestry of Climate and Community: Student Research Project exploring Music Therapy as an element of community recovery following climate-related events.
10	Sam Scott	Memories & Melodies: Creating a Christmas Album with Older Adults Using a Portable Recording Station in Auckland
11	Karyn Stuart-Röhm	How do Music Therapists work with those caring for people living with dementia: A survey study.
12	Okiko Ishihara, Yuriko Ichiki	From the Perspective of the Expressive Therapies Continuum Theory in Music Therapy: How are percussion instruments used in improvisation?
13	Priya Vithani	When the music fades: Exploring musical engagement as an indicator of mental health in Music Therapy for verbal adults.
14	Yen-pei Chen	Music, Actually: Piloting group music-making as an intervention to support mental wellbeing and prevent chronic work-related stress among corporate employees
15	Daisy Vatalaro, Carole Murphy	Unknown Futures: The Role of Music Therapy in the Life Journeys of Female Survivors of Modern Slavery
16	Vikram Kannan	A Study on the Effect of Receptive Music Therapy Interventions on State Anxiety and Patients' Perception of an Upper Gastrointestinal Endoscopy Procedure
17	Vikram Kannan	Music Therapy in a De-Addiction Setting: Practice-Based Reflections on Patient and Family Support

18	Leonardo Muller-Rodriguez	SLEEP-ON: Personalised bedtime music and multimodal sleep–biology assessment in dementia caregivers - a feasibility reversal case series study
19	Einike Leppik, Marju Raju	Pilot project of music therapeutic concerts - participants' self-reported effects on mental well-being
20	Ruth Hunston, Jess Grieve	Nurturing Notes. How group Music Therapy offers support to infants and their families upon discharge from the neonatal unit.
21	Dominique Mirabella	Inclusive pathways - International music therapy students in the UK and the Graduate Visa Scheme
22	Karen Diamond, Seána Kerr, Rebecca Carey	Music Fundamentals Pilot- MT and SALT collaboration working with staff in early years settings
23	Elsa Hariades, Elsa Hariades	Music Helps: How intercultural learning and digital innovation inspires caregivers to embed music into dementia care
24	Phil Clarke, Paula Hedderly, Anna Young	Remix Resilience – Realtime Digital/Analog Co-creation in Group Music Therapy for Young Peoples Mental Health
25	Sonia Karaszewska	The Use of Music Therapy to Support the Well-Being of Palliative Care Patients in Poland.
26	Alice Laing, Portia Velarde	Creative Collaboration in Group work
27	Hok-tsun Ma, Kingman Chung	From Crisis to Connection: The "Emotional Oasis Concert" Framework as an Integrative Music Therapy Response to a recent Tragedy across Clinical and Community Levels
28	Emily Man Ting Yeung , Cheung Kit Yang Carol	Music as Companion: A NOVA-Informed Protocol for Single-Session Music Therapist-Led Crisis Intervention in Post-Fire Transitional Housing
29	Vicky Guise	Exploring the Experiences of Multi-Disciplinary Team Working for Neurologic Music Therapists™ Supporting Adults with Acquired Brain Injury
30	Vicky Guise, Esther Goodhew	Give Me Time' - Exploring the Impact of a Collaborative Community Aphasia- Friendly Choir for Patients, Caregivers and Students
31	Georgina Roberts	Developing a Boundaried Practitioner-Facing Toolkit from Arts Therapies Research to Support Parent-Infant Relationships
32	Susie Renshaw	Repetition in Music Therapy. Repetition in Music Therapy - The positives and problems around repetition and routine. A discussion illustrated by case material.
33	Amanda Thorpe	From Silence to Song: Bridging inner conflict and neural repair through the integrated used of psychodynamic and neurologic Music Therapy methods for a patient with Guillain-Barré Syndrome