

MMEA Awards

MMEA members are encouraged to submit nominations for these prestigious awards. An awards display case in Ted Mann Concert Hall at the University of Minnesota now houses a series of perpetual plaques honoring winners of MMEA awards. You are encouraged to visit our display during any event at Ted Mann Concert Hall.

Music Educator of the Year

For demonstrated excellence in music teaching and learning. Up to four awards can be given. Requirements:

1. Current member of MMEA-MENC.
2. Actively teaching at the time of the award.
3. Minimum of 10 years of teaching experience.
4. Service to the music education profession outside of his/her school and district.
5. A candidate may receive the award only once.
6. All nomination materials must be submitted by June 1.

Educator of the Year—Band

Gordon Peterson - 1986
Miles Johnson - 1987
Earl Benson - 1988
Erv Rotenberry - 1989
Robert Hallquist - 1990
Gene Gaffney - 1991
Wenette Barden - 1992
Wayne Feller - 1993
Lewis Larson - 1994
Keith Johnson - 1995

Educator of the Year—Choir

Carl Lipke - 1986
Jan Gilbertson - 1987
Roger Tenney - 1988
Steve Boehlke - 1989
Mike Smith - 1990
Bruce Becker - 1991
Dolly Talbert - 1992
Joel Johnson - 1993
Sonja Chamberlain - 1994
Kathryn Huselid - 1995

Educator of the Year—Classroom

Margaret LaFleur - 1986
Jane Frazee - 1987
Virginia Pfeiffer - 1988
Loretta Mitchell - 1989
Linda Berger - 1990
Clarice Stumo - 1991
Marian Halgrimson - 1992
Colette Sherman - 1993
Joanna Cortright - 1994
Janet Gardner - 1995

Educator of the Year—Orchestra

Richard Negaard - 1986
Dean Dainsberg - 1987
John Madura - 1988
J. Robert Hanson - 1989
C. William Douglass - 1990
Phil Burkhart - 1991
Steve Amundson - 1992

Ann Anderson - 1993

James D. Hainlen - 1994

Gwen Armwood - 1995

1996 Educators of the Year

Jan Antholz
Sandra Gallagher
Gary Fredrickson
Ronald Larson

1997 Educators of the Year

Ken Grunig
Candy Moffitt
Chris Starr
LuAnn Zellmann

1998 Educators of the Year

Stan Carlson
Herb Dick
Margot Olsen
Bonnie Swanson

1999 Educators of the Year

James Carlson
Norma Hammer
Paula Holmberg
Bruce Phelps

2000 Educators of the Year

Charles Leibfried
Mary Gorder
Jennifer Starr
Terolle Turnham

2001 Educators of the Year

Victoria Amundson
Dawn Kalvig
Lisa Lozito
Les Lueck

2002 Educators of the Year

Paul Baumgarten
Scott Jones
Darcy Reese
Jacquelyn Schaffer

2003 Educators of the Year

Richard Jokumson
Susan Krinke
Judy Ross

2004 Educators of the Year

Thomas Hassig
Ellen Kniebel

2005 Educators of the Year

Tedd Gullickson
Cheryl Paschke

2006 Educators of the Year

Renee King
Lee Kjesbo
Zane Schaefer
Edward Schaeffle
Ann Wobig

2007 Educator of the Year

David Gudmastad

2008 Educator of the Year

Judy Sagen

2010 Educator of the Year

Elizabeth Jackson

2011 Educator of the Year

William Henry
Robert Ouren
Michael Walsh
William Webb

2013 Educator of the Year

Kay Hawley

2014 Educator of the Year

Geneva Fitzsimonds
John Greene

2015 Educator of the Year

Jim Iverson

2016 Educator of the Year

Jeff G. Iverson

Kari Werdahl

2017 Educator of the Year

Nancy Dostal

2018 Educator of the Year

Randy Lee

John Zschunke

2019 Educator of the Year

Wayne Ivers

Karen Kruse

2020 Educator of the Year

Reid Wixson

2021 Educator of the Year

Kathleen Radspinner

Susan Zemlin

2024 Collegiate Educator of the Year

Matthew Olson

2024 Community Educator of the Year

Arthur Buckner

Elizabeth Winslow

2024 Elementary Educator of the Year

Becca Buck

Kim Kroetsch

2024 High School Educator of the Year

Scott Rabehl

Nicole Thietje

2024 Middle School Educator of the Year

Amy Comp