



Audio Engineering Society - 2026 Election Official Candidate Information

May 8, 2026

The following information has been provided by the candidates for the AES 2026 election. Positions this year are President-Elect, Secretary, VP Eastern Region - USA/Canada, VP Western Region - USA/Canada, VP Northern Europe Region, and three Governors who will be elected from six candidates – you may vote for up to three Governors. Terms begin January 1, 2027.

Voting begins online on May 15, 2026 and ends June 26 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 May 15 from the election company, Global Election Services, with voting details. If any Member who is eligible did not receive an election ballot notice in email, they may still vote or examine the ballot by simply going to the voting site, <https://AES.gesvote.com>, entering their name, AES Member number and email to receive a security code. 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. Lapsed Members may renew and Associate members may upgrade to Member at their AES member portal and vote if done before June 19, 2026.

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
gary.louie@aes.org

AES 2026 Election Sample Ballot

(online voting will randomly present names in forward or reverse alphabetical order)

AES President-Elect

David v.R Bowles
Kazuhiko Kawahara

AES Secretary

Valerie Tyler

Vice President, Eastern Region, USA & Canada

Roey Shamir
Malik Williams

Vice President, Western Region, USA & Canada

Jess Berg
Brian (Bt) "Gibbs"

Vice President, Northern Europe

Neil Johnson
Merlijn van Veen

Governor (3 elected, vote for up to 3)

Helen Caddes
Rick Carson
Juan Jiménez
Ivo Marković
Angela Piva
JD Trefney

Candidate provided biographies follow



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. All releases are available as high-resolution paid downloads in stereo and Dolby Atmos. Those in Atmos streaming format can be found on Avie, Navona, Signum Records, Toccatà Classics and Delos/OutHere labels.

In collaboration with New York University's Music Technology programme at Steinhardt School of Music, Mr. Bowles researches and teaches 3D audio recording and mixing for their Tonmeister Seminar (2011-present). He has presented on 3D gathering and object placement at AES conventions in New York, San Francisco, São Paulo, Warsaw and Long Beach (California). He has also presented on 3D audio for video gathering at the annual Silicon Valley Video Summit.

Mr. Bowles is also a guest lecturer at the Royal Danish Academy of Music and Peabody Recording Arts and Sciences (Johns Hopkins University). He was Visiting Professor of Recording Arts at Indiana University's Jacobs School.

Mr. Bowles is a Member of the AES (Audio Engineering Society). He was Western Regional VP (2023-26), and on the Technical Council for Spatial Audio (2023-present). He served on the Board of Governors 2008-10 and 2013-14; alternated between Chair & Vice-chair of the San Francisco Section between 2006-2019; was chair of Technical Tours 125th Convention; chair of Workshops for 129th and 133rd Conventions; and judge for Student Recording Competition (1996-present). He is also a voting member of NARAS (National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences) and active in their Producers & Engineers Wing.

Optional statement:

Our San Francisco AES Section committee has shown strong leadership in the past few years: me, Gary Gottlieb (AES Past President), Valerie Tyler (AES Secretary), Jessica Livingston (chair, Membership Committee) as well as members of NARAS and IEEE. We've developed a collaborative model of working together, with each person contributing to the areas in which they are the strongest. We've continued to recruit members from under-served areas of the audio industry, welcoming minorities. At the same time, we honour evidence-based science of audio technologies, and recruit presenters on those principles.

My goal is to continue this philosophy with the AES, bringing together our global communities, and honouring their uniqueness. It is vital to provide our general members a safe haven within the audio industry, in spite of challenges both political and economic. Each board or committee member needs to define and contribute their strengths, perspective and individuality to make positive contributions to the AES. It would be an honour to serve the AES with this in mind.

AES profile: <https://members.aes.org/individual-info?recordNum=59138>

2026 Candidate for AES President-Elect



Kazuhiko Kawahara

Dr. Kazuhiko Kawahara is an Associate Professor at the Department of Acoustic Design, School of Design, Kyushu University. He received a master's degree from the Kyushu Institute of Design in 1989 and his Ph.D. from Kyushu University in 2017.

Kazuhiko worked as a Digital Signal Processing Engineer at TOA Corporation from 1989 to 1991. He was a member of the cutting-edge developing team of a Digital Mixing System for live performance. It was the era when real-time digital signal processing systems were considered unreliable. However, he implemented the system and made it reliable.

In 1991, Kazuhiko returned to the Kyushu Institute of Design as a researcher Assistant, and since 2003, following Japan's national university reform, Kazuhiko has been affiliated with Kyushu University.

Electro-acoustic and audio signal processing are his research fields. He has also worked in loudspeaker evaluation, loudspeaker application technology, and remote presence for live viewing. His recent focus involves the pedagogy of Technical Listening Training (TLT). He has attended many AES conventions and conferences with his students to present on signal processing, audio networking, audio mixing evaluations, audio archiving, and loudspeaker-related research. He also joined ear-training workshops as a panel for TLT.

Over 19 years of active involvement in the Audio Engineering Society, he has built a strong and consistent record of organizational leadership. His experience spans nearly two decades of continuous engagement, during which he has combined long-term commitment with strategic thinking and effective coordination.

As Vice President for the Asia Pacific Region (2022 - 2025), he led complex international initiatives, strengthened collaboration across culturally and geographically diverse communities, and expanded the Society's presence in one of its most dynamic regions.

In addition to his executive responsibilities, he contributes to the educational mission as Vice Chair of the AES Education Committee and as a member of the AES Japan Section Committee. These roles, together with his position as Chairman of the Education Committee of the Acoustical Society of Japan, enable him to help shape the direction of AES educational activities and support the development of new programs and initiatives. As an educator, he is particularly committed to engaging the next generation of AES members. During AES conventions, he actively recruits and mentors young scholars, building strong connections between the academic community and the Society and helping ensure the long-term vitality of its membership.

Optional statement:

AES is a unique network of professional engineers, content creators, and academics, and I am proud to be part of it. I am committed to strengthening it through deeper international collaboration and the exchange of diverse perspectives. If elected, as the AES President from Asia, I would proudly reinforce the Society's worldwide identity.

I care deeply about the educational potential of the AES and have spent many years recruiting and mentoring young scholars. After nearly two decades in AES, I remain inspired by its potential and ready to serve with energy, openness, and the fresh spirit of Japanese spring blossoms.

AES Profile: <https://members.aes.org/individual-info?recordNum=72900>



Valerie Tyler

Valerie Tyler has served as Secretary of the AES since 2016, previously as Governor, has served on 20 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 work with the Board of Directors and Board of Governors to continue the work of the AES in an efficient, productive manner.

AES profile: <https://members.aes.org/individual-info?recordNum=38674>



Roey Shamir

Roey Shamir is an accomplished audio engineer, record producer, musician, and technology innovator with a career spanning more than four decades. Active in the music industry since 1982, he has remained at the forefront of studio technology and production practices since beginning his work at the age of sixteen.

Currently serving as Chair of the New York Section of the Audio Engineering Society (AES), where he also produces and moderates monthly educational events designed to support both emerging talent and established professionals. Over the past seven years, his leadership roles within the AES New York Section—including Events Coordinator and Co-Chair—have led to the production of more than 40 live and virtual events, contributing significantly to the organization’s community engagement and professional development initiatives.

In addition to his industry leadership, Roey is developing an original audio technology, Key-Qualization™ (Key-Q™), for commercial release in both hardware and software formats. This innovation is being developed in collaboration with Useful Arts Audio, a respected New Jersey-based manufacturer.

Throughout his career, he has recorded, mixed, and produced a wide range of music projects and film soundtracks, working in major studios across New York, Los Angeles, Japan, Nashville, Florida, and Israel. His collaborations include work with internationally recognized artists such as Quincy Jones, Al B. Sure!, RUN-DMC, Information Society, Ronnie Spector, Roberta Flack, Robert Palmer, Rod Stewart, David Bowie, Joyce Sims, and Mantronix.

Beyond engineering and production, Roey is also a multi-instrumentalist and programmer, contributing guitar, synthesizer programming, drum machine design, and vocal arrangement to numerous projects. He notably collaborated with Roger Linn on the original factory sound library for the Linn 9000 and Akai MPC60, helping shape early digital rhythm production tools.

Roey holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Music Production and Engineering from SUNY Empire State University, is an alumnus of Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts, and was among the early graduates of both the Institute of Audio Research and Full Sail’s inaugural audio program.

Currently, Roey works primarily from his private studio, collaborating remotely with artists and producers worldwide. He specializes in immersive audio formats including Dolby Atmos, Sony 360 Reality Audio, and Auro-3D, and continues to work in major studio environments such as Power Station New York City and Sound on Sound Studios in Montclair, New Jersey.

A dedicated educator and mentor, he is a frequent guest speaker at colleges and actively supports the development of young professionals, particularly those from underrepresented communities and individuals with disabilities, fostering greater access and inclusion within the music industry.

Here's a link to hear some of his work...

https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLxoOFyUhXUyu7IC6ZZ_8Puk9CvGqB3MTb&si=WsjRlpHQZviqSkqN

AES profile: <https://members.aes.org/individual-info?recordNum=198385>



Malik Williams

Malik Williams is an Emmy Award winning and platinum selling composer/producer/engineer/educator whose work has appeared in records, film, television shows, and in national advertising campaigns. His successful work as a composer, multi-instrumentalist and vocalist, and his ability to work in many different genres, has made Mr. Williams an in-demand producer. Mr. Williams owns and operates Reel Sync Music production and music licensing company based in Boston, Massachusetts.

He's also currently a Governor of the AES, Co-Chair of the AES Boston Section, voting GRAMMY and P&E Wing committee member, and serves on community, educational and DEI committees, including the Fuller Craft Museum, Project STEP BoD, Governor Healey's Cultural Policy Development Advisory Council and The City of Boston Office of Arts & Culture advisor.

Optional statement:

My goal is to foster creative connections and opportunities within the audio engineering community through networking, education, and advocacy. I'm looking forward to creating awareness, opportunities to collaborate and support the Audio Engineering Society's global mission.

AES profile: <https://members.aes.org/individual-info?recordNum=218948>



Brian (Bt) "Gibbs"

Brian (Bt) "Gibbs" is co-owner & principal at Skyline Entertainment & Publishing (at Tool Shed Studios) in Silicon Valley. With 30+ recording credits in 2025, Gibbs uses his Bachelor of Music degree from Berklee College of Music (Jazz Composition) as a record producer & mixing engineer—with 600M+ lifetime streaming credits across Alternative, Country, Jazz and other genres as of March 2026. He has worked on records for many Bay Area artists including Los Tigres del Norte's "Realidades" which won the 2015 GRAMMY® Award for Best Regional Mexican Album (including Tejano).

Gibbs' music experience dates back decades to time as a championship winning drumline captain. Realizing music was his passion, he continued to learn multiple low brass instruments, eventually learning bass guitar. Advanced skills in sight reading and music theory came easily for Gibbs, allowing him to test out of two years of core curriculum at Berklee. He played guitar in groups around New England, across many genres from Gospel to R&B to Alternative Rock and performed at many legendary venues in Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island, for large audiences at events such as "First Night Boston" and more.

With the Audio Engineering Society, Gibbs served as Co-Chair for the 151st Convention (Fall 2021), 2019-20 San Francisco Section Chair, DE&I committee member and launched the first of its kind mentorship program for the AES under the DE&I committee. Gibbs also successfully secured funding for an AES, DE&I specific scholarship, allowing aspiring audio engineers to attend the annual AES Fall Convention, with all expenses paid – including a paired mentor from an international audio engineering & design firm. In addition to presenting at AES conferences on immersive mixing techniques, he has presented at Music Expo (SF & Boston) Berklee College of Music, multiple Cal State University campuses, Harvard, MIT, Stanford, USV, Webster University & other audio engineering educational institutions. Gibbs is also a current SMPTE member in the San Francisco section.

Gibbs also shares the Recording Academy's purpose to Advocate, Celebrate, Educate, and Serve. His work ethic is perfectly aligned with the Recording Academy's values of Service, Creativity, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, Integrity, Collaboration, and most of all Passion in everything he does. When he makes recommendations for local and national Recording Academy efforts, he is also ready to help lead those projects and programs. Gibbs is also a 10-year plus voting member, a very active 2020-22 Governor for the San Francisco chapter, serving both as the 2021-22 Chair for the SF Chapter Producers & Engineers Wing, as well as 2022-23 P&E Wing Co-Chair. He also serves on the National P&E Wing Advisory Council. Gibbs is a 6-year District Advocacy Captain (CA-19), currently participating as both a GRAMMY U mentor, along with an alumni mentor for his alma mater Berklee College of Music helping to develop the next generation of creators.

AES profile: <https://members.aes.org/individual-info?recordNum=91711>

2026 Candidate for AES Vice-President, Western Region, USA & Canada



Jess Berg

Jess Berg grew up in Minnesota performing and recording in her friend's studios. She was gifted a four-track Tascam cassette recorder in high school. Jess started running live sound in 2003 and graduated from The Institute of Production and Recording in Minneapolis in 2004, with an Associate of Applied Science degree in Audio Engineering and Production.

Jess went on to run sound at local jazz clubs while working as the Concert and Events Coordinator for the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board. She supervised the seasonal sound technicians and booked over 220 concerts every season at five outdoor venues. She also obtained a Festival and Event Management Certification from the University of Minnesota Tourism Center. Jess began working with the production team at a large outdoor music and camping festival venue in northern Minnesota. In 2010, Jess went back to college and graduated from Minnesota School of Business with her Bachelor of Science in Media Business in 2013. She moved to Los Angeles in October 2013.

When Jess got to LA, she began touring as an audio engineer, tour manager, and production manager. She also worked with multiple local production companies, volunteered with SoundGirls, attended NAMM, got her Event Safety Certification from the ESA, ran sound at a few local venues, and attended grad school at California State University, Northridge. Jess graduated with her Master of Arts in Music Industry Administration in May of 2019 then moved to the Seattle, Washington area that summer. Jess had been elected the mayor of a village at Burning Man that was based in Washington, plus she had some audio connections there, so she went for it. She was still working with LA production companies and flying down for major festivals.

In July 2019 she attended AES PNW's meeting with Sylvia Massy. There, Jess ran into one of her lead techs from Minneapolis Music in the Parks, who had become a PNW Regional Production Manager for AEG Live, and he offered her audio crew work at local AEG venues. At this same AES meeting, she was introduced to several PNW audio folks. Through this networking, she was hired as an independent contractor to fill in at Microsoft HQ for corporate audio gigs. Jess had a couple tours at the end of 2019, then in 2020 she found herself on an extended pause with the rest of the touring industry.

Jess began attending AES PNW's Tea Time Topics meeting every week. She officially joined AES in 2020, when she was elected to join the AES PNW Committee. In late 2021, Jess was recruited as the Technical Supervisor with Minnesota Public Radio and moved back to Minnesota. She was able to maintain her commitments to the AES PNW Committee, since they are a hybrid Section. In 2025, Jess was elected as the AES Pacific Northwest Section Chair and attended the AES Show in Long Beach, California. Jess is currently building her business and working as a Technical Supervisor with the 2026 US Special Olympics.

Optional statement:

My vision as VP is to be a spark and supporter of Section ideas, providing resources as needed, and helping to strengthen connections across the region. I'd like to be able to provide more coordinated outreach with our student Sections and develop a sustainable blueprint for their continued participation in AES. I can also help be a bridge of communication as we figure out how to best navigate the AES Connect tools as an organization. I'd love to share what we've been able to do in the PNW Section with others in efforts to engage and increase overall participation. It would be a tremendous honor to serve AES in this capacity.

AES profile: <https://members.aes.org/individual-info?recordNum=312074>

2026 Candidate for AES Vice-President, Northern Europe



Neil Johnson

Neil Johnson is a Senior Software Engineer at Roku UK Ltd, developing multimedia consumer products from streaming sticks and sound bars to smart TVs and smart projectors. He developed Roku's first audio test and development facility at its Cambridge, UK, office while working on award-winning streaming sound bars.

Previous roles have included Cambridge Consultants, where he developed low-power 16 and 32-bit embedded processors and led a team in developing a novel speech recognition system, and at Broadcom where he developed the architecture for a multi-standard mobile TV protocol stack for the VideoCore media coprocessor. He has also designed analogue integrated circuits for Sound Semiconductor Inc, including mixers, amplifiers and bucket-brigade delays.

His areas of interest include low-level embedded systems hardware and software, and the design and development of electronic music synthesizers encompassing analogue, digital and MIDI technologies.

Neil has been a member of the AES since 2016, and helped re-energise both the Cambridge Regional Group and the UK Section, serving on the Interim Committee in 2020/2021 before being elected Chair of the UK Section for 2021/2022, and again for 2024. Neil is also on the AES Membership Committee where he brings a UK perspective. Neil has been an active member of the IET from the very start of his career as a student apprentice at Thorn EMI in 1989. After moving to Cambridge in 1996 he was involved for over ten years in the running of the IET Cambridge Local Network, with roles including Committee Chair and Seminar Chair.

Neil received his BEng(Hons) and MSc degrees at the University of Surrey in 1993 and 1996 respectively, and his PhD in Computer Science from the University of Cambridge's Computer Laboratory in 2004. Neil is a Member of the AES, a Senior Member of the IEEE, a Member of the IET, a Chartered Engineer, and a STEM Ambassador.

Optional statement:

As VP for the Northern Europe Region, my aims would be three-fold: firstly, through regular contact (in-person and online) with the committees within the region to foster sharing of best practice to enhance our value to our members; secondly, through collaboration with sister organisations across the region to grow the AES through awareness and outreach; and thirdly, as a member of the Board of Governors, to support the work of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee to ensure that the AES is, and always will be, the home for all in the audio engineering field.

AES profile: <https://members.aes.org/individual-info?recordNum=239169>



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, featured in Live Sound International Magazine.

Merlijn served as the principal teacher for sound reinforcement at the Royal Conservatoire from 2016 to 2018 and is an active member of AES, contributing to industry forums and publications. 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.

Since 2018 and 2023, respectively, Merlijn co-chairs AES task groups focused on drafting standards in acoustics and loudspeaker modeling and measurement. He also serves as a member of the AES Board of Governors and is a published contributor to Live Sound International magazine.

AES profile: <https://members.aes.org/individual-info?recordNum=98718>

2026 Candidate for AES Governor (at-Large)



Helen Caddes

Helen Caddes is Chief Engineer and Studio Manager at Leftway Studios in downtown East Austin, Texas, where she combines deep technical expertise with an exceptional ability to connect one-on-one with artists. Studio owner Kate Harrington calls her "the spark we needed," praising her expert day-to-day guidance, effortless communication, and "unstoppable passion for music on every level."

Helen has been instrumental to the studio's video podcast Boss Ladies On The Record, which highlights female leaders of industry. A proud graduate in political science from Middle Tennessee State University and music business and production from the College of Southern Nevada, Helen has built a multifaceted career as both engineer and artist, writing and performing her own seven song EP State of Nature and staying active in the audio community. Caddes presented on "Audio For Social Justice" at the AES European Convention in 2021, and contributed to the branding and digital presence for the Learn Mastering seminar featuring legends Howie Weinberg and Vlado Meller in 2018.

Bringing the message and community spirit of the AES to Central Texas is both a privilege and a joy for Helen, who brings experience from decades of organizing work and service to her local section. From her work as Digital Director for Marianne Williamson's 2020 presidential campaign to a term as Vice Chair of the Stonewall Democratic Club of Southern Nevada to the 15 years she dedicated as co-coordinator of the wrongful conviction campaign for Kirstin Blaise Lobato – an innocent woman exonerated with the help of the Innocence Project in 2018 – Helen is "passionate, diligent, and when she devotes herself to a cause, she is relentless in its pursuit."

When she's not behind the console, Helen enjoys performing at local events, pursuing new creative projects, or relaxing at home with her cats, Gabe and Charlie.

Optional Statement:

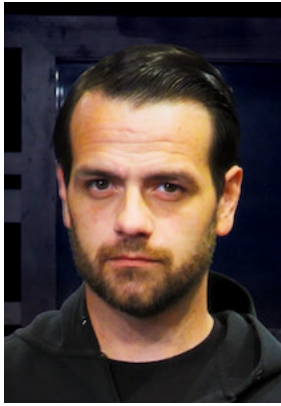
I am so honored to be a candidate for the position of Governor in this year's AES election.

The Audio Engineering Society promotes "the growth, knowledge, and appreciation of the science and art of audio, connecting people and ideas worldwide."

The society's leadership teaches through example, brings people together, shares knowledge freely and for the entire community's benefit. As a lifelong student of the craft eager to share the gifts the AES has brought to my life and career, there is nothing I would love more than the opportunity to represent the society as Governor. Each new interaction presents us all with ways we can spread the camaraderie and joy of the AES with students, professionals, and educators. There is a whole world of opportunity and education we have to share.

I'm so grateful to be a member of this Society and for the new wonderful journeys I am on these days in Texas. I could have never dreamed of a more fulfilling and rewarding life, and it's in large part to the Society that I am here. I will continue to share the gift that others have given me as we work to ensure the Society continues to grow, flourish, and educate new generations of audio students for years to come.

AES profile: <https://members.aes.org/individual-info?recordNum=323038>



Rick Carson

Rick Carson is a nine Grammy-nominated engineer and the owner-operator of Make Believe Studios in Omaha, Nebraska. His accomplished career spans a wide range of artists and genres, from the soulful sounds of Terrace Martin to the high-energy rock of A Day to Remember. Make Believe Studios is a unique venture, combining a state-of-the-art recording facility with an inventive software company. This approach is further solidified by partnership with Metric Halo, the renowned hardware manufacturer and software development company, with whom Make Believe Studios collaborates to create boundary pushing audio plugins and tools.

Rick aims to help usher the Audio Engineering Society into the future by fostering an ongoing dialogue about the Society's unique value and its enduring importance. Drawing on extensive experience as a record-making professional, Rick is committed to bridging the gap between the studio and the Society, encouraging colleagues to reconnect with the AES community.

2026 Candidate for AES Governor (at-Large)



Juan Jiménez

Juan Jiménez is a sound engineer specializing in audio recording and post-production for music and audiovisual media. He holds a Master's degree in Audiovisual Post-production and a Master's degree in Educational Innovation, combining technical expertise with a strong commitment to teaching and learning.

Alongside his professional work in recording, mixing, and post-production, Juan has developed a career in higher education, where he teaches courses in recording, mixing, and sound design. His work focuses on helping students build solid technical criteria and connecting academic training with real-world audio practices.

Juan has been actively involved in the Audio Engineering Society (AES) for several years, contributing to the growth of the community in Ecuador and Latin America. He was part of the creation of the AES Ecuador Section and the AES UDLA Student Section, where he currently serves as Faculty Advisor. Within AES Ecuador, he served as Secretary and Vice President, supporting the development of local activities and strengthening the professional community.

He was Co-Chair of the AES Latin American Conference 2023 (AES LAC 2023) in Quito, a milestone event for the region, and received the AES Board of Governors Award for his contributions. He also served as Vice-Chair for Latin America in the AES Education Committee (2022–2024), working on initiatives related to education, student participation, and regional collaboration.

Juan is particularly interested in strengthening the connection between education, industry, and emerging audio practices, and in supporting the development of future audio professionals within the AES community.

Optional statement:

I aim to support a more connected and collaborative AES community, strengthening the relationship between education, industry, and regional sections. I am especially interested in promoting student participation and creating opportunities for knowledge exchange across Latin America and beyond.

AES profile: <https://members.aes.org/individual-info?recordNum=88608>

2026 Candidate for AES Governor (at-Large)



Ivo Marković

Ivo Marković graduated from the National University of Lanús with a degree in Audiovisual Arts and a technical certification in Sound and Recording. He further specialized internationally through the "Audio Engineering Work Study Program" at The Banff Centre in Calgary, Canada, where he recorded and mixed a wide range of musicians and orchestras, focusing on classical music and jazz.

His professional career includes music recording, mixing, and sound post-production for film and TV, collaborating with industry leaders such as TODD-AO, Sounddogs, and Sound Ideas. Currently, as co-founder of IAS - Immersive Audio Solutions, he is a leading authority in immersive audio, leading a studio recognized as a Dolby Labs Certified Service Partner (CSP) and a Dolby Creator Lab Global Education Partner.

As an educator, Marković is a Guest Lecturer for the Master in Music Production Technology and Innovation at Berklee Valencia and has taught extensively at institutions like UDLA (Ecuador) and TEC de Monterrey (Mexico). Service to the AES: A dedicated member of the Audio Engineering Society since 2001, Marković has a long history of service to the organization. He has held nearly every leadership position within the AES Argentina Section, serving as Web Designer, Communications Coordinator, Event Producer, Secretary, Vice-Chair, and Chair.

His commitment to the Society is further highlighted by his uninterrupted participation as a featured speaker at every AES Latin American Conference (AES LAC) since 2018. Through these conferences, he has consistently contributed to the technical program and educational outreach across Uruguay, Brazil, Colombia, Argentina, Ecuador, Bolivia, and Mexico. This sustained involvement as a lecturer and leader has allowed him to effectively bridge the gap between professional industry standards and the Society's mission throughout Latin America.

Optional statement

My goal is to strengthen the integration of the Latin American audio community into the global AES network through consistent education and technical excellence. Having served in multiple administrative roles and maintained an uninterrupted presence as a speaker at AES LAC since 2018, I intend to use this experience to foster deeper engagement among regional members. If elected, I will focus on expanding access to emerging technologies, such as immersive audio, ensuring the Society remains the primary bridge between industry innovation and professional development for all members in our region.

2026 Candidate for AES Governor (at-Large)



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/USA-Canada VP Angela has worked diligently to reestablish 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://members.aes.org/individual-info?recordNum=93718>

2026 Candidate for AES Governor (at-Large)



JD Trefney

Joseph “JD” Trefney began his career in 2009 after earning a degree in Audio Production from Webster University. His commitment to the industry started early; as a member of the Audio Engineering Society (AES) student section, he helped coordinate the Webster AES Student Summit—the event now known as CRASS (Central Region Audio Student Summit).

Following graduation, JD cut his teeth in the live-sound field at Ameristar Casino in St. Charles, MO. Over two years, he refined his live mixing skills while expanding into AV end-user support. This dual focus led him to the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center, where he transitioned from supporting systems to understanding their internal architecture. That curiosity naturally propelled him into the world of commercial AV integration.

In 2014, JD joined McCann Systems as an installation technician and systems commissioning engineer. During this tenure, he prioritized professional development, earning both his AVIXA CTS and CTS-I certifications, as well as an MBA from Webster University.

His career evolved further in 2018 when he joined TSI Global Companies as an AV Design Engineer. Over the next six years, JD rose to lead the estimation team, focusing on high-level client discovery and designing cutting-edge enterprise systems. He later built upon this expertise at AVI-SPL, where he integrated CAD into his design workflow for global-scale clients.

Today, JD serves as an AV Sales Engineer with Coltrane Systems, leveraging his extensive technical background to bridge the gap between complex engineering and client solutions.

Parallel to his professional growth, JD’s involvement with the St. Louis AES Section has come full circle. Since being nominated as Events Chair in 2022, he has focused on revitalizing the local audio community. He launched "The HANG," a recurring monthly event providing a dedicated space for professionals to connect, which has since expanded into a series of tours featuring world-class recording studios, convention centers, and media houses. JD is driven by the opportunity to give back to the community that has provided him with a lifelong career, enduring friendships, and a deep-seated passion for the art and science of audio.

Optional statement:

My goal is to foster a more connected and accessible audio community. Drawing on my history with the AES, from coordinating the inaugural student summits to chairing recent events like "The HANG," I intend to prioritize consistent, high-value programming that bridges the gap between students and seasoned professionals.

I am committed to expanding our reach through diverse site tours and collaborative networking opportunities, ensuring the Society remains a vital resource for technical growth and peer mentorship. My focus is on sustaining an inclusive environment where every member can sharpen their craft and build lasting industry connections.

AES profile: <https://members.aes.org/individual-info?recordNum=76223>