



Minnesota
Music
Educators
Association

Michael Hiatt Hall of Fame Award

The Minnesota Music Educators Hall of Fame Award is the highest honor awarded by MMEA. It was established in 1986 to recognize the legacy of outstanding music educators who have significantly contributed through their continued service to the growth and development of music education in the state of Minnesota.

Beginning in 2024, the Hall of Fame Award will be renamed in memory of music educator and MMEA President Michael Hiatt (1955-2023). As an impactful member of the music education community, Michael Hiatt's contributions included his many years as a classroom educator in our state as well as influencing public policy for music education across our state, region, and country.



A maximum of four members will be selected biennially for the Hall of Fame and inducted at our Midwinter Convention. Educators will be nominated in even years for induction in the following even year.

Nomination Criteria:

Only current members of MMEA are eligible to nominate educators. Induction may also be done after retirement and posthumously.

The Nominee must be an active or retired music educator in Minnesota and have satisfied three or more of the criteria below:

- Must have served as an active music educator or administrator of music education in a Minnesota public, private, charter, community, or institution of higher learning for at least 15 years; nominees may also include those who have had a leadership role with a partner member institution for a

period of at least 15 years.

- Must have participated in the MMEA annual convention in one or more of the following ways: students in performance ensembles, clinician, conductor of a performance/informance group, etc.
- Must have demonstrated consistent excellence in music learning and teaching or in music administration in the state's music education community.
- Must have provided outstanding and ongoing service by contributing significantly to the music education profession through exemplary service or acts above and beyond assigned duties.

Application Requirements for all Nominees:

1. Acquire permission from the Nominee before submitting nomination materials. Application will require uploading a high quality headshot of the Nominee. While it is an honor to be nominated, not everyone may want the attention.
2. Recommendation letter from the nominating teacher: Provide a statement of support for the Nominee addressing your relationship with the candidate, as well as the Nominee's career accomplishments and contributions to music education.
3. A current resumé of the Nominee
4. A minimum of two additional letters of recommendation, with at least one from the following:
 - a. Parent or student (present or former) from the Nominee's current program/studio.
 - b. Another music educator or colleague
5. All letters of recommendation should briefly include:
 - a. Length of relationship between recommending person and candidate
 - b. Short statement explaining what makes this Nominee exceptional and deserving of this award
 - c. Examples of how the Nominee has demonstrated effectiveness and impact as an outstanding music educator
 - d. Examples of how the Nominee has promoted equity, along with creativity and innovation as a music educator among students, families, and their school community
 - e. Examples of Nominee's contribution to music education through active involvement in service to local district, state, regional, or professional organizations.

MMEA Hall of Fame inductees will receive a certificate and have their name engraved in a plaque at Ted Mann Concert Hall in the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities.

Nomination does not ensure acceptance into the MMEA Hall of Fame. Previous winners of the Educator of the Year award are eligible. The MMEA Awards Committee will make the final determination as to which nominees will become members of the Hall of Fame and will notify those accepted in a timely manner.

More about Mike Hiatt:

In 1996, Mike Hiatt was appointed the State Music Education Coordinator at the Perpich Center for Arts Education, becoming the Director of Professional Development and Research in 1998. In this position, he was responsible for providing professional development in arts education throughout the state of Minnesota. He represented Minnesota during the creation of the National Standards for Music Education and was co-chair of the committee that revised Minnesota's Standards for Arts Education.

Mike was elected President of the Minnesota Music Educators Association in 1989 and served on the MMEA Board of Directors for 21 years. He is a member of the Fergus Falls High School Hall of Fame, the MMEA Hall of Fame and was selected in 2008 as the Arts Educators of Minnesota, Supervisor of the Year.