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[SEPT 14 MEJ] From the Academic Editor

101 Years and Counting: *MEJ* Inspires New European Journals

by Patrick K. Freer, Georgia State University, Atlanta

We spent much of the last volume year celebrating the past century of *Music Educators Journal*. Now we look toward the future. This issue features a new cover design. Our Editorial Committee is actively discussing the purposes of *MEJ* and how to balance the tangible presence of our printed journal with the opportunities afforded by electronic distribution. We have appointed Katherine Strand as our new associate editor and have chosen new members for our review committees. We are not satisfied merely looking backward at what has been—we are moving forward toward what will be.

Many editors of *MEJ*'s peer publications celebrated our history, experience and influence on the profession at the “Changing Face of Music and Art Education” (CFMAE) conference at Tallinn University, Estonia, on April 23-25, 2014. The first day was organized as a symposium of music education journal editors from the United States and Europe “to honor the 100th anniversary of the *Music Educators Journal*” and the tenth year of music education conferences at Tallinn University. The purpose of the symposium was to share advice and propose strategies for the longevity of existing journals and the success of emerging journals. I spoke about the development of our journal from inception to the present, the roles of practitioner and research journals, the editing and review process, changes in the production and distribution of our journal, issues related to advertising, and the need for journals to ultimately benefit the students in music classes across the globe. On the second day, the first formal day of the larger conference, I presented a keynote address about the history and potential futures of *MEJ*.

Topics raised by our European counterparts during the symposium included international visibility, the benefits and challenges of Open Access publishing, various peer-review models, funding and sustainability, print design, and online versus print distribution. The topic that generated the most discussion concerned the language of the journals—whether to print in the official language of the issuing country or to mandate English as the primary language. Most of the related conversation focused on the language of the journal's intended readership in contrast to the language that would further a potential author's career. The conference-related journal, *CFMAE Journal*, provided a stark example. Now in its fifth year of publication, the *CFMAE Journal* is based in Estonia, a country with just 1.3 million residents. Only about 100,000 people living outside the country speak the native language. If the journal wishes to be relevant within its national borders, it needs to be printed in Estonian. But if the journal is to be influential worldwide, it needs to be printed in English. Again and again, the European editors noted that *MEJ* has enjoyed worldwide influence because of (a) its carefully planned distribution, beginning with the first issue in 1914; (b) its strong focus on the relationships among research, theory and practice; (c) its financial support from advertisers and the affiliated National Association for Music Education; and (d) its printing in the English language.

Music Educators Journal has led its field for over a century, inspiring the development of many journals through the world. I am eager to see that leadership role continue for many decades to come.

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The Editorial Committee of *Music Educators Journal* considered applicants to the journal's Editorial and Advisory Committees at its biennial meeting in St. Louis on April 9, 2014. We are pleased to announce the following appointments with approval from the National Executive Board:

Associate Editor of *Music Educators Journal*

Katherine Strand, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN

The Editorial Committee of *Music Educators Journal* (class of 2014–18)

H. Christian Bernhard II, SUNY Fredonia, NY
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The Advisory Committee of *Music Educators Journal* (class of 2014–18)

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