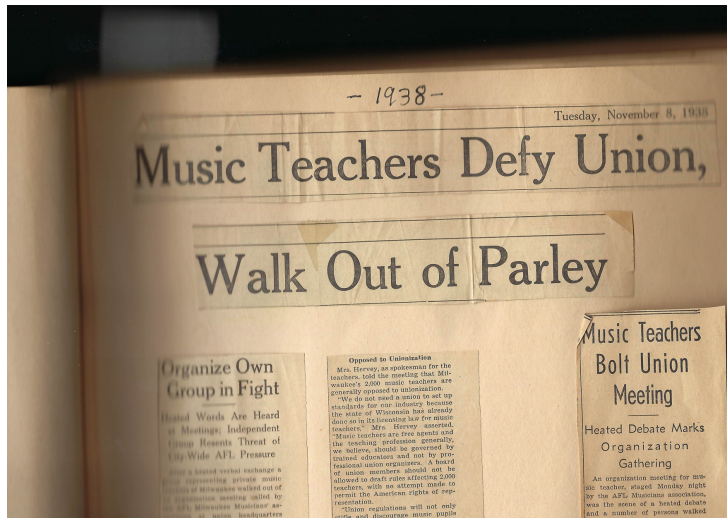


## A BRIEF HISTORY OF

# MMTA

Could a dispute between a group of music teachers and a union have sparked the birth of Milwaukee Music Teachers Association?



In 1938, an article was written in the Milwaukee Journal entitled, “Music Teachers Defy Union, Walk Out of Parley.” The subtitle read, “Organize Own Group in Fight.”

The article goes on to state that, “After a heated verbal exchange, a group representing private music teachers of Milwaukee walked out of an organization meeting called the AFL Milwaukee Musicians’ Association at union headquarters Monday Night.” The article later states that a Mrs. J. Archer Hervery, (who was past President of Wisconsin Federation of Music Clubs) along with “about 100 of the 150 persons in the meeting hall walked out.” Later it was estimated that 25 people left the meeting. There was a gathering of organists, opera singers, soloists and chamber groups who met at Goodrich Hall, located at 1584 N. Prospect Avenue. Mrs. J. Archer Hervery appeared at the meeting claiming to hold “petitions carrying 6,000 signatures disapproving attempts to unionize private music teachers.”

The article goes on to state that “Earlier in the day the teachers had organized the Milwaukee Association of Teachers of Music and Allied Arts” in an effort to combat efforts by organized labor to unionize the private music teaching field. Mrs. Hervery stated, “we do not need a union to set up standards for our industry because the state of Wisconsin has already done so in its licensing law for music teachers.” She also asserted, “regulations which control the teaching professions should be governed by trained educators close to the problem.”

Thus began an organization called *Milwaukee Association of Teachers of Music and Allied Arts* in 1938. Founded by non-other than Mrs. J. Archer Hervery, our first President. The Association name was changed on June 14, 1952 to Milwaukee Music Teachers Association and, became incorporated with the State of Wisconsin in 1960 as Milwaukee Music Teachers Association, Inc. MMTA remains active in 2021.