KEYNOTE: Contemporary Social Movements in the Autism Community: Implications for Music Therapy Research

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The last ten years have seen a transformation in the autism community, centered around notions such as neurodiversity, empowerment, and self-advocacy, to name a few. Even the notion of an “autism community” is a contemporary development that reflects progressive social trends. This talk will examine these values and their relationship to music, consider to what extent they have been reflected in contemporary music therapy research, and offer suggestions on how they could be implemented in the future.

Dr. Kenneth Aigen is an associate professor in music therapy at New York University. He has lectured internationally and authored numerous publications on Nordoff-Robbins music therapy, qualitative research, and music-centered music therapy. Two of his books, *Paths of Development in Nordoff-Robbins Music Therapy* and *Music-Centered Music Therapy* have been translated into Japanese and Korean. Aigen is president of the Nordoff-Robbins Music Therapy Foundation. He is also a past–president of the American Association for Music Therapy and was the scientific committee chairman for the Ninth World Congress of Music Therapy held in Washington, D.C. in 1999. Honors include the *Research and Publications Award* from the American Music Therapy Association and the *Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching* from Temple University. His most recent publication is the book *The Study of Music Therapy: Core Issues and Concepts* published by Routledge.