



Advocacy Day Press Release

The Michigan Music Education Association (MMEA), in collaboration with the Michigan School Vocal Music Association (MSVMA) and the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association (MSBOA), celebrated Music Education Advocacy Day on Wednesday, March 9th, 2016 at the State Capitol (Lansing). Representatives from each of these three associations, along with leaders from the Partnership for Music Education Policy Development (PMEPD), met with legislators throughout the day to discuss the importance of music education in Michigan schools. A performance featuring three ensembles from K-12 Michigan schools was presented from 12-1 PM in the Glass Floor Rotunda, including:

1. Thurston Elementary School 5th Grade Choir (Ann Arbor), directed by Yael Rothfeld
2. Hunter O'Brien, Shepherd High School Flute Soloist (Shepherd), directed by Jo Ann Gross
3. Okemos High School Freshman Brass Quintet (Okemos), featuring Paul McKinley & Arya Kale (trumpet), Eva Schwarz (French horn), Luca Lorenz (trombone) & Evan McNall (tuba), directed by Mark Stice
4. Haslett High School Men's Chorale (Haslett), directed by Adam Boyce

MMEA, MSVMA and MSBOA are united in their support for quality music education in Michigan. With help from our colleagues at the Partnership for Music Education Policy Development (PMEPD), we proudly asked lawmakers to consider the following legislative initiatives:

1. Mandate for elementary music instruction, as prescribed in current HB 5284 & SB 718
2. Requirement that all music classes PreK-12 be taught by a JX or JQ certified music educator

The mission of the Michigan Music Education Association is to advance the quality of music education in Michigan. MMEA offers professional development workshops throughout the state and performance opportunities for elementary, middle & high school students. MMEA has a strong history of providing state and national advocacy/legislative support and outreach to pre-service, current and retired Michigan music educators of all experience levels. MMEA is a proud state-affiliate of the National Association for Music Education (NAfME).