

# THE SCORE

MARSHALL MUSIC COMPANY



**Theory Challenge:** Identify this progression!  
The answer will be in the next issue.

## IN THIS EDITION

**01 2017 Michigan Music Conference Recap**

By Pete Birchler, Director of School Service, Marshall Music Company

**From the Podium: A Call for Submissions!**

**02 Update: Michigan's Approach to the ESSA**

By Jimmy Edwards, President of Marshall Music Company, with Excerpt from the Michigan Department of Education

**Marshall Music Partners with the Sphinx Organization to Support Music Education**

**03 Marshall Music Execs Join Local Band Program for a Rockin' Christmas**

Ryan Fedewa, Marshall Music's Classroom Technology Specialist

**Employee Spotlight: Frank Jackson, Wind Musical Instrument Technician, Marshall Music, Lansing**

By Ellen Jackson

**04 The Workbench: How to Care for Your Violin in Cold Weather**

By the StringOvation Team, Connolly

**Accidentals in F-flat Major**



Marshall Music is a Forte-level sponsor of the Michigan Music Conference. The MMC brings music educators from across the state together for three days of professional development and performances.

## 2017 Michigan Music Conference Recap

By Pete Birchler, Director of School Service, Marshall Music Company

The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Michigan Music Conference took place January 19–21 in Grand Rapids. As a principal sponsor of MMC, Marshall Music is deeply proud of our contributions to the largest music education event in the state of Michigan. In addition to our financial commitment as a Forte-level sponsor of the conference, our exclusive sponsorship of the All-State ensembles brings in the outstanding musicians and educators who conduct and inspire the most talented middle and high school musicians in the state. Marshall Music facilitates a great deal of the behind-the-scenes work at MMC, including setup and transportation of the stage percussion generously donated for use by Conn-Selmer. Lastly, we are always ready to come to the rescue and make a young musician's day: this year, we provided a wood Buffet clarinet for an All-State student whose instrument was cracked during a rehearsal!

This year, the Michigan Music Conference hosted over 9,000 educators, students, presenters, and guests. Marshall Music is pleased to support, promote, and contribute to an event that has such a positive impact on the music education community in Michigan.

## From the Podium: A Call for Submissions!

Do you have news about your school music program that you would like to share with the community? The Podium is the place for it! Perhaps there is a story from your experience you would like to share with others. Send your submission to [schoolservice@marshallmusic.com](mailto:schoolservice@marshallmusic.com). Thank you!

## SAVE THE DATE

### Year One: A Free Seminar for Student and First-Year Teachers

Tuesday–Wednesday, May 9–10, 2017

- Featuring a keynote address by **Richard Saucedo**
- Sessions include resume/interview coaching, a panel to discuss first-year challenges, and band instrument repair/triage tips
- Optional all-expenses-paid trip to Elkhart, Indiana to tour the **Conn-Selmer** production facilities

Details and a formal agenda will be released in March, 2017. Email **Pete Birchler**, Director of School Service, for more information at [pbirchler@marshallmusic.com](mailto:pbirchler@marshallmusic.com)

## UPDATE: MICHIGAN'S APPROACH TO THE

# EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT



By Jimmy Edwards, President of Marshall Music Company, with Excerpt from the Michigan Department of Education

Marshall Music has been active not only in the effort to support the passing of ESSA at the federal level, but also in crafting state policy to support you, the music educator. There has also been a tremendous effort by many others in the arts advocacy community to ensure the inclusion of music and arts in our curriculum. We are thrilled to bring the following news to you.

On February 14, MDE released the final draft of the ESSA Consolidated plan. Based on the advocacy efforts of individuals and organizations within the arts education community, several significant changes were included. They are:

- 1. Time spent in fine arts, music and physical education is now an indicator in the State's Accountability System.** This indicator uses a 100-point index. This measure is the amount of exposure students have to courses in the fine arts, music, and physical education. At least 10 students need to be enrolled for this measure to be calculated. Calculations are done for all valid subgroups. This measure will include additional data collection but is key to Michigan's strategic 10 in 10 initiatives.
- 2. Arts access data will be part of the transparency dashboard.** MDE plans on developing a School Quality and Student Success Transparency dashboard with key indicators that provides quality data to educators and families that can ultimately impact student achievement. Art access data is currently being collected. The draft plan creates an additional indicator on the dashboard to highlight the available data on Art Access on the dashboard.
- 3. Arts educators are described as 'helping with the comprehensive needs assessment and with the evidence-based practices work so that LEAs can identify need in those areas and access evidence-based strategies.'** (MDE 1)

MDE hopes to have the final plan completed in April. There is a need to adjust the language to provide additional clarity and to make sure all interests are addressed. We have also asked that long-term goals are set, specific to music education so that the likelihood of accountability and successful roll-out will be greatly increased. Marshall Music would like to thank Deputy Superintendent Vanessa Keesler for her part in creating this draft plan and also for considering our concerns.

**Source:** Michigan Department of Education. "ESSA Final Draft: CMM Analysis and Questions." In *Creative Many*. Published February 17, 2017.

## Marshall Music Partners with the Sphinx Organization to Support Music Education

On a chilly January afternoon Marshall Music President Jimmy Edwards made his way through the crowds at Detroit's Renaissance Center, violins in hand. Somewhere in the mobs of people attending the auto show was Xavier Verna, Director of Education for the Sphinx Organization. This was the start of a partnership and friendship, with Mr. Edwards donating a number of instruments to Sphinx on behalf of Marshall Music and its support for music programs statewide.

"After speaking with Xavier and Andre I knew we had to support them. The work they are doing at Sphinx is nothing short of incredible," says Edwards, who has since attended performances and gained a deeper appreciation of the work being done.

If you haven't heard of the Sphinx Organization, you will soon. The Detroit-based national organization is dedicated to transforming lives through the power of diversity in the arts. The orchestra students have performed at venues from the NAMM show in Anaheim to The White House and Carnegie Hall. Learn more at [sphinxmusic.org](http://sphinxmusic.org).



Jimmy Edwards, President of Marshall Music Company (Left), stands with Xavier Verna, Director of Education for the Sphinx Organization (Right).



Jimmy Edwards, President of Marshall Music, and Greg Towery, Marshall Music's CFO (Back Right), stand with the Webberville Middle School Band.

## Marshall Music Execs Join Local Band Program for a Rockin' Christmas

The bleachers in the middle school gymnasium were packed full. The students quietly waited for their cue and as the first notes rang out the room exploded into a melodic holiday extravaganza. This was the scene at the 2016 Holiday Concert at Webberville Middle School.

This year Marshall Music's Greg Towery and Jimmy Edwards joined in the fun, bringing heavy guitar riffs and booming drums into the mix. Director Gary Franks created three original arrangements for the show, all of which were received with roaring applause. "The performance itself was exhilarating," says Franks, who also brought in another local professional to play electric bass. "The students were also able to see what it means to prepare for a performance with the efficiency of a professional. Most importantly, they were able to witness firsthand how music is a skill which one can enjoy for years in a variety of ways."

The guest musicians also benefitted greatly from the experience. "It was a special night," says Greg Towery, CFO of Marshall Music. "Playing alongside the kids and feeling the inspiration really reminds you of how special our jobs can be."



### Ryan Fedewa Marshall Music's Classroom Technology Specialist

Ryan Fedewa is the Classroom Technology Specialist at Marshall Music Company and a member of the School Service team. Ryan specializes in assisting schools with all of their music technology needs, including keyboard laboratory setups, recording/playback equipment, music software, combo products, and live sound/lighting gear. He is also certified to train

on some of the top keyboard brands, including Korg, Roland, and Yamaha. Ryan studied radio and television production at Lansing Community College and gained valuable industry experience through years of working as a front of house and monitor engineer for venues across the country. He has actively performed for over 26 years and also runs a private recording studio where he produces and engineers projects ranging from country, to hip-hop, to instrumental music auditions. Ryan has been a valued member of the Marshall Music team since 1999.

For more information or to learn how Marshall Music can assist you with your program's music technology needs, please contact:

**Ryan Fedewa • (517) 318-9393 • ryanf@marshallmusic.com**



## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: FRANK JACKSON

### Wind Musical Instrument Technician Marshall Music, Lansing

By Ellen Jackson

It started on a crisp autumn day in 1974, Hackettstown, N.J. Frank had been thinking of changing careers. He had been in charge of the maintenance at a church camp and wanted something different. He walked into a music store and inquired about learning to repair instruments. It just happened that the music store was associated with NEMC (National Educational Music Co.) in Union, N.J. and they were looking for an apprentice in their repair department. It took a two-hour commute (by car, then train) each way, five days a week to work and learn, under the direction of a guy named Mario, the art of wind musical instrument repair.

We left New Jersey in 1977 and headed back to Nebraska, where we both spent our childhoods, to a little town of Fremont. Frank worked for one year at a music store in town before opening his own business. His one-man shop did a lot of repair business for local schools, but he also had time to continue playing tuba in a local brass quintet.

In 1979 he was approached by the music department at the University of Nebraska to fill a new job position, Instrument Repair Technician, for the School of Music. Besides keeping all the university instruments in good working order, he taught instrument repair to those students majoring in music education, so as band directors they would be prepared to handle minor repairs in the field. One of the perks of working for the University was the requirement to attend all the home football games, away games with the marching band, and of course, bowl games. Not too bad a gig!

Wanting a change of scenery, Frank accepted a job with Marshall Music in 1988 and we packed up and headed to Lansing...and I think you know the rest of the story.

Frank and I have been married since 1972. Our daughter, Meredith, is a graduate student at MSU, working on her Master's in Social Work (after teaching for several years), and our son, Jeff, is a powertrain engineer at Chrysler Motors in Auburn Hills. After retirement from Marshall's, Frank will return to the repair shop on a part-time basis.

# THE WORKBENCH

## How to Care for Your Violin in Cold Weather

By the StringOvation Team, Connolly

As cold weather approaches, caring for your string instrument becomes of paramount importance. The plunging temperatures have an adverse effect on the violin family of instruments. Extreme conditions have the ability to loosen pegs, create unpleasant whistling sounds, and encourage cracks to develop. The reason for these detrimental changes is because in winter, the air is much drier. And although low temperatures encourage organic materials to contract, the main problem is the amount of moisture absorption that is possible.

However, you don't have to be dismayed by the approach of the cold weather season. There are a number of actions you can take to prevent damage to your violin. Knowing how to care for your violin correctly can help keep it in top form, and help you avoid unnecessary problems and repairs.

### WHY DOES WINTER WREAK HAVOC ON WOOD?

Because your violin is constructed of wood, it absorbs and releases moisture to maintain its balance with the humidity level around it. (The special scientific term is hygroscopic.) And although this happens at the microscopic level, it means that when you move your instrument from one location to another (or the environment changes), the resulting difference in humidity will cause the wood to expand or contract, depending on the temperature. Cold temperatures don't allow much space between the molecules to hold water, so the heat level dictates how much moisture the air can hold, and thus, the amount of moisture in your violin.

This wouldn't cause much of a problem, except for the fact that your violin is constructed from different types of wood. Basically, different species of trees have different absorption properties, and will swell or shrink at different rates. Moreover, the way the "grain" (essentially the cells in the wood) is running will also influence how much expansion or contraction will occur. While this is particularly significant in a violin, for larger instruments like the cello or double bass, the change in weather causes even larger effects.

Fortunately, your violin is designed to weather cold weather – somewhat. Since the joints of your instrument are connected with special "hide" glue, when the body and ribs begin to shrink in cold weather the glue is able to shatter, preventing serious damage to the parts of your violin. However, that means that cold weather has the ability to generate seam separations that cause annoying buzzes, as well as exasperate hairline cracks.

### OTHER WINTER PROBLEMS INCLUDE:

- **Soundpost shifts**—the soundpost can move inside your violin when the center section of the top and bottom plates are affected by humidity levels. When this happens you'll notice a decline in response, timbre, and projection.
- **Loose pegs**—because the maple used to make the peg box will shrink faster than the ebony used for pegs, these will often become very loose and need adjustments.
- **Bridge height**—when the top plate shrinks, the bridge can lower, resulting in the strings being closer to the fingerboard, which often produces a buzzing sound (especially in larger instruments).

Winter air has less moisture, and when it is pumped into your home and heated, although the temperature increases, the amount of moisture in the air does not. This makes the indoor atmosphere very dry. Since you can't control the outdoor climate, you must do something about the inside areas. By following some fairly simple violin care tips, you'll be able to prevent many of the problems and frustrations caused by cold weather.

### VIOLIN CARE TIPS—STORAGE AND TRANSPORT

In the winter, it's important to store and transport your instrument properly to prevent excessive evaporation; maintaining a consistent moisture level is the key. Try using the following ideas:

- **Keep your violin in its hard case.** In fact, it's much easier to maintain the humidity in a small area (like your case) than a large room.
- **Use an in-case humidifier/dehumidifier and digital hygrometer.** Adding too much moisture to the area around your violin can be just as damaging as too little, so it's a good idea to have an in-case hygrometer to measure the humidity level. You can purchase them at cigar shops or your string dealer. The ideal humidity is approximately 30–50 percent.
- **Warm up your vehicle.** Before you transport your violin, make sure that your car is warmed-up, and never leave your instrument in the car overnight.
- **Do not store your violin next to the heat/air vent, radiators, or a fireplace.** The volatile atmosphere in that area is too difficult to manage.
- **Purchase a silk cover.** Interestingly, silk has wonderful protective qualities. Keeping your violin in a silk sleeve inside your case will help prevent moisture loss.
- **Use room Humidifiers and Hygrometers.** This will help maintain equilibrium while practicing.

With just a little expense, you can help prevent cold weather issues that might harm your violin.

**Source:** StringOvation Team. "How to Care for Your Violin in Cold Weather." String Ovation. December 13, 2016. Accessed February 15, 2017. <http://www.connollymusic.com/stringovation/violin-care-tips-in-cold-weather>.

## Accidentals in F-flat Major

- dents in bell and tuning slide
- broken bumper dented in at bottom of slide
- water key (in case)
- snapped weld on bell (the tubing that fits inside to connector of the bell to the slide)
  - under the BLUE tape
- tuning slide gets stuck sometimes

Thanks, probably the worst trombone ever, sorry, I haven't sent it in since 7th grade and have been just dealing with it.