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Bluegrass Music News

FALL 2018 FEATURES:

Musical Sight-Singing: Research-Based Strategies • Contributing to a Better World: Project-Based Learning in Music • Calming Down: Disarming Fear • Tips for Tuning Strings in the Classroom • The Sight-Reading Component for Festival/Contest • Building the Band Program: The Impact of Philosophy and Some Practical Tips/Strategies



Bluegrass Music News

CONTENTS

Messages From KMEA

- 3 President's Message Terry Thompson
- 5 Editor's Message DuWayne Dale
- 7 Executive Director's Message John Stroube

Feature Articles

- 9 Musical Sight-Singing; Research-Based Strategies for the Choir Director Caitlin Belcher
- 11 Contributing to a Better World: Project-Based Learning in Music K. Michelle Lewis
- 15 Calming Down: Disarming and Dismembering that Nasty, Inner-Fear Arousing Bully Catherine M. Wilson, Ph.D.
- 17 You Spend How Long on Tuning?: Tips for Tuning Strings in the Classroom Sarah Payne
- 19 Approaching the Sight-Reading Component for Festival/Contest Joe D. Moore, D.M.A.
- 23 Building the Band Program: The Impact of Philosophy and Some Practical Tips/Strategies John W. Johnson

News and Information

- 34 Summer Board Motions
- 42 Fall 2018 Advertisers
- 47 KMEA 2018–19 Board of Directors, Officers, Assessment Commission and Assessment Managers

Forms

- 40 KMEA Research Grant available
- 40 KMEA Research Session Call for Papers
- 41 Journal Cover Contest
- 43 KMEA Professional Development Conference Pre-Registration
- 44 KMEA Collegiate Composition Competition

Printed by JOHNSON PRESS OF AMERICA

The Kentucky Music Educators Association is a voluntary, non-profit organization representing all phases of music education in schools, colleges, universities, and teacher-training institutions. KMEA is a federated state association of the National Association for Music Education. KMEA/NAfME membership is open to all persons actively interested in music education.

Inquiries regarding advertising rates, closing dates, and change of address should be sent to Melissa Skaggs, P.O. Box 1058, Richmond, KY 40476-1058; tel: 859-626-5635; fax: 859-626-1115; email: melissa@kmea.org. Articles and reports should be submitted to the editor, George R. Boulden; email: George.Boulden@uky.edu

Bluegrass Music News is published in fall, winter, spring, and summer. Annual subscription: \$15.00. Individual copies are \$5.00. Subscription for members of KMEA is included in the unified NAFME/KMEA membership dues.



Contestants in the 2017 KMEA State Marching Band Competition didn't let rain stop their performances. Photos by David Knapp.



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From the Editor

DUWAYNE DALE



My hope is that this issue of the *Bluegrass Music News* arrives as you are enjoying an incredible start to your 2018-2019 school year. I know you are hard at work, passionately bringing your vision for your program to life and, as always, going above and beyond to provide the best possible experiences for your students. I'm honored to have been selected to serve as the new editor for the *Bluegrass Music News*. I know all of my fellow Kentucky music educators will join me in expressing sincere gratitude to George Boulden for his years of service as *BMN* editor, and in wishing him luck as he prepares to begin his term as President of KMEA in 2019.

We have gone completely digital! Coincidental with a new editor comes a new format for the *BMN*. This move will be a more cost-effective and user-friendly means of delivering you practical teaching tips, relevant music education news, research reports, and other resources to aid you in your daily activities and keep you apprised of the latest professional information. I have high hopes that this transition will go smoothly. In addition to the cost savings, I hope you will also appreciate both the trees and the shelf space we'll be saving! The journal will always be accessible from your mobile or desktop devices.

I have begun to form an Editorial Review Board for the *BMN*. I believe that by engaging these additional content-area experts, we will be able to solicit a greater diversity of article topics from an even broader network of music educators. I would like to personally thank our first three members of the Editorial Review Board for their assistance in preparing this fall issue for publication: Dr. Nicola Mason, Eastern Kentucky University; Dr. Catherine Wilson, Western Kentucky University; and Mrs. Sarah Milazzo-Payne, Bryan Station Middle School.

Last school year was a tumultuous one, to say the least, with many of you finding yourselves on the steps and in the halls of the Kentucky State Capitol Building advocating for our profession, our schools, and our students. I applaud any who, having perceived threats to the future viability of the teaching profession in Kentucky and to the ability of our schools to

provide resources and services to our students, refused to remain silent. I am confident that the need for such action will continue, but I am equally confident that these efforts have been noticed in real and meaningful ways.

Certainly, for the music teacher, the need for advocacy is and has been a perpetually vital aspect of the job. Historically, when school funding issues arise, school administrators have tended to prioritize programs, eliminating those deemed non-essential. No more important music advocacy occurs than that in which you engage at your own school. I encourage you to remain prepared to advocate for your program, even if you may feel no present need. I would also encourage you to remember that you are not alone in the fight. The network of music educators across the state, as well as our KMEA state office and our organizational leadership, stand ready to assist — please do not hesitate to reach out. Similarly, if you receive a “Call to Action” from KMEA, know that your voice is essential. Please let it be heard.

Despite our current adversities, we can look forward to so much. Our marching bands are hard at work with all manner of competitive or community performances throughout the fall. Before long, students at every level will be presenting fall concerts and performing at Veterans Day assemblies. High school musicians across the Commonwealth are preparing to audition for our exceptional All-State ensembles, and middle school and elementary vocalists will soon be submitting their audition recordings for the Kentucky Children's Chorus and the Kentucky Junior High School Chorus. While it may be easy to become distracted by the day-to-day struggles each of us face, keeping our students and these outstanding musical opportunities at the forefront will help us remember why we do what we do, and why we fight so passionately for it.

Of course, another annual event to anticipate is the deadline for our **2019 Bluegrass Music News Cover Art Contest**. The deadline for submission is May 1, 2019, and the theme is “Music Gives a Soul to the Universe.” The application can be found on page 41 of this issue. Please encourage your students to apply.

Continued on p. 8

From the President, continued from p. 3

That means, YOU ARE ELIGIBLE FOR FEDERAL MONEY! Each school system must submit a NEEDS ASSESSMENT prior to receiving the money. If your system has not yet done that you may be able to insert yourself into that process and take advantage to the money available. Some of that money is can be earmarked for students in impoverished and disadvantaged areas. That money can be used for a variety of things, not just professional development.

Go find the person in your system who administers that money and ask how you may be included!!

I would be remiss if I didn't say "THANK YOU" to George Boulden. He has done a yeoman's job as editor of the Bluegrass Music News over the last eight years. And "WELCOME" to DuWayne Dale, our new editor. Dr. Dale, whom I have known for a long time, will be a great asset to this publication. The students at Morehead State will benefit from his knowledge and experience, and he will do a great job as editor of the BGMN.

I hope you have a GREAT school year! I look forward to seeing all of you in Louisville in February.

From the Editor, continued from p. 5

This is an incredible opportunity for you to collaborate with your visual art teacher, showcase student talent within your program, and for your students to reveal another of their incredible gifts.

As the new editor of the *BMN*, I will be excited to hear from you. The wealth of knowledge and expertise found within our KMEA membership is extraordinary, and I invite you to share with others in the form of article submissions. Visit <https://kmea.org/bluegrass-music-news> to learn about submission criteria. I welcome your feedback about this and future issues. You can contact me at dcdale@moreheadstate.edu. Also, be sure to like our Facebook page!

DuWayne Dale is the Associate Director of Bands and an Assistant Professor of Music at Morehead State University where he teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in music education, directs the concert and marching bands, and serves as faculty sponsor for the MSU CNAfME chapter. Prior to his appointment at MSU, he taught for 18 years in public schools in Ohio and Kentucky. Dr. Dale proudly holds a B.M.E and M.M. from Morehead State University. He completed his Rank I at the University of Kentucky and his D.M.A. at Boston University.

From the Director, continued from p. 7

are often forced to react to unanticipated revelations. The need to react is typical in regard to legislation and government regulation, since staffers understandably devise proposals for statutes and regulations behind closed doors. After such proposals have been brought to light, reaction is imperative.

Still, proactive thinking is valuable to the future of music education, whether at the national, state, or local level; and the KCAE is looking for opportunities to have a positive influence on the status quo.

What can KMEA members do in the meantime? The best proactive advocacy for local music programs, we often hear, is found when the public is made aware of a program's excellence. If a music program provides students with rewarding experiences, students' parents, the administrators, and others in the community will most likely value the program, and they will make efforts to keep it strong.

While teachers can only control some of the influences on the quality of their programs, in some cases they do not even maximize the ones within their control. The best teachers prepare thoroughly for class, publicize performances vigorously, communicate often with parents and administrators, and regularly trade ideas with others.

Also, these teachers take care of themselves physically and psychologically—enough sleep, the right foods in appropriate proportions, and other forms of self-care, something described in a recent *Kentucky Teacher* article. How would it be best for their students if they are not at their best? When others' well-being is dependent on the health of a leader, the leader's self-care is not self-indulgent. To the contrary, it is part of the leader's responsibility. To avoid sabotaging your program's success, and your ultimate satisfaction with the product, consider what you need to do to be at your best.

With NAFME seeking support for music education in Washington, with KMEA and the KCAE trying to make inroads in Frankfort, and with Kentucky music teachers providing instruction worth advocating for, likely we can fend off many negatives, and gain a positive on occasion.

Through it all, the KMEA office stands ready each workday to respond to your needs, to proactively anticipate them as best we can, and to organize materials and events to serve you as you do what you can for music education in your school. Please let us know if we can help you in any way.

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Nathan Mensink comes to MSU from Miami, Florida and will be teaching Applied Saxophone. His musical endeavors have taken him across the United States and Europe, performing at numerous festivals and other events including the World Saxophone Congress, the International Navy Saxophone Symposium, the College Music Society Conference, and the Frontwave New Music Festival. He has performed with Arturo Sandoval, Take Six, Michael Feinstein, Kirk Whalum, Harry Watters, Dave Pietro, Corey Christiansen, Byron Stripling, and Alicia Hall Moran. Dr. Mensink holds Doctoral and Masters degrees in saxophone performance from the University of Miami in Coral Gables, Florida, and a bachelor's degree in music education from Utah State University in Logan, Utah.



Russ Zokaites is an active performer with engagements in Europe and the United States. As a guest clinician, he has given recitals and classes at numerous universities and conservatories, including the Manhattan School of Music. Focusing on new music, Dr. Zokaites has worked with composers on 19 world premieres ranging from neo-classical to the avant-garde. His projects have been featured at the 2016 International Horn Symposium, the 2012 and 2013 ArtSeEdZ festival in the Netherlands, and at National Sawdust in Brooklyn, New York. In 2013, Zokaites was selected as a fellow for the Alessi Seminar hosted by Joe Alessi, the Principal Trombonist of the New York Philharmonic.

Dr. Zokaites is a Lätzsch Custom Brass performing artist and performs exclusively on Lätzsch bass trombones.