

## **AMTA in the ATL: The American Music Therapy Association (AMTA) is holding its 2011 conference in Atlanta, focusing on advocacy, innovative interventions, and leadership**

Atlanta, GA--The American Music Therapy Association (AMTA), a professional organization of over 3500 music therapists and students, will hold its annual conference from November 16-20 at the downtown Atlanta Hilton. Numerous concurrent sessions, performances, in-depth institutes, and meetings will give music therapists the opportunity to invigorate and refine their practices in order to benefit the larger community.

The field of music therapy received unprecedented exposure in 2011. Books (such as Jodi Picoult's *Sing You Home*), a movie (*The Music Never Stopped*), reports by ABC and other media outlets highlighting music therapy as an innovative treatment option, and a new music therapy blog on *The Huffington Post* have all contributed to expanded public awareness of the depth and scope of music therapy.

Legendary percussionist and humanitarian Mickey Hart (formerly of the Grateful Dead) will be on hand to facilitate a special drum circle session, as well as two-time GRAMMY Award-winning folk musicians/ukelele masters Cathy Fink and Marcy Marxer, who will host a ukelele "love fest" and several workshops.

Music Therapy is an established health profession in which music is used within a therapeutic relationship to address physical, emotional, cognitive, and social needs of individuals. Music therapists work in hospitals (both medical and psychiatric), schools, forensic settings, care facilities, wellness programs, community centers, hospices, clinics, and various other environments.

72 university programs have been established nationwide for aspiring music therapists, who receive the MT-BC (Music Therapist-Board Certified) credential by the Certification Board for Music Therapists (CBMT) after successful completion of an internship and a satisfactory score on the CBMT board exam. To maintain their credentials, music therapists engage in ongoing continuing education to keep abreast of their rapidly changing profession.

The November AMTA conference promises to be an enlivening and cutting-edge gathering full of music and progressive learning and networking for music therapists and friends of music therapy, with Atlanta as its dynamic backdrop.

### **Website:**

<http://www.musictherapy.org>

### **Press/Media Contacts:**

Al Bumanis, AMTA Director of Communications and Conferences

[al@musictherapy.org](mailto:al@musictherapy.org)

(240) 401-1001

Carol Statella, Atlanta Public Relations Committee

[statella@bellsouth.net](mailto:statella@bellsouth.net)

(404) 314-1780