

DISTINGUISHED MEMBERSHIP

EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW ON HOW TO NOMINATE & INITIATE A DISTINGUISHED MEMBER!



LORETTA LONG
MEMBER LAUREATE



**KRISTEN
CHENOWETH**
HONORARY MEMBER



DAVID HOLSINGER
**NATIONAL ARTS
ASSOCIATE**

Chapters may nominate a person for initiation as a Distinguished Member. All forms may be found on the Officer Portal.

There are four types of Distinguished Memberships offered by the Fraternity:



Member Laureate - an initiated member of the Fraternity who has achieved international distinction in the music profession.

Honorary Member - a woman who has achieved international distinction in the music profession who is not an initiated member of Sigma Alpha Iota. She may be a performer, composer, teacher, author, musicologist, philanthropist, or other music-oriented profession. This is inclusive of cisgender women and transgender women, non-binary, and gender nonconforming individuals who are committed to the advancement of women in music.



National Arts Associate – a person who is nationally or internationally recognized for distinguished contribution to the arts.



Friend of the Arts - a person who is supportive of and actively involved in the arts at a local or regional level. Candidates for Friend of the Arts may be philanthropists, academic officials/educators, or individuals who make contributions to the life of the arts in the college or civic community.

Follow these steps to nominate a worthy candidate for distinguished membership in Sigma Alpha Iota:

1. Gather the following material from the Candidate's website, the College/University Directory:

*Contact information for the Candidate,
*Mailing Address, *Telephone, *Email Address, *Resume and a *Headshot of the Candidate **Note: Verify that the Candidate is not already a member of Mu Phi Epsilon, Delta Omicron or Phi Beta. This verification is essential. Do not submit an application without it.

2. Write a Cover Letter explaining why your chapter has chosen the Candidate

Note: You need not suggest a Distinguished Member category for your Candidate. The Distinguished Member Committee selects the most appropriate category.

3. Prepare the Application to be submitted through the SAI Officer Portal.

Note: The Vice President for Membership will find the form on their page.

4. Review the completed Application. Have you included the following information:

- * Chapter and School, Province, and Region
- * Anticipated Initiation Date
- * Contact Information for Candidate
- * Cover Letter from Chapter
- * Resume of Candidate
- * Headshot of Candidate,
- * Full Contact Information for Vice President of Membership (name, mailing address, phone, and email address)

Important Information: You must allow 4-6 weeks for the deliberations of the Distinguished Member Committee.

Note: Submitting an incomplete application will delay the review of the candidate. The Distinguished Member Committee does not consider incomplete applications.

Strategies for Success:

Gather all the information before submitting the application.

Check and double-check that all questions have been answered and all necessary documents have been uploaded (cover letter, resume, headshot). Be certain that all contact information is accurate.

Additional Information:

Undergraduate students are not eligible for Distinguished Membership.

Do not contact the candidate regarding your intention to nominate him/her.

Once an application receives approval, the Vice President for Membership will receive an email and a letter that will describe the next steps.

The Vice President for Membership will receive a packet of materials from National Headquarters. Included in the packet is a formal invitation for you to deliver to your approved Candidate.

Questions?

If you have any questions about the nomination process, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Leslie Odom Miller, Director of the Distinguished Member Committee at: SAIDistinguishedMemberDirector@gmail.com