MENC has formed a task force to investigate establishing a certification program for music teachers by 1990. It will set guidelines whereby an educator's music-teaching skills and long-term success would be evaluated by others in the profession. According to task force members, current evaluation systems are often "irrelevant or inimical to the teaching of music," since music-teaching skills are usually poorly judged by nonmusicians or through written tests. The certification program would improve music education by setting valid evaluation criteria and would provide successful teachers with credentials for career advancement.

Members of the Task Force for the MENC Professional Certification Program are Charles R. Hoffer, Manny Brand, Michael George, Michael Jothen, and Paul Lehman.

Winners in the 1987-88 MENC Awards Program, who will be recognized at the National Biennial In-Service Conference in Indianapolis, have been announced. They are:
- Music Educator of the Year: Stephen W. McNeal, Fort Collins, Colorado
- National Recognition Award: New Jersey Music Educators Association
- Collegiate Chapter Citation: Loyola University, New Orleans, Chapter 757; University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh, Chapter 430; University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, Chapter 67
- State Journal Award: Iowa Music Educator; Georgia Music Notes; PMEA News (Pennsylvania); Bluegrass Music News (Kentucky)
- Exemplary Program Award: Poudre R1 School District, Colorado; Charles City Community Schools, Iowa
- MENC/CRME Outstanding Dissertation Award: William Kauffman, University of Washington, Seattle; Douglas Roy Bartholomew, Case-Western Reserve University, Cleveland; Mary Goetzte, University of Colorado, Boulder
- Distinguished Service Award: Lieutenant Colonel James M. Bankhead, Commander/Conductor of the U.S. Air Force Band

Now entering its fifth year, the Awards Program has brought recognition to more than thirty individuals and organizations. Brochures are available for the 1988-89 awards, which include all of the above award categories plus the MENC Service Award and the Senior Researcher Award. The deadline in most award categories is May 15, 1988. To receive a brochure, write to Marlynn Likens, MENC, 1902 Association Drive, Reston, Virginia 22091.

YOU'LL ALWAYS BE GLAD, IF ONLY YOU PRACTICE

A survey conducted for the American Music Conference indicated that a large majority of adults support music learning. Ninety-one percent of respondents agreed with the statement that "playing a musical instrument is something you'll always be glad you learned to do." Eighty-four percent said that every child should be exposed to playing a musical instrument. The benefit most often cited for children playing music was that it is an activity a child can enjoy all his or her life; the greatest barrier cited was difficulty in getting children to practice.

The survey was sent to two thousand married adults, with 78 percent responding.

MENC DELEGATION TO AUSTRALIA

MENC will be sending a delegation to the 1988 International Society for Music Education Conference, to be held July 17-23 in Canberra Australia. For information, call Charles Hoffer, head of the U.S delegation, at 904-392-2564. To make travel arrangements, call Stephanie Ireland at C.W. Travel, 800-424-5499.