

The **Music Business Educator of the Year** award celebrates a music business educator who inspires students to enter the music business. The winner will lead by example and teach across the breadth and depth of the industry to open students' awareness to the possibilities available in the music industry today. The winning candidate should expose students to the importance of connection and relationships in this industry while continuing to learn and be a part of the industry themselves.

### **Submission #1**

**Dani Strong**

*Professor*

**Fanshawe**

dani@taylorentertainment.ca

*No. Year Teaching: 2 years*

*Current Class List: Music Industry Arts*

Dani swooped into my life as my radio tracker in 2022. At the age of 20, I had left a management team I was with for 3 years and felt unsure about my place in the industry and did not know what steps to take. What started out as a tracker-artist partnership blossomed into 3 years of mentorship and a special friendship. Dani showed me a new perspective on the music industry— one in which I could thrive and succeed without the help of management, booking agencies and labels. She not only did this through countless phone calls, introducing me to industry professionals and spearheading various radio campaigns and single releases, but by emulating what a strong leader looks like herself. Through radio tracking, teaching, performing and becoming a part of the world's leading music education program, Musora, Dani has paved the way for industry giants and musicians alike. I can confidently say that I do not know where I would be if it weren't for Dani Strong and I know so many of her peers and students would say the same. No one is more deserving of this recognition.

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## **Submission #2**

**Jerry (Gerardo) Brindisi**

*Professor*

**Columbia College Chicago**

jbrindisi@colum.edu

*No. Year Teaching:* 14 Years at Columbia College Chicago

*Current Class List:* Music Industry Immersion Workshop (Chicago), Music Supervision, Music Industry Immersion Germany, Music Supervision, Applied Marketing: Music Business.

I am honored to nominate Professor Jerry Brindisi for the Music Business Educator of the Year award. As a professor and the longstanding coordinator of the Music Business BA at Columbia College Chicago, Jerry embodies the passion, dedication, and innovation mindset that this award represents. His unwavering commitment to inspiring and equipping students with knowledge, tools, and industry connections for success in the music industry makes him an exemplary candidate.

With over a decade in a leadership role, Jerry has expanded and enriched Columbia College Chicago's music business program, now serving as the Interim Director of the School of Business and Entrepreneurship. His influence extends beyond the classroom, providing students with hands-on industry experiences that open doors and broaden their understanding of the evolving music landscape.

Jerry's dedication is evident through initiatives such as the annual multi-course trip to SXSW, which he has led since 2010. Each year, he brings over 120 students to SXSW, giving them unparalleled access to industry professionals and organizing an official student showcase—an invaluable networking and experiential learning opportunity. Additionally, his involvement as a visiting faculty member at PopAkademie University in Germany ensures his students gain international perspectives in music business education.

Innovative pedagogy is central to Jerry's approach. He launched the Music Industry Immersion course, a cutting-edge gamified music business program that immerses students in real-world industry scenarios. His expertise in experiential learning has been recognized at major

conferences, including the Association of Arts Administration Educators Conference and the Music and Entertainment Industry Educators Association (MEIEA). His thought leadership extends into academia as the co-author of the textbook, *It's All About the Music Marketing, Stupid*, along with multiple peer-reviewed publications on music business education and industry analysis.

Beyond teaching, Jerry is deeply engaged in the professional music business community. He has held key industry roles at Sony Music Entertainment, Warner Music Group, and Anders Music, ensuring that his students benefit from his firsthand industry knowledge. His active involvement with MEIEA, the Music Business Association, the American Marketing Association, and other organizations further exemplifies his dedication to bridging academia and industry.

For his decades-long commitment to student success, his industry impact, and his innovative approach to music business education, I wholeheartedly nominate my colleague Jerry Brindisi for this prestigious award. He is an exceptional mentor, leader, and innovator who inspires his peers and prepares his students to thrive as music industry professionals.

Additional Links:

[https://musicbiz.org/wp-content/uploads/gravity\\_forms/248-cf5ad6ece739f454bec6ea2bd893db3a/2025/01/Recommutation-for-Jerry-Brindisi95.pdf](https://musicbiz.org/wp-content/uploads/gravity_forms/248-cf5ad6ece739f454bec6ea2bd893db3a/2025/01/Recommutation-for-Jerry-Brindisi95.pdf)

[https://musicbiz.org/wp-content/uploads/gravity\\_forms/248-cf5ad6ece739f454bec6ea2bd893db3a/2025/01/Jerry-Brindisi-Music-Educator-of-the-Year-Reccomendation.pdf](https://musicbiz.org/wp-content/uploads/gravity_forms/248-cf5ad6ece739f454bec6ea2bd893db3a/2025/01/Jerry-Brindisi-Music-Educator-of-the-Year-Reccomendation.pdf)

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Monika Jaiswal-Oliver, Columbia College Chicago  
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### **Submission #3**

**Dr Clyde Rolston**

*Professor*

**Belmont University**

clyde.rolston@belmont.edu

*No. Year Teaching: 35*

*Current Class List: Survey of Music Business, Marketing of Recorded Music, Music in Film/TV*

I took Survey of the Music Business from Dr Rolston in 1996 and Marketing of Recorded Music in 1998, and he has since been a marketing mentor to me. I've stayed in touch with Clyde every year since and very much appreciate his mentorship and friendship. This is Clyde's final year teaching, and he deserves to be honored.

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Brad Turcotte, Live Nation

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#### **Submission #4**

**Steven Corn**

*Professor*

**Los Angeles College of Music**

steve@viewpointconsultingservices.com

*No. Year Teaching: 9*

*Current Class List: Classes:*

- 1) Global Music Biz 1, 2, 3*
- 2) Royalty Accounting*
- 3) Financial Strategies for the Indie Artist*
- 4) Technology Startups*
- 5) Entrepreneurial Business Management Strategy*
- 6) Music Industry Ethics*

I have worked with Steve for over five years and have observed first hand his dedication to the professional development of aspiring music executives. He is very patient and thorough in his explanations while demanding rigor in the analysis and responses he expects from his students. Even when Steve relocated from Los Angeles to Chevy Chase, Maryland, he remained committed to teaching at Los Angeles College of Music.

Additional Links:

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<https://musicbiz.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/S.Corn-Rec.pdf>

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Tony D. Alexander, MIME LLC  
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#### **Submission #5**

**Joe Steinhardt**

*Associate Professor*

**Drexel University**

jss397@drexel.edu

*No. Year Teaching: 9*

*Current Class List: Classes taught in previous 2 years: Research Methodology for the Music Industry (MIP T380), MAD Dragon Music Group (MIP 376), Independent Music Culture (MIP T380), Survey Of The Music Industry (MIP 132), Streaming & Radio Promotion (MIP T380), Marketing & Promotion In The Music Industry (MIP 375), Entrepreneurship in the Music Industry (MIP 374)*

It is my absolute pleasure to nominate Joe Steinhardt for the prestigious Music Business Educator of the Year award. Joe exemplifies everything this honor celebrates, from inspiring students to enter the music business to embodying the principles of leadership, connection, and ongoing industry involvement.

Joe has been an integral part of the Music Industry program at Drexel University for the past six years, where his approach to education is transformative. He teaches a broad array of courses that provide students with both foundational knowledge and specialized skills needed to navigate the complexities of today's music industry. His classes—Marketing in the Music Industry, Innovation in the Modern Music Industry, Music Industry Research Methods, Survey of the Music Industry, and Entrepreneurship in the Music Industry—offer students a comprehensive understanding of the business, from its historical roots to its modern challenges and opportunities. Through these courses, Joe empowers students to think critically and creatively, preparing them to tackle the dynamic and evolving landscape of the music business.

Beyond the classroom, Joe's commitment to fostering connections is unparalleled. He has invited a diverse and inspiring group of industry professionals to campus, including Keith Secola, Liz Pelly, Steve Albini, Lavender Country, and Laura Ballance, among many others. These guests

expose students to a variety of perspectives, career paths, and stories, helping them understand the breadth and depth of possibilities within the music industry. Joe's ability to connect his students with such influential figures demonstrates his dedication to preparing them for real- world success while reinforcing the importance of relationships in this field.

What sets Joe apart most is his active role within the industry as the founder and operator of Don Giovanni Records, one of the most respected independent labels in the music business. Through his work with the label, Joe provides an extraordinary example of how independent labels can champion diverse voices, foster artistic integrity, and thrive in a competitive marketplace. He brings this firsthand experience into the classroom, offering students unique insights into the challenges and opportunities of running a label in today's music industry. His work with Don Giovanni underscores his deep understanding of the industry's evolving landscape and his commitment to shaping its future while providing a platform for underrepresented artists.

In addition to his work in the classroom and the industry, Joe goes above and beyond to connect students with internships and jobs in the music business. Whether through his expansive network, his work with Don Giovanni Records, or his deep understanding of the industry, Joe actively helps his students transition from academia to professional careers. Many of his students have gone on to secure meaningful roles in the music industry, thanks in part to Joe's mentorship and advocacy.

Joe Steinhardt embodies everything the Music Business Educator of the Year award represents, and his tireless commitment to his students, the industry, and the future of music education makes him a truly deserving recipient of this honor.

Additional Links:

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[https://musicbiz.org/wp-content/uploads/gravity\\_forms/248-cf5ad6ece739f454bec6ea2bd893db3a/2025/01/Joe-Steinhardt-Bizzy-Award-Recommendation-Ruby.pdf](https://musicbiz.org/wp-content/uploads/gravity_forms/248-cf5ad6ece739f454bec6ea2bd893db3a/2025/01/Joe-Steinhardt-Bizzy-Award-Recommendation-Ruby.pdf)

[https://musicbiz.org/wp-content/uploads/gravity\\_forms/248-cf5ad6ece739f454bec6ea2bd893db3a/2025/01/Joe-Steinhardt-Bizzy-Award-2025-Student-Rec\\_.pdf](https://musicbiz.org/wp-content/uploads/gravity_forms/248-cf5ad6ece739f454bec6ea2bd893db3a/2025/01/Joe-Steinhardt-Bizzy-Award-2025-Student-Rec_.pdf)

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#### Submission #6

##### **John Simson**

*Current Professor and Program Director, Emeritus, Business and Entertainment Program*

##### **American University**

simson@american.edu

*No. Year Teaching: 14*

*Current Class List: Entertainment Law*

*Representing Talent*

*NIL: Name, Image & Likeness Rights*

*Independent Studies Supervision*

*Internships Supervision*

It is my great pleasure and honor to nominate John Simson for the Music Business Association's Music Business Educator of the Year for 2025.

I have known John Simson for over 20 years. Since the day I met him, John has always been a champion for those around him, lifting them up toward success because he saw potential for something great.

There is no better example of John's recognizing such potential than when he created the Business and Entertainment Program in the KOGOD School of Business ten years ago. John had previously taught as an adjunct in the Washington College of Law at American University in the 1990s and saw that there was a need to be met in AU's undergraduate community. He took the experience and lessons from his lifetime career in many facets of the music industry and turned them into his vision for an educational program for the next generation of leaders.

John envisioned teaching the business side of the entertainment industry to students with interests in the creative arts. He crafted courses that covered the details of the entertainment industry's ecosystem in a business school in Washington, DC....a city known more for politics and law. John successfully blended all of these unique components into what has become an incredibly successful program track in KOGOD, yielding over 200 majors and minors each year. The program has repeatedly been recognized by Billboard Magazine as one of the country's



highest ranked music business programs in the country.

As the BAE Program Director, John impacted the futures of hundreds of students and alum. By building an impressive team of full time and adjunct faculty, John has comprised a comprehensive curriculum that covers the business mechanics of the entertainment industry. He works with students personally to ascertain what they wish to do with their careers, and then tailor fits an individual program to help them reach those goals.

John's work to help students spans far outside of the classroom. He has organized annual BAE "treks" to the major entertainment hubs of Los Angeles, New York, Nashville and Austin, TX to expose students to the real world workplaces across the country. He brings in speakers and entertainers from all parts of the industry, not only to help educate our campus community, but to show the outside industry leaders what a tremendous program American University has at KOGOD. Most recently, John worked with his "Representing Talent" classes organize a campus concert featuring FloRida and Flo Milli. This experience not only showed our BAE students the practicalities of putting on an arena show, it also put American University on the map with industry leaders that learned about the BAE program through the show's promotion.

John has connected hundreds of BAE students and graduates with employment opportunities, mostly through his decades-long personal relationships that span the entertainment industry. He gets to know his students so well over their four years in the program, that he is ready to help them with the professional steps during their time at AU and after graduation. His reputation in the industry is tremendous, yet through John's humbleness, he has amazingly avoided the ego trap that is prevalent among many leaders of the music industry. He is just as happy to buy a bunch of pizza and watch the Grammy telecast with students in the KOGOD Business School lounge, as he was in the 25+ years that he served as a leader of the Recording Academy.

I can speak personally about how John mentors those around him every day. One of the best decisions of my life was to say YES to John Simson when he invited me to return to my alma mater as an adjunct faculty member eleven years ago. John was starting the BAE program at the time and was looking for professionals that were passionate about their careers in the entertainment industry and wanted to share those experiences with students.

Since then, John has helped formulate so many courses, along with his instructors. He cultivates professional excellence at all levels, whether it is the first-time job for a graduating senior, or, in my case, the dream job of a lifetime after decades in the industry, to now become Associate Program Director of the BAE program. John doesn't only "Represent" Talent, he Recognizes talent and helps find the best places to use it. We are so fortunate that John chose American University to share his talents .... the talents that have helped make so many others' dreams a reality.

I would be happy to share any additional thoughts and information with the Committee about John Simson, my mentor, colleague and dear friend.

**Additional Links:**

[https://musicbiz.org/wp-content/uploads/gravity\\_forms/248-cf5ad6ece739f454bec6ea2bd893db3a/2025/01/John-Simson-Alum-Testimonials.pdf](https://musicbiz.org/wp-content/uploads/gravity_forms/248-cf5ad6ece739f454bec6ea2bd893db3a/2025/01/John-Simson-Alum-Testimonials.pdf)  
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[https://musicbiz.org/wp-content/uploads/gravity\\_forms/248-cf5ad6ece739f454bec6ea2bd893db3a/2025/01/John-Simson-Nomination-Jan-2025.pdf](https://musicbiz.org/wp-content/uploads/gravity_forms/248-cf5ad6ece739f454bec6ea2bd893db3a/2025/01/John-Simson-Nomination-Jan-2025.pdf)  
<https://musicbiz.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Professor-John-Simson-from-Serona-Elton.pdf>

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#### **Submission #7**

**Nikki Camilleri**

*Music Industry Executive & Mentor*

**MANA & LCCM**

nikkicamillerix@gmail.com

*No. Year Teaching: 5*

*Current Class List: CAREER MENTORSHIP & DEVELOPMENT (ongoing workshops, mentorship and masterclasses)*

Nikki is a Forbes 30 under 30 music industry executive who has been championing artist and making a real difference.

She is first generation British originally hailing from Malta. At 16 she was awarded Microsoft Social Enterprise of the Year and HSBC Company of the Year through Junior Achievement Young Enterprise for her arts and events company started to help promote local artists. This received recognition most notably from The President of Malta and the 8 o'clock news as well as sponsorship from Vodafone. This achievement spurred her move to London where she has worked in the creative industries championing artists ever since.

She has had stints at Warner Music, Believe and Glastonbury Festival to name a few leading her to scout and give some super successful artists their very first deals such as Cat Burns (now top 10 charting), James Vickery, Ayelle and more. Her career has also seen her work campaigns for household names such as David Guetta. This wealth of experience and knowledge led her to start mana - to help underserved artists build sustainable careers - born from the sheer need she experienced when speaking to artists daily.

Mana's mission is to advance sustainable careers in the music industry - enabling artists to maximise their projects, driving social impact through creative work, advocating for working conditions in which music professionals thrive and as a result breaking down the barriers of who gets to be creative. Mana delivers artist development and mentorship, talks, project work

& consulting for organisations and universities, research institutes, startups, conferences and directly within the artist and music community. We've helped over 1000 creatives and counting.

Further to this work, she is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, a UN Women Delegate 2024, directly supports and mentors independent artists as well as having served as a visiting lecturer at London College of Music (UWL), City University and London College of Contemporary Music (LCCM). Her keen interest in policy and advocacy led her to run a viral petition campaign primarily on Twitter in 2019 receiving over 90,000 signatures and press from Time Magazine and The Independent in aid of a human rights case and she has recently volunteered as a researcher for the United Nations in her spare time.

You can find 3 testimonials from students she has directly helped attached. Nikki has gone above and beyond to organise career opportunities for students and artists more widely, connect them with work and offer so much learning through mentorship sessions.

<https://nikkicamilleri.com/>

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/nikkicamilleri/>

<https://www.forbes.com/profile/nikki-camilleri/>

Additional Links:

[https://musicbiz.org/wp-content/uploads/gravity\\_forms/248-cf5ad6ece739f454bec6ea2bd893db3a/2024/12/STUDENT-TESTIMONIALS-Nikki.pdf](https://musicbiz.org/wp-content/uploads/gravity_forms/248-cf5ad6ece739f454bec6ea2bd893db3a/2024/12/STUDENT-TESTIMONIALS-Nikki.pdf)

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Blooper1@hotmail.co.uk | 7795511486

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## **Submission #8**

**Dr. Charlie Wall-Andrews**

*Assistant Professor*

**The Creative School at Toronto Metropolitan University**

charlie@torontomu.ca

*No. Year Teaching: 8*

*Current Class List: Music and Brands - The course explores how music and brands work together creatively and commercially. In this course, students build brand plans focusing on the best strategies to combine four key elements: music style; artist; brand; and territory. Students also learn how to do brand extension of existing music IP assets such as compositions, lyrics, and recorded masters. Finally, students learn to measure, analyze and assess the commercial success and larger implications of music and brand collaborations.*

*TMU in Nashville - Charlie designed a global intensive where this course provides music business students with a dynamic immersion into Nashville's music industry, combining site visits, mentorship, panels, and keynotes with leading professionals. It aims to deepen understanding, foster connections, and inspire entrepreneurial approaches within a major market.*

*The Creative Process - Drawing on psychological and management theories, students explore creativity as an individualistic process and an output of formal organizations and the synthesis of subconscious thought and rational analysis. Case studies illuminate the creative process in terms of how content creators in the Creative Industries relate to the commercial development of their ideas.*

*Music Business Masterclass - Students prepare work to share with music industry professionals who offer feedback and provide insight. Students also discuss and analyze overarching issues within the music industry placing them in context of the theories and practices learned in the Professional Music program.*

As a program director for Professional Music (Business of Music) at Toronto Metropolitan University, Dr. Wall-Andrews utilizes advanced pedagogical techniques to create a dynamic learning environment where students gain not only industry knowledge but also the confidence and skills to thrive. Her courses go beyond traditional learning, exposing students to real-world challenges, opportunities, and the critical value of relationships within the industry. She is a role model of what it means to lead by example—constantly evolving her teaching to meet the demands of a rapidly changing industry and exposing her students to the full spectrum of

careers available to them.

Her commitment to empowering future music leaders extends well beyond the university walls. During her time as Executive Director of SOCAN Foundation, while teaching at the University, she has developed initiatives such as the Creative Entrepreneur Incubator and the Equity X Production Development Program, which provide essential resources and mentorship for emerging talent. Additionally, Dr. Wall-Andrews' leadership program for Women in Music Canada exemplifies her drive to foster inclusivity and leadership within the industry. This initiative is grounded in advanced pedagogy, designed to empower women with the skills, confidence, and support network to become industry leaders themselves.

Charlie Wall-Andrews stands out as an incredible professor due to her dynamic approach to education, particularly through her emphasis on experiential learning. By developing innovative courses and incorporating hands-on experiences, she ensures that students gain practical insights into the music industry. One of her noteworthy initiatives includes organizing field trips, such as taking students to Nashville to connect directly with global industry leaders. These immersive experiences are complemented by her development of engaging case studies that address real-world issues, equipping students to tackle contemporary challenges in the creative sectors. Her commitment to bridging theoretical knowledge with practical industry engagement makes her an exemplary educator in the field of creative industries.

Overall, she is uniquely qualified for the Music Business Educator of the Year award. She has dedicated herself to the success of her students and the future of the music industry for nearly a decade, fostering leadership, inclusion, and resilience in the next generation of music professionals. Her impact extends from the classroom to the larger music community, making her an exceptional candidate for this prestigious award. Thank you for considering Dr. Wall-Andrews for the Music Business Educator of the Year award. I am confident that her passion, expertise, and tireless dedication to developing future leaders will leave a legacy in our industry.

Additional Links:

[https://musicbiz.org/wp-content/uploads/gravity\\_forms/248-cf5ad6ece739f454bec6ea2bd893db3a/2024/12/Letter-of-Support-for-Charlie-Wall-Andrews.pdf](https://musicbiz.org/wp-content/uploads/gravity_forms/248-cf5ad6ece739f454bec6ea2bd893db3a/2024/12/Letter-of-Support-for-Charlie-Wall-Andrews.pdf)  
[https://musicbiz.org/wp-content/uploads/gravity\\_forms/248-cf5ad6ece739f454bec6ea2bd893db3a/2024/12/CW-DT-Letter-NOM1.pdf](https://musicbiz.org/wp-content/uploads/gravity_forms/248-cf5ad6ece739f454bec6ea2bd893db3a/2024/12/CW-DT-Letter-NOM1.pdf)  
[https://musicbiz.org/wp-content/uploads/gravity\\_forms/248-cf5ad6ece739f454bec6ea2bd893db3a/2024/12/unsolicited-student-letter.pdf](https://musicbiz.org/wp-content/uploads/gravity_forms/248-cf5ad6ece739f454bec6ea2bd893db3a/2024/12/unsolicited-student-letter.pdf)

Here is a video of Professor Wall-Andrews in action teaching professional music students:

[https://www.instagram.com/reel/DDINm07yJR3/?utm\\_source=ig\\_web\\_copy\\_link&igsh=MzRlODBiNWFlZA==](https://www.instagram.com/reel/DDINm07yJR3/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igsh=MzRlODBiNWFlZA==)

Article highlighting of Professor Wall-Andrews' teaching innovation:

<https://www.torontomu.ca/the-creative-school/news-events/news/2022/06/exploring-music-industry-connections-with-brands-through-experie/>

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Charles Falzon, The Creative School at Toronto Metropolitan Univerity (fromally Ryerson University)  
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