



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
8:30 am	Registration Table Open	FAME Staff	Foyer
all day	Rest and Recharge Room		Chicago Room
9:00 am -- 12:00 pm	<i>Conversational Solfege with Orff Schulwerk</i>	<i>Joani Brandon, Betsy Greene, Andy Himelick, Craig Knapp</i>	<i>Windsor 2</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>
Friday, July 17, 2026			
Pre-Conference Courses, Electives and Meetings			
Time	Title	Presenter(s)	Location
8:30 am	Registration Table Open	FAME Staff	Foyer
all day	Rest and Recharge Room		Chicago Room
9:00 am -- 12:00 pm	<i>Introduction to First Steps in Music</i>	<i>John Crever</i>	<i>Windsor 2</i>
9:00 am -- 12:00 pm	<i>Movement Exploration 101</i>	<i>Jane Kahan</i>	<i>Sheffield</i>
9:00 am -- 12:00 pm	<i>First Steps in Music with Orff Schulwerk</i>	<i>Joani Brandon, Betsy Greene, Andy Himelick, Craig Knapp</i>	<i>Lincoln</i>
1:00 -- 4:00 pm	<i>Introduction to Conversational Solfege</i>	<i>John Crever</i>	<i>Windsor 2</i>
1:00 -- 4:00 pm	<i>Creating a Move It!</i>	<i>Peggy Lyman Hayes</i>	<i>Sheffield</i>
1:00 -- 4:00 pm	<i>Global Soundscapes</i>	<i>Colleen Casey-Nelson</i>	<i>Lincoln</i>
8:30 am -- 6:00 pm	GIA Bookstore Open (May be closed during events)	GIA	Windsor 1
CONFERENCE BEGINS			
4:00 pm	Registration Table Open	FAME Staff	Foyer

5:00 -- 6:30 pm	FAME Community Meet Ups	Membership Committee and Volunteers	Prefunction Spaces, Windsor 2, Sheffield, Lincoln, Hotel Lounge
6:30 -- 7:30 pm	Strawberry Social (Dessert Bar), Cash Bar	Hilton Staff	Grand Ballroom
7:30 -- 9:00 pm	Community Folk Dance: A Tribute to Peter Amidon	John Feierabend	Grand Ballroom
Saturday, July 18, 2026			
Time	Title	Presenter(s)	Location
7:30 am -- 7:00 pm	GIA Bookstore Open (May be closed during events)	GIA	Windsor 1
7:30 am	Registration Table Open	Fame Staff	Foyer
all day	Rest and Recharge Room		Chicago Room
8:15 -- 8:30am	Morning Move It!	Peggy Lyman Hayes and John Feierabend	Grand Ballroom
8:45 -- 9:30am	Opening Keynote Address: ONCE UPON A TIME...My Kodály Journey	Jill Trinka	Grand Ballroom
Session 1: 9:45 -- 11:00am	Making Folksongs Come Alive and Using Them To Teach Music Literacy Skills	Jill Trinka	Grand Ballroom
	Centers at the CENTER of Student Engagement - Serious Learning, Serious FUN!	Chris Anne Powers	Sheffield
	First Steps in Music with Orff Schulwerk	Joani Brandon, Betsy Greene, Andy Himelick, Craig Knapp	Lincoln
	From Classroom to Curriculum: The Feierabend Way	Colleen Thompson	Windsor 2
Session 2: 11:15 -- 12:30 pm	Everyday Music Making for Babies & Toddlers	Greenwood/Lawson	Grand Ballroom
	Conversational Solfege with Orff Schulwerk	Joani Brandon, Betsy Greene, Andy Himelick, Craig Knapp	Sheffield
	Many Ways to Be Musical: Reframing Expectations for Fully Accessible and Inclusive Elementary Music Education	Jessica Corwin	Lincoln
	Canons & Building Harmony in Your Instrumental Ensembles	Carol Swinchoski	Windsor 2
12:30 -- 1:30 pm	Lunch Buffet	Hilton Staff	Astoria Ballroom

Session 3: 1:30 -- 2:45 pm	Leading Large Group Singing	Andy Himelick	Grand Ballroom
	May I Have This Dance?	Jane Kahan	Sheffield
	Clap It, Tap It: Global Rhythm Games	Colleen Casey-Nelson and Xiaoyaun Ma	Lincoln
	Continuing The Feierabend Magic into Beginning Band and Strings	Dr. Michael Francis Smith	Windsor 2
Session 4: 3:00 -- 4:15 pm			
	Cultural Connections: Exploring a World of Music	Colleen Casey-Nelson	Sheffield
	Early Musical Learning for ALL: Using First Steps in Music as a Foundation to an Inclusive Early Childhood Classroom	Mary Anderson	Lincoln
	Thinking About Becoming a FAME Teacher Trainer?	John Crever, Chris Anne Powers, Betsy Greene, Andy Himelick	Windsor 2
4:15 -- 5:15 pm	Teacher Trainer Meeting	FAME Teacher Trainers	Windsor 2
5:15-- 6:00 pm	President's Reception	Stephanie Schall-Brazee	Exec Lounge
6:00 -- 7:00 pm	Cocktail Hour, SongTale Book Illustrator Meet and Greet, Book Signing	FAME Staff/Hilton Staff	Prefunction
7:00 -- 8:15 pm	Dinner Banquet	Hilton Staff	North Ballroom
8:15 -- 9:00 pm	Community Sing	Jill Trinka	North Ballroom
Sunday, July 19, 2026			
Time	Title	Presenter(s)	Location
7:30 am	Registration Table Open	FAME Staff	Foyer
7:30 am -- 1:00 pm	Rest and Recharge Room		Chicago
7:30 am -- 1:00 pm	GIA Store Open (May be closed during events)	GIA	Windsor 1
7:45 -- 8:00 am	Morning Move It!	Peggy Lyman Hayes	Astoria Ballroom
Session 1: 8:00 -- 9:15 am	Introduction to Conversational Ukulele	Joshua Russell	Astoria Ballroom
	An Ear-First Approach to Teaching Harmony and Improvisation with Ensembles	John Crever and Chris Anne Powers	Sheffield
	Managing Disruptive Behaviors During Movement Activities in the Music Classroom	Leslie Weaver	Lincoln

	Music Teacher: Planning A Year In the Life	Holly Hinchley	Windsor 2
Session 2: 9:30 -- 10:45am			
	Stories from Japan: Singing, Creating, Performing, やつた! (Hooray!)	Cori Patterson	Sheffield
	Help Me! I Have to Teach Music to the Upper Grades	David Rankine	Lincoln
	Elevate Expressive Storytelling in the Music Classroom	John Crever	Windsor 2
11:00 am -- 12:30 pm	Annual FAME Membership Meeting	Stephanie Schall-Brazee FAME President	Astoria Ballroom
	General Session: Song Dances in Five Formations	John Feierabend	Astoria Ballroom

Schedule subject to change