



APRIL 23-25, 2026
KALAHARI | THE POCONOS
WWW.PMEA.NET/CONFERENCE

2026 PMEA Annual In-Service Conference

WHY SHOULD MUSIC EDUCATORS ATTEND?

The Pennsylvania Music Educators Association is excited to invite all music educators to our 2026 Annual Conference, returning to the Kalahari Resort and Convention Center in the Poconos. This outstanding professional development event offers opportunities for every educator—regardless of specialization or career stage—to gain new pedagogical insights, discover innovative strategies for reaching all students, explore best practices in assessment and advocacy, learn about products that can enhance your program, and connect with colleagues from across the state.

Inspired by both the musical scale and the surrounding landscape, this year we are “Scaling Heights”—reaching new levels in our craft, our careers, and our creativity. You'll notice new features and experiences designed to help all PMEA members come together to learn, connect, and grow. Nearly 100 sessions will be offered, many given by well-known clinicians in the field of music education. More than thirty-five outstanding performing groups from elementary to university level as well as the All-State Band, Chorus, Contemporary A Cappella, Jazz, Orchestra, Wind Ensemble and first-ever Modern Band Ensemble will perform during the conference. Make plans to join us as we are Scaling Heights in music education. Be sure to bring your interest and enthusiasm to the 2026 PMEA Annual In-Service Conference at the Kalahari Convention Center in the Poconos, April 23-25. For complete information visit www.pmea.net/conference Tentative session offerings (by topic area) are:

SESSION TOPICS FOR THE 2025 PMEA ANNUAL IN-SERVICE CONFERENCE (AS OF NOV. 25, 2025)

ACCESS/BELONGING/DIVERSITY/ EQUITY/INCLUSION (EXCEPTIONAL LEARNERS)

- 101 New Jazz Standards by Women Composers
- The ABCs of UDL in the General Music Classroom
- Connecting with Musicians: Embedding Social Emotional Learning in Private & Small Group Lessons
- Designing Inclusive Policies for LGBTQIA+ Students in Music Education
- Recommendations for Supporting Students with Disabilities in Audition and Performance Settings
- Your Journey Beyond the Notes: A Reflective Path Towards Cultural Inclusivity Part 1 and Part 2

ADJUDICATION/PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

- Introduction to PMEA Music Performance Assessments
- PMEA Behind the Recorder: A Conversation With Music Performance Assessment Adjudicators for Band and Orchestra
- Recommendations for Supporting Students with Disabilities in Audition and Performance Settings

CAREER DEVELOPMENT/ TEACHER RESOURCES

- 101 New Jazz Standards by Women Composers
- Charting the Course: From Classroom to Career!
- Dear New Music Teacher
- Fake it 'Til You Make It: Piano Skills for the Non-Pianist Choral Director
- Get to the 'Good Stuff' Faster with Tech Tools
- Self-Care Cookbook - Reflections, Recipes and Resources
- Stop Talking About AI and Start Building It: Come Create Apps and Assistants for Your Classroom
- Stronger Together: Building Collaborative Music Departments for Student Success

CHORAL/MUSICAL THEATRE

- ACDA-PA Choral Reading Session
- Around the World with the Developing Choir!
- Cultivating Values in the Choral Classroom: Become More Intentional about Current Practices
- Fake it 'Til You Make It: Piano Skills for the Non-Pianist Choral Director
- Finding Your Choir's Mojo: Unlocking Musicality Through Eurhythmics
- Flexible Gems for Unison and Two-Part Choirs
- Open Doors, Open Scores: Teaching Novice Choirs
- The Power of D.I.Y.: Crafting Musicals and Revues for YOUR Students
- Pro Audio 101 and Introduction to Wireless
- Sing, Move, Play! Music & Materials for Kids
- T.A.P. Into Teaching - Growing the Next Generation of Educators
- "T" Time- Choral Rehearsal Strategies for Tempo, Tuning and Text
- Vocal Development and Health Throughout the Lifespan

COLLEGIATE/PCMEA

- Dear New Music Teacher
- From Practice to Praxis: Study Smarter, not Harder, to PASS the Music Teacher Exam!
- I'm Not Ready!: Building Confidence in the Chaos at the Start of your Music Teaching Career
- It's Fine, You're Fine, Everything is Fine!
- Your Future Self Will Thank You: What New Teachers Want You to Know While You're Still in School

CURRICULUM INSTRUCTION/ DEVELOPMENT/ASSESSMENT

- Beyond the Notes: Teaching Expressivity in the Band Rehearsal
- A Framework for Success in Secondary General Music
- Making Research in Music Class Fun for Middle and High School Students (Yes, It IS Possible!)
- New PA Arts Standards Are On Their Way!
- Percussion Unleashed: Tame It, Train It, Make It Musical
- Strategies for Teaching Improvisation in a Variety of Settings and Genres
- Title Drafted by ChatGPT - Don't Fear the Future: Using AI to Amplify Your Teaching
- Your Future Self Will Thank You: What New Teachers Want You to Know While You're Still in School

EDUCATION IN RURAL/ URBAN SETTINGS

- The Art of the Comeback: Reversing Burnout Among Rural Music Educators
- Educating Urban Scholars ~ Music and Connection to the Child Who Needs it Most
- Rurally Comprehensive
- Ukulele Jam: Simplification Techniques for Successful Experiences
- Under the Hood of Your Band Program: Systems, Culture, and Growth

GENERAL MUSIC CLASSROOMS - EARLY/PRIMARY/INTERMEDIATE/MIDDLE/HIGH

- A Framework for Success in Secondary General Music
- Creative Movement: Assessing Students Through Kinesthetic Experiences
- Flexible Gems for Unison and Two-Part Choirs
- From Microphones to Mixing: Start a Music Technology Elective at Your School from Scratch
- From Page to Performance: Using Original Children's Books to Spark Music-Making in Elementary Classrooms
- Global Grooves: Easy-to-Learn Multi-Cultural Dances You Might Not Know!
- Going Solo: Encouraging Individual Expression in the General Music Classroom
- Redesigning Secondary General Music: Creating Curricula That Resonate
- The Self Start Routine to Maximize Student Learning & Confidence
- Sing Move Play
- Sing, Move, Play! Music & Materials for Kids
- Sonidos Latinos: Starting and Sustaining a Latin Music Ensemble in a Music Program
- Ticking the Ivories: Tips and Tricks for Teaching High School Piano Lab
- Ukulele Jam: Simplification Techniques for Successful Experiences

HEALTH/WELLNESS/RETIREMENT

- Connecting with Musicians: Embedding Social Emotional Learning in Private & Small-Group Lessons
- Hearing for Musicians: Understanding and Protecting Your Hearing
- Neuroscience and Music Advocacy: Beyond Higher Math Scores
- Self-Care Cookbook - Reflections, Recipes and Resources
- The Silent Struggles of the Female Band Director
- Ten Things Mentally Strong Teachers Do

INSTRUMENTAL - ALL AREAS

- Celebrating America's 250th Anniversary: Using Fife & Drum to Build Community and Civic Engagement
- The Dynamics of Dynamics: You Are Playing So Loud I Can Barely Hear You!
- From Panic to Power: Teaching Beginning Guitar with Confidence
- Listen Louder
- Method Book Mayhem: Building What You Need When Time Says No
- The Musical ARTS - Using the Picture!
- The Silent Struggles of the Female Band Director

INSTRUMENTAL - BAND/JAZZ

- Beyond the Notes: Teaching Expressivity in the Band Rehearsal
- Chose a side: Be brave and fearless!" Encouraging the Use of the B-flat and F Sides of the Horn for Student Success
- Effective Clarinet Pedagogy: Beyond the Methods Class
- Essentials for Success: Strategies and Tools for Building Young Bands
- The Jazz Rhythm Section: A Guide to Navigating Slash Notation
- Low Brass, High Impact: Empowering band teachers to build Better Tuba Players
- Percussion Unleashed: Tame It, Train It, Make It Musical
- A Successful Pedagogy for the Beginning Oboist
- Under the Hood of Your Band Program: Systems, Culture, and Growth

INSTRUMENTAL - STRINGS

- Arco! Bowlo!
- Building a Culture of Creativity Through Improvisation and Arranging in Orchestra Classroom
- Cracking the Code: Elevating Musicianship in Rehearsals
- Fiddle Fun!
- From Scratchy to Sublime: Strategies for Improving Tone and Intonation on String Instruments
- Improving the Ensemble Playing Habits of Your String Players
- PADESTA String Orchestra Reading Session
- The Creative String Orchestra
- The First Five Lessons: Setting Your Beginner Orchestra Up for Success

LEADERSHIP/MENTORING

- Ten Things Mentally Strong Teachers Do
- Tri-M Can Grow and Connect Student Leaders in Music
- Your Future Self Will Thank You: What New Teachers Want You to Know While You're Still in School

MARKETING/PROMOTION/MUSIC PARENT GROUPS

- It Takes a Village... Music Booster Parent & Director Sharing Session
- Stronger Together: Building Collaborative Music Departments for Student Success
- Tri-M Can Grow and Connect Student Leaders in Music

MODERN BAND/GUITAR

- From Panic to Power: Teaching Beginning Guitar with Confidence
- Jingle Jam: Empowering Entry-Level Songwriting
- Modern Band Starts Here: Transforming Your General Music or Guitar Class Into a Performance-Based Program
- Moving Past Open Chords on the Guitar with Intermediate Tactics
- Rewiring Rhythm: Brain-Based Strategies for Effective Drum Practice

RESEARCH/HIGHER EDUCATION

- Invited Researcher: Taking the Road Less Traveled, and Making all the Difference, in Research
- Neuroscience and Music Advocacy: Beyond Higher Math Scores
- Research Forum I
- Research Forum II
- Research Forum III
- Research Poster Session
- Research Workshop I

