
Premier Event Held April 14-18 in Minneapolis with First-ever Music and Sound Expo Produced by NAMM

RESTON, VA (PRWEB) May 9, 2004 --Connect With Music was the theme for MENC: The National Association for Music Education’s 59th National Biennial In-Service Conference, which took place in Minneapolis, Minnesota April 14–18, 2004. The conference was an opportunity for music educators to experience educational sessions, technology labs featuring hands-on music technology, industry workshops, music industry exhibits and school performing groups. Approximately 8,000 individuals participated in the conference.

Highlighting the conference was the keynote address by Garrison Keillor, radio-host and author of A Prairie Home Companion. Philip Brunelle, artistic director of VocalEssence, accompanied on the piano. Keillor literally brought the audience of educators to their feet in a moving rendition of The Star Spangled Banner. World-renowned flutist Sir James Galway, regarded as both a supreme interpreter of classical flute repertoire and a consummate entertainer, presented a general session.

MENC worked with longtime partner, NAMM, the International Music Products Association, to produce the exhibition portion of the 2004 National Conference. The Music and Sound Expo which was open to the public, was held April 16-18, 2004. The new partnership was created to serve the membership of both groups while further unifying educators, the music products industry and the music making public.

Marilyn Bergman, president of The ASCAP Foundation, launched Creativity in the Classroom, a new program designed to help students recognize their own creative work and to understand the ethics of protecting the creative property of others. What we hope to do, in short, is to make students understand that they, as creators, have rights as well as responsibilities. Through this initiative, we hope to enhance the public’s awareness of the value of creativity, the concept of ownership and later on perhaps, of compensation for their creative efforts that could be used for profit.

Another highlight of the conference was the International Music Education Policy Symposium. According to MENC Deputy Executive Mike Blakeslee, The symposium showed that many of the problems facing U.S. schools regarding rationales for music education, delivery and access to music education, and support for music education, are current topics in many other nations as well. The symposium participants discussed numerous issues in order to help refine approaches to those issues.

The MENC National Assembly delegates had the opportunity to enjoy several unique presentations from organizations that are collaborating with or are interested in collaborating with MENC. According to Ardene Shafer, MENC assistant executive director of member programs and publications, There were presentations from the Philadelphia Orchestra, BioMusic (a National Science Foundation project), Young Audiences Organization, the Music for All Foundation, and VH1. The National Assembly also spent a significant amount of time discussing the most pressing issues facing music education today and strategies for the future.

MENC wishes to gratefully acknowledge the many sponsors of the national conference. A list of
sponsors may be viewed at http://www.menc.org/connect/conf/natl2004/sponsors.html

MENC’s biennial conferences provide music educators with an opportunity to network with colleagues from across the nation and to learn about the latest innovations in the field of music education. More details about MENC’s 59th National Biennial In-Service Conference, as well as other meetings, can be obtained from http://www.menc.org/connect/meetings.html. Information about the expo can be found at http://www.musicandsoundexpo.com.

MENC’s 60th Biennial National Conference is scheduled for March 30–April 1, 2006 in Salt Lake City, Utah.

For more information, call 1-800-336-3768, or visit www.menc.org.

MENC: The National Association for Music Education, the world’s largest arts education organization, is the only association that addresses all aspects of music education. More than 100,000 members represent all levels of teaching from preschool to graduate school. Since 1907, MENC has worked to ensure that every student has access to a well-balanced, comprehensive, and high-quality program of music instruction taught by qualified teachers. MENC’s activities and resources have been largely responsible for the establishment of music education as a profession, for the promotion and guidance of music study as an integral part of the school curriculum, and for the development of the National Standards for Arts Education.

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