



MADISON  
SYMPHONY  
ORCHESTRA

John DeMain | Music Director

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Van Hise Elementary Teacher Wins Award for Excellence in Music Education**

The Madison Symphony Orchestra (MSO) in partnership with Ward-Brodt Music will award its new **Award for Excellence in Music Education** to K-5 general music teacher **Margaret Jenks** at an all-school assembly at Van Hise Elementary School this Friday, March 21, at 10:45 a.m.

This annual award celebrates an educator who displays leadership, passion, dedication, and innovation within the music classroom, positively affecting the lives of his or her students and the community at large and is designated for one outstanding music educator in southern Wisconsin. The MSO and Ward-Brodt developed the award to recognize that cultivating the artistic growth of young students is one of the most unique and challenging jobs for teachers in Wisconsin.



Jenks teaches K-5 general music at Van Hise Elementary in Madison, Wisconsin, and is the current chair of the Wisconsin CMP (Comprehensive Musicianship through Performance) project. Margaret is committed to higher level learning music education both in her teaching of elementary and middle school students as well as in her work with teacher mentoring and training. She also designs and teaches the Introductory Choir programs of the Madison Youth Choirs (MYC), Tallis (for boys) and Colla Voce (for girls), and conducts two of MYC's performing boys choirs.

Her teaching career is impressive and highly varied, as she taught at the Musichochule in Freiburg, Germany, and various schools in Minnesota and Wisconsin. While teaching at Butler Middle School in Waukesha, WI,

Margaret created the Bridge Ensemble, an innovative choir which gained attention for its unique approach of pairing cognitively disabled and gifted and talented students.

A frequent presenter at workshops and clinics, Mrs. Jenks recently worked with teachers in New York City at the invitation of Carnegie Hall's Weill Institute Music Educators Workshop. She has taught graduate courses at VanderCook College, at the Wisconsin Center for Music Education, and through Viterbo College. She has guest conducted honor choirs and led teacher workshops in Hong Kong, Seoul, and throughout the U.S. In 2008, Margaret was part of a team of Wisconsin teachers who lead a CMP inservice for the entire Los Angeles Unified School District music staff. She is also the author of numerous articles, including the recent "Soul Knowing" for the Wisconsin School Musician magazine, which focused on effective outcomes through the CMP methodology.

Jenks will be awarded a commemorative plaque and a \$500 prize. These prizes have been made possible through the generosity of Ward-Brodt Music of Madison, Wisconsin. To have been qualified, a nominee must have taught within a 75-mile radius of Madison in a public or private K-12 school and instructed a band, orchestra, choir, or general music course.

Colleagues, current or former students, parents of students, or friends were eligible to nominate a music educator for the award. The review panel consisted of representatives from public and private school administration, teachers, university staff, community members, and one MSO representative.

For more information regarding the Award for Excellence in Music Education, visit <http://madisonsymphony.org/award>.

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