2024 WMEA State Conference
February 16-19, 2024

FINDING COMMUNITY ONE NOTE AT A TIME!
Welcome back to school for 2023-24 after a well-deserved summer break and time away for rest and relaxation! I hope that your time away was exactly what you needed to prioritize yourself and all others who are the dearest to you. Whether you loaded up on music teaching PD this summer or you put your professional life the farthest from your thoughts for a while, I wish you all the very best this coming year.

Ron Gerhardstein
WMEA President

There is so much going on at WMEA at the start of this school year that was only a dream one year ago. Staff members Beth Fortune and John Wetherington have been with us for nearly a year, and what a difference that has made! Our board is beginning the second year of their 2-year term and just a few weeks ago we spent two quality days together at our August Summer Assembly. It was exciting to also share the Summer Assembly with our Region Presidents in person for the first time since the summer of 2019. Fall regional meetings will be happening soon – please plan to attend yours.

A big highlight for me this summer was attending the NAfME Leadership Conference and participating with all of our terrific WMEA delegates for Hill Day 2023 – 7 of us in total. Beth Fortune put together a day of meetings with four of our Congress members and both Senate offices. We had a busy but joy filled day advocating on behalf of music education and the arts at the national level. Thanks to all of our delegates, but especially to Liz Harvey (outgoing CWMEA President) and Anna Messenger (current CWMEA President) for their creative vision and strong voice of advocacy from the perspective of our collegiate students.

Speaking of advocacy, you won’t want to miss the 2024 WMEA Conference in Yakima on President’s Day Weekend, February 16-19. Our conference theme is Finding Community: One Note at a Time. Jeremy Earnhart, President and CEO of Music for All will be our keynote speaker and guest clinician. His work in the area of advocacy for music education and the arts is both inspiring and timely. In addition, we have a host of conference headliners, sessions by talented WMEA partner educators, concert hours, demonstration groups, a conducting workshop in partnership with the Seattle Symphony, and much more! We are also doing our best to make the conference schedule more streamlined and to rollout some new creative ideas. Be on the lookout for the conference schedule and pre-registration information coming out soon. The conference is sure to have something for everyone, and most important of all – we will have one another, our community of educators and friends!

Of course, the start of the 2023-24 school year means important WMEA student events as well. Best wishes as you encourage and work with your students to audition for WMEA All-State, Junior All-State, or Youth Chorus. I remember well the hours spent assisting, coaching, and encouraging students working through the audition process. May this be a time of tremendous musical growth for your students and a time of patience and extra energy for you.

Did you know that WMEA is currently the 10th largest MEA in the country? While this may not mean much to you right now in the moment, you should know that we offer a lot in terms of our professional conference, our advocacy, and our student events. WMEA is a great place to be for sure! If you are like me and your membership comes due every September, please take a minute to renew and mark your calendar next February for the conference. Thanks for getting your year started in partnership with WMEA.

Wishing you all the best and an amazing 2023-24!

Ron Gerhardstein
WMEA President

FINDING COMMUNITY ONE NOTE AT A TIME!

Poco Voce Fall 2023
The Seattle Symphony, Washington Music Educators Association (WMEA), Central Washington University (CWU) and Anna’s Composer Database are proud to announce an instrumental conducting clinic for current music educators at the 2024 WMEA State Conference in Yakima, WA. The clinician for this inaugural year will be the Seattle Symphony Associate Conductor, Sunny Xia. Selected K–12 music educators will conduct a CWU chamber string ensemble and receive live feedback from Sunny. The clinic will be open to all WMEA conference attendees. Applications are open now and will close November 3, 2023. For more information please visit:

https://www.seattlesymphony.org/education-and-community/schools/classroom-teachers

2024 WMEA State Conference Keynote

JEREMY L. EARNHART

Dr. Jeremy L. Earnhart is President & CEO of Music for All. Music for All (MFA) is a non-profit music education events and advocacy organization established in 1975. Music for All serves 150,000 students and a live audience of 500,000 — Bands of America (BOA) Championships, the MFA National Festival, the MFA Summer Symposium, and the BOA Honor Band in the Rose Parade comprise MFA’s anchor programming. Dr. Earnhart was previously Director of Fine Arts for the Arlington (TX) Independent School District (AISD) from 2013-2017. From 2009-2013 he was Director of Fine Arts for the Irving (TX) ISD increasing secondary fine arts participation by over 40%. He was director of the State & National Champion L.D. Bell High School Band, serving on the faculty from 1998-2009.

Dr. Earnhart graduated from the University of North Texas with a Bachelor of Music and Masters of Music Education, holds certifications in International Baccalaureate Music, an Executive Certificate in Leadership & Management from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and a Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership from Dallas Baptist University. During Dr. Earnhart’s tenure with the AISD, secondary performing arts participation increased by 22%, passed a historic $663.1 million bond package including a District-wide Fine Arts Center, two Fine Arts & Dual Language Elementary Academies, acoustically appropriate elementary strings classrooms, and $9.8 million for instruments and uniforms. He also created a partnership with the U of North Texas for Dual Credit Music and the nation’s first public/private partnership course in Musical Instrument Repair with Music & Arts. With the AHS Orchestra, AISD also began the first Texas chapter of United Sound, providing musical performance experiences through peer mentorship for students with disabilities.

Jeremy resides in the Indianapolis metro area with his wife, Gwendolyn, a career music educator turned accountant, and their daughter Kierstyn, an all-state trumpet player and standout basketball lead guard.
Tri-M Grants Available for New Chapters  
Application Deadline is September 22

NAfME has partnered with the National Federation of High School Associations (NFHS) to sponsor **10 NEW Tri-M Music Honor Society Chapters** during the 2023-2024 year! These grants will cover the cost of the chapter activations and is based on the impact a chapter will have on the students, school, and community.

Please help spread the word! Tri-M is the only musical organization that is recognized as a National Honor Society Organization! Students graduate with the cord.

Copy this direct link to the application to share.  

**Thank you for your support of NAfME and the Tri-M Music Honor Society.**
2024 WMEA All-State Honor Group

CONDUCTORS

Wind Ensemble
Conductor: Matthew R. Arau

Concert Band
Conductor: Cynthia Johnston Turner

Wind Symphony
Conductor: Kaitlin Bove

Philharmonic Winds (NEW!)
Conductor: Danielle Davey

Chamber Orchestra
Conductor: Rudy Perrault

Symphony Orchestra
Conductor: Soo Han

Philharmonic Strings (NEW!)
Conductor: TBD

Symphonic Choir
Conductor: Eugene Rogers

Treble Choir
Conductor: Tram Sparks

Jazz Band
Conductor: Tanya Darby

Jazz Choir
Conductor: Jamie Shew

Jr. Jazz Band
Conductor: Hannah Mowry

Jr. Rainier Band
Conductor: Danh Pham

Jr. Baker Band
Conductor: Paul Bain

Jr. Orchestra
Conductor: Anna Jensen

Jr. Mixed Choir
Conductor: TBD

Jr. Treble Choir
Conductor: Tiffany Walker

Jr. Youth Choir
Conductor: TBD

2024 WMEA Junior All-State Youth Choir (grades 5-6)
2024 WMEA Junior All-State Bands, Choirs and Orchestra (grades 7-8)

September 1 ................................................................. Online auditions open
October 3 ................................................................. Junior All-State Youth Choir online auditions close
October 5 ................................................................. Junior All-State Bands, Orchestras and Choirs online auditions close

2024 WMEA All-State Bands, Orchestras and Choirs (grades 9-12)

September 1 ................................................................. Online auditions open
October 4 ................................................................. All High School Online auditions close

April 26, 2024 State Ensemble Contest
April 27, 2024 State Solo Contest
Central Washington University

Washington Music Educators Association
2024 WMEA State Conference and All-State Honor Groups

Schedule at a Glance

Friday 2/16
4:00-6:00  Hall of Fame Reception
5:00-7:00  Registration Hours
5:00-7:00  All-State/Junior Jazz Concert
6:00-7:00  Welcome Reception
7:00-9:00  Reading Sessions

Saturday 2/17
6:30  Registration Opens
8:00 - 9:15  Session 1
9:30 - 10:45  Session 2/ concert hour
11:00 - 12:30  Keynote
12:30 - 1:30  Lunch
1:30 - 2:45  Session 3
3:00 - 4:15  Session 4
4:30 - 5:45  Session 5
4:30-6:30  All-State High School Concerts
7:00-9:00  College Receptions

Sunday 2/18
6:30  Registration Opens
8:00 - 9:15  Session 1
9:30 - 10:45  Session 2/ concert hour
11:00 - 12:15  Session 3
12:15-1:15  Lunch
1:15 - 2:45  Session 4/ concert hour
3:00 - 4:15  Session 5
4:30 - 5:45  Session 6
4:30-6:30  Jr. All-State Concert

Monday 2/19
7:00  Registration Opens
8:30-9:45  Session 1
10:00-11:15  Session 2
11:30-12:30  Lunch / 2024-26 New Board Welcome
12:45-2:00  Session 3
2:15-3:30  Session 4

February 16-19, 2023
Yakima, WA

To Donate, or for more information about how you can support YME visit http://wmea.org.