ISME National Affiliate organization profile
Name: Music Education New Zealand Aotearoa (MENZA) Mātauranga a Pūoro o Aotearoa
Nation: New Zealand

Membership: MENZA is the national professional body representing the interests of all music education sectors in New Zealand including early childhood, itinerant and private instrumental and vocal studio teachers, community based music centres, music therapy, kura, primary and secondary schools, tertiary, tertiary students, libraries and businesses.

Affiliation / relationships with other partners, e.g. regional partners: as the official Ministry of Education subject association, nominates and represents members in a consultation capacity with government related agencies e.g. New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) Post Primary Teachers Association (PPTA) and other regulatory education review groups; maintains networks with regional societies for music education, and related arts organisations: Tertiary Music institutions, Secondary Music teacher networks such as CWSMTA (Canterbury and Westland Secondary Music Teachers Association), MusicNet (listserv for NZ music teachers) CSM (Christchurch School of Music), The MUSE (Community music education), early childhood organisations such as CMPA (Musical Parenting) and music therapy providers, Orff New Zealand Aotearoa (ONZA); The New Zealand Ukulele Trust (NZUT); The New Zealand Institute of Registered Music Teachers (NZIRMT); The New Zealand Music Commission; SOUNZ Centre for New Zealand Music; The New Zealand Symphony Orchestra and regional orchestra’s music education program coordinators; MERC National Centre for Research in Music Education and Sounds Arts; the Australian and New Zealand Association of Research in Music Education (ANZARME) and the emerging network of Kodály Aotearoa teachers.

Brief history and operational / organizational context: MENZA formed as a result of the first national music education conference held in Wellington in 1983. It currently is run by 10 voluntary Board members and employs a part time administrator. MENZA provides professional development and live music making opportunities for its members, represents the interests of all education sectors, produces the Tune Me In magazine, advocates for quality national music education for all New Zealand children, oversees large scale performance events, holds an annual song competition Hook, Line and Sing-Along in conjunction with the New Zealand Music Commission, promotes New Zealand Music Month in May of each year, produces and promotes quality resources through the website, engages with local communities, provides professional support through touring noted music educators nationally, and facilitating regional workshops, seminars, forums and national conferences. The 2017 conference theme is Make Some Noise and includes a focus on pedagogy in music education, the latest innovative ideas, best practice and solutions around developing musical literacy, culturally responsive and inclusive practice in music, exploring how to integrate digital technology into classroom practice, and learning how to be an advocate for music in your workplace.

Ongoing challenges for MENZA include: advocating for itinerant instrumental and vocal music teachers’ working conditions in schools, and the re-negotiation of the Education Council’s new requirements for teacher registration; and seeking government supported Professional Learning and Development (PLD) that is accessible for all teachers of music in New Zealand schools as well ongoing advocacy for quality music education opportunities for all students in Aotearoa / New Zealand.

Contact details / website: www.menza.co.nz; admin@menza.co.nz