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Introduction to “A Century of *MEJ*: The First 25 Years”

By Patrick K. Freer

This year marks the 100th anniversary of *Music Educators Journal*. The final issue of this volume (June 2014) will focus entirely on the centennial. Each issue in the centenary volume includes the reprinting of a historically significant article selected by one of *MEJ*'s editors.

Our journal began in 1914 as *Music Supervisors' Bulletin*, then shifted a year later to *Music Educators' Bulletin*, and finally became *Music Educators Journal* in 1934. Each of those changes occurred during the first quarter-century of publication. My task was to select one article that reflects that period and remains relevant in 2014.

Members of the National Association for Music Education have access to every article published in our journals since 1914 by visiting our homepage (<http://mej.sagepub.com>). To find what interests you, type keywords into the search box and log in using your NAFME membership information, and you'll have instant access to a century's worth of articles. Some NAFME members have additional library-based access to our articles through the JSTOR database. This database contains scanned images of the original journals showing each layout, advertisement, and photograph. It is fascinating material, and it is easy to become overwhelmed by the magnificent work that has been published in our pages. *MEJ* has always served as the primary communication vehicle for our profession, and it has always included announcements and news items relevant to the times. Over the years, though, the article content has varied tremendously in number (some issues in the 1970s contained thirty articles each), style, quality, and tone.

After searching each issue during the first quarter-century, I selected “Music Education, Isolated or Integrated?” by Lilla Belle Pitts. This was printed in the September 1937 issue of *MEJ*. An early version of this text was presented as an address for the 1937 California-Western School Music Conference and the California Secondary School Principals meeting in San Francisco. Lilla Belle Pitts later served as president of Music Educators National Conference (our previous organizational name) from 1942 to 1944. This article was central to promoting Pitts to national recognition and to her subsequent election. For more information about Lilla Belle Pitts, please see “Extending the Vision: Three Women Who Saw the Future of Music Education” (Freer and Dansereau, *MEJ*, March 2007, pp. 54–61).

This text first appeared in our pages exactly seventy-six years ago. We are having the same conversations today. I hope you will be intrigued by this piece, prompting you to reflect on our past and look forward to our future.

Patrick K. Freer, an associate professor and the coordinator of music education at Georgia State University in Atlanta, is the academic editor of Music Educators Journal.