

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Members of the Audio Engineering Society, It is with great honor, excitement, and enthusiasm that I address you as the newly appointed President of the Audio Engineering Society.

I was recently recounting to someone my first experience with the AES Journal. It was sometime between 1987–1989 on the campus of Indiana University Bloomington where I was working toward my audio technology degree. The blue journals had several mathematical formulas, which—even though I had done well in my Calculus I class—were a bit intimidating. Nonetheless, I remained curious about them. I knew I had the potential to grasp those concepts because I had great encouragement from my professors at the time, and if someone told me that one day I would even serve as President of the AES, I would not have doubted it for a moment.

I have always had a deep passion for music, mathematics, and science. My father taught me how to thread a tape machine before I could tie my shoes. Later, as a classically trained pianist, I would understand and appreciate the importance of having a musical aptitude when recording, editing, and mixing music and sound for television and film.

Reflecting on my journey, I also recognize the pivotal role that mentors and role models have played in shaping my career path in the audio industry. Their guidance and support have been instrumental in my growth as a professional, and like many others, I have found that audio engineers are among the most resourceful, collaborative, and nurturing professionals that exist, with very few exceptions.

I am committed to fostering a culture of inclusion within the Audio Engineering Society. Especially now that such exciting new technologies are increasingly being adopted, such as machine learning, artificial intelligence, immersive audio, audio for virtual and augmented reality, and much more. Diverse voices should be part of our new landscape of storytelling, entertainment, and communication. We should acknowledge and celebrate the dozens of affinity groups that are committed to uplifting these voices and invite them to join us, and with the global reach of the AES, we have the power

to do just that. We have so much to learn from these groups. Every individual, regardless of their background or socioeconomic status should have the opportunity to be recognized and valued for their unique contributions to the audio community.

As we invent, create, refine, and grow within audio engineering and all of its subdisciplines, I am dedicated to ensuring that the AES remains at the forefront of innovation, education, and inclusivity. The audio industry is not just about technology; it's a vibrant community of diverse individuals who share a passion for achieving excellence in audio.

In the coming year, I look forward to working collaboratively with you, our dedicated members as well as our esteemed Board of Directors, Board of Governors, Technical Committees, and staff. Together, we will build on the rich legacy of the AES, whose 75th anniversary we recently celebrated. I am already looking forward to our 100th anniversary: can you imagine what the AES will look like in 2050? Our future is being written now, and I am excited to join you on this journey.

Sincerely,

Leslie Gaston-Bird
CAS, MPSE
President
Audio Engineering Society