

ARKMEA

May, 2021



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MIOSM ArkMEA Celebration 2021

This March was the 36th annual Music In Our Schools Month celebration. The purpose of Music In Our Schools Month is to raise awareness of the importance of music education for all students and to remind citizens that school is where all students should have access to music. This year's theme "Music: The Sound of My Heart," is SO relevant to our profession and our communities more than ever.

National and local concerts have been held to celebrate this month since 1985. Although we could not hold our traditional celebration at the State Capitol, this year's virtual celebration was still made special with help from several ArkMEA members and Arkansas music educators.

The Arkansas MIOSM celebration was held as a webinar on Tuesday, March 9th. It was hosted by Bart Dooley, ArkMEA MIOSM chair. The evening's virtual concert featured recordings made by various music groups from around the state during this past year.

Pre Concert Music

Sanocho - University of Arkansas Latin Percussion Ensemble directed by Prof. Fernando Valencia

Folk Tune Air - Bentonville Chamber Orchestra directed by Jesse Collett

Concert

1. **The Star Spangled Banner** - The Razorback Chorus, University of Arkansas Men's Choir directed by Dr. Jeffrey Murdock
2. **Serpents in Red Roses Hissing** by Joshua Shank - University of Central Arkansas Chamber Singers directed by Dr. Kevin Coker
3. **Jackie's Project** - John Ling's "Amidst" realized and performed by Jackie Tavernaro, University of Arkansas
4. **Coventry Carol** - Bentonville High School Chamber Choir 2020 directed by Terry Hicks
5. **"UAPE Project"** (University of Arkansas Percussion Ensemble) - A realization of the fourth movement of Ney Rosau's "Vibraphone Concerto #2." This video is from Walter Ferguson's Senior Recital at the University of Arkansas
6. **Miserere Mei, Deus** by Allergri - Har-Ber High School directed by Clint Pianalto
7. **Canzoni Septimi Toni No.2** by Giovanni Gabrieli - University of Arkansas Bands
8. **I Don't Feel No Ways Tired** arr. by Stacey V. Gibbs - University of Central Arkansas Concert Choir directed by Dr. Kevin Coker
9. **Zora's Domain** arr. by D.J. Talbot, inspired by the music from "Legend of Zelda" video game - D.J. Talbot and Colton Townsend, University of Arkansas
10. **"Õhtul"** by Pärt Uusberg (Estonian musician) - Bryant Camerata directed by Tanner Oglesby
11. **St. Paul's Suite** by Gustav Holst - Conway High School Chamber Orchestra directed by Casey Buck
12. **Poem of Praise** by Florence Price - University of Arkansas Schola Cantorum directed by Dr. Stephen Caldwell
13. **What Wondrous Love is This** American Folk Hymn - Bentonville High School A Cappella Choir 2020 directed by Terry Hicks
14. **Hallelujah Chorus** from Handel's "Messiah" - University of Arkansas Pine Bluff Vesper Choir directed by Jerron Liddell

Special acknowledgement goes to the following for their assistance with the 2021 ArkMEA MIOSM event:

April Shelby
ArkMEA President

Darla Corral
ArkMEA Technology Chair

Karyna Johnson
ArkMEA General Music Chair

Dr. Dan Abraham
ArkMEA Research Coordinator, Assistant Professor of Music Education, University of Arkansas

Dr. Kevin Coker
ArkMEA Marketing Coordinator, Director of Choral Activities, University of Central Arkansas

This was a nice substitute for our annual concerts and may become a permanent part of our celebration. This was a great way to celebrate many High School and College ensembles who normally are not able to participate. We hope to see you at the State Capitol for our 2022 MIOSM!

University of Arkansas FORT SMITH

Music

2020-21 AUDITION DATES

On-campus audition dates are coming. At this time, UAFS is also accepting auditions via online submission. Email or call us for more information.

ENSEMBLES

Athletic Band
Brass
Flute
Guitar
Jazz Band
Jazz Catz (vocal jazz)
Jazz Lab
Leonis Chamber Singers
Men's Chorus
Percussion
Opera and Musical Theatre Workshop
Wind Ensemble
Women's Chorus
Woodwind

DEGREES

Bachelor of Arts in Music
Bachelor of Music Education (Vocal, Instrumental)

Scholarships are available for music and non-music majors.



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Summer Professional Development

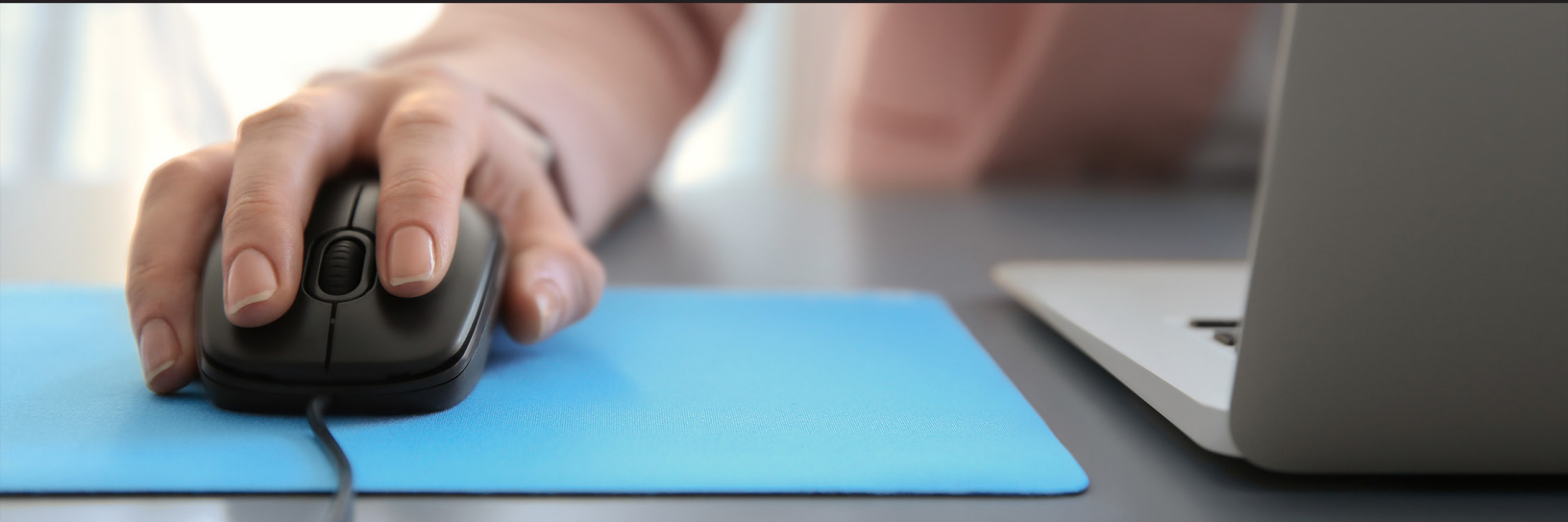
**2021 Summer Conference,
July 13-15**

This year, ArkMEA is partnering with 12 other Music Educator Associations to present a virtual conference. The theme is “Making Equity Actionable,” and will pose the question: “How do we welcome all students and teachers as we seek to improve equitable access and representation in music education?” Educators will learn strategies for opening doors to all students while evaluating the curricula we teach to ensure cultural relevance. To register for the conference or learn more, you can visit the conference website [here](#).

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ArkMEA?**

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through the
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opportunities on our
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Donors Choose

How to Use Crowdfunding to Support Your Music Classroom

By: Rose Schmidt Riley

Close your eyes and imagine your ideal music room. Is it an Orff Schulwerk-inspired wonderland, filled with xylophones and movement props? Is it a fully-stocked band room, with music stands, method books, matching mallets, and marching percussion? Or a choir room with matching choral folders and 200 pre-sharpened pencils for when that one student forgets their pencil (again)? Now think about the reality of your current music teaching situation. Whether you are happy with your situation or desperately need to get new instruments into the hands of your students, everyone would like a little extra financial support to get what they need for their classrooms. Your school budget can quickly get used up by contest entrance fees, unexpected school instrument repairs, or bringing in a clinician to work with your students. Fundraisers can be a lot of work for teachers, students, and their parents, and some of our best fundraisers have been interrupted by COVID restrictions on gathering in groups and increased financial pressure on our students' families. I would like to share with you how I have used Donors Choose, a crowdfunding website designed specifically for American public-school teachers, to bring thousands of dollars' worth of instruments and materials into my classroom.

What is Donors Choose?

Donors Choose is a crowdfunding website designed to help full-time public-school teachers purchase materials for their students. A 501(c)(3) organization that was founded by a teacher in 2000 to help him get materials for his classroom, www.donorschoose.org has facilitated the funding of more than 1.9 million teacher projects. To be eligible to set up a classroom account and create projects on Donors Choose, you must be a full-time teacher in a K-12 public or public-charter school in the United States. Donors Choose does not host projects for teachers who work at higher education, private, parochial, or religiously affiliated schools, or who homeschool; however, there are other crowdfunding options available for educators, including www.adoptaclassroom.org.

How do I get started?

To set up an account, go to <https://secure.donorschoose.org/teacher/teacher-registration.html>. You will follow the website's steps to create your individual classroom page and you will receive an individualized public profile URL that you can share; for example, mine is <https://www.donorschoose.org/mrs-riley-music>. Before you create and post your first project, I recommend that you ask your school's administration to make sure that you have approval to use Donors Choose as a fundraising tool. I have worked in four different school systems, and all but one allowed their teachers to use crowdfunding to supplement school funding. The Donors Choose website has support materials to share with reluctant administrators at <https://help.donorschoose.org/hc/en-us/categories/360002005754-Districts-and-administrators>.

After you have created an account, I would recommend making a prioritized list of wants and needs for your classroom. In June 2020, I accepted a K-6 general music and 7-8 choir teaching position in Bay, AR. I inherited a sizable library of choral octavos that work well for my older students, some recorders, and a variety of small hand percussion instruments designed for younger students. I knew that I wanted to get enough drums and other percussion instruments to outfit an entire class of students as soon as possible. This would allow everyone in class to play without sharing instruments or having to stop mid-class to sanitize equipment under my school's 2020-21 COVID-19 protocols. I noticed that my school did not have any xylophones, glockenspiels, or movement props, and I knew that eventually I wanted to get some of those materials for my students as well. After I made my list and checked it twice, I used my school budget as best as possible to buy my top priority items, then I logged into my Donors Choose account and started creating projects.

When you start to create a new project, the website walks you through the template for a project. You can select that you are seeking funding for supplies (which includes digital resources like Teachers Pay Teachers), a virtual class trip, or a virtual class visitor. Donors Choose partners with a variety of companies, including Best Buy, Staples, Lakeshore Learning Materials, Amazon Business, School Specialty, and Woodwind & Brasswind. For my latest project, I clicked on the Woodwind & Brasswind link, went shopping for a bass xylophone, and added it to the website's shopping cart. When I was done shopping, I simply clicked on a button that said "Transmit to Donors Choose" and I was returned to my site. You will finish the project by creating a project title, summarizing what you want to buy for your students, writing at least 90 words about why your requested materials will make a difference in your students' learning, and by selecting up to two subject area



At school or at home... wherever learning happens, you can make a difference.

With teachers and students facing the toughest learning challenges in a generation, you can help provide the supplies to keep kids learning.

[See teachers' projects](#)

⚠️ [Learn how we're working to support teachers and students during Covid-19.](#)

We're a charity that makes it easy for anyone to help a classroom in need. Your gift is tax-deductible.

tags (i.e. music, performing arts, extracurricular, social emotional learning, special needs, or other subject areas like history, literacy, or math). Once you have completed the template and have proofread your work, click submit and your project will be ready to go, pending review by a Donors Choose staff member. Once your Donors Choose project has been approved and activated for donations, you have about four months to get your project funded.

Tips for Creating a Successful Project

From August 2018 to April 1, 2021, I got 12 separate Donors Choose projects funded, totaling nearly \$6,500 worth of materials

for my students. Six of those twelve projects were funded during the 2020-21 school year, despite the economic downturn caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Here are my recommendations for success:

Write about your students and your project goals in an aspirational manner. Focus on what makes your students great (their enthusiasm, how they overcome challenges, how they work together as a team), and how funding your project will help them be successful.

Start small with your first projects and grow from there. Donors Choose projects have a \$100 minimum for approval. Projects in the \$100-\$400 cost range are usually funded quickly, while projects that are over \$1000 are fully funded less than half the

time. If you are trying to get a class set of 20 ukuleles that will cost over \$1,000, don't make one large project. I would recommend asking for 5 ukuleles in your first project, then using your first project as a starting point to ask for another 5 ukuleles, and then a class set of 10 ukuleles. Donors Choose allows up to 10 projects "in progress" at one time, so you can have drafts ready to post as soon as one project is funded.

Reach out to your family, friends, and social network. When your project is submitted for pre-approval, you will be given a link to your project that you can share during the "pre-funding" phase. I share that link with family and friends via text, email, and social media sites like Facebook. I share

the link in status updates, I have set up Facebook fundraisers with my Donors Choose classroom project as the beneficiary, and I ask friends to share my link on their status if they are willing. I received at least \$250 towards a bass xylophone from two shares of my website by my high school English teacher and my spouse's friend from high school band. Donors can also sign up to provide a monthly repeating donation; I receive monthly support from my college rhetoric professor after a chance conversation on Facebook Messenger.

Discover the power of matching funding opportunities, including promo codes, the Refer-a-Teacher Program, and Classroom Rewards. Sponsored "1.5 times match" and "double match" promotions make your donor's money go even farther, and are common during certain times of the year, including around the first days of school in August and Giving Tuesday (the first Tuesday after Thanksgiving). If you choose to share your birthday when you sign up, Donors Choose will offer a funding match code on your birthday to use towards active projects. For more information about funding opportunities, see <https://help.donorschoose.org/hc/en-us/sections/360004768654-About-funding-opportunities>.

Find creative ways to encourage people to donate. For one of my projects, I told my Facebook friends that anyone who donated a certain amount of money towards the project would get to name one of the instruments. My school now owns a few tubano drums with names and a talking drum named Spot.

Send home Donor Choose's photo permission slips towards the beginning of your project. Most Donors Choose projects require thank you notes and/or photos of your students using the materials in school. Getting permission slips earlier rather than later saves time when it is time to thank your donors.

When your project is fully funded, you will be notified by email. Accept your funding and confirm your order and shipping address within a week to get your new class materials headed your way! Make sure you make plans to complete the thank you package requirements once you receive your materials. Thank you packages require a written impact letter from the teacher in charge of the project. You may also be required to include handwritten thank you notes from students and photos of students using the donated materials. Interested in starting your own Donors Choose project? Visit <http://share.donorschoose.org/LBRhc> to get started on your first project!



Rose Schmidt Riley is a K-8 music teacher for Bay School District in Bay, Arkansas. Prior to joining the staff at Bay in 2020, Rose taught 1-6 music in the Jonesboro (AR) Public Schools, 6-8 band at Goddard Scholars Academy in the Worcester (MA) Public Schools, and K-5 music in the Davis County (IA) Community School District. She holds a BM in trumpet performance and music education (with honors) from The University of Iowa and a MME in music education from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Rose is dedicated to mentoring the next generation of music educators and is currently hosting student teaching interns from Arkansas State University. She has completed World Music Drumming Level 1 training, First Steps in Music training, and Kodaly Level 1 training. She is affiliated with the National Association for Music Education, Arkansas Music Educators Association, the Organization of American Kodaly Educators, the American Orff Schulwerk Association, the Feierabend Association for Music Education, the Early Childhood Music & Movement Association, and Sigma Alpha Iota International Music Fraternity as an active alumnae member of the Jonesboro Alumnae & Patronesses chapter.



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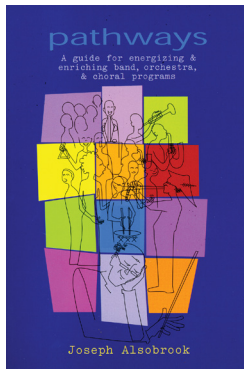
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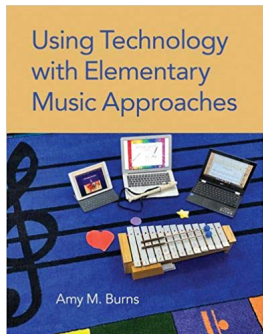
Summer Reading Suggestions



***Pathways: A Guide for Energizing & Enriching Band, Orchestra, & Choral Programs* by Joseph Alsobrook**

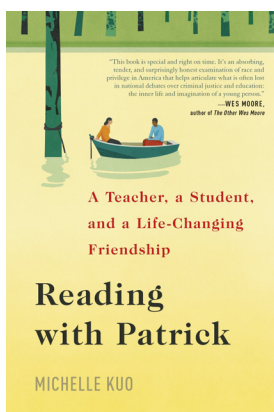
Here are solid and exciting solutions to the challenges of running an effective school music programme, suggestions on how to motivate students to grow as musicians, and ways to retain students. Musician and teacher Joseph Alsobrook explains how to meet the needs of music students while simultaneously enjoying a rewarding and meaningful career as a music educator. Offering his wisdom with hands-on suggestions for practical and creative teaching methods, Alsobrook shows teachers how to build a music program filled with dedicated students and backed by a loyal community. (Amazon)

“A perfect book for every new/young music educator! It is full of inspiration and is a must read, particularly when times get tough!” - April Shelby



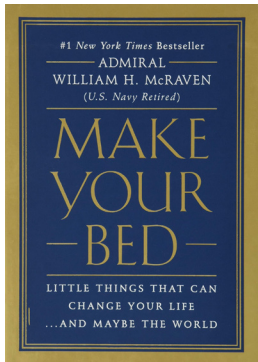
***Using Technology with Elementary Music Approaches* by Amy M. Burns**

“This is a great resource that is specific to using technology in the elementary music room. Published in 2020, it is filled with current information. Because it focuses on elementary, the book is broken down into sections that cover three common elementary approaches: Feiereabend’s First Steps in Music, Kodaly, and Orff. It also has a final section on project based learning. It is not a general overview of how tech could be incorporated to those approaches. Instead, the author breaks down each approach and outlines specific lesson plans. Burns breaks the Feiereabend section into the eight steps of the musical workout with a coordinating lesson in multiple versions based on just the teacher having technology, some student technology, or 1:1 student technology. This book also comes with a corresponding website with downloadable resources and lesson examples. An exciting and useful resource!” -Darla Corral



***Reading With Patrick: A Teacher, a Student and the Life-Changing Power of Books* by Michelle Kuo**

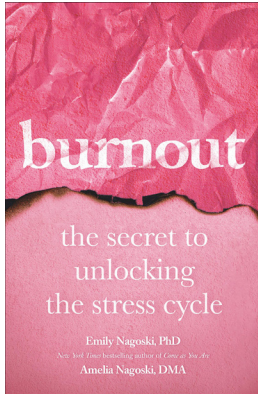
“Michelle Kuo’s memoir, Reading With Patrick, is a personal account of her educational experiences in the Teach for America program at an alternative school in Helena, Arkansas. Published in 2017, this book is a recent testimony to anyone looking to gain perspective of the racial and cultural inequities still at large in the Mississippi Delta Region. Being a woman of Asian descent, Michelle Kuo uses her platform to explain the microaggressions still hurled at her as well. Although Kuo educates through the medium of a junior high English class, any educator could see themselves through Kuo’s eyes because of her vivid descriptions and pointed anecdotes.” -James Maestri



***Make Your Bed: Little Things That Can Change Your Life...And Maybe the World* by Admiral William H. McRaven**

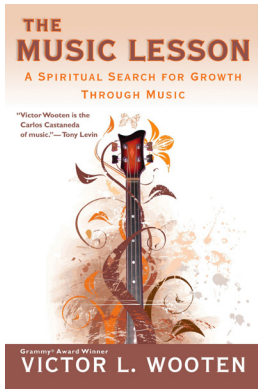
Based on a Navy SEAL's inspiring graduation speech, this #1 *New York Times* bestseller of powerful life lessons "should be read by every leader in America." (*Wall Street Journal*)

"A great read for anyone looking for inspirational moments within their own experiences!" -April Shelby



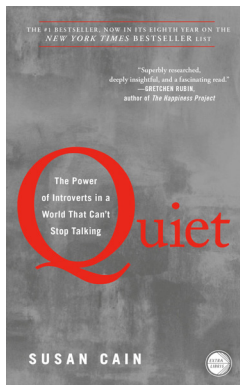
***Burnout: The Secret to Unlocking the Stress Cycle* by Amelia Nagoski and Emily Nagoski**

This groundbreaking book explains why women experience burnout differently than men—and provides a simple, science-based plan to help women minimize stress, manage emotions, and live a more joyful life. (Amazon)



***The Music Lesson* by Victor Wooten**

From Grammy-winning musical icon and legendary bassist Victor L. Wooten comes an inspiring parable of music, life, and the difference between playing all the right notes--and feeling them. *The Music Lesson* is the story of a struggling young musician who wanted **music** to be his life, and who wanted his life to be great. (Amazon)



***Quiet: The Power of Introverts* by Susan Cain**

In *Quiet*, Susan Cain argues that we dramatically undervalue introverts and shows how much we lose in doing so. She charts the rise of the Extrovert Ideal throughout the twentieth century and explores how deeply it has come to permeate our culture. She also introduces us to successful introverts—from a witty, high-octane public speaker who recharges in solitude after his talks, to a record-breaking salesman who quietly taps into the power of questions. Passionately argued, superbly researched, and filled with indelible stories of real people, *Quiet* has the power to permanently change how we see introverts and, equally important, how they see themselves. (Amazon)

"It changed my thinking on how I should be teaching my less than outgoing students." -Delynne West



The 2020-2021 school year has been a tough one.

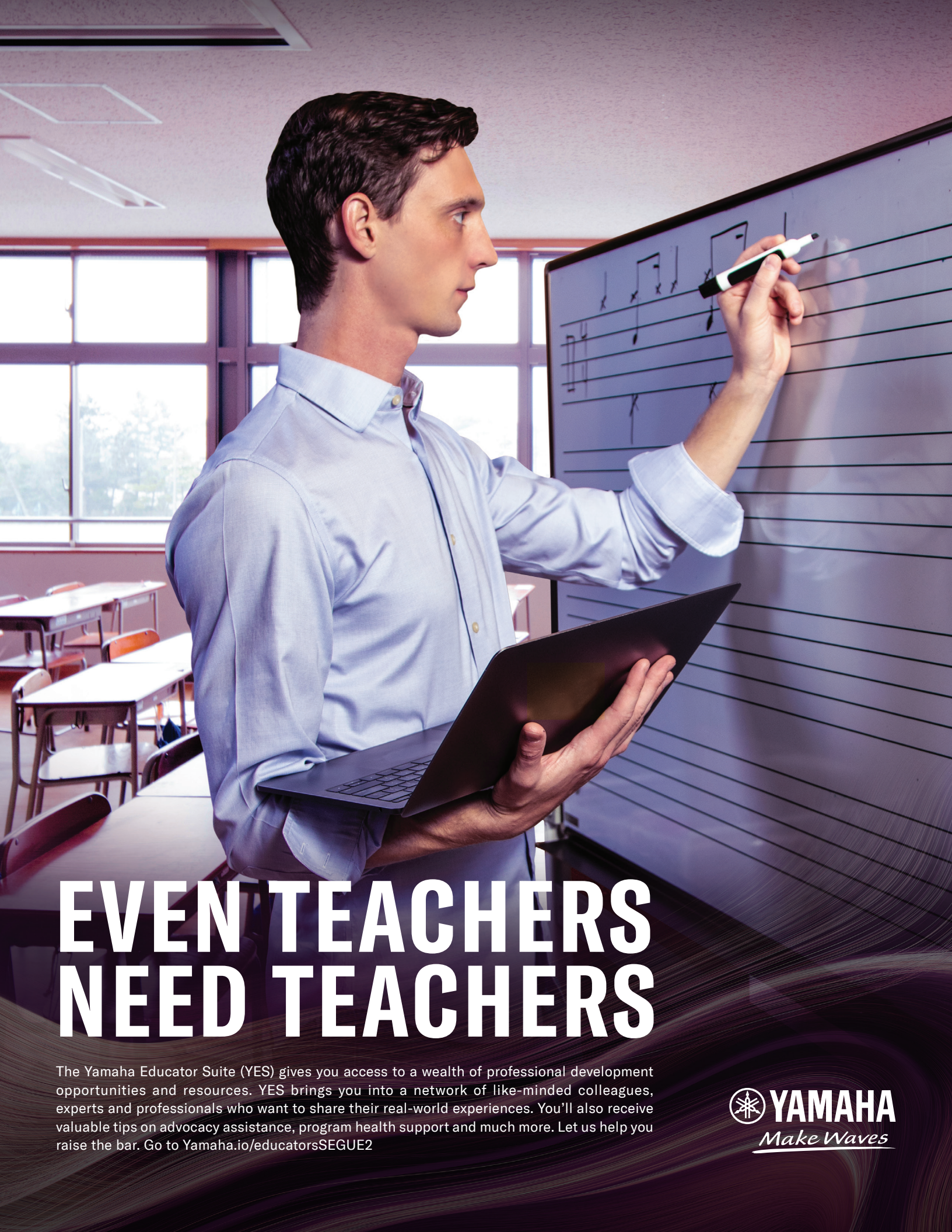
We at ArkMEA wish you a relaxing summer
with a few suggestions to help you rest and recover.

Plan time to do things that rejuvenate you. Even though responsibilities do not end during summer months, plan some time each day to do something that brings you joy.

Schedule short blocks of time to work on big projects, such as prep for the fall,
so that it doesn't take up the end of your vacation time.

Take time to step away from the school year and decompress. Celebrate or acknowledge in some way what you have accomplished during this school year that has been unlike any other.

Congratulations on a great year!



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