

New Mexico Music Commission Education Committee June notes

Additional proposals for outreach

It was suggested that in trying to advocate for and serve the community of musicians in the state, we may be ignoring a significant population of musicians living here: The young musician.

Many young people interested in music have yet to take a class in music theory or learn the basics of what music is all about. They just want to create and, like all musicians, would like to have the recognition for that creativity. When a young person receives accolades or even criticism for their music, they know that they have reached someone and that is precisely the point of making music.

The education committee is proposing a competition for young musicians. It can be done entirely online with each musician, duo or group submitting a video of their performance of original or cover. There will have to be some guidelines (like no drug references, violence, slurs or vulgarity,) but the competition

would be open to all styles of music for musicians under the age of 21. (Just a suggestion, but can be of any age range.)

Winners will have the opportunity to receive not only recognition by the commission, but also something of value from music stores in their area or perhaps a chance to perform at a government sanctioned event.

We are hoping that this will be a springboard for kids becoming more interested in creating music and perhaps learning more about music theory and opportunities in the wide-ranging field of music.

A second proposal is an old one, asking communities to gather donated instruments for an instrument "petting zoo" where elementary school children will get the chance to try out an instrument for the first time. The instruments could range from percussion to wind and brass instruments and could be available at a local library, community center, music store, or other gathering place for kids.

It introduces children to music and hopefully, piques their interest.