

εφαρμογές ερευνών στη Μουσική Εκπαίδευση, στα εξής περιοδικά: *Southeastern Journal of Music Education*, *Journal of Band Research*, *The Quarterly Journal of Music Teaching and Learning*. Είναι ιστορικός και εμπειρικός ερευνητής και έχει δημοσιεύσει εργασίες του σε πολλά περιοδικά και βιβλία. Επίσης, παρουσιάζει το έργο του σε Ασία, Ευρώπη, Αφρική και Βόρεια Αμερική. Είναι κάτοχος των παρακάτω τίτλων: πτυχίο στη Μουσική Εκπαίδευση (B.M.) από το Πανεπιστήμιο του Μισισσιππί, Master στο κλαρινέτο (M.M.) από το Πολιτισιακό Πανεπιστήμιο της Florida και διδακτορικό στη Μουσική Εκπαίδευση (Ph.D.) από το Πανεπιστήμιο του Michigan.

## Music Education in the United States: An Overview

Jere T. Humphreys

In the United States, there is no national curriculum for music, mathematics, language, science, or any other school subject. The fifty American state governments, not the federal government, control education. In addition, states give local school boards, most of which are elected by voters, the power to make local policies and levy additional taxes for the schools. Therefore, much of what occurs in local schools and even universities is determined by the voters, indirectly through their school board members and elected state officials. These officials can be rather directly influenced by individuals and relatively small groups of people. It is for these reasons that American school and college music education evolved not from well-thought-out planning on the part of government officials or even professional music educators, but rather from the needs and desires of local communities.

This paper describes the evolution of music in American public schools and universities. Included are some statistics on the number of elementary, middle, and high schools that offer each type of music instruction, including band, choir, orchestra, and music for general students. Also included are some discussions on the evolution of university music programs. The paper concludes with a description of the new national voluntary standards for music education, and some assessments of the strengths and weaknesses of American music education programs.

*Jere T. Humphreys is professor of music (education) and coordinator of doctoral studies in music education. He has served on the executive committees for the Music Education Research Council and the Society for Music Teacher Education, both of the Music Educators National Conference. He has also served on editorial committees for the Bulletin of the Council for Research in Music Education, The Bulletin of Historical Research in Music Education, Update: Applications of Research in Music Education, Southeastern Journal of Music Education, Journal of Band Research, and The Quarterly Journal of Music Teaching and Learning. An historical and empirical researcher, he has published widely in journals and books and has made presentations in Asia, Europe, Africa, and North America. He holds degrees from the University of Mississippi (B.M., music education), Florida State University (M.M., clarinet performance), and the University of Michigan (Ph.D., music education).*