

MMEA - Multicultural Advisory Board Report

Our session at this year's conference, which focused primarily on how to think about selecting literature for our ensembles, was both well-attended and engaging. There is an intentional, thoughtful, and important growth of interest in selecting literature from diverse groups of composers and arrangers and Allison Davis and Faith Hall shared, specifically, how we're doing in that area in the state of Missouri. While their primary focus was in the area of wind band repertoire, we know there is still much work to be done in all areas.

Similarly, Allison and Faith brought to our collective attention the fact that many of the "folk" or "historical" pieces that our ensembles perform on a regular basis have origins in racist or problematic philosophies and doctrines (Percy Grainger's compositions were mentioned multiple times). While our presenters did not discourage the performance of music written by flawed individuals, they did raise the necessary issue of how we, as directors, discuss this music with our respective ensembles.

To that end, I am continuing to seek out future presenters who can help us further our goals in this area and look forward to reading and focusing on these issues as part of that process.