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# Event Agenda

SER-AMTA Regional Music Therapy Conference 2026

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## Wednesday, March 11, 2026

- 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM**      **CMTE B: Leaving a Legacy Through Song: Songwriting in the End of Life**  
Location: Lakeshore 2  
Speaker: Sarah Mumford
- 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM**      **CMTE C: The American Songbook for Seniors -- Getting the Repertoire Right**  
Location: Lakeshore 3  
Speaker: Jane Estrada
- 1:00 PM - 6:00 PM**      **CMTE D: Toward a Shared Language for Therapeutic Percussion-Based Interventions: Reciprocal Experiential Approaches in Rhythmning and Musicking**  
Location: Lakeshore 1  
Speaker: Christopher Karow
- 1:00 PM - 6:00 PM**      **CMTE E: Sing Through Your Guitar: Making Memorable Melodies Without Your Voice**  
Location: Lakeshore 3  
Speaker: Robert Stewart
- 1:00 PM - 6:00 PM**      **CMTE F: Supervising the Music Therapy Intern**  
Location: Lakeshore 2  
Speaker: Carlyn Waller
- 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM**      **Registration**  
Location: Gallery

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## Thursday, March 12, 2026

- 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM**      **Registration**  
Location: Gallery
- 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM**      **The Vocal Wellness Program: Scaling Music Therapy for Rural and Underserved Parkinsons' Communities.**  
Location: Lakeshore 1  
Speakers: Holly DeMarino, Blair Bass ; Co-speaker: Hannah Rhinehart, Kenzi Taylor, LPMT, MT-BC, NMT-F, IWBMCE, Sara Demlow, Taylor Luiz, Sydney Smith
- 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM**      **The Re-Creative Method: So much more than singalongs!**  
Location: Lakeshore 2  
Speaker: Lauren Edmonds ; Co-speaker: Lydia Billings
- 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM**      **Sustaining Creativity In Burnout**  
Location: Lakeshore 3  
Speaker: Corey Jenkins ; Co-speaker: Gretchen Benner
- 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM**      **Allies for Autism: Preparing to Be a Knowledgeable Music Therapist and Advocate**  
Location: Lakeshore 4  
Speaker: Melissa Pate ; Co-speaker: Celia Nowlin
- 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM**      **Teaching Creatively through Experiential Learning**  
Location: Walden  
Speaker: Victoria Policastro Vega ; Co-speaker: Jessica DeKleva
- 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM**      **Music Therapy Phonological Awareness: A Shared Pathway to Literacy**  
Location: Glenwaters  
Speaker: Minda Gordon

<b>1:00 PM - 2:30 PM</b>	<b>Opening Session</b> Location: University Ballroom
<b>2:45 PM - 3:45 PM</b>	<b>The Intersection of Policy, Legislation, and Advocacy</b> Location: Lakeshore 1 Speaker: Kimberly Sena Moore
<b>2:45 PM - 3:45 PM</b>	<b>Music, Movement and Mentation: Creating an Interdisciplinary Inpatient Group in the Acute Medical Setting</b> Location: Lakeshore 2 Speaker: Gabriela Warren y Vigil ; Co-speaker: Leah Sinopoli
<b>2:45 PM - 3:45 PM</b>	<b>Building Braver Spaces: Affirming practices for supporting LGBTQ+ and neurodivergent clients in mental health spaces</b> Location: Lakeshore 3 Speaker: Kaitlin "Billie" Wightman-Ausman ; Co-speaker: Genevieve Scott
<b>2:45 PM - 3:45 PM</b>	<b>My Voice Can Accomplish Many Things: Dispelling the Myths of Vocal Improvisation</b> Location: Lakeshore 4 Speaker: Katurah Christenbury
<b>2:45 PM - 3:45 PM</b>	<b>See Me: Patient Experiences of Songwriting in Acute Inpatient Psychiatric Groups</b> Location: Walden Speaker: Katelyn Beebe
<b>2:45 PM - 3:45 PM</b>	<b>Going beyond choice; self-advocacy group music therapy sessions for adults diagnosed with intellectual and developmental disabilities.</b> Location: Glenwaters Speaker: Jim Pierce
<b>4:00 PM - 5:00 PM</b>	<b>Student Buisness/Passages</b> Location: Glenwaters
<b>4:00 PM - 5:00 PM</b>	<b>General Buisness Meeting</b> Location: University Ballroom
<b>5:15 PM - 6:30 PM</b>	<b>Affinity Groups</b> Location: Lakeshore 3, & Walden
<b>5:15 PM - 6:15 PM</b>	<b>LGBTQ+ MT Affinity Group</b> Location: Lakeshore 1
<b>5:15 PM - 6:30 PM</b>	<b>Asian MT Affinity Group</b> Location: Lakeshore 2
<b>8:00 PM - 10:15 PM</b>	<b>Evening Mixer Featuring Carolina Down Boys</b> Location: Glenwaters

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## Friday, March 13, 2026

<b>7:30 AM - 8:30 AM</b>	<b>Wellness Group (Yoga)</b> Location: Glenwaters Speaker: Kaitlin "Billie" Wightman-Ausman
<b>8:00 AM - 12:00 PM</b>	<b>Registration</b> Location: Gallery
<b>8:00 AM - 9:00 AM</b>	<b>Educators Roundtable</b> Location: Lakeshore 1
<b>8:00 AM - 9:00 AM</b>	<b>Supervisors Roundtable</b> Location: Lakeshore 2

- 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM**      **Business Owners Roundtable**  
Location: Lakeshore 3
- 9:15 AM - 10:15 AM**      **Purpose in Practice: Leading with Heart and Building Something That Lasts**  
Location: Lakeshore 1  
Speaker: Hannah Rhinehart
- 9:15 AM - 10:15 AM**      **Learning in Sync: Supporting Perceptual-Cognitive Development in Infancy through Multisensory Music Experiences**  
Location: Lakeshore 2  
Speaker: Celia Nowlin
- 9:15 AM - 10:15 AM**      **Elevating Person-Centered Care through Interdisciplinary Collaboration: Harmonizing Healing with Music and Speech Therapy in Oncology**  
Location: Lakeshore 3  
Speaker: Maddie DePriest ; Co-speaker: Kaley Marston
- 9:15 AM - 10:15 AM**      **Awareness, Boundaries, Compassion, Disclosure, Empathy... Alphabetically Speaking about Burnout Prevention**  
Location: Lakeshore 4  
Speaker: Jennifer Peyton ; Co-speaker: Alyssa Jones
- 9:15 AM - 10:15 AM**      **Casting Call: Clinical Trainer - A New Role in Music Therapy**  
Location: Walden  
Speaker: Lauren Hardin ; Co-speaker: Ayanna-Moné Arnold
- 9:15 AM - 10:15 AM**      **Music Therapy in Therapeutic Recreation Programs: Insights From a Successful Community Partnership and Practical Strategies for Facilitating Music Engagement for Adults with Disabilities**  
Location: Glenwaters  
Speaker: Nora Veblen ; Co-speaker: Jennifer Matthias, Jill Farmer
- 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM**      **Navigating the Music Therapy Profession through a Neurodivergent Experience**  
Location: Lakeshore 1  
Speaker: Laura Elliott Buckner
- 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM**      **Where's The Line?: How to Ethically Navigate Censorship in Clinical Music Therapy Practice**  
Location: Lakeshore 2  
Speaker: Molly Austin ; Co-speaker: Flor del Clelo Hernandez, Megan Hoffer
- 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM**      **Curriculum in Harmony: An Interdisciplinary Approach to Teaching Psychology of Music Paired with Human Anatomy and Physiology in a Learning Community**  
Location: Lakeshore 3  
Speaker: Varvara Pasiali ; Co-speaker: Patricia Koplas
- 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM**      **Pitch Perfect: Motivating Through Music Therapy Marketing**  
Location: Lakeshore 4  
Speaker: Lizzie Digiovanni
- 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM**      **You Too Can Rock: How to Create a Successful Adaptive Rock Band**  
Location: Walden  
Speaker: Bri Henderson ; Co-speaker: Reece Jennings, McKayla Andersen
- 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM**      **Back to the Basics: Becoming Proficient in Keyboard**  
Location: Glenwaters  
Speaker: Ashleigh Bowen
- 11:30 AM - 12:00 PM**      **Poster Set Up**  
Location: Lakeview
- 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM**      **Awards Luncheon/Town Hall**  
Location: University Ballroom
- 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM**      **Poster Session**  
Location: Lakeview

- 2:45 PM - 3:45 PM**      **Board Certification Exam: What we know and what we don't know**  
Location: Lakeshore 1  
Speaker: Carol Shultis ; Co-speaker: Melanie Wiseheart
- 2:45 PM - 3:45 PM**      **Expanding Your Role: Music Therapists as Effective Bereavement Coordinators**  
Location: Lakeshore 2  
Speaker: Gloria Morales ; Co-speaker: Elisa Halliley
- 2:45 PM - 3:45 PM**      **Research on the Impacts of Neurologic Music Therapy Techniques on Stroke Patients in the Acute Care Hospital Setting**  
Location: Lakeshore 3  
Speaker: Gianna Nuckols ; Co-speaker: Steven Keller
- 2:45 PM - 3:45 PM**      **Resources on Deck: Five Types of Card Decks to use in Music Therapy**  
Location: Lakeshore 4  
Speaker: Alison Hughey
- 2:45 PM - 3:45 PM**      **Bridging Research and Practice: Tips and Tricks for Applying Music Intervention Research to Clinical and Educational Practices**  
Location: Walden  
Speaker: Kimberly Sena Moore
- 2:45 PM - 3:45 PM**      **Between Amen and Analysis: Applying Gospel Music with Cultural Sensitivity**  
Location: Glenwaters  
Speaker: Christine Leist ; Co-speaker: DaVaughn Miller
- 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM**      **Showing Up and Being Human: Highlighting Music Therapy in the Psychiatric Emergency Department**  
Location: Lakeshore 1  
Speaker: Maryrose Nieman Nelson ; Co-speaker: Rachel Menges
- 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM**      **Safety in Sound: The Integration of Music Therapy into Pediatric Trauma Care**  
Location: Lakeshore 2  
Speaker: Lainey Raab
- 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM**      **Improvisation and the Brain: A Neuroscience Framework for Collaborative Clinical Practice**  
Location: Lakeshore 3  
Speaker: Jess Knoble, MT-BC
- 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM**      **Fulton County Schools Music Therapy presents, the domain of the year: Social Emotional Interventions!**  
Location: Lakeshore 4  
Speaker: Shreya Visvanathan ; Co-speaker: Amber Weldon-Stephens, Caroline Durden, Shannon O'Donnell, Kirby Carruth, Sophie Coffman, Madelynne Hellemn, Roy Joyner ; Co-Speaker: Zoe Reddick
- 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM**      **Professional Experiences of Disabled Music Therapists: An Adapted Multiple Case Study with Application to the Profession**  
Location: Walden  
Speaker: August Tuggle
- 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM**      **Adapting mental health therapies to music therapy methods through the flexibility within fidelity framework**  
Location: Glenwaters  
Speaker: John Head
- 5:15 PM - 7:15 PM**      **Student Business/ Passages**  
Location: Glenwaters
- 5:15 PM - 7:15 PM**      **General Business Meeting**  
Location: University Ballroom
- 8:00 PM - 10:00 PM**      **Affinity Groups**  
Location: Lakeshore 2, 3, & Walden
- 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM**      **Disability MT Affinity Group.**  
Location: Lakeshore 1

9:00 PM - 11:59 PM **Latin Dance Party**  
Location: Lakeshore 1

9:00 PM - 11:59 PM **Jam Room**  
Location: Lakeshore 4

9:00 PM - 11:59 PM **Karaoke**  
Location: Glenwaters

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## Saturday, March 14, 2026

7:30 AM - 8:30 AM **Wellness Group**  
Location: Lakeshore 4 & Glenwaters

7:30 AM - 8:30 AM **State President Meetings**  
Location: Walden

8:30 AM - 9:30 AM **Staying in Music Therapy: The Role of Career Adaptability**  
Location: Lakeshore 1  
Speaker: Austin Thorn

8:30 AM - 9:30 AM **Preparing to Practice: Developing Cultural Humility as Emerging Music Therapists**  
Location: Lakeshore 2  
Speaker: Ja'Bria Barber

8:30 AM - 9:30 AM **New Beginnings: Music Therapy & Child Welfare**  
Location: Lakeshore 3  
Speaker: Jessica DeKleva

8:30 AM - 9:30 PM **Songwriting Informed by the Dual Process Model of Coping with Bereavement and Bereavement Life Review: A Case Example**  
Location: Lakeshore 4  
Speaker: Ayden Tauzel

8:30 AM - 9:30 AM **Strategies to navigate across the music and health continuum**  
Location: Walden  
Speaker: Flor del Clelo Hernandez

8:30 AM - 9:30 AM **Vibrotactile Music Therapy with the Deaf and Multi-Disabled**  
Location: Glenwaters  
Speaker: Lauren Stanaland

9:45 AM - 10:45 AM **Growing into the Profession: Success Strategies for New Professionals**  
Location: Lakeshore 1  
Speaker: Shun Ee Yap ; Co-speaker: Pim Pankaew, Adriana Lizardi

9:45 AM - 10:45 AM **Sound, Structure, and Safety: Music Therapy for Youth with Dual Diagnosis in Behavioral Health.**  
Location: Lakeshore 2  
Speaker: Kathleen Harris ; Co-speaker: Katalina Diller, Kathryn Esposito

9:45 AM - 10:45 AM **Will the Real Music Therapist Please Stand Up? Imposter Phenomenon in the Music Therapy Profession**  
Location: Lakeshore 3  
Speaker: Katie Whipple

9:45 AM - 10:45 AM **Perspectives on Professional Service in Music Therapy: A Roundtable Discussion**  
Location: Lakeshore 4  
Moderator: Elizabeth Eggerding ; Panelist: Yu-Ling Chen, Sarah Pregnall, Amelia Tripp, BriAnne Weaver

9:45 AM - 10:45 AM **Talking Parkinson's: Building Credibility and Connection Through Disease-Specific Language**  
Location: Walden  
Speaker: Hannah Oakes

<b>9:45 AM - 10:45 AM</b>	<p><b>Caregivers at Cribside: A Culturally Reflexive Discussion on Music Therapy with Families in Neonatal Intensive Care</b></p> <p>Location: Glenwaters Speaker: Jamie Shegogue</p>
<b>11:00 AM - 12:00 PM</b>	<p><b>Money Talks!</b></p> <p>Location: Lakeshore 1 Speaker: Nina Doane ; Co-speaker: Stephany Nystrand</p>
<b>11:00 AM - 12:00 PM</b>	<p><b>Personal and Professional Transformations through Austin Vocal Psychotherapy</b></p> <p>Location: Lakeshore 2 Speaker: Jay DeRosa ; Co-speaker: Allyson Rodgers</p>
<b>11:00 AM - 12:00 PM</b>	<p><b>Creative Expressions: Directing a Healthy Community Music Program for Music Therapy Students and Adults with Intellectual Developmental Disabilities</b></p> <p>Location: Lakeshore 3 Speaker: Jay Warren</p>
<b>11:00 AM - 12:00 PM</b>	<p><b>Clinical Improvisation on Guitar: Applications and How To Get Started</b></p> <p>Location: Lakeshore 4 Speaker: Ryan Johnson</p>
<b>11:00 AM - 12:00 PM</b>	<p><b>Community Based Programs for Veterans: Facilitators' Overview &amp; Recommendations</b></p> <p>Location: Glenwaters Speaker: Gretchen Benner ; Co-speaker: Anne Frazier</p>
<b>11:00 AM - 12:00 PM</b>	<p><b>Leadership Styles Through an MT Lens</b></p> <p>Location: Walden Speaker: Ayanna-Moné Arnold</p>
<b>12:30 PM - 1:45 PM</b>	<p><b>Internship Q &amp; A</b></p> <p>Location: Glenwaters</p>
<b>12:30 PM - 1:45 PM</b>	<p><b>State Meetings</b></p> <p>Location: TBD</p>
<b>2:00 PM - 3:00 PM</b>	<p><b>Internship Fair</b></p> <p>Location: University Ballroom</p>