



Dear Colleague:

April 2023

As we look toward the 2023-24 school year, we are excited to see you and your music educators at the 2023 Wisconsin State Music Conference! The event planned for October 25–28, 2023 at Monona Terrace Convention Center in Madison will feature comprehensive music education professional development for teachers in all stages of their career. This conference, presented by Wisconsin Music Educators Association (WMEA) in collaboration with Wisconsin School Music Association (WSMA), joins Wisconsin educators, students, parents and music business industry professionals together around key educational issues and pedagogy. The main goal of the conference is for attendees to share and learn through high-quality professional learning opportunities that positively impact music education for all students, schools, and communities.

This year, we are excited to welcome over **90 presenters and performances** with featured sessions by Girls Rock Camp, ARTS for ALL/Madison LaFollette Choir, Dr. Matthew Arau from Lawrence University & Upbeat Global, and National Association for Music Education (NAfME) President Scott Sheehan. WSMA and PBS Wisconsin will also launch two more installments in our [Re/sound: Songs of Wisconsin series](#).

This year’s conference theme is “[Music of All, Music for All](#)” – as music reflects the values of society and fulfills so many personal and social needs, it is imperative that all students have access to a high quality music education. The lives of all youth and adults are richer, more complete, and emotionally grounded through the study & enjoyment of music. Music is integral to a well-rounded education and instills a sense of belonging to a community. Our **2023 Wisconsin State Music Conference is designed to provide the next steps in our journey together.**

NEW THIS YEAR! In a partnership with Technology in Music Education (TI:ME), Wisconsin has been selected to begin a partnership with this organization that provides access to teachers with world-class professional learning in the area of digital and electronic music, music producing, and recording industry pedagogy. For all conference registrants, an additional pre-conference will be available on Wednesday, October 25 from 2:30-6:30 p.m. with four national leaders in the field. This will be included in the cost of the conference.

In addition to what has already been shared, the Wisconsin State Music Conference offers comprehensive professional learning tailored to match the needs of Wisconsin school districts as they address the many facets of current educational needs. Sessions will focus on the following topics:

- **Diversity & Equity**
- **Inclusion, Access, & Belonging**
- **Literacy**
- **Social-Emotional Learning**
- **Student-Centered Classrooms**
- **Mental Health & Wellbeing**
- **Culturally Responsive Teaching**
- **General Music strategies**
- **Music Standards...and more!**

I am writing now to remind you of this annual opportunity for music educators and other school staff as you plan your budgets for the 2023-24 school year. On behalf of WSMA, I strongly encourage you to consider permitting attendance to the 2023 Wisconsin State Music Conference.

In an effort to honor different school calendars and budgets, full-conference and Friday-only registrations are available. A rate increase for members associated with increased costs and inflation was necessary this year and the non-member rate has been adjusted to ensure registration cost levels satisfy applicable laws. Additionally, information for the conference will be accessible earlier than usual, and early registrations with discounts will be available on June 1, 2023. **We will also again extend an invitation to any Wisconsin principal or superintendent for one free day of conference attendance – contact Laurie Fellenz, Executive Director, for more information and a discount code (lfellenz@wsmamusic.org).**

THANK YOU in advance for including the Wisconsin State Music Conference in the professional learning options available to your music educators in October 2023.

Sincerely,

Richard Appel
President - Wisconsin School Music Association
Superintendent, Horicon School District