



Audio Engineering Society - 2024 Election Official Candidate and Bylaw Amendments Information

May 11, 2024

The following information has been provided by the candidates for the AES 2024 election. In addition to the President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer and Regional Vice-Presidents, three Governors will be elected from six candidates – you may vote for up to three Governors. Terms begin January 1.

In addition this year, three updates to the AES Bylaws will be voted on by Membership. An explanatory PDF with the proposed amendments is a separate document, which also has a link to the existing Bylaws on the AES website.

Voting begins online on May 17 and ends June 28 at 5:00PM Eastern U.S. time. There is no need to vote early if you wish to take time to review the ballot. Eligible Members will receive emails to their address of record with voting details. If any Member who is eligible did not receive an election ballot notice in email May 19, they may still vote by simply going to the voting site, <https://AES.gesvote.com>, entering their name, AES number and email to receive the security code to vote online. The exact name and number must match AES records. Security codes are emailed immediately from helpdesk@voteges.com, so check your spam/junk folders if necessary.

If you have any trouble voting, contact Global Election Services at: helpdesk@voteges.com or call them at 1-800-864-1263 toll-free.

Sincerely,
Gary Louie
AES Tellers Committee Chair

Candidate for AES President-Elect



Brecht De Man

Brecht De Man is a sound engineer, educator, and Head of Research at PXL-Music. He holds a PhD in Audio Engineering from Queen Mary University of London's Centre for Digital Music (supported in part by the AES Educational Foundation), and an MSc and BSc in Electronic Engineering from the University of Ghent, Belgium. Brecht has published, presented and patented research on auditory perception and evaluation, smart DSP, and the analysis of music production practices, most often at AES conventions and conferences or in the Journal of the AES. This culminated in the book "Intelligent Music Production" (Routledge, 2019), part of the "AES Presents..." series. As a researcher and software developer he has worked with large companies such as Yamaha as well as a number of audio startups. Brecht is also a guest lecturer at the Royal Conservatoire of The Hague, Netherlands, and teaches Loudspeaker Design to Belgian and Dutch Higher Acoustics Course students.

With AES, Brecht concluded terms as Director and Governor before chairing the AES 2023 International Conference on Audio Education. He is currently Chair of the AES Belgium Section, as well as Vice Chair and founding member of the Technical Committee on Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence.

Brecht first took an active role in the AES as Chair of the then-dormant London UK Student Section, organizing several editions of the flagship student event "Up Your Output!," and serving on the British Section's Executive Committee (now UK Section). As Chair of the AES Student Delegate Assembly (SDA) he organised the student track at four conventions and represented 4,000+ AES Student members across the globe, before joining the Education Committee as Vice Chair for Europe.

Brecht also sits on a number of AES Technical Committees (TCs), frequently reviews JAES and convention papers, and has organised and participated in several AES convention workshops.

Optional Statement:

AES has been the single greatest catalyst for my professional and academic life, from since I was a student. I'm passionate about helping anyone have that same experience, regardless of their background or audio discipline.

I've been given the chance to volunteer as student ambassador, Technical Committee cofounder, Section Chair, Conference Chair, Governor, Director ... getting to know most parts of the Society inside and out and connecting to a vast network of members and organizations. With this knowledge and experience I look forward to further serving the AES in this role.

AES Profile: <https://www.aes.org/aes/brechtdeMan>

Candidate for AES President-Elect



César Lamschtein

César Lamschtein, born in Montevideo, Uruguay in 1973, discovered his passion for audio and music at the tender age of 11. Fueled by this early fascination, he embarked on a journey to turn his passion into a lifelong career. In the early 1990s, he pursued his dream by obtaining a degree in audiovisual techniques in France, a pivotal moment coinciding with the seismic shift from analog to digital in the audio industry.

Returning to Uruguay, César immersed himself in various facets of the audio realm, from studio engineering to live sound mixing. With growing confidence, he transitioned into freelancing, consulting, and teaching, marking the beginning of a remarkable journey spanning over 25 years in the field.

His portfolio boasts collaborations with esteemed local and international artists, including luminaries like Joe Satriani, Bajo Fondo, and Plácido Domingo, among others. César's expertise extends beyond mere technical prowess; he's a seasoned educator, recognized with the Teaching Excellence Award from ORT University in 2010, and frequently sought after for lectures and presentations at audio technology events and schools.

César's contributions to the audio industry are multifaceted. He played a pivotal role in establishing Uruguay's first world-class recording studio and later assumed leadership of the audio and video department at the National Concert Hall. Since then, his main professional projects involve consulting in system integration for recording studios, live venue design and public address installation, as well as music production and sound reinforcement projects, among them, the Montevideo Philharmonic Orchestra where he serves as their main sound engineer.

Despite his extensive experience, César remains committed to continuous learning, attending masterclasses, workshops, and AES events worldwide. His recent foray into forensic audio culminated in a master's degree from the National Center for Media Forensics at CU Denver, where he received the Spring 2024 College of Arts & Media Outstanding Master's Student Award.

A staunch advocate for knowledge sharing and professional development, César joined the AES in 1996 and has since been actively involved in its activities. He has been recognized for his outstanding contributions to audio education and leadership within the Society, receiving prestigious awards such as the AES Board of Governors Award (2 times) and the AES Citation Award.

Fluent in Spanish, French, English, and Portuguese, César's global perspective and linguistic versatility enhance his ability to connect with diverse audiences across continents. He has maintained over the years a sustained leadership role in the Society, serving 2 terms as Vice President, 2 years as a member of the Board of Directors as well as being part of the committee of AES Uruguay. He chaired the Convention Policy committee and collaborates in many other committees including DE&I. He currently serves as the Chair of the Regions and Sections committee and ombudsman.

Optional Statement:

As a candidate for President of the AES, I believe in the importance of advancing the field of audio engineering through collaboration, education, and innovation. I am committed to promoting the sharing of knowledge and best practices among all AES members by prioritizing efforts to increase diversity in our membership and leadership, in order to ensure that everyone has equal opportunities to succeed and contribute to our field and the Society. By fostering worldwide connections between industry, manufacturers, practitioners, students, educators and researchers I will do my best effort for the AES to remain a vital and dynamic organization that serves the needs of all our members and the wider audio community.

AES Profile: <https://www.aes.org/aes/cesarlamschtein>

Candidate for AES Secretary



Valerie Tyler

Valerie Tyler has served as Secretary of the AES since 2016 and previously served as Governor. She has served on nineteen convention/symposium committees in various positions, including Convention Co-Chair, and is an AES Fellow. She has also served as an officer and committee member in the San Francisco and San Francisco State Sections of the AES. Valerie studied music at UC Santa Cruz, the music/recording industry at San Francisco State University, and electronic music, digital audio, digital video, web design, and graphic design at College of San Mateo. She currently holds the position of Webmaster at College of San Mateo. She previously worked as an audio editor and live sound engineer.

Optional Statement:

I will continue to work with the Board of Directors and Board of Governors to support the mission and goals of the AES.

AES Profile: <https://www.aes.org/aes/valerityler>

Candidate for AES Treasurer



Glenn Lorbecki

Producer/engineer and business owner Glenn Lorbecki established his career with such diverse artists as the Violent Femmes, Dizzy Gillespie, and Alicia Keys. Collaborations with MTV, CBS, PBS, ABC, SONY, and Microsoft have yielded numerous recordings, broadcast productions, and TV/film/game soundtracks. He is part of the award-winning GRAMMY® music mix team, having just completed the 66th GRAMMY telecast on CBS. His work in immersive audio is on permanent exhibit at the GRAMMY Museum in LA. Latest project: Mixing the soundtrack for “Destiny 2,” an AAA video game from Bungie.

Lorbecki joined AES in 1988 and currently serves as Treasurer. AES service: Board of Directors, Board of Governors, Audit, E.D. Search, Diversity & Inclusion, and Laws & Resolutions committees. Conventions: 145th - 149th planning committees. He served 5 years on the Financial Planning Committee, with 2 years as its Chair. Favorite AES keynote interview: Jack Antonoff, autumn 2022 NYC.

Lorbecki is a volunteer leader with the Recording Academy (GRAMMYS) and served two terms as national Secretary/Treasurer. As chair of the Finance Committee, he led fiscal oversight ranging from budgeting to audits, biz dev, compensation, legal issues, growth planning, real estate acquisition, charitable giving, and the sustained growth of a \$100M endowment fund. Service includes TV, Technology Committees, and Co-Chair of the Producers and Engineers Wing, where he has presented numerous Technical GRAMMY Awards.

Glenn is an award-winning audio instructor at the University of Washington, Seattle. As an author, his six-book Pro Tools® audio production series is published by Rowman & Littlefield.

Optional Statement:

As the shifting global economic picture continues to evolve, it is perhaps more important than ever to maintain a firm grasp on AES finances and provide a longer-term context for the decisions made along the way. For example, the change in AES administration from a small employee-based team to a management group required a good amount of training in both process and culture, but we are starting to see the benefit of having greater team resources available to leadership and members alike. Fiscal stewardship is at the heart of the organization’s longevity, and I am proud to have played a role in establishing the AES’ new endowment program, whereby we can build an investment that will help to preserve the mission of AES for many years to come. Please join me as we work to ensure continued fiscal responsibility

AES Profile: <http://www.aes.org/aes/glennlorbecki>

Candidate for AES Vice President Eastern Region, USA/Canada



Jeanne Montalvo

Jeanne Montalvo is a Grammy-nominated audio engineer and award-winning radio producer. She was selected amongst thousands of applicants as the 2018 EQL resident at Spotify Studios and Electric Lady Studios in New York City, assisting in the recording process for artists like John Legend, Cultura Profética, Alessia Cara, Anitta and many more. During her time there, she also recorded sessions with Ivy Queen, Making Movies with Rubén Blades, Flor de Toloache, and Williamsburg Salsa Orchestra. In 2017, she was nominated for a Grammy Award as Mastering Engineer for “Vladimir Horowitz: The Unreleased Live Recordings,” and her recording of “Multiverse” by Bobby Sanabria’s Latin Jazz Big Band was nominated for Best Latin Jazz Album at the 2012 Grammy Awards. She’s worked at the Banff Centre for the Arts, the Tanglewood Music Festival, and has also worked on live recordings with Spike Lee and Al Kooper.

Jeanne broke into radio after receiving her Masters in Music Technology from New York University, working as an audio engineer, broadcast tech and producer for National Public Radio, Bloomberg Radio, the Duolingo podcast and projects for the New York Times and Sony. She currently works as a producer and reporter at Futuro Media, and in 2023 won two awards for her series, “Genias in Music,” for Latino USA highlighting the careers and lives of notable women throughout music history. She also created “Live from Latino USA,” a live and (mostly) unplugged video series that featured Latinx talent from Jessie Reyez to Jose Feliciano.

Jeanne joined AES in 2004 as a student at Georgia State University. While studying at GSU, she realized there was not a student Section in the area, so she petitioned the organization and created the Atlanta Student Section, reaching out to departments at Georgia Tech and other area schools. She attended her first convention in Paris 2006 while studying in Spain and fell in love with the atmosphere. It was here, during the student mentoring sessions, where she was fully immersed in what the organization had to offer and has since been involved initially just as just a member, until signing on as Treasurer of the New York Section in 2019. In 2022, Jeanne was approached to be Co-Chair of the 155th AES Convention in New York City. She is thrilled to give back and serve this organization after having received so much over the years.

Optional Statement:

With AES, my goal is to continue the work in progress to create a diverse and inclusive organization. As a Latina, diversity has always been extremely important to me. Last year, as Co-Chair of the 155th Convention, I was excited to have a hand in organizing diverse panels and to see the positive response to that.

Diversity makes this country great, and it’s important to make our industry better reflect what most people look like. There is a saying that says that if you can see it, you can be it. It’s so important to keep an open mind about the way we think about engineering and who can do it, so we can all appreciate the work and the diversity of all the spaces we enter.

AES Profile: <https://www.aes.org/aes/jeannemontalvo>

Candidate for AES Vice President Eastern Region, USA/Canada



Angela Piva

Angela Piva is a well-known graduate from the Berklee School of Music with a Bachelor's degree in Music Production & Engineering and a Graduate degree in Music (MAT) from CUNY.

As the current AES Eastern Region VP Angela has worked diligently to re-establish the east coast Sections, coordinate online elections, provide guidance and as former Chair of the AES New York Section, Angela has produced a prolific program of engaging online content reflecting exciting new technologies, pedagogies, business models and workflows. As the recently appointed Co-Chair of the AES Education Committee, she is working to strengthen education initiatives and student engagement. With recent meeting participation at high levels, the AES New York Section has drawn interest from audio professionals, students, researchers and hobbyists from around the globe.

Angela Piva's professional experience as a producer, mixing engineer and recording engineer of over 30 years has been recognized with RIAA multi-platinum sales and several Grammy nominations. Recording and mix credits include Michael Jackson, Naughty By Nature, Toni Braxton, Queen Latifah, Run DMC, Ronnie Spector, Mary J Blige, Heavy D and Pat Benatar. Film music mixing credits include New Jack City, Poetic Justice, Space Jam, Juice and Small Soldiers.

With a keen focus on the next generation of audio professionals, Angela serves on the faculty of the Feirstein Graduate School of Cinema at Brooklyn College as a full time Professor of Music Technology, where she is the faculty advisor to its vibrant new Student Section. She has also taught at Lehman College.

To reach even younger students, Angela is a consultant to the NYC Mayor's Office of Media & Entertainment, advising on programs to reach high school students with career opportunities and training. As the Co-Chair of the AES Education Committee, Angela serves with other educators from schools and universities around the world exchanging best practices in pedagogy. Angela is deeply committed to the AES mission of diversity, equity and inclusion. She has participated in several task forces, spoken at a number of industry and educational events and helped organize, moderate and present many panels and workshops for AES. She works hard for a Society that is welcoming to all.

AES Profile: <https://www.aes.org/member/profile.cfm?ID=292615235>

Candidate for AES Vice President Western Region, USA/Canada



David v.R. Bowles

David v.R. Bowles formed Swineshead Productions, LLC as a classical recording production company in 1995. His recordings have been GRAMMY and JUNO-nominated, and critically acclaimed worldwide. Releases in Dolby Atmos are on Avie Records, Delos and Parma Recordings. In collaboration with NYU Steinhardt's Music Technology program, he has researched and taught 3D audio recording techniques for their Tonmeister Seminar since 2011. In addition, he also has also been a guest-lecturer for the Royal Danish Academy, Copenhagen (RDAM) since 2015. He has presented papers on 3D audio gathering at AES events in São Paulo, San Francisco and Boston.

David has been a full AES Member since 2003, and has judged the Student Recording Competition for many years. He is a member of the "Spatial Audio" Technical Council. He was elected to the Board of Governors twice (2009 and 2011). In addition, he has chaired Technical Tours and Workshops for AES Conventions in San Francisco (117th, 121st, 125th and 129th). Locally, he was voted as committee member of the San Francisco AES Section, alternating between Chair and Vice-Chair for 12 years. At present he remains active on that committee, as well as the West Coast Convention Committee.

During the past two years as Western Region VP, United States and Canada, David supervised and guided the following:

- San Diego AES Section was formally established and approved by the Board of Governors; Bylaws re-written and approved as well;
- PNW (Seattle) Section was re-named "Pacific Northwest AES Section," with geographical boundaries of the states of Washington, Oregon and Idaho; Bylaws were re-written and approved;
- Los Angeles AES Section has been reactivated, and is in the process of re-writing their Bylaws;
- Vancouver Section is being reactivated; David has encouraged them to re-define their boundaries to include the entire province of British Columbia (for one, to bring University of Victoria into the fold);
- The CRAS AES Student Section (Phoenix, Arizona) now has Hannah Fraley as faculty advisor; she is a full AES Member in good standing;
- Rodrigo Meirelles has expressed interest in being a faculty sponsor for a possible Arizona State University Student AES Section;
- In addition, the above two are interested in establishing an Arizona AES Section

Optional Statement:

I will continue to reach out to student Sections and inactive Sections alike, encouraging Section leaders to be active in recruiting members as well as leading local presentations. I plan to work with administration, membership and the webmaster to simplify the process of editing and updating Section information on the AES website. At present, student Sections have the least up-to-date information (when chairs of student Section committees graduate, move away and/or discontinue their AES membership). Also missing for student Section website pages are names and contacts for faculty advisors: this implies that advisors have little involvement with student Sections. Once updated, this will make it easier for students to join those sections and for Administration to encourage them to maintain their membership of the AES.

AES Profile: <https://www.aes.org/aes/davidbowles>



Brian (Bt) “Gibbs”

Brian (Bt) “Gibbs” is co-owner and principal at Skyline Entertainment & Publishing (at Tool Shed Studios) in Silicon Valley. With 30+ record credits in 2021, Gibbs uses his B.M. from Berklee College of Music (Jazz Composition) as a record producer and immersive mixing engineer. He has worked on many records for Bay Area artists including Los Tigres del Norte’s “Realidades” (2015 GRAMMY® Award for Best Regional Mexican Album, including Tejano).

Gibbs’ music experience includes drum corps, multiple low brass instruments, bass and guitar. A strong sight reading and music theory knowledge led to Berklee College of Music where Gibbs performed with groups across New England. These included many genres from Gospel to R&B to Alternative Rock at legendary venues in Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island, including large events such as “First Night Boston” and more.

Now in California, Gibbs works across a variety of genres leveraging his performing, arranging and compositional skills with multiple artists. Most recently in 2021, with artists like Hana Bryanne (Alternative), Alison Turner (Country) and others, Gibbs has producer credit on 1M+ streams. 2021 also included releases Gibbs mixed in Dolby Atmos for even more genres including jazz (Christopher Main).

Gibbs is also a 10yr+ Recording Academy voting member, 2020-22 Board of Governors for the San Francisco Chapter, serving as the 2021-22 Chair for the SF Chapter Producers & Engineers Wing. Gibbs is also a 5-year District Advocacy Captain (CA-19), plus regularly serves as a Grammy U mentor, as well as alumni mentor for his alma mater Berklee College of Music helping to develop the next generation of creators.

For the Audio Engineering Society, Gibbs served as Co-Chair for the AES 151st Convention (Fall 2021), 2019-20 San Francisco Section Chair, AES Diversity Equity & Inclusion committee member and is currently leading the new mentorship program rollout through the AES Diversity Equity and Inclusion committee. In addition to presenting at multiple AES Conferences on immersive mixing techniques, he has also presented multiple times at Music Expo (SF & Boston), Berklee College of Music, multiple Cal State University campuses, Harvard, MIT, Stanford, University of Silicon Valley, Webster University and other audio engineering educational institutions. He is also a current SMPTE member in the San Francisco section.

One of Gibbs’ primary focuses is on diversity, equity & inclusion across all disciplines and genres of music creation, both behind the microphone and behind the record.

AES Profile: <https://www.aes.org/aes/btgibbs>

Candidate for AES Vice President Northern Region, Europe



Jamie Angus-Whiteoak

Jamie Angus-Whiteoak is Emeritus Professor of Audio Technology at Salford University. Her interest in audio was crystallized at age 11 when she visited the WOR studios in NYC on a school trip in 1967. After this she was hooked, and spent much of her free time studying audio, radio, synthesizers, and loudspeakers, and even managed to build some! She has worked in both industry and academia in diverse fields from integrated optics and acoustics to analogue and digital signal processing. Her expertise ranges from valve (tube) circuits to the applications of esoteric number theory in signal processing. She has pioneered degree level courses in both music technology and electronic engineering in the UK. She is the inventor of modulated, wideband, and absorbing diffusers, direct processing of Super Audio CD signals, and one of the first 4-channel digital tape recorders. She has done work on signal processing, analogue circuits, diffusers, and numerous other audio technology topics. She has been active in the AES for 31 years and is a member of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Education, and UK Section committees. She has also been the papers co-chair for previous conventions as well as a judge for the Saul Walker Student Design, and MATLAB Student Plugin competitions. She has been awarded an AES Fellowship, the Institute of Acoustics Peter Barnet Memorial Award, the AES Silver Medal Award, and the AES Gold Medal Award, for her sustained contributions to audio and acoustics, and education. For relaxation she likes playing drums and dancing, but not at the same time.

Optional Statement:

The past few years have been challenging for the AES and the audio business. But there have been positive aspects, people have realised anew how important music and audio is for our connection, and mental health. The AES has learned new skills, and has pivoted to an online, or hybrid, way of working. As a result, engagement in Section activities has increased, because we are no longer limited by geographical imperatives. I would like to encourage and innovate this aspect within the AES to improve our accessibility to a larger and more diverse group of our current and new members.

AES Profile: <https://www.aes.org/member/profile.cfm?ID=858226096>

Candidate for AES Vice President Northern Region, Europe



Bill Foster

Bill Foster has spent almost his entire working life in and around audio. Initially he trained and worked as a disc cutting engineer in two major London UK studios – mastering hit records for artists such as the Rolling Stones, Kinks, Small Faces and The Faces – before co-founding Tape One Studios in 1975. At the start of the 1980s Tape One became one of the world’s first all-digital mastering facilities and played a key role in the early years of the CD.

Bill has been an AES Member for 40 years and during that time has served on the Standards Committee responsible for AES3, as a committee member and Chair of the British (now UK) Section, on the Board of Governors as VP Northern Europe, (Co-)Chaired the Financial Planning, Conference and Convention Policy committees, and was Co-Chair of the ECC. Bill also stepped in as AES Interim Executive Director in 2018/19 and 2022/23. In 2021 he was honoured with a Fellowship.

Optional Statement:

I have been an active and enthusiastic member of the Society for four decades, and following my third(!) attempt at retirement I am willing to continue supporting the Society in any way I can.

AES Profile: <https://www.aes.org/aes/billfoster>

Candidate for AES Governor



Jayant Datta

Jayant's love for music, recording, equipment and numbers drew him to the world of audio as a youngster in Bombay (now Mumbai), India. During his career, he has worked in many different areas of audio: broadcast, digital signal processing (DSP), consumer, professional, automotive, test and measurement, etc.,...as well as academia. By serving as Governor, he would like to represent you (the member) and give back to the audio community by leveraging his years of experience as an audio practitioner and educator.

After receiving his Bachelor's degree (Electrical Engineering, 1988) from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bombay, he pursued MS degrees at the University of Miami, FL, USA (Music Engineering from the School of Music, 1992; Electrical & Computer Engineering, 1993).

His AES affiliation goes back 35 years. He has been an active contributor to the AES in various capacities – numerous convention papers, workshops, tutorials, leadership roles on committees (standards, technical), the Technical Council, the AES Educational Foundation, and paper reviewer.

Jayant's 30+ years of audio industry experience exposed him to diverse subfields of audio – designing the first digital mixer for radio at Wheatstone (broadcast), manipulating sounds with DSP chips at Motorola (consumer, professional), cutting edge R&D and product development at THX (amplification, line arrays, automotive sound), leading strategy and engineering as the CTO of Audio Precision (test & measurement), and designing numerous products and algorithms as a consultant. A fervent supporter of students and educational initiatives, he taught Audio and DSP courses at Syracuse University for 20 years (Adjunct Faculty, Electrical Engineering) – always stressing the fundamentals. He co-authored two books (Advanced Digital Audio and DSP Filters).

In his free time, Jayant volunteers at various nonprofits: advancing art and culture, mentoring small businesses, improving personal finances for the underserved. He enjoys doing the sound and recordings for Indian classical music concerts. Sometimes, he plays Indian hand drums (tabla) and accompanies musicians on the stage – simultaneously using an iPad to run the sound at the venue – isn't technology wonderful!

Jayant would like to leverage his multidisciplinary background to form an even stronger audio community.

Optional Statement:

Before I got involved with audio, it appeared to be a very specialized area unto itself. After getting involved, I realized that audio has numerous subfields of specialization – this seems to be accelerating rapidly.

For example, we now have situations where traditional DSP engineers and AI/ML practitioners don't seem to have a common language and lead seemingly parallel lives. Having been involved in numerous areas (industry, academia, music, engineering, recording), I would love to be a force that enables communication across the divides, so we can learn from each other to create a more powerful future.

AES Profile: <https://www.aes.org/aes/jdatta>

Candidate for AES Governor



Michael Hanson

Michael Hanson earned his Bachelor of Science in Recording Industry from Middle Tennessee State University (1996). In breaks between producing and engineering records, he has designed and built recording studios, worked as a front-of-house and monitor engineer, built an archival company, and consulted with several manufacturers. Michael returned to Middle Tennessee State University to complete his Master of Fine Arts in Recording Arts & Technologies (2013). Currently, he is an Associate Professor at Middle Tennessee State University in their Recording Industry Department, Chair-Elect and Interim-Treasurer of the AES Nashville Section, and continues to work independently as a producer and engineer for select artists.

Michael has had the pleasure of working with a diverse group of artists, manufacturers, producers, engineers, and songwriters. His resume includes work with artists Kirk Franklin, Emmylou Harris, The Black Crowes, Diamond Rio, Keith Urban, Kurt Carr, and Ronnie Milsap, alongside design, consulting and beta testing work with manufacturers including Groove Tubes, Mackie, and Equation Audio.

Michael first joined the AES in the mid-90s with a new Member number and proactive involvement beginning in 2005. He continues to steadfastly serve the Nashville professional community and the AES mission of bringing great people and ideas together as a member of the Nashville AES Section Executive Committee. He was the Chair of AES Nashville from 2019-2021, and led the committee through “the shutdown.” One event of high regard during his tenure, which illustrates his commitment to shepherding the next generation of audio professionals, was the creation of AES-Nashville’s All Student Hang Event. This annual event invites all area AES Student Sections and schools from all over Tennessee and into Alabama to participate in a “hang” event to meet and mingle with fellow audio students and industry professionals. The first event brought an estimated 200+ students together for an evening of networking and fellowship.

Optional Statement:

Thinking about the AES and how it has impacted me over the years, I have come to realize the AES community has been my family. Supporting me and helping me to learn and grow throughout my career. How many conversations have I had, because of the AES, that taught me, inspired me, and led me to new growth? My primary goal is to help bring these thoughts to the next generation of audio professionals.

I see a need to promote the AES to the community and our student members. How are we engaging with and showing our student members the value of AES? How are we supporting our student members? This will require more than just enhancing an awareness of the AES. Am I engaging with and mentoring the next generation, as I once was? These are my leading thoughts as I look to help advance the science of audio along with the industry of audio while keeping an eye towards the future of the AES.

Candidate for AES Governor



Charles Hughes

Charles Hughes is currently a principal engineer at Biamp Systems. Previously, he was the principal consultant at Excelsior Audio, during which time he also held the position of Key Projects Manager at Ahnert Feistel Media Group (AFMG). Hughes has been involved in the design, measurement, and optimization of loudspeaker systems for 35 years and a member of the AES since 1994. He is a graduate of the Georgia Institute of Technology with a BS Physics degree. Prior to starting Excelsior Audio in 2005, he was employed by Peavey Electronics and Altec Lansing.

One of Hughes' primary areas of interest within the field of electroacoustics is the directivity control of radiation from loudspeakers and loudspeaker arrays. He has designed many commercially successful loudspeaker systems and horns in conjunction with this endeavor, as well as becoming very involved with loudspeaker modeling and simulation. Five U.S. patents have been issued to him as a result of his work and designs in this area. He holds two other U.S. patents related to noise cancellation.

Charles is quite active in the AES with a keen interest in standards development. He is a member of the AES Standards and Steering Committees, as well as five working groups: currently serving as the Chair of SC-04-03. He has authored or co-authored multiple AES papers, has been an invited panelist at several live sound seminars and workshops at numerous AES conventions, including chairing one on subwoofer array directivity, and been invited to speak at local AES Section events. Additionally, his technical articles have appeared in many industry publications.

He also serves as moderator for the AVIXA Spectral Balance standard committee and formerly chaired the Consumer Technology Association standards group CTA R3 WG1. During his 15-year tenure there ANSI/CTA-2010, ANSI/CTA-2034, and ANSI/CTA-2099 standards were published. As a result of his work, he received the 2013 CTA Technology Achievement Award. He is also a member of the IEC participating in the activities of TC100.

Optional Statement:

I have been an active member of the AES over the last three decades; contributing to several standards committees, presenting papers, and participating in convention seminars and workshops within my area of expertise. I would like the opportunity to serve the Society in an expanded role and leverage the leadership capabilities I use daily to that end.

AES Profile: <http://www.aes.org/aes/CharlieHughes>

Candidate for AES Governor



Brett Leonard

Brett Leonard is a recording engineer, audio researcher, and educator. He currently serves as the Director of Music Technology Programs and Associate Professor at the University of Indianapolis. He holds degrees from California Lutheran University, New York University, and a PhD from McGill University under Prof. Richard King and Dr. Wieslaw Woszczyk. Additionally, he spent time at the Aspen Music Festival, studying under the mentorship of John Eargle, Stephan Peus, and Ron Streicher. While in school, Brett started a production company to provide location recording and acoustic music recording services. This work expanded numerous genres, audio for live performance video, and immersive multimodal presentations, as well as consulting on acoustical issues and system design. Since 2013, he is also the chief recording engineer for the Chelsea Music Festival in New York, overseeing recording and audio postproduction of the annual festival, as well as supervising the festival's record label which releases both live and studio recordings from festival artists and collaborators. As a researcher, Brett focuses on spatial audio and the interplay between acoustics and the recording process, and novel tools for audio pedagogy. His current work is on development of automated tools for practicing live sound reinforcement mixing.

In his more than 20 years of membership in the AES, Brett has participated at all levels within the Society. After attending meetings of the Los Angeles Section, he became a regular attendee of events in New York, and eventually as a student convention volunteer. Through grad school Brett was a frequent convention author, and eventually served as an AES convention committee member (papers co-chair, AES 136th, 137th, 139th, and 141st) and conference committee member (59th International Conference). Brett has also served as a member of various standing committees, including current participation on the Education Committee and Publication Policy Committee. In 2022 he became Chair of the Convention Subcommittee and a member of the Society's Event Coordination Committee, where he is leading efforts to increase member engagement and convention data capture & analysis. He began a new role as Chair of the Indiana Section of the AES in January 2024.

Optional Statement:

While I have been involved with the AES in various roles in the past, I would like to expand my involvement to give back to the Society. My main focus will be on initiatives to increase engagement and service to all members of the AES by expanding regional events around the world, and to further support local Sections. I would also support initiatives to increase student engagement and foster life-long membership for the next generation of audio professionals. I want to ensure the advantages AES provides are available to all present and future members, regardless of membership type and location!

AES Profile: <http://www.aes.org/aes/brett>

Candidate for AES Governor



Merlijn van Veen

Merlijn van Veen, born in 1978, pursued studies in studio recording and jazz piano at the Royal Conservatoire in The Hague after high school. Following this, he spent four years as a sound engineer at the Dutch Broadcast Company, now NEP, handling shows like “Big Brother” and “The Bus.” He then spent a decade with Harlekijn Holland, managing live concert sound for Herman van Veen.

During this time, he honed his skills in amplifying human voice and classical instruments, mixing over 150 performances annually. Transitioning to self-employment in 2016, he ventured into education and various projects. Inspired by industry veterans like Bob “606” McCarthy, he initiated his own education program and developed tools like the Subwoofer Array Designer.

Merlijn served as the principal teacher for sound reinforcement at the Royal Conservatoire from 2016 to 2018. In 2015, he contributed to the 3rd edition of Bob McCarthy’s seminal work on sound system design. He currently works at Meyer Sound as a Senior Technical Support and Education Specialist. Additionally, his contributions extend to published articles in Live Sound International magazine. Moreover, he continues to guest lecture at the Royal Conservatoire, the Swiss College for Acoustics, and on behalf of Meyer Sound at the University of Derby in the UK.

Merlijn is also an active member of AES and co-chairs AES task groups responsible for drafting standards in acoustics and loudspeaker modeling and measurement since 2018 and 2023, respectively.

Optional Statement:

As an AES member, I am committed to serving the community by actively participating in discussions, contributing insights, and collaborating on initiatives to advance our field. If elected, I will prioritize fostering an inclusive environment that encourages knowledge-sharing and mentorship, particularly for emerging professionals. Additionally, I aim to promote diversity and representation within AES, ensuring that all voices are heard and valued. Through these efforts, I aspire to strengthen AES’ impact, enhance member engagement, and uphold the organization’s mission of advancing the science and practice of audio engineering.

AES Profile: <https://www.aes.org/aes/merlijnvanveen>

Candidate for AES Governor



Malik Williams

Malik Williams is an artist, composer, engineer, educator and community leader from Boston MA. He is the owner of Reel Sync Music, a custom music licensing, audio-post production and media production company in Boston. He attended Wentworth Institute of Technology, and during his college years, transitioned into the music business. Before working in film and TV he started his career as a touring musician and producer, writing, producing and mixing records, as well as being the production manager for Jordan Knight's (New Kids On The Block) world tour. He is a guest lecturer at many colleges and universities in the New England area, including Berklee College of Music, Tufts University, Bridgewater State University, University of New Haven, Bay State College, Massasoit College, as well as Boston Public Schools and youth mentorship organizations.

Besides working as an executive producer, composer and mix engineer in the film, television and advertising industries, Malik is Co-Chair of the AES Boston Section, Co-founder and Vice President of The Secret Society of Black Creatives, a voting member of the Recording Academy/GRAMMYS, and a member of Governor Maura Healey's Cultural Policy Development Advisory Council for the State of Massachusetts. More about [Malik Williams](#).

Optional Statement:

Malik is an educator, a community leader and activist that advocates for a more just and equal workforce within the music, television and film industries. His latest endeavor with The Secret Society of Black Creatives is paving a pathway for young people of color to enter the music and film industries. Focusing on workforce development, for anyone that's interested in a career in the audio industry. The goal is to foster creative connections and opportunities within the audio engineering community through networking, education, and advocacy. Being a multicultural catalyst for positive action by connecting and amplifying diverse voices in the audio and entertainment industries.

AES Profile: <https://www.aes.org/aes/malikwilliams>