



2018 Michigan Music Conference: *An In-service for Music Educators*

January 25-27, 2018
Amway Grand Plaza Hotel & DeVos Place
Grand Rapids, MI

May 1, 2017

On January 11, 2017, the Michigan Music Conference (MMC) Executive Board (EB) received a written request to immediately move the MMC out of the current facilities. In the MMC feedback survey, some attendees also made this request. Some attendees also complimented the facilities and/or asked that the MMC remain in Grand Rapids. This statement is in response to those requests.

In May 2016, after soliciting bids from multiple locations, the MMC Executive Board entered into a contract with the facilities in Grand Rapids to host the MMC through 2020. After evaluating contracts & financial considerations, analyzing logistical concerns, and touring venues in multiple cities, the Executive Board determined that Grand Rapids provided the best overall facilities at that time to meet the growing & complex needs of our conference. Breaking our current facilities contract would cause significant financial penalties that would endanger the future of the MMC. Therefore, at their February 2017 meeting, the MMC EB made a unanimous decision to honor our contracts in Grand Rapids through 2020. We will begin soliciting bids to host future MMCs in early 2019, and we encourage suggestions and feedback in advance of that process.

The MMC is an event organized and managed by representatives from the Michigan chapter of the American String Teachers' Association (MASTA), the Michigan Music Education Association (MMEA), the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association (MSBOA), and the Michigan School Vocal Music Association (MSVMA). Just completing its 12th year, the MMC averages over 1,800 music educator attendees, 100 exhibitors, and over 10,000 total educator, parent, student, clinician, administrator, exhibitor, and sponsor participants. In addition to showcasing our top performing ensembles and most successful students in performances throughout the conference, MASTA, MMEA, MSBOA, and MSVMA have worked together to create one of the best music education professional development resources within the state of Michigan.

--The Executive Board of the Michigan Music Conference