

A History of the
**PENNSYLVANIA
MUSIC EDUCATORS
ASSOCIATION**



1933-2000

*by Richard Merrell
and Carmen Culp*

THE PENNSYLVANIA MUSIC EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION —OUR HISTORY—



In the Beginning

1933—A small group of men—school band directors, players in professional bands and directors of town bands—met in Reading to form the Pennsylvania Bandmasters Association. They assembled the following year in Aliquippa to sponsor the first All State High School Band Festival, composed of 150 students representing 47 schools. The name Pennsylvania School Band Association was adopted as more appropriate to the new purpose of promoting and advancing instrumental music in public schools.

1935—With the addition of the first All State Orchestra Festival, composed of 150 students representing 55 schools, the organization became the Pennsylvania School Band and Orchestra Association. High school choral directors requested a similar opportunity and recognition of their students. This inclusion required still another name change—The Pennsylvania School Music Association—used until the late 1940s.

1936—The first All State Chorus Festival was presented in Greensburg, composed of 202 students representing 91 schools. Eight districts were set up to handle all preparations, rules and business matters pertaining to the festivals. The first NEWSLETTER, a mimeographed sheet of news from the field of music education, was provided for the membership. The second issue, PSMA News was published in 1937. A tabloid size news-

paper was published four times yearly until 1952 when *PMEA News* became our official magazine.

1940—This year marked the affiliation of PSMA with the MUSIC EDUCATORS NATIONAL CONFERENCE (MENC).

1941—The first annual CONFERENCE-CLINIC OF PSMA was held at the Pennsylvania State College.

1947—To keep Pennsylvania with the MENC state affiliates, the association name was changed for the final time—PENNSYLVANIA MUSIC EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION.

Emerging Trends

Performance festivals remained the focus of the organization until 1968 when interest for the whole educational spectrum of music was evidenced by the addition of Elementary, Junior High and Senior High Representatives-At-Large to the board. Higher education already had representation on the board.

With the identification of our goals and objectives (GO) and the establishment of PMEA GO PROJECTS in the mid-seventies: 1) Music in Early Childhood, 2) Special Education, 3) Middle School, 4) Non-Traditional Classroom and Mini Courses, PMEA recognized that music as a core of the curriculum must become our major effort. Our membership had shown their concern that EVERY CHILD HAS A RIGHT TO AN EDUCATION IN MUSIC TAUGHT BY A MUSIC SPECIALIST. The PMEA members who chaired these projects through 1978 presented workshops throughout the state, devised lesson plans for teachers, wrote curriculum guides, distributed materials through newsletters, planned conference presentations and brought the importance of classroom music to the attention of administrators, parents and teachers.

Representing All Music Education

PMEA recognized its responsibility to educate the whole child and every child (from learning handicapped to the gifted/talented) through music and the fine arts.

Our organization took a leading position in the nation in creating and espousing related arts

courses. We also assumed responsibility for continuing and adult education, largely through community performing groups and music appreciation presentations.



In 1978-79, the CURRICULUM/INSTRUCTION NETWORK was initiated. Classroom music teachers from all levels gained representation on the PMEA board, with six regional C/I chairs and a state C/I coordinator. By this time, the organization had been divided into twelve districts and six regions.

The 1985 PMEA Executive Board consisted of elected officers, 12 district presidents, 12 C/I district chairs, a state C/I coordinator, as well as ex-officio members representing other special interests.

“Pennsylvania” by Khoury and Bonner was selected in 1990 by Commonwealth legislators as the official state song. Members of PMEA were included on the committee which recommended this selection. The copyright is owned by the state. The song may be obtained from the executive office.

1996 marked the hiring of a full-time executive director, as well as the establishment of a permanent executive business office.

Music technology in 2000—PMEA has supported the application of technology for three decades. Technology applications used in the music classroom and in performance are shared

at the conference, in the professional development seminars and in *PMEA News*.

PMEA as an organization has its own website: <http://www.pmea.net> housed at West Chester University. Emerging trends make the use of the Internet a necessity. Registration for conferences, the dissemination of curricular ideas and rapid communication increases the speed of change to instantaneous. PMEA demonstrates solid evidence of leading in music education trends and continues to be a dominant factor in nurturing students and music teachers in technology.

PURPOSE

Membership

Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) is an affiliate of the 65,000 member National Association for Music Education (MENC). PMEA is a service organization to



music education in the Commonwealth. The membership includes those engaged in music instruction at all levels, from preschool through college and university, retired

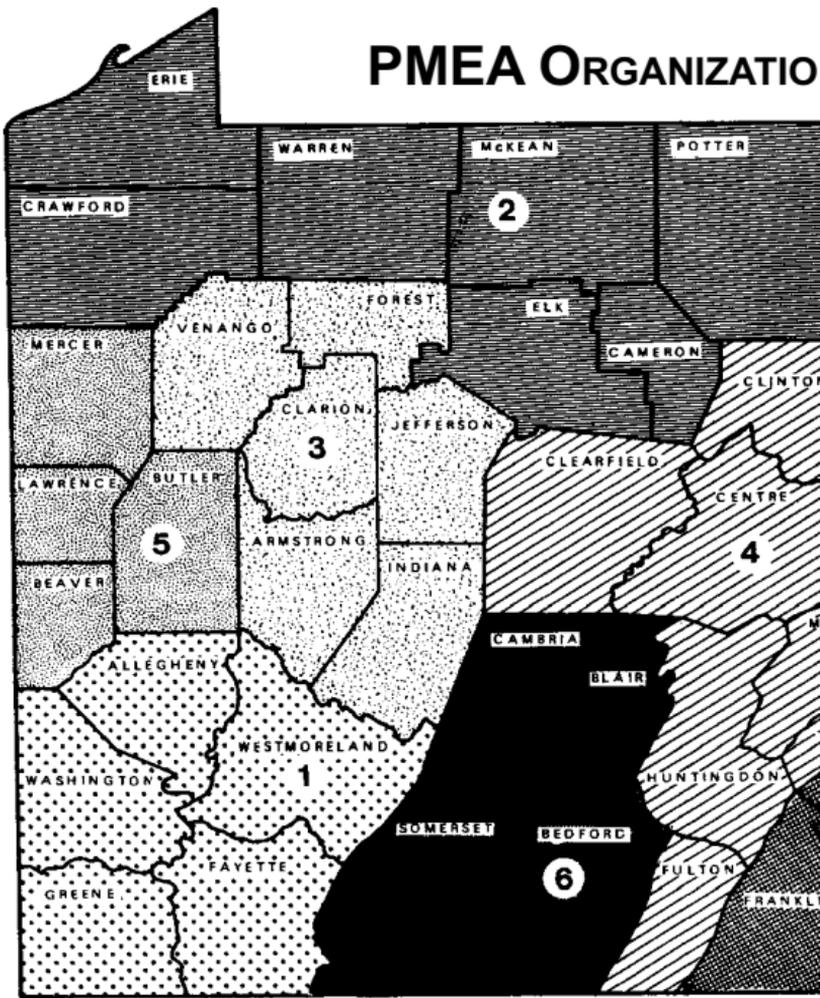
educators, as well as those in the music industry. In addition, students enrolled in music education may participate in collegiate chapters and secondary students may participate in Tri-M Honor Society. PMEA provides leadership in professional growth and offers special opportunities for musical development to school students.

Mission Statement

PMEA's mission is to: promote the musical development of all Pennsylvanians; advocate for quality music education; recognize music education as a lifetime activity; support the changing professional needs of its members; and foster an appreciation of music.

In order to achieve its mission, the PMEA strives to attain the highest level of excellence in teaching and performance.

PMEA ORGANIZATION



ORGANIZATION

Performance Festivals

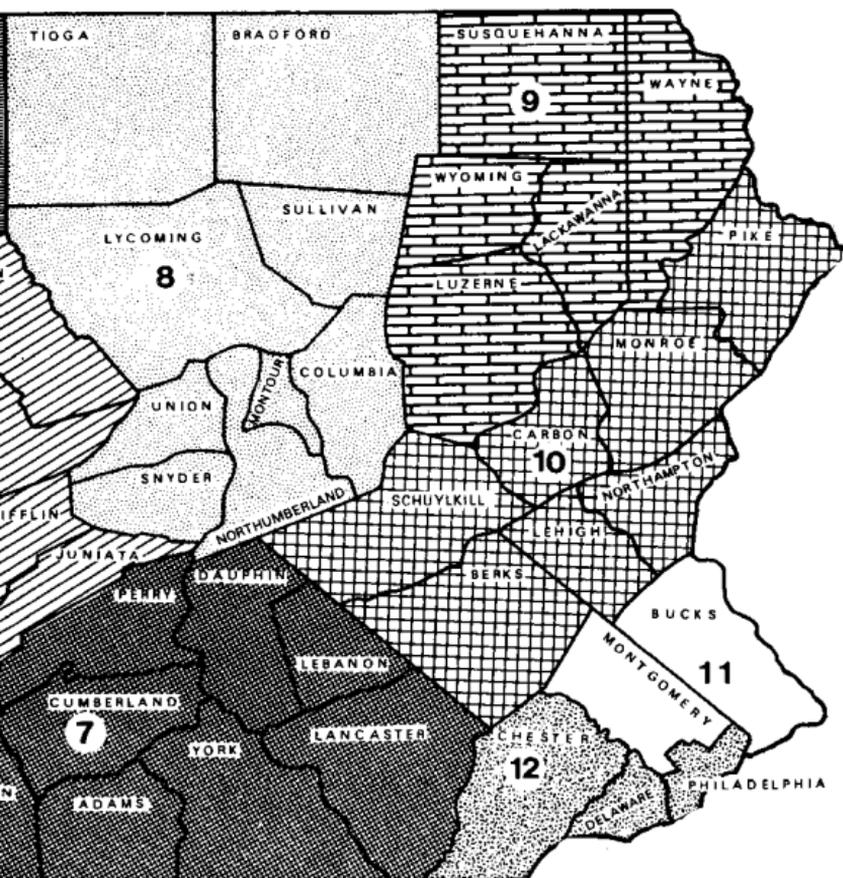
Elementary Fests—A one-day festival for band, orchestra or chorus is offered for children and includes a workshop event for their teachers.

Junior High/County Festivals—Several districts provide junior high/middle school level festivals for band, chorus and orchestra. A few counties organize festivals on all levels.



Honors Festivals—Some districts organize special events for advanced high school performers.

NAL STRUCTURE MAP



District Festivals—All districts provide a band, orchestra and chorus festival. Students in senior high school audition for participation and placement. Several districts provide jazz ensembles at the senior high level.

Region/State Festivals—Students rated for their superior performance at the district level progress to region/state and finally to the All-State Festival. Over 500 of the finest high school musicians perform a gala concluding concert during the PMEA In-Service Conference.

Biennial Eastern Division Festival—Participants in the All-State Festival are given an opportunity to apply for the All-Eastern Festival. In addition, students may apply to participate in national festivals when offered by MENC.



Curriculum/Instruction

The purpose of the PMEA Curriculum/Instruction Committee(C/I) is to improve instruction in the classroom. The C/I Network serves teachers in each district at elementary, middle/junior high, senior high and higher education levels. One of these representatives is elected by the District Executive Committee as the state C/I chair thus completing the Network: district members, district C/I representatives, state C/I chair.

In addition, there are five special curriculum areas represented: early childhood and special learners, multicultural awareness, National Association for the Study & Performance of African American Music, higher education in conjunction with the MENC Society for Teacher Education and research.

As a network, the C /I Committee provides leadership, focus/expertise and coordinates efforts to implement projects to improve curriculum and instruction of music in the schools through workshop development and conference services.



PUBLICATIONS

PMEA News: This publication is the primary news and information carrier. The magazine has evolved into a major music education journal published four times a year. All superintendents receive the journal in an effort to share and integrate music education.

PMEA Bulletin of Research in Music Education: A refereed scholarly journal published once a year. Sessions are also presented at the state in-service conference.

Selective Music List: Listing of Choral and instrumental music acceptable for performance at Adjudication Festivals. Published in a CD ROM format and purchased through the executive office.

IN-SERVICE CONFERENCE

An annual in-service conference provides workshops, clinics and concerts. The sessions feature nationally recognized clinicians as well as Pennsylvania musician/teacher experts. Music industry and manufacturing companies provide showcase materials, extensive displays and exhibits with the latest in technology, music publications, equipment and services. The in-service event provides three days of intensive professional continuing education experiences for music educators at all levels. Outstanding musicians perform thrilling music and present high level educational workshops. Auditions provide a means to select Pennsylvania school ensembles to perform. The gala presentation by the All-State Band/Orchestra/Chorus and the Jazz Ensemble concludes the conference.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR

Each summer, PMEA provides a free seminar open to all members. Under the motto “Service is the Reason for Existence,” these sessions stress decision-making at the local (District) level. The seminar expands to include establishing PMEA district goals. In addition, current curricular developments are presented by both state and national clinicians.

ADJUDICATION FESTIVALS

Various sites throughout the state are selected for adjudication festivals. All grades and levels of performance



are accepted, including soloists. **RATING** (not ranking) or **COMMENTS** only are provided by adjudicators.



PENNSYLVANIA COALITION FOR MUSIC EDUCATION

The coalition supports the study of music and the other arts for every child in the Common-

wealth. Music advocacy committees of teachers and parents are established in each district. In addition, other persons included in these committees may be music merchants/manufacturers, music technicians, performing artists and community music groups.



PENNSYLVANIA COLLEGIATE MUSIC EDUCATION ASSOCIATION—PCMEA

A strong contingent of more than 1,000 college and university students share information and gain practical experience with PMEA members. A student member and PCMEA advisor are part of the executive board. Various districts provide a working environment to facilitate student responsibility for their own progress and to help in decision-making processes.



MUSIC BOOSTER AFFILIATES

Established in 1983, PMEA became a national leader among state music organizations to enroll booster clubs into its structure to assist the music

educator and the local booster organizations. The stated philosophy: “to encourage support of the total music program and promote music culture and activity throughout the local community.” MBA publishes a newsletter, sponsors clinics and supports the exchange of information between local chapters.

PERSONS, AWARDS AND STAFF

Space limitations negate listing the many members who have made significant contributions to our organization and to the children we teach. PMEA recognizes with pride and gratitude their dedication and devotion at district and state levels.

The following is a list of persons who influenced our professional organization and helped to determine who and what we are, awards presented by PMEA and current professional staff and business information.



PAST, CURRENT AND FUTURE PRESIDENTS

A.D. Davenport	1934*
A. Steven Miescer	1935*
J. Fred Orth	1936*
Charles Aikey	1937*
Cyrus Thompson	1938*
Harry Canfield	1939*
James W. Dunlop	1940-41*
Stanley M. Gray	1942-45*
Hummel Fishburn	1946-47*
Leslie Saunders	1948-49*
Chester Stineman	1950-51*
M. Clair Swope	1952-53
W. Paul Campbell	1954-55*
William O. Roberts	1956-57*
Fred Williams	1958-59*
Elwood Miller	1960-61*
Allen W. Flock	1962-64
Paul McCandless	1964-66
Harold S. Orendorff	1966-68*
William E. Ifert	1968-70
Robert Zimmerman	1970-72*
W. Valgene Routch	1972-74*
James R. Stewart	1974-76
Stanley F. Michalski Jr.	1976-78
Clyde M. Barr	1978-80
Ira C. Singleton	1980-82
Carmen E. Culp	1982-84
Albert Nacinovich	1984-86
Carol J. Myers	1986-88
Richard C. Merrell	1988-90
James R. Stewart	1990-92
Natalie Ozeas	1992-94
David F. Cree	1994-96
John A. Gula, Jr.	1996-98
Mary Lippert-Coleman	1998-00
Richard Victor	2000-02
Benjamin Holste	2002-04

*Deceased

CURRICULUM/INSTRUCTION COORDINATORS

Carmen E. Culp	1977-79
Carol J. Myers	1979-82
Irene Sample	1982-85
Natalie L. Ozeas	1985-88
Mary Lippert-Coleman	1988-91
Victoria L. Smith	1991-97
Linda L. Hulsey	1997-00
Martha S. Miller	2000-

SECRETARY-TREASURERS

Cyrus Thompson	1934-37*
Kenneth D. Owens	1938-39*
Harold Buchheit	1940-41*
C. Porter Huntington	1942-45*
M. Claude Rosenberry	1946-49*
Russell E. Shuttlesworth	1950-53*
Russell B. Christman	1954-55*
Irene R. Christman	1955-96
Margaret S. Bauer	1996-

EDITORS

A. S. Miescer (1 issue)	1936*
Harold F. Hetrick (1 issue)	1937
Paul Mechlin (newspaper)	1938-43*
Stanley M. Gray (same)	1946-49*
Ronald C. Teare (mag.)	1950-77*
Stanley M. Cole (mag.)	1977-81
Richard Merrell (mag.)	1981-99
David Weiss	1999-

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

Sammy Nestico—composer
Vaclav Nelhybel—composer*

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP

A.D. Davenport*
Russell E. Shuttlesworth*
Ronald C. Teare*
W. Fred Orth*
Maurice Taylor
Irene R. Christman
Frederick DelMonte
Carmen Culp

AWARDS

- James R. Stewart Distinguished Service Award,
Richard Merrell, Frederick Del Monte
- Citation of Excellence
(Listed annually in the Spring issue of
PMEA News)
- Outstanding Superintendent
(Listed annually in the Spring issue of
PMEA News)
- Irene R. Christman Scholarship in Music
Education:
Matthew R. Ascah, Katy Clogg,
Colleen A. MacLean, Alicia Wareham

PROFESSIONAL STAFF

Executive Director—Margaret S. Bauer, CAE
Director of Marketing and Communications—
David C. Weiss
Administrative Assistant—Calise Townsend
Executive Director Emerita—
Irene R. Christman



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