



MUSIC TEACHERS NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

**Gary L. Ingle**  
Executive Director

April 1, 2008

Dear Member of Congress:

Music Teachers National Association (MTNA), founded in 1876, is the professional organization for 24,000 independent and collegiate music teachers. Our members teach private music lessons to several hundred thousand children and adults all across the country. MTNA is a National CoSponsor of Arts Advocacy Day 2008, and I urge you to support increased appropriations for federal cultural agencies.

The accomplishments of our own and past civilizations are revealed to us through music and the arts—the most creative and enduring record of our history. Music and the arts have always been at the center of human endeavor and achievement, helping us understand our world and our place in it. As such, music and the arts are not luxuries to be enjoyed by a few. Instead they are necessities to be experienced by all.

In order to secure and advance our nation's musical future, federal funding of the arts is vital. All Americans must have the opportunity to be enriched by the arts. And while private support is necessary and available, it is not sufficient. The benefits music and the arts bring to our citizens are too important to be left to the private sector alone. Our federal government must demonstrate its pride in our music and our arts through the act of supporting them financially. Otherwise we will miss out on the significant benefits to our culture and society, which only come through the achievement of our nation's highest artistic ideals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary L. Ingle". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Gary L. Ingle  
Executive Director