



6th Biennial FAME Conference 2026
Chicago Hilton, Oak Lawn
July 16 -- 19, 2026

Thursday, July 16, 2026				
Pre-Conference Elective Courses				
Time	Title	Presenter(s)	Location	Room Reservations & Configurations
8:30 am	Registration Window Open	FAME Staff	Ready Room	FAME Staff and Gear Storage
<i>Morning</i>	<i>Meeting with Hilton Staff (TBD)</i>	<i>Conference Team</i>		
9:00 am -- 12:00 pm	<i>Conversational Solfege with Orff Schulwerk</i>	<i>Greene, Brandon, Himelick, Knapp</i>	<i>Windsor 2</i>	<i>U-Shaped; 30 chairs along perimeter, power, table, screen</i>
1:00 -- 4:00 pm	<i>First Steps in Music with Infants and Toddlers</i>	<i>Bron Lawson and Connie Greenwood</i>	<i>Windsor 2</i>	<i>U-Shaped; 30 chairs along perimeter, power, table, screen</i>
<i>Afternoon</i>	<i>Check in with Hilton Staff (TBD)</i>	<i>Conference Team</i>		
all day	GIA Bookstore Opens (hours TBD)	GIA	Windsor 1	several thin, narrow tables, 2 office chairs, power (book room)
6:00 pm	VIP Dinner	Board and Guests	Off-site	
Friday, July 17, 2026				
Pre-Conference Courses, Electives and Meetings				
Time	Title	Presenter(s)	Location	Room Reservations & Configurations
8:30 am	Registration Window Open	FAME Staff	Ready Room	
8:30 -- 9:00 am	Board Breakfast		Hotel Restaurant	Buffet in restaurant for appx. 13 people
9:00 am -- 12:00 pm	<i>Introduction to First Steps in Music</i>	<i>John Crever</i>	<i>Windsor 2</i>	<i>U-Shaped; 30 chairs along perimeter, power, table, screen</i>
9:00 am -- 12:00 pm	<i>Movement Exploration</i>	<i>Jane Kahan</i>	<i>Sheffield</i>	<i>U-Shaped; 30 chairs along perimeter, power, table, screen</i>
9:00 am -- 12:00 pm	<i>First Steps in Music with Orff Schulwerk</i>	<i>Greene, Brandon, Himelick, Knapp</i>	<i>Lincoln</i>	<i>U-Shaped; 30 chairs along perimeter, power, table, screen</i>
1:00 -- 4:00 pm	<i>Introduction to Conversational Solfege</i>	<i>John Crever</i>	<i>Windsor 2</i>	<i>U-Shaped; 30 chairs along perimeter, power, table, screen</i>
1:00 -- 4:00 pm	<i>Creating a Move It!</i>	<i>Peggy Lyman Hayes</i>	<i>Sheffield</i>	<i>U-Shaped; 30 chairs along perimeter, power, table, screen</i>
1:00 -- 4:00 pm	<i>World Music</i>	<i>Colleen Casey-Nelson</i>	<i>Lincoln</i>	<i>U-Shaped; 30 chairs along perimeter, power, table, screen</i>
9:00 am - 4:00 pm	Board Retreat	Board, Electees	Boardroom	Conference table; 13 chairs
1:00 pm	Board Luncheon	Board, Electees	Boardroom	Lunch from menu service for appx. 13
8:30 am -- 6:00 pm	GIA Bookstore Open -- May be closed during events	GIA	Windsor 1	several thin, narrow tables, 2 office chairs, power (book room)
CONFERENCE BEGINS				
4:00 pm	Registration Window Open	FAME Staff	Ready Room	1 table outside ready room, for registration and display space
5:00 -- 6:30 pm	FAME Community Meet Ups	Membership Committee and Volunteers	Prefunction Spaces, Windsor 2, Sheffield, Lincoln	Post Signage
6:30 -- 7:30 pm	Strawberry Social (Dessert Bar), Cash Bar	Hilton Staff	Grand Ballroom	Dessert Bar; Cash Bar
7:30 -- 9:00 pm	Community Folk Dance: A Tribute to Peter Amidon	John Feierabend	Grand Ballroom	Stage, power, screen; a few high top cocktail tables, some chairs along perimeter, cash bar
Saturday, July 18, 2026				
Time	Title	Presenter(s)	Location	Room Reservations & Configurations
7:30 am -- 7:00 pm	GIA Bookstore Open - May be closed during sessions	GIA	Windsor 1	several thin, narrow tables, 2 office chairs, power (book room)
7:30 am	Registration Window Open	Fame Staff	Ready Room	1 table outside ready room, for registration and display space

8:15 -- 8:30am	Morning Move It!	Peggy Lyman Hayes and John Feierabend	Grand Ballroom	Theater; 150 chairs, movement space in the back of room, power, table, screen
8:45 -- 9:30am	Opening Address	Jill Trinka	Grand Ballroom	Theater; 150 chairs, movement space in the back of room, power, table, screen
Session 1: 9: 45 -- 11:00am	Breakout Session	Jill Trinka	Grand Ballroom	Theater; 150 chairs, movement space in the back of room, power, table, screen
	Centers at the CENTER of Student Engagement – Serious Learning, Serious FUN!	Chris Powers	Sheffield	U-Shaped; 30 chairs along perimeter, power, table, screen
	First Steps in Music with Orff Schulwerk	Orff Group	Lincoln	U-Shaped; 30 chairs along perimeter, power, table, screen
	From Classroom to Curriculum: The Feierabend Way	Colleen Thompson	Windsor 2	Schoolroom; 35 chairs, power, table, screen
Session 2: 11:15 -- 12:30 pm	Everyday Music Making for Babies & Toddlers	Greenwood/Lawson	Grand Ballroom	Theater; 150 chairs, movement space in the back of room, power, table, screen
	Conversational Solfege with Orff Schulwerk	Orff Group	Sheffield	U-Shaped; 30 chairs along perimeter, power, table, screen
	Many Ways to Be Musical: Reframing Expectations for Fully Accessible and Inclusive Elementary Music Education	Jessica Corwin	Lincoln	U-Shaped; 30 chairs along perimeter, power, table, screen
	Canons & Building Harmony in Your Instrumental Ensembles	Carol Swinchoski	Windsor 2	Schoolroom; 35 chairs, power, table, screen
12:30 -- 1:30 pm	Lunch Buffet	Hilton Staff	??	Double-serving-line buffet requested!
Session 3: 1:30 -- 2:45 pm	Leading Large Group Singing	Andy Himelick	Grand Ballroom	Theater; 150 chairs, movement space in the back of room, power, table, screen
	Jane Kahan Breakout Session	Jane Kahan	Sheffield	U-Shaped; 30 chairs along perimeter, power, table, screen
	Clap It, Tap It: Global Rhythm Games	Debby Szajnberg	Lincoln	U-Shaped; 30 chairs along perimeter, power, table, screen
	Continuing The Feierabend Magic into Beginning Band and Strings	Dr. Michael Francis Smith	Windsor 2	Schoolroom; 35 chairs, power, table, screen
Session 4: 3: 00 -- 4:15 pm				No Session
	Cultural Connections: Exploring a World of Music	Colleen Casey-Nelson	Sheffield	U-Shaped; 30 chairs along perimeter, power, table, screen
	Early Musical Learning for ALL: Using First Steps in Music as a Foundation to an Inclusive Early Childhood Classroom	Mary Anderson	Lincoln	U-Shaped; 30 chairs along perimeter, power, table, screen
	Thinking About Becoming a FAME Teacher Trainer?	FAME Teacher Trainers	Windsor 2	Schoolroom; 35 chairs, power, table, screen
4:15-- 5:00 pm	Teacher Trainer Meeting	Teacher Trainers	Windsor 2	
5:15 -- 6:00 pm	President's Reception	Stephanie Schall-Brazee	Exec Lounge	Set for 30, cocktail tables; Prosecco and fruit tray
6:00 -- 7:00 pm	Cocktail Hour, Illustrator Presentations, Book Signing	FAME Staff/Hilton Staff	Prefunction	Cash Bar; 4 tables, 6 chairs-- for authors and display space.
7:00 -- 8:15 pm	Dinner Banquet	Hilton Staff	Astoria Ballroom	Cash Bar, round tables set up for dinner banquet, stage, podium, power, table, screen
8:15 -- 9:00 pm	Community Sing	Jill Trinka	Astoria Ballroom	round tables set up for dinner banquet, stage, podium, power, table, screen (Piano??)

Sunday, July 19, 2026				
Time	Title	Presenter(s)	Location	Room Reservations & Configurations
7:30 am	Registration Window Open	FAME Staff	Ready Room	1 table outside ready room, for registration and display space
7:30 am -- 1:00 pm	GIA Store Open - May be closed during sessions	GIA	Windsor 1	several thin, narrow tables, 2 office chairs, power (book room)

7:45 -- 8:00 am	Morning Move It!	Peggy Lyman Hayes	Astoria Ballroom	Theater; 150 chairs, movement space in the back of room, power, table, screen	
Session 1: -- 9:15 am	8:00	Introduction to Conversational Ukelele	Joshua Russell	Astoria Ballroom	Theater; 150 chairs, movement space in the back of room, power, table, screen
		An Ear-First Approach to Teaching Harmony and Improvisation with Ensembles	John Crever	Sheffield	U-Shaped; 30 chairs along perimeter, power, table, screen
		Managing Disruptive Behaviors During Movement Activites in the Music Classroom	Leslie Weaver	Lincoln	U-Shaped; 30 chairs along perimeter, power, table, screen
		Music Teacher: Planning A Year In the Life	Holly Hinchley	Windsor 2	Schoolroom; 35 chairs, power, table, screen
Session 2: -- 10:45am	9:30	No Session	No Session	Astoria Ballroom	Theater; 150 chairs, movement space in the back of room, power, table, screen
		Stories from Japan: Singing, Creating, Performing, やっ た! (Hooray!)	Cori Patterson	Sheffield	U-Shaped; 30 chairs along perimeter, power, table, screen
		Help Me! I Have to Teach Music to the Upper Grades	David Rankine	Lincoln	U-Shaped; 30 chairs along perimeter, power, table, screen
		Elevate Expressive Storytelling in the Music Classroo	John Crever	Windsor 2	Schoolroom; 35 chairs, power, table, screen
11:00 am -- 12:30 pm		Annual FAME Membership Meeting	Stephanie Schall-Brazee FAME President	Astoria Ballroom	Theater; 150 chairs, movement space in the back of room, power, table, screen
		General Session	John Feierabend	Astoria Ballroom	Theater; 150 chairs, movement space in the back of room, power, table, screen
1:00 - 3:00 pm	FAME Board Meeting (Board of Directors)	Board, Committee	Hotel Restaurant	Reservation for 13, lunch in restaurant area	

Schedule subject to change

Notes: