

/RELEASED-TIME MUSIC TEACHING IN KANSAS/

by

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A MASTER'S REPORT

submitted in partial fulfillment of the

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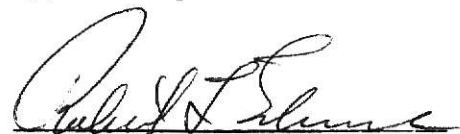
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## INTRODUCTION

Research for this project has focused in three areas: **first**, exploring the history of released-time music teaching in Kansas; **second**, investigating districts that presently have programs; and **third**, proposing a program for the Topeka area schools.

## SECTION I: KMTA Certification

...to promote and advance the study of music, to improve professional standards among the teachers and provide students with opportunities for musical growth.<sup>1</sup>

This is the purpose of the Northeast Kansas Music Teachers Association. Released-time teaching and the ideals it represents coincide nicely with the purpose of the Association. Released-time can best be defined as the opportunity for elementary and secondary public school students to receive credit for private or group music instruction. Exclusions from the definition include organizations such as band or choir that exist in most public schools. Examples include: first, private or group keyboard, voice or instrumental lessons given at the school for which the student receives credit on his transcript (in some cases students are released from academic classes to take their lesson), and second, the opportunity for students to be released from the school grounds to take a private lesson (credit usually appears on the transcript in these cases also). Teachers of these students must be certified in some way by the State of Kansas. Some are certified to teach music in public schools. However, private keyboard instructors in many cases are not certified by the state. For this reason the Kansas Music Teachers Association (KMTA) has established a certification program for its members.

Three types of KMTA certification are available, plus a fourth kind through KMTA and the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE).

Type I: Bachelor of Music Degree with a major in the area concerned and equivalency of a minor in each additional area of certification.

Type II: Bachelors Degree with a major in Music Education or a Bachelor of Arts Degree with a major in Music. Eight hours or equivalency of credit in each area concerned.

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<sup>1</sup>Northeast Kansas Music Teachers Association bylaws, 1984.

Type III: This level of certification is designed as an alternative for non-degreed teachers who wish to be certified. The requirements are as follows...

Teachers with a Type II certificate are eligible to be certified by KSDE to teach music in public schools. One of the purposes of KMTA Certification is "to develop support of allied State and National Educational Associations through which the private teacher may eventually be able to work more directly with the public school system."<sup>3</sup> It is for this purpose that the fourth kind of certification was established.

Independent - Applied Music Certificates approved by the Kansas State Department of Education are available for those teachers with a Bachelor of Music Degree with a major in the area concerned, or a Bachelor of Music Education Degree, both with additional educational requirements...This certificate enables music teachers to teach private lessons in public schools for credit, if approved by the local school board.<sup>4</sup>

One of the people who was instrumental in getting this kind of certification passed is Dr. Gordon Terwilliger. He came to Wichita State University to teach piano in 1946. There was no local piano teachers' league at that time, so he helped organize one. The private piano teacher was usually female, had not completed a college degree, and taught school-age children in the afternoons, evenings, and on Saturdays.

One important issue in the early years of the Wichita Piano Teachers League was released-time. Initially they were not so concerned that credit appear on the student's transcript. The main consideration was that students be allowed a segment of the school day for a private lesson. This would be more convenient for the private piano teacher. Some small Kansas communities

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<sup>2</sup>Kansas Music Teachers Association, *Certification Handbook* (n.p.: Kansas Music Teachers Association, 1985), p. 2.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid., p. 1.

<sup>4</sup>Ibid., p. 4.