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Melissa Martiros is a strong advocate for inclusion in the arts who is deeply passionate about using music to impact social justice issues. She has spent the past two-decades developing educational programs for inmates, underserved youth, and individuals with special needs. An active clinician, she has presented over fifty workshops at national and international conferences across the United States, Canada, Europe, and Australia including the International Society of Music Education World Conference (ISMEA), the National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy (NCKP), the Canadian Federation of Music Educators Biennial Convention (CFMTA), the College Music Society National Conference (CMS), the Music Teachers National Association National Conference (MTNA), the Australasian Pedagogy Conference (AAPC), and the Gulf South Summit on Service-Learning and Civic Engagement through Higher Education. As co-coauthor for *Inclusive Piano Teaching*, a blog sponsored by the Frances Clark Center for Keyboard Pedagogy, she remains committed to providing research-based teaching practices to music educators worldwide in support of their efforts to be more inclusive in their classrooms and in their studios. She serves as co-chair of the Inclusive Piano Teaching Committee of the National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy and is published in the Piano Pedagogy Forum, American Music Teacher, and the widely read MTNA E-Journal.

Dr. Martiros is the Founding Director and CEO of OpporTUNEity® Music Connections LLC, a nationally recognized, award-winning initiative designed to strengthen the ties between post-secondary music programs and their local communities while promoting the use of music to engage undergraduate students in educational programs that teach them about social justice while emphasizing social change. At present, OpporTUNEity engages a team of nearly one-hundred people spanning across a spectrum of undergraduate college students, higher education faculty, public school educators, correctional officers, politicians, and leadership from a variety of organizations including Anna Maria College, Worcester Public Schools, Worcester Housing Authority, the Worcester County Sherriff's Office and the Worcester County House of Corrections.

She holds the Doctor of Education degree in Higher Education Leadership and Policy from Vanderbilt University where she was recipient of the Deans Tuition Scholarship for Achievement. She earned a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Piano Performance and Pedagogy and a Master of Science degree in Special Education from the University of Wisconsin Madison. She pursued both UW degrees simultaneously as she engaged in cross-disciplinary research throughout her coursework and culminating projects. She holds a Master of Music degree in Piano Performance from Bowling Green State University and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Piano

Performance from Westfield State University, where she was the recipient of the Presidential Merit Scholarship and Excellence in Music Performance Award.